

Spot Upgrade – Partner FAQ

On Monday, June 24th, the Spot Forecast initiative team held a Partner webinar about the upcoming upgrade and transition of Spot to a new, more reliable IT infrastructure. Below is a list of questions asked during the Q&A section of the webinar accompanied by answers from the Spot team. For additional information about the Spot upgrade & transition, please contact your local NWS Weather Forecast Office.

Requesting Spot Forecasts

Can the new Spot be used in Hazmat incidents or for snow and ice events?

Yes, the new site can be used for Hazmat incidents. Please coordinate with your local office if other Decision Support Services are appropriate for snow and ice events. Spot requests are geared towards protecting public safety for a specific point forecast and hazard, not over a more general area.

Will we have to go directly through a fire dispatch for forecasts or can we run them on our own?

This update to the Spot page will not impact current policies and procedures. Please follow those current policies and procedures for who should submit.

On the new Spot page, how can edits and updates be made to Spot requests?

On the new Spot page, editing will no longer be done via the page. Instead, when Spot requests are submitted, the requestor is sent a link via email that allows anyone with access to that link to edit and request updates to the Spot request. If the requestor chooses to share the link or a group email is used in the request, more than one person can edit the request.

When conditions become unrepresentative of the information provided in a Spot request, can we still call the NWS for observations and updates?

Yes, or a new Spot request can be submitted using the link provided to the requester when they submitted their original request. If the requestor chooses to share the link or a group email is used in the request, more than one person can edit the request.

With the new future forecast feature, can I only select one future date? If additional forecast updates are desired, will there still be an update forecast option or will it require a call to the local office or a new request?

The future forecast feature allows the user to select up to 6 future dates for scheduled forecast requests. The update forecast option is an update specific to a particular forecast product, typically used if a forecast becomes unrepresentative of current conditions. The update forecast option can be used for any forecast regardless of how the forecast was requested. Please contact your servicing forecast office if you experience issues, or have further questions, about this new feature.

Updated Spot Forecast Features

Can I still request a Hysplit run?

Yes, you can still request a Hysplit trajectory run on the new Spot page by selecting the "Trajectory" radio button. There is now a Hysplit plume radio button that can now be selected as well. Trajectory forecasts will be completed automatically through connectivity with the Air Resources Laboratory Hysplit modeling structure. Requests for plume forecast will direct users to contact their local forecast office for additional model inputs that are required for plume dispersion modeling.

Does the update to Spot impact our ability to receive a predicted relative humidity?

Forecasts will still include Relative Humidity, however currently, a requestor cannot submit an observation with Relative Humidity calculated based on other inputs.

When can we expect to start seeing improvements to the user experience?

The NWS intends to have multiple updates over the next six months to improve the user experience.

Does the "providing feedback" function work the same?

Yes!

Updated Spot Forecast Display

On the updated Spot page, can I use the degree, minute, and seconds format for Latitude and Longitude?

Yes!

Can you describe the features of the different Forecast Formats: Combined, Tabular, and Narrative?

The narrative forecast format has a weather discussion at the top and individual elements below and Tabular is in Matrix format with no discussion. Combined is both together.

Miscellaneous

Does the update to Spot impact any of the other applications, specifically the fire weather dashboard?

No, the fire weather dashboard and other applications are not connected. For more on all NWS changes see [weather.gov/notification](https://www.weather.gov/notification).