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PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 08-50  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
800 AM EDT FRI JUN 6 2008

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:  
-FAMILY OF SERVICES  
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE  
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK  
-NOAAPORT  
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: ELI JACKS  
CHIEF...FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION...SKY COVER AND SNOW AMOUNT ELEMENTS  
TO BECOME OPERATIONAL IN THE NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST DATABASE AT 1400  
UTC ON JULY 8 2008 /MIDNIGHT LOCAL TIME ON JULY 9 2008 IN GUAM/

REFERENCE: [TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE /TIN/ 08-49](#) ANNOUNCING HAZARD  
GRIDS BECOMING EXPERIMENTAL IN THE NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST DATABASE ON  
THE SAME DATE

EFFECTIVE JULY 8 2008 AT 1400 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/...JULY 9  
2008 AT MIDNIGHT LOCAL TIME IN GUAM...THE QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION...SKY  
COVER AND SNOW AMOUNT ELEMENTS IN THE NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST DATABASE  
/NDFD/ WILL BE UPGRADED FROM EXPERIMENTAL TO OPERATIONAL STATUS.  
QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION...SKY COVER AND SNOW AMOUNT HAVE BEEN  
EXPERIMENTAL ELEMENTS IN THE NDFD SINCE JUNE 2003.

THE QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION...SKY COVER AND SNOW AMOUNT ELEMENTS ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM THE NDFD AT A FIVE KILOMETER SPATIAL RESOLUTION FOR THE  
CONTERMINOUS U.S. /CONUS/...THE 16 PRE-DEFINED NDFD CONUS  
SUBSECTORS...PUERTO RICO AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS...HAWAII AND GUAM.

EXCEPTIONS: NDFD DOES NOT ISSUE QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION FOR GUAM. NDFD  
DOES NOT ISSUE FORECASTS FOR SNOW AMOUNT FOR GUAM OR PUERTO RICO AND THE  
VIRGIN ISLANDS.

FORECASTS FOR QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION ARE ISSUED FOR 6-HOUR PERIODS OUT  
TO 72 HOURS. FORECASTS FOR SKY COVER ARE ISSUED FOR 3-HOUR PERIODS OUT TO  
72 HOURS...THEN FOR 6-HOUR PERIODS OUT TO 168 HOURS. FORECASTS FOR SNOW  
AMOUNT ARE ISSUED FOR 6-HOUR PERIODS OUT TO 48 HOURS. FORECASTS FOR SNOW  
AMOUNT WILL BE SPECIFIED WHENEVER A MEASURABLE SNOWFALL IS FORECAST FOR  
ANY HOUR DURING A VALID PERIOD.

THIS CHANGE PRIMARILY AFFECTS USERS WHO PULL THESE ELEMENTS IN GRIDDED  
BINARY VERSION TWO /GRIB2/ FORMAT FROM THE NWS FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL  
/FTP/ SERVER...EITHER VIA THE INTERNET OR VIA THE FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/  
SERVER ACCESS SERVICE...AND USERS WHO PULL HTML FILES FROM THE NWS HTTP  
SERVER. THOSE USERS WILL NEED TO PULL THE QUANTITATIVE  
PRECIPITATION...SKY COVER AND SNOW AMOUNT ELEMENTS FOR THE DOMAIN/S/ OF

INTEREST FROM A DIFFERENT URL/S/ AND MAY NEED TO UPDATE PROCEDURES AND/OR SCRIPTS TO ENSURE CONTINUED RECEIPT OF THE DATA.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT THIS IMPLEMENTATION...INCLUDING SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR FTP AND HTTP USERS...ARE AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NDFD/QPF SNOW SKY OPNL IMLEM.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/qpf_snow_sky_opnl_implem.htm)

FOR USERS WHO KEY ON THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/ SUPER HEADINGS TO ACCESS NDFD ELEMENTS...THE LIST OF SUPER HEADINGS FOR THESE ELEMENTS IS ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NDFD/RESOURCES/QPF SNOW SKY WMO HDG NDFD.PDF](http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/resources/qpf_snow_sky_wmo_hdg_ndfd.pdf)

USERS OF THE NDFD IN EXTENSIBLE MARKUP LANGUAGE /XML/ VIA WEB SERVICE...NDFD IN GEOGRAPHIC MARKUP LANGUAGE /GML/ VIA WEB FEATURE SERVICE AND NDFD GRAPHICS VIA INTERNET ARE NOT DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY THIS IMPLEMENTATION. THOSE USERS CAN USE THE SAME METHODS THEY CURRENTLY USE TO ACQUIRE NDFD ELEMENTS FOR THE DOMAIN/S/ OF INTEREST. THIS CHANGE WILL BE TRANSPARENT TO THEM. FOR XML AND GML USERS...THERE IS NO DISTINCTION IN THE DATA ITSELF BETWEEN EXPERIMENTAL AND OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS. FOR GRAPHICS USERS...THE ONLY CHANGE WILL BE THE REMOVAL OF THE EXPERIMENTAL LABEL CURRENTLY ON THE QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION...SKY COVER AND SNOW AMOUNT GRAPHICS ON THE ABOVE EFFECTIVE DATE.

IF JULY 8 2008 IS A CRITICAL WEATHER DAY...THIS IMPLEMENTATION MAY BE POSTPONED. IN THAT CASE...USERS WILL BE NOTIFIED VIA A TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE.

DETAILED INFORMATION ON OPTIONS FOR ACCESSING AND USING THE NDFD IS AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://NDFD.WEATHER.GOV/TECHNICAL.HTM](http://ndfd.weather.gov/technical.htm)

USERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK ON BOTH EXPERIMENTAL AND OPERATIONAL NDFD ELEMENTS VIA ONE OF THE BRIEF ONLINE SURVEY AND COMMENT FORMS POSTED AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://NDFD.WEATHER.GOV/CUSTOMER.HTM](http://ndfd.weather.gov/customer.htm)

FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NDFD...PLEASE EMAIL:

[NWS.NDFD@NOAA.GOV](mailto:NWS.NDFD@NOAA.GOV)

IF YOU HAVE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NDFD...PLEASE CONTACT:

DAVID RUTH  
CHIEF...MESOSCALE PREDICTION BRANCH  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND  
EMAIL: [DAVID.RUTH@NOAA.GOV](mailto:DAVID.RUTH@NOAA.GOV)

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS NOTICE...PLEASE CONTACT:

ANDY HORVITZ  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES  
FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH  
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TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO THE NDFD ARE  
AVAILABLE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NDFD/TINS.HTM](http://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NDFD/TINS.HTM)

NATIONAL TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE)

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