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Service Change Notice 23-44 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
240 PM EDT Tue Mar 26 2024

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Stephen Bieda III, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Implementation of Consolidated NWS Public Weather
Program Products Related to Cold: Effective on or about October 1, 2024

Updated to announce new implementation date of changes to NWS Public
Weather Program products related to cold, update links, and to include
impacts to NWS Watch, Warning, Advisory product associated colors.

On or about October 1, 2024, the NWS will implement the following changes
to Public Program Text Products:

- Consolidate the following text products:
 - * Hard Freeze Watch to Freeze Watch
 - * Hard Freeze Warning to Freeze Warning
 - * Wind Chill Watch and Extreme Cold Watch consolidated with
Extreme Cold Watch
 - * Wind Chill Warning and Extreme Cold Warning consolidated
with Extreme Cold Warning
- Transition of "Wind Chill Advisory" to "Cold Weather Advisory".

Freeze Watch/Warning and Extreme Cold Watch/Warning are contained in the
Non-Precipitation Weather Message (NPW). For Freeze Warning and Watch,
there will be the option to use the wording "Hard Freeze" within the body
of the product (e.g., in the "What" bullet of the text).

The Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) phenomena code "HZ" for Hard Freeze Watch
and Warning will be decommissioned and the Freeze Watch and Warning VTEC
phenomena code "FZ" will remain. VTEC enables weather providers and
vendors to automate and tailor the product stream delivered to their
clients.

The Wind Chill Warning, Watch, and Advisory currently contained within the
Winter Weather Message (WSW) product will be consolidated into the Extreme
Cold Warning, Extreme Cold Watch, and Cold Weather Advisory in the Non-
Precipitation Weather (NPW) product. The VTEC phenomena code "WC" will be
retired. Extreme Cold Watch and Warning will retain its VTEC of "EC" and
Cold Weather Advisory will replace Wind Chill Advisory with the VTEC of
"CW".

These changes will result in the following changes to NWS Warning, Watch, and Advisory map for the aforementioned products:

Product Name	VTEC	Current Color	New Color
Extreme Cold Warning	EC.W	Blue	No change
Extreme Cold Watch	EC.A	Blue	Cadetblue
Cold Weather Advisory	CW.Y	N/A	Paleturquoise
Freeze Warning	FZ.W	Darkslateblue	No change
Freeze Watch	FZ.A	Cyan	No change

For more information on all NWS Warning, Watch, Advisory priorities and colors please see <https://www.weather.gov/help-map>.

The consolidation and reformatting changes are based on a public survey referenced in the notices below:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/pns21-67frost_freeze_headlines.pdf

and

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/pns18-11npw_haz_simp.pdf

The results indicated that a majority of users surveyed favored the changes as proposed. A listing of the changes, along with examples, are contained in the Product Description Document (PDD) for Freeze products and Extreme Cold below:

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/a98307191bf62110135feb9ce54bcb75

and

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/2af4d8b51bf6a110b13387bae54bcb94

Presentations and additional information on these upcoming proposed changes and plans for the NWS Hazard Simplification (Haz Simp) project may be accessed at the Haz Simp website:

<https://www.weather.gov/hazardsimplification>

For more information, please email:

hazsimp@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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