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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 03-63
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
530 PM EDT WED SEP 24 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: ZONE FORECAST PRODUCT MODIFIED FORMAT...CHANGES TO PUBLIC ZONE
BOUNDARIES AND PHASED IMPLEMENTATION: EFFECTIVE BEGINNING NOVEMBER 19 2003

ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19 2003 AT 400 PM ALASKA STANDARD TIME /AST/...THE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE /WFO/ IN JUNEAU
ALASKA WILL IMPLEMENT CHANGES CALLED FOR IN A NEW DIRECTIVE...NWS
INSTRUCTION /NWSI/ 10-503...WFO PUBLIC WEATHER FORECAST PRODUCTS
SPECIFICATION. THIS NEW DIRECTIVE SETS POLICY FOR AN IMPROVED ZONE
FORECAST PRODUCT /ZFP/ IN A MODIFIED FORMAT. THE REMAINING ALASKAN
WFOS...WFO ANCHORAGE AND WFO FAIRBANKS...WILL IMPLEMENT THESE CHANGES ON
TUESDAY...DECEMBER 16 2003.

USERS OF NWS PUBLIC FORECASTS AND WARNINGS ORIGINATING FROM ALASKA MUST
UPDATE THEIR COMMUNICATION SYSTEM DIRECTORIES TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THESE
PRODUCTS.

THIS NEW DIRECTIVE EXTENSIVELY CHANGES THE ZFP FORMAT. THE MOST
SIGNIFICANT CHANGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- THE DAY FOUR /4/ THROUGH DAY SEVEN /7/ 24-HOUR FORECASTS HAVE BEEN
BROKEN INTO 12-HOUR SEGMENTS...RESULTING IN SEAMLESS 13 OR 14 PERIOD
FORECASTS DEPENDING UPON THE ISSUANCE TIME.
- WIND FORECASTS ARE EXTENDED TO 60 HOURS.
- THE DOT LESS THAN CODE /.</ USED TO MARK OPTIONAL SITE SPECIFIC
FORECASTS HAS BEEN REPLACED BY THE STANDARD DOUBLE AMPERSAND /&&/ AND A
CARRIAGE RETURN TO MAINTAIN COMPLIANCE WITH DISSEMINATION POLICY IN NWSI
10-1701...TEXT PRODUCT FORMATS AND CODES.
- THE 7-DAY ZFP WILL CONTINUE TO BE ROUTINELY ISSUED AT LEAST TWICE DAILY.
OTHER ISSUANCES WILL BE ON AN EVENT-DRIVEN BASIS. NO COMMUNICATIONS
CHANGES ARE REQUIRED TO RECEIVE THE IMPROVED ZFP.

THE FOLLOWING WEB LINK BELOW PROVIDES AN EXAMPLE OF THE MODIFIED ZONE FORECAST PRODUCT FORMAT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIFICATIONS/ZONE EXAMPLE0715.HTM](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notifications/zone_example0715.htm)

ZFP POLICY...FORMAT AND GENERIC EXAMPLES CAN BE FOUND IN NWS INSTRUCTION 10-503 LOCATED ON THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DIRECTIVES INTERNET WEB SITE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/DIRECTIVES/010/PD01005003A.PDF](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/PD01005003A.pdf)

IN ADDITION...WFO JUNEAU WILL IMPLEMENT NEW PUBLIC ZONES IN ITS GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. THESE CHANGES WILL ALSO TAKE PLACE ON NOVEMBER 19 2003...AT 400 PM AST. THE NEW ZONES ARE LISTED IN TABLE 1. PRODUCTS AFFECTED BY THESE CHANGES ARE LISTED IN TABLE 2.

AN UPDATED ZONE MAP CONTAINING THE REALIGNED ZONES IS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD FROM THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/GEODATA/CATALOG/WSOM/HTML/PUBZONE.HTM](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/pubzone.htm)

/FILES WILL BE POSTED TO THE ABOVE SITE THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH/ AND:

[HTTP://WWW.ARH.NOAA.GOV/CHANGES/](http://www.arh.noaa.gov/changes/)

TABLE 1: NEW PUBLIC ZONES FOR WFO JUNEAU GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY WITH CORRESPONDING UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHIC CODES /UGCS/.

