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PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 03-21
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
120 PM EDT WED APR 9 2003

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS
EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/
SUBSCRIBERS
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: GLENN AUSTIN
ACTING CHIEF...FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PROBABILISTIC HEAT INDEX
PRODUCT SUITE: EFFECTIVE MAY 1 2003

ON THURSDAY MAY 1 2003...THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WILL ENHANCE ITS
HEAT INDEX PRODUCT SUITE. FORECASTS OF DAYTIME HIGH HEAT INDEX AND
NIGHTTIME LOW HEAT INDEX WILL BE ADDED TO THE CURRENT DAILY MEAN HEAT
INDEX FORECASTS SUITE. THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES TO THE SUITE OF MEAN HEAT
INDEX PRODUCTS /WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/ HEADING: FMUS23
KWNH...ADVANCED WEATHER INTERACTIVE PROCESSING SYSTEM /AWIPS/ IDENTIFIER:
PRBEHI AND FMUS24 KWNH...PRBWHI/ THAT WERE FIRST MADE AVAILABLE DURING THE
SUMMER OF 2002...ANNOUNCED IN [SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 02-25](#) AT THE WEBSITE
LISTED AT THE END OF THIS MESSAGE.

THE ADDITIONAL HIGH AND LOW HEAT INDEX FORECASTS WILL BE PROBABILISTIC IN
NATURE SIMILAR TO THE CURRENT MEAN HEAT INDEX FORECASTS.

THE NEW GRAPHICS WILL DISPLAY THE MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM HEAT INDEX FORECAST
FOR DAYS THREE THROUGH SEVEN. FOR EACH DAY...PROBABILITIES WILL BE ISSUED
INDICATING THE CHANCE THE MAXIMUM HEAT INDEX WILL EXCEED 95...100...OR 105
DEGREES. FOR THE MINIMUM...HEAT INDEX PROBABILITIES OF EXCEEDING
75...80...OR 85 WILL BE PROVIDED. SEE TABLE 1 FOR A LIST OF THESE
PRODUCTS.

THE TEXT PRODUCT WILL INCLUDE THE FORECAST MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM HEAT INDEX
AS WELL AS THE DAILY AVERAGE HEAT INDEX FORECAST VALUE. IT WILL ALSO
INCLUDE THE PROBABILITY OF THE HEAT INDEX EXCEEDING
70...75...80...85...90...95 AND 100 DEGREES FOR BOTH THE MINIMUM AND MEAN
HEAT INDEX...BUT EXCEEDING 80...85...90... 95...100...105...AND 110
DEGREES FOR THE MAXIMUM HEAT INDEX. SEE TABLE 1.

THE HEAT INDEX IS PREPARED BY THE HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL PREDICTION CENTER
/HPC/ IN CAMP SPRINGS MARYLAND. IT IS CALCULATED FOR EACH SELECTED
LOCATION BASED ON HPC FORECASTS. THEY ARE CONVERTED TO PROBABILISTIC
VALUES BY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DIFFERENCES IN THE FORECASTS OVER AN
ENSEMBLE OF MODEL FORECASTS AT A SPECIFIC LOCATION AND FORECAST DAY.

THE MEAN HEAT INDEX IS INTENDED TO GIVE CUSTOMERS AN EARLY INDICATION OF ANY SIGNIFICANT HEAT RELATED PROBLEMS. THE HEAT INDEX IS CALCULATED BY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT BOTH THE TEMPERATURE AND THE HUMIDITY AND IS A MORE ACCURATE INDICATOR OF DISCOMFORT THAN THE TEMPERATURE ALONE. STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT THE THRESHOLD FOR DANGER DUE TO HEAT RELATED STRESS IS AN AVERAGE DAILY HEAT INDEX OF 85 DEGREES OR HIGHER.

THE PROBABILISTIC HEAT INDEX FORECAST TEXT BULLETIN IS PROVIDED IN TWO PARTS...EAST /E/ AND WEST /W/.

IN ADDITION...HPC DISSEMINATES THESE PRODUCTS AND RELATED INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET. THE URL ADDRESS AVAILABLE MAY 1 IS AS FOLLOWS /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.HPC.NCEP.NOAA.GOV/HEAT_INDEX.SHTML](http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/heat_index.shtml)

TABLE 1. GRAPHICS PRODUCTS COVERING THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES /CONUS/ AND TEXT BULLETINS AT SELECTED CITY LOCATIONS

MAXIMUM HEAT INDEX GRAPHICS:

DAY	HI	WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID
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3	95	PTNK98 KWNH	RBG396
3	100	PTNK98 KWNH	RBG300
3	105	PTNK98 KWNH	RBG305
4	95	PTNM98 KWNH	RBG496
4	100	PTNM98 KWNH	RBG400
4	105	PTNM98 KWNH	RBG405
5	95	PTNO98 KWNH	RBG596
5	100	PTNO98 KWNH	RBG500
5	105	PTNO98 KWNH	RBG505
6	95	PTNQ98 KWNH	RBG696
6	100	PTNQ98 KWNH	RBG600
6	105	PTNQ98 KWNH	RBG605
7	95	PTNS98 KWNH	RBG796
7	100	PTNS98 KWNH	RBG700
7	105	PTNS98 KWNH	RBG705

MAXIMUM HEAT INDEX TEXT BULLETINS:

AREA	WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID
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EAST	FMUS23 KWNH	PRBEHH
WEST	FMUS24 KWNH	PRBWHH

MINIMUM HEAT INDEX GRAPHICS:

DAY	MIN	WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID
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3	75	PTNK98 KWNH	RBG375
3	80	PTNK98 KWNH	RBG380
3	85	PTNK98 KWNH	RBG384
4	75	PTNM98 KWNH	RBG475
4	80	PTNM98 KWNH	RBG480
4	85	PTNM98 KWNH	RBG484
5	75	PTNO98 KWNH	RBG575
5	80	PTNO98 KWNH	RBG580
5	85	PTNO98 KWNH	RBG584
6	75	PTNQ98 KWNH	RBG675
6	80	PTNQ98 KWNH	RBG680
6	85	PTNQ98 KWNH	RBG684
7	75	PTNS98 KWNH	RBG775
7	80	PTNS98 KWNH	RBG780
7	85	PTNS98 KWNH	RBG784

MINIMUM HEAT INDEX TEXT BULLETINS:

AREA	WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID
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EAST	FMUS23 KWNH	PRBEHL
WEST	FMUS24 KWNH	PRBWHL

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HEAT INDEX PRODUCT SUITE...YOU CAN CONTACT:

KEVIN MCCARTHY...DEPUTY DIRECTOR
NCEP HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL PREDICTION CENTER
CAMP SPRINGS MARYLAND
PHONE: 301-763-8000 X 7304
EMAIL: KEVIN.MCCARTHY@NOAA.GOV

-OR-

ROBERT KELLY...CHIEF
NCEP/HPC FORECAST OPERATIONS BRANCH
CAMP SPRINGS MARYLAND
PHONE 301-763-8000 X 7306
EMAIL ROBERT.KELLY@NOAA.GOV

NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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