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Public Information Statement 20-35
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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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: Announcing Partner Webinars in June and July 2020, on Proposed Major Changes to the NWS Watch, Warning and Advisory (WWA) System

Over the past six years, the NWS Hazard Simplification (Haz Simp) Project has use a series of social science engagements with forecasters, core partners, and other stakeholders to explore possible improvements to the NWS Watch, Warning and Advisory (WWA) system. This research found users believe there are too many WWA products, message formats are inconsistent, and WWA headlines can be confusing. In particular, the "Advisory" headline was found to be widely misunderstood and even conflated with "Watch".

Based on these results, the Haz Simp Team has developed a proposal to streamline and simplify the WWA system. A 1-page handout summarizing the proposed changes is available for download here:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/ref/Hazard_Simplification_Proposal.pdf

All NWS partners and stakeholders (including but not limited to emergency managers, media and other private sector partners, first responders, Department of Transportation (DOT) personnel, water managers and other federal, state and local government and tribal officials) are invited to attend a Partner Webinar to learn about the proposed changes and offer feedback.

There are five interactive webinars to choose from, each of which will cover the same material:

2 PM EDT Wednesday, June 3, 2020:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7470303407718075147>

12 PM EDT Thursday, June 4, 2020:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5763166470061493517>

1 PM EDT Wednesday, June 17, 2020:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8322712991291493901>

11 AM EDT Thursday, July 9, 2020:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4963693973319545869>

12 PM EDT Thursday, July 23, 2020:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2408615867344992013>

The proposed changes have not been finalized. Our decision will be heavily based on user feedback, which makes wide participation in these webinars so important.

While these webinars are for NWS partners, NWS will also solicit comments/feedback from the general public regarding this proposal. More information on this process will be released via a separate Public Information Statement in the coming weeks.

For more information on the Haz Simp Project, please visit:

www.weather.gov/hazardsimplification/

Questions, concerns, and other feedback are encouraged, and should be sent to:

hazsimp@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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