

NOUS41 KWBC 231615
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 24-119
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1115 AM EST Mon Dec 23 2024

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

From: Stephen Bieda III, Ph.D., Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Refinements to Public and Fire Weather Forecast Zones for WFO
Fairbanks, AK: Effective March 18, 2025

Effective Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 1:00 pm Alaska Standard Time
(AKDT), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast
Office (WFO) in Fairbanks, Alaska (AJK) will implement refinements to
public and fire weather forecast zones.

The only noticeable change will be to the one fire weather zone near
Delta Junction, AK which is being updated to better capture an area of
Chinook Winds that occur in the Eastern Alaska Range. These winds affect
fire weather activity in an area extensively used by our military
partners in Alaska. Zone boundaries are being updated for this area to
satisfy user needs. Boundaries to fire weather zones 937 and 949 will be
adjusted and a new zone will be created, fire weather zone 953 Eastern
Delta Junction.

Additionally, Alaska Region will be updating internal shapefiles to align
with the State of Alaska shapefile map. This may result in very minor
changes in boundaries (on the scale of a few feet) that will not be
noticeable to the public or partners. Due to the limited spatial extent
of these changes, no changes will be made to Forecast Zone names or
numbers. These changes will improve forecast, watch, warning, and
advisory services to the public, including the "point and click"
forecast.

If March 18, 2025 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation
will be postponed to March 19, 2025.

Table 1. Universal Geographic Codes (UGC): Impacted Public Forecast
Zone Name

AKZ801: Western Arctic Coast
AKZ802: Northwest Arctic Coast
AKZ803: Northern Arctic Coast
AKZ804: Central Beaufort Sea Coast
AKZ805: Eastern Beaufort Sea Coast
AKZ806: Western Arctic Plains

AKZ807: Howard Pass and the Delong Mountains
 AKZ808: Central Arctic Plains
 AKZ809: Central Brooks Range
 AKZ810: Romanzof Mountains
 AKZ811: South Slopes of the Eastern Brooks Range
 AKZ812: South Slopes of the Central Brooks Range
 AKZ813: South Slopes of the Western Brooks Range
 AKZ814: Noatak Valley
 AKZ815: Kivalina and Red Dog Dock
 AKZ816: Lower Kobuk Valley
 AKZ817: Baldwin Peninsula
 AKZ818: Northern Seward Peninsula
 AKZ819: Upper Kobuk Valleys
 AKZ820: Shishmaref
 AKZ821: Bering Strait Coast
 AKZ822: Southern Seward Peninsula Coast
 AKZ823: Interior Seward Peninsula
 AKZ824: Eastern Norton Sound and Nulato Hills
 AKZ825: Yukon Delta Coast
 AKZ826: Lower Yukon River
 AKZ827: St. Lawrence Island
 AKZ828: Lower Koyukuk Valley
 AKZ829: Middle Yukon Valley
 AKZ830: Lower Yukon and Innoko Valleys
 AKZ831: Upper Koyukuk Valley
 AKZ832: Dalton Highway Summits
 AKZ833: Yukon Flats
 AKZ834: White Mountains and High Terrain South of the Yukon River
 AKZ835: Fortymile Country
 AKZ836: Upper Tanana Valley
 AKZ837: Delta Junction
 AKZ838: Upper Chena River Valley
 AKZ839: Tanana Flats
 AKZ840: Eielson Air Force Base and Salcha
 AKZ841: Goldstream Valley and Nenana Hills
 AKZ842: Chatanika River Valley
 AKZ843: Two Rivers
 AKZ844: Fairbanks Metro Area
 AKZ845: Nenana
 AKZ846: Central Interior
 AKZ847: Northern Denali Borough
 AKZ848: Southern Denali Borough
 AKZ849: Eastern Alaska Range North of Trims Camp
 AKZ850: Eastern Alaska Range South of Trims Camp
 AKZ851: North Slopes of the Western Alaska Range
 AKZ852: Upper Kuskokwim Valley

Table 2. UGC: Impacted Fire Weather Forecast Zone Name

 AKZ901: Western Arctic Coast
 AKZ902: Northwest Arctic Coast
 AKZ903: Northern Arctic Coast
 AKZ904: Central Beaufort Sea Coast
 AKZ905: Eastern Beaufort Sea Coast

AKZ906: Western Arctic Plains
AKZ907: Howard Pass and the Delong Mountains
AKZ908: Central Arctic Plains
AKZ909: Central Brooks Range
AKZ910: Romanzof Mountains
AKZ911: South Slopes of the Eastern Brooks Range
AKZ912: South Slopes of the Central Brooks Range
AKZ913: South Slopes of the Western Brooks Range
AKZ914: Noatak Valley
AKZ915: Kivalina and Red Dog Dock
AKZ916: Lower Kobuk Valley
AKZ917: Baldwin Peninsula
AKZ918: Northern Seward Peninsula
AKZ919: Upper Kobuk Valleys
AKZ920: Shishmaref
AKZ921: Bering Strait Coast
AKZ922: Southern Seward Peninsula Coast
AKZ923: Interior Seward Peninsula
AKZ924: Eastern Norton Sound and Nulato Hills
AKZ925: Yukon Delta Coast
AKZ926: Lower Yukon River
AKZ927: St. Lawrence Island
AKZ928: Lower Koyukuk Valley
AKZ929: Middle Yukon Valley
AKZ930: Lower Yukon and Innoko Valleys
AKZ931: Upper Koyukuk Valley
AKZ932: Dalton Highway Summits
AKZ933: Yukon Flats
AKZ934: White Mountains and High Terrain South of the Yukon River
AKZ935: Fortymile Country
AKZ936: Upper Tanana Valley
AKZ937: Delta Junction
AKZ938: Upper Chena River Valley
AKZ939: Tanana Flats
AKZ940: Eielson Air Force Base and Salcha
AKZ941: Goldstream Valley and Nenana Hills
AKZ942: Chatanika River Valley
AKZ943: Two Rivers
AKZ944: Fairbanks Metro Area
AKZ945: Nenana
AKZ946: Central Interior
AKZ947: Northern Denali Borough
AKZ948: Southern Denali Borough
AKZ949: Eastern Alaska Range North of Trims Camp
AKZ950: Eastern Alaska Range South of Trims Camp
AKZ951: North Slopes of the Western Alaska Range
AKZ952: Upper Kuskokwim Valley
AKZ953: Eastern Delta Junction - NEW zone added

Table 3. NWS Products Affected by the WFO Fairbanks, AK Fire Weather Forecast Zone Changes

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Fire Weather Forecast	FNAK53 PAFG	FWFAFG
Fire Weather Forecast	FNAK51 PAFG	FWFNSB
Fire Weather Forecast	FNAK52 PAFG	FWFWCZ
Red Flag Warning	WWAK63 PAFG	RFWAFG
Red Flag Warning	WWAK61 PAFG	RFWNSB
Red Flag Warning	WWAK62 PAFG	RFWWCZ

NWS partners and users will need to make necessary changes to their communications systems to accommodate these public and fire weather forecast zone changes.

NWR users with Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) receivers do not need to make any changes to their current SAME location code or to the transmitter they have been monitoring to continue receiving warning notifications for their county equivalent.

Preliminary shapefiles for fire weather forecast zones are available online at:

- <https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones>
- <https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones>
- <https://www.weather.gov/gis/Counties>
- <https://www.weather.gov/gis/MarineZones>

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on February 28, 2025.

Changes are also detailed online at:

- <https://www.weather.gov/arh/AFGAJKrefinements>

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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