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PNSWSH

Technical Implementation Notice 11-03  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
310 PM EST Thu Jan 20 2011

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: Two Experimental Fire Weather Outlook Elements to be Added to the  
National Digital Forecast Database for CONUS Only: Effective February 23,  
2011

Effective Wednesday, February 23, 2011, at 1400 Coordinated Universal Time  
(UTC), two Fire Weather Outlook elements will be added to the National  
Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) on an experimental basis over the  
Conterminous United States (CONUS) only. These elements are generated by  
the National Centers for Environmental Prediction's (NCEP's) Storm  
Prediction Center (SPC) in Norman, OK.

These two Fire Weather Outlook elements will be added to the NDFD CONUS  
sector and to the 16 pre-defined NDFD CONUS subsectors for the valid times  
shown:

Fire Weather Critical and Extremely Critical Areas (Days 1-7)  
Fire Weather Critical Areas for Dry Thunderstorms (Days 1-3)

More details regarding these new elements are available in the Product  
Description Document (PDD) in the online catalog of experimental NWS  
products and services.

<http://products.weather.gov/detail.php?selrow=416>

With this implementation, these forecasts will be available from NDFD in  
the standard methods:

GRIdded Binary version 2 (GRIB2) files via Hypertext Transfer Protocol  
(HTTP) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP)  
eXtensible Markup Language (XML) via Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP)  
Graphics via web browser

Users who pull NDFD elements in gridded binary version 2 (GRIB2) format,  
either via the internet or via the Family of Services (FOS) server access  
service, may need to update their procedures and/or scripts in order to  
access these new elements.

For customers who key on the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) super heading to access NDFD elements, the list of super headings for these experimental elements is online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/datamgmt/doc/spc.html>

Customers who use the NDFD in XML via web service or the online graphical NDFD images can use the same methods they currently use to acquire these new experimental elements. The Fire Weather Outlook NDFD graphics will be labeled experimental.

More information about accessing these new elements using all of the standard NDFD access methods is available online at:

[http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/spc\\_firewx.htm](http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/spc_firewx.htm)

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

<http://ndfd.weather.gov/technical.htm>

If February 23, 2011 is declared a critical weather day, this implementation may be postponed. In that case, users will be notified of that decision via an updated Technical Implementation Notice as far in advance as possible.

Comments and feedback on the experimental Fire Weather Outlook NDFD elements will be accepted through June 3, 2011. Links to online surveys for NDFD customers are:

GRIB2 users:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=ndfd-grids>

Users OF XML SOAP service:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=xmlsoap>

NDFD online graphics:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=gfp>

These new Fire Weather Outlook elements will remain experimental until NWS assesses feedback and completes a technical analysis. At that time, the NWS will determine whether to move these experimental elements to operational status, discontinue them, or revise and retain them as experimental elements.

For questions regarding these products, please contact:

Dr. Phillip Bothwell  
Senior Development Meteorologist  
NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center  
Norman, OK  
[phillip.bothwell@noaa.gov](mailto:phillip.bothwell@noaa.gov)

For general questions regarding NDFD data, please email:

[nws.ndfd@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.ndfd@noaa.gov)

For technical questions regarding NDFD data, please contact:

David Ruth  
Mesoscale Prediction Branch Chief  
NOAA/NWS Office of Science and Technology  
Silver Spring, MD  
[david.ruth@noaa.gov](mailto:david.ruth@noaa.gov)

For questions regarding this notice, please contact:

Kevin Scharfenberg  
Severe Storms Services Coordinator  
NOAA/NWS Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services  
Norman, OK  
[kevin.scharfenberg@noaa.gov](mailto:kevin.scharfenberg@noaa.gov)

Technical Implementation Notices specifically related to NDFD are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/tins.htm>

National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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