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Public Information Statement 19-20
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To: Subscribers:
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 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Eli Jacks
 Chief, Forecast Services Division

Subject: Opportunity to participate in Partner Webinars on July 24 and July 25, 2019 on Possible Changes to the NWS Watch, Warning and Advisory (WWA) system

As part of the Hazard Simplification (Haz Simp) project, NWS is examining the technical and policy requirements to confirm feasibility of removing the term "Advisory" from the NWS Watch, Warning and Advisory System. This decision comes after years of social science research with NWS forecasters, public, and partners:

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

A key finding during this process has been the high level of misunderstanding around the term Advisory. Research has found that users frequently confuse Watch and Advisory, considering them almost as synonyms.

In line with these results, this change would retain our current Watch and Warning terms but remove Advisory as a headline term. The end goal would be a simpler, two-term headline system in which a significant event is either Prepare (Watch) or Act (Warning) paradigm used by emergency managers. To clarify, this would not result in elimination of Advisory-level information; rather, it is an opportunity to explore how we could communicate this information in a different, more intuitive way. As a part of this change, we will explore expanding the use of the headline "Emergency" beyond Tornado and Flash Flood for selected hazards.

It is important to note that NWS has not yet made a formal implementation decision. Prior to a formal implementation decision, NWS will continue engaging with partners and stakeholders to gather technical concerns and general feedback regarding this change. As an initial engagement, NWS partners are welcome to attend one of two identical webinars to discuss this proposed change and may register as shown below:

July 24, 2:00pm - 3:30pm EDT at:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4466654237367171074>

July 25, 2019, 10:00am - 11:30am EDT at:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/729074465463573250>

For those unable to attend either of these webinars, we also welcome comments at: hazsimp@noaa.gov.

For further details on the Haz Simp project, you can visit:

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

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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