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Service Change Notice 19-31 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1115 AM EDT Mon Aug 31 2020

To: Subscribers:
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 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
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From: Captain James Crocker
 Acting Director, Surface and Upper Air Division
 Office of Observations

Subject: Updated: Transition of Manual Radiosonde Observations to
Automated Radiosonde Observations at Anchorage, Alaska on or about May 3,
2019

Updated to report the missing Vaisala Autosonde products: Freezing Level
Data (RADAT), High Resolution Binary Universal Form for the Representation
of meteorological data (BUFR), National Centers for Environmental
Information (NCEI) archive, were implemented June 1, 2020.

Effective on or about May 3, 2019, radiosonde observations (RAOB) from
Anchorage, AK, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) # 70273, Station ID
PAFC, will be transitioned from the manually launched Lockheed Martin 1680
MHz LMS6 radiosonde to the Vaisala 403 MHz RS41-SGPA radiosonde using the
Vaisala Autosonde as the launch vehicle.

During the transition period of up to 30 days, dual radiosonde flights may
be performed until the Vaisala Autosonde System is declared operational
for the regularly scheduled observations of 00 Coordinated Universal Time
(UTC) and 12 UTC.

Messages from the Vaisala Autosonde currently do not contain the following
components: RADAT, High Resolution BUFR, NCEI archive format. A software
update was to be implemented in 2019 that will produce these data.

For additional information on the message requirements, see WMO 306 Manual
on Codes (International Codes):

- Volume I.1 Part A - Alphanumeric Codes
- Volume I.2 Part B - Binary Codes
- Volume II Regional Codes and National Coding Practices (WMO Region IV)

A follow up Service Change Notice (SCN) will be issued when the above
stated software update is implemented and the Autosonde RAOB products
contain these components.

If you have questions or feedback, please contact:

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