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PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 10-40  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
340 PM EDT WED AUG 4 2010

TO: SUBSCRIBERS  
-FAMILY OF SERVICES  
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE  
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK  
-SATELLITE BROADCAST NETWORK /SBN NOAAPORT/  
-OTHER NWS USES... PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: KEVIN SCHRAB  
CHIEF...OBSERVING SERVICES DIVISION  
OFFICE OF CLIMATE WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES

SUBJECT: AUTOMATED SURFACE OBSERVING SYSTEM /ASOS/  
DEPLOYMENT OF THE ALTERSHIELD FOR THE ALL  
WEATHER PRECIPITATION ACCUMULATON GUAGE /AWPAG/

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

NWS IS DEPLOYING AN IMPROVED ALTERSHIELD/WIND SCREEN FOR  
THE ASOS AWPAG. THE ALTERSHIELD HAS BEEN TESTED AND SHOWN  
TO IMPROVE PRECIPITATION ACCUMULATION CATCH ACCURACY DURING  
WIND DRIVEN SNOW EVENTS.

A COMPARISON STUDY WAS CONDUCTED TO EVALUATE SENSOR  
PERFORMANCE CHANGES THAT MIGHT OCCUR DUE TO THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALTERSHIELD. THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY  
SHOWED IMPROVED PRECIPITATION CATCHES DURING WIND DRIVEN  
SNOW EVENTS. COMPARISON EVALUATION STUDIES AND THEIR  
RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OPS2/SURFACE/ASOSIMPLEMENTATION.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/ops2/surface/asosimplementation.htm)

THE IMPROVED ALTERSHIELD DESIGN CONSISTS OF AN 8 FOOT  
DIAMETER WIND SHIELD THAT WILL BE DEPLOYED AT UP TO  
316 ASOS EQUIPPED AWPAG LOCATIONS. HOWEVER AT UP TO  
16 AWPAG LOCATIONS... BECAUSE OF SPACE LIMITATIONS... A  
SMALLER 6 FOOT DIAMETER SHIELD WILL BE INSTALLED. THE NEW  
ALTERSHIELD WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT ASOS OPERATIONS  
BEGINNING WITH INSTALLATION. A LIST OF SITES EQUIPPED WITH  
EITHER THE 8 FOOT OR 6 FOOT ALTHERSHIELD AND INSTALLATION  
DATES MAY BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING URL:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OPS2/SURFACE/ASOSIMPLEMENTATION.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/ops2/surface/asosimplementation.htm)

THERE IS NO CHANGE TO THE FORMAT USED TO REPORT THE  
PRECIPITATION ACCUMULATION INFORMATION IN ANY OF THE ASOS

PRODUCTS OR MESSAGES.

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS CHANGE...PLEASE CONTACT:

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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 TINS ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIF.HTM](http://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIF.HTM)

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