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PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 09-17  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
855 AM EDT FRI MAY 08 2009

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

FROM: KEVIN SCHRAB CHIEF...OBSERVING SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: AUTOMATED SURFACE OBSERVING SYSTEM /ASOS/  
CEILOMETER REPLACEMENT BEGINNING MAY 13 2009  
AT 2000 GMT.

THE FOLLOWING CHANGES HAVE NO DIRECT IMPACT ON NOAA WEATHER  
WIRE SERVICE SUBSCRIBERS.

STARTING MAY 13 2009 AT 2000 GMT AT HILO HAWAII THE ASOS  
PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WILL START DEPLOYING A  
REPLACEMENT CEILOMETER SKY CONDITION OBSERVING SENSOR. THE  
NEW SENSOR USES IMPROVED OPTICAL AND MECHANICAL DESIGNS  
THAT HELP IT SEE THROUGH FOG... HAZE AND PRECIPITATION TO  
DETECT THE CLOUD BASE. DURING THESE EVENTS THE CLOUD BASES  
FROM THE NEW CEILOMETER MAY BE REPORTED AT HIGHER LEVELS  
THAN THOSE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED FROM THE OLD CEILOMETER. ALL  
NWS AND FAA ASOS LOCATIONS WILL TRANSITION TO THE NEW  
CEILOMETER DATA UNTIL NATIONAL DEPLOYMENT OF THIS SENSOR IS  
COMPLETE.

A COMPARISON STUDY WAS CONDUCTED TO EVALUATE ANY SENSOR  
PERFORMANCE CHANGES THAT MIGHT OCCUR DUE TO THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CEILOMETER. THE CT12K AND CL31  
CEILOMETER METEOROLOGICAL COMPARISON EVALUATION PLAN AND  
THE RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT  
/USE LOWERCASE/:

[WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OPS2/OPS24/DOCUMENTS/ASOS\\_CEILOMETER.HTM](http://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OPS2/OPS24/DOCUMENTS/ASOS_CEILOMETER.HTM)

THERE IS NO CHANGE TO THE FORMAT USED TO REPORT THE SKY  
CONDITION INFORMATION IN ANY OF THE ASOS PRODUCTS OR  
MESSAGES. CLOUD LAYERS... HEIGHT AND SKY COVERAGE WILL  
CONTINUE TO BE REPORTED FROM THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH TO AN  
UPPER LEVEL OF 12000 FEET ABOVE GROUND LEVEL.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

LAURA A. COOK  
SURFACE OBSERVATIONS PROGRAM MANAGER

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OR  
JOHN MONTE  
ASOS PLANNED PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM MANAGER

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OR  
DAVID MANNARANO  
OFFICE OF OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS  
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NATIONAL TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT  
/USE LOWERCASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/NOTIF.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm)

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