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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement, Comment Request
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
855 AM EDT Fri Aug 26 2011

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

From: Cindy Woods
 Chief, Operations and Requirements
 Division Chief, Performance and Awareness Division

Subject: Use of Mixed-Case Letters in Area Forecast Discussion, Regional
Weather Summary and Local Public Information Statement Products at Select
Weather Forecast Offices: Effective on or About October 4, 2011

Effective on or about Tuesday, October 4, 2011, select NWS Weather
Forecast Offices (WFOs) will begin issuing Area Forecast Discussion (AFD),
Regional Weather Summary (RWS) and local Public Information Statement
(PNS) products using upper and lowercase alphabetic letters and an
expanded punctuation and character set (Table 1). This change is based on
requests from many NWS partners and users. The NWS first began seeking
comments regarding mixed-case text products in May 2010:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/pns10mixed_case.pdf

As part of a risk-reduction effort using a national, non-operational
product, NWS has been issuing National PNS products using mixed case
letters and the expanded punctuation/character set since August 2010:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn10-28mixed_case.pdf

NWS partners and users of these WFO text products are encouraged to
comment regarding this next step in the risk reduction effort. User
feedback will help the NWS better plan the eventual transition of all NWS
text products to mixed-case and the expanded character set. Please
provide comments by September 19, 2011, at:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=mixed-case>

Use of mixed-case letters in text products will make them easier to read
and allow users to click on internet links directly rather than converting
them to lowercase or mixed-case. Additional punctuation and other
characters that are part of the international reference Alphabet no. 5
will also be included as appropriate. The ampersand and less than symbols
cannot be used in this message because of Really Simple Syndication (RSS)
restrictions and are in parens.

Table 1: Allowed Mixed-Case Character Set

"space" ! " # \$ % (ampersand symbol) ` () * + , - . / 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 : ; < = (grater than symbol) ? @ A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U
 V W X Y Z [\] ^ _ ` a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z
 { | } ~

Table 2: Participating WFOs

Kansas City/Pleasant Hill, MO - EAX
 Louisville, KY - LMK
 Spokane, WA - OTX
 Tallahassee, FL - TAE

Table 3: Affected Products

Product	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
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Area Forecast Discussion (AFD)	FXUS63 KEAX	AFDEAX
	FXUS63 KLMK	AFDLMK
	FXUS66 KOTX	AFDOTX
	FXUS62 KTAE	AFDTAE
Regional Weather Summary (RWS)	AWUS83 KEAX	RWSEAX
	AWUS83 KLMK	RWSLMK
Public Information Statement (PNS)	NOUS43 KEAX	PNSEAX
	NOUS43 KLMK	PNSLMK
	NOUS46 KOTX	PNSOTX
	NOUS42 KTAE	PNSTAE

If this next phase of our risk reduction effort is implemented, partners and users will have the opportunity to further identify and correct any anomalous behavior of their systems and their customer's systems that may be caused by mixed-case and the expanded punctuation/character set in these WFO text products.

These products will continue to be issued using mixed-case letters until each participating WFO transitions from Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) I to AWIPS II. Mixed-case letters and the expanded punctuation/character set for text products may not be supported in the initial AWIPS II software build. The NWS is working to minimize the impact of this transition on NWS users and will issue additional notices and statements as updated user information is available. Partners and users should be aware these products may revert back to using all uppercase letters at the end of this phase of the risk reduction effort.

If you have questions, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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