| PUBLIC ZONE NAME | UGC |
|---|--------|
| ----- | --- |
| CAPE FAIRWEATHER TO CAPE SUCKLING COASTAL AREA | AKZ017 |
| TAIYA INLET AND KLONDIKE HIGHWAY | AKZ018 |
| HAINES BOROUGH AND LYNN CANAL | AKZ019 |
| GLACIER BAY | AKZ020 |
| EASTERN CHICHAGOF ISLAND | AKZ021 |
| SALISBURY SOUND TO CAPE FAIRWEATHER COASTAL AREA | AKZ022 |
| CAPE DECISION TO SALISBURY SOUND COASTAL AREA | AKZ023 |
| EASTERN BARANOF ISLAND AND SOUTHERN ADMIRALTY ISLAND | AKZ024 |
| JUNEAU BOROUGH AND NORTHERN ADMIRALTY ISLAND | AKZ025 |
| INNER CHANNELS FROM KUPREANOF ISLAND TO ETOLIN ISLAND | AKZ026 |
| DIXON ENTRANCE TO CAPE DECISION COASTAL AREA | AKZ027 |
| SOUTHERN INNER CHANNELS | AKZ028 |
| MISTY FJORDS | AKZ029 |

TABLE 2: PRODUCTS THAT WILL BE AFFECTED BY NEW PUBLIC ZONES AND UGCS. NOTE...W/W/A STANDS FOR WATCH/WARNING/ADVISORY.

| PRODUCT NAME | WMO HEADING | AWIPS ID |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| ZONE WEATHER FORECAST | FPAK57 PAJK | ZFPAJK |
| FIRE WEATHER ZONE FORECAST | FNAK57 PAJK | FWFAJK |
| RED FLAG WATCH/WARNING | WWAK67 PAJK | RFWAJK |
| MOTORING FORECAST | FPAK67 PAJK | TVLAJK |
| SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING | WUAK57 PAJK | SVRAJK |

| PRODUCT NAME ----- | WMO HEADING ----- | AWIPS ID ----- |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|
| SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENT | WWAK57 PAJK | SVSAJK |
| TORNADO WARNING | WFAK57 PAJK | TORJNU |
| COASTAL FLOOD WATCH/WARNING | FZAK68 PAJN | CFWJNU |
| FLOOD WATCH | WGAK67 PAJK | FLWAJK |
| FLASH FLOOD WARNING | WGAK57 PAJK | FFWAJK |
| FLASH FLOOD STATEMENT | WGAK77 PAJK | FFSAJK |
| FLOOD WARNING | WGAK47 PAJK | FLWAJK |
| FLOOD STATEMENT | WGAK87 PAJK | FLSAJK |
| RIVER STATEMENT | FGAK87 PAJK | RVSAJK |
| CIVIL EMERGENCY MESSAGE | WOAK47 PAJK | CEMAJK |
| WINTER WEATHER W/W/A FOR SOUTHEAST ALASKA | WWAK47 PAJK | WSWAJK |
| WINTER WEATHER W/W/A FOR THE EASTERN GULF COAST | WWAK47 PAYA | WSWYAK |
| WINTER WEATHER W/W/A FOR SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST ALASKA | WWAK47 PANT | WSWANN |
| NON-PRECIPIATION W/W/A FOR SOUTHEAST ALASKA | WWAK77 PAJK | NPWAJK |
| NON-PRECIPIATION W/W/A FOR SOUTHEAST ALASKA | WWAK77 PAYA | NPWYAK |
| NON-PRECIPIATION W/W/A FOR SOUTHEAST ALASKA | WWAK77 PANT | NPWANN |
| SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT FOR SOUTHEAST ALASKA | WWAK87 PAJK | SPSAJK |
| SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT FOR THE EASTERN GULF COAST | WWAK87 PAYA | SPSYAK |
| SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT FOR SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST ALASKA | WWAK87 PAYA | SPSANN |
| SHORT TERM FORECAST FOR SOUTHEAST ALASKA | FPAK77 PAJK | NOWAJK |
| SHORT TERM FORECAST FOR THE EASTERN GULF COAST | FPAK77 PAYA | NOWYAK |
| SHORT TERM FORECAST FOR SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST ALASKA | FPAK77 PANT | NOWANN |

NWS CUSTOMERS WHO AUTOMATICALLY PROCESS PRODUCTