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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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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 July 31, 2013

Effective on or about Wednesday, July 31, 2013, the NWS will expand the number of NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) issuing Area Forecast Discussion (AFD), Regional Weather Summary (RWS) and local Public Information Statement (PNS) products using upper and lowercase alphabetic letters instead of all uppercase letters as is currently done.

This expansion is a continuation of the risk-reduction effort begun August 2010. At that time, NWS began issuing national PNS products using mixed-case letters and the expanded punctuation/character set (Table 1):

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

and AFD, RWS and PNS products at select Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) in October 2011:

<https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/pns11mixedcase.pdf>

The NWS first began seeking comments regarding mixed-case text products in May 2010:

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

NWS partners and users of these WFO text products are encouraged to consider NWS intent and comment regarding this next step in the risk reduction effort. User feedback will help the NWS better plan the eventual transition of other NWS text products to mixed-case and the expanded character set.

Please provide comments by June 30, 2014 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.

Table 1: Allowed Mixed-Case Character Set

"space" ! " # \$ % ampersand ' () * + , - . / 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 : ; left
carot = right carot ? @ 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

Current: Kansas City/Pleasant Hill, MO - EAX
Current: Louisville, KY - LMK
New: Paducah, KY - PAH
New: Central Illinois (Lincoln) - ILX
New: St. Louis, MO - LSX
New: Springfield, MO - SGF
New: Topeka, KS - TOP
New: Dodge City, KS - DDC

Current: Spokane, WA - OTX
New: Sacramento, CA - STO

Current: Tallahassee, FL - TAE
New: San Angelo, TX - SJT
New: Midland/Odessa, TX - MAF
New: Tulsa, OK - TSA

In this phase of our risk reduction effort, partners and users will have the opportunity to further identify and correct any anomalous behavior of their systems and their customers' 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 the 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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