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Technical Implementation Notice 12-05
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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To: Subscribers:
- Family of Services
- NOAA Weather Wire Service
- Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
- NOAAPORT
Other NWS Partners and NWS employees

From: Eli Jacks
Chief, Fire and Public Weather Services Branch

Subject: Two Experimental Fire Weather Elements to be
Added to the National Digital Forecast Database for
the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii,
Effective February 15, 2012

Effective Wednesday, February 15, 2012, at 1400 Coordinated
Universal Time (UTC), Daily Maximum and Minimum Relative
Humidity (RH) will be added to the National Digital Forecast
Database (NDFD) on an experimental basis for the United States,
including Alaska and Hawaii. These elements are generated from
computation of the existing hourly dew point and hourly
temperature grids.

These two Fire Weather elements will be added to the NDFD for
the valid times shown:

- Maximum Relative Humidity (Days 1-7)
- Minimum Relative Humidity (Days 1-7)

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/PDD/MaxMinRHPDD.pdf>

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

Graphics

<http://graphical.weather.gov/>

and XML services for Max/Min RH will become available within 45 days of the experimental release of GRIB2 files into NDFD.

Users who pull NDFD elements in GRIB2 format, either via the internet or via the Family of Services (FOS) server access service, may need to update their procedures and scripts in order to access these new elements. The GRIB2 files are online at:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/>

and

<http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/>

Partners and users 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 NDFD Maximum/Minimum Relative Humidity elements will be labeled experimental.

More information about accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

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

If February 15, 2012, 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 Maximum/Minimum Relative Humidity NDFD elements will be accepted through August 31, 2012. Links to online surveys for NDFD users 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 Maximum/Minimum Relative Humidity 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:

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Heath.Hockenberry@noaa.gov

For general questions regarding NDFD data, please email:

NWS.NDFD@noaa.gov

For technical questions regarding NDFD data, please contact:

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NOAA/NWS Office of Science and Technology
Silver Spring, Maryland
David.Ruth@noaa.gov

For questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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Technical Implementation Notices specifically related to NDFD are online at:

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

National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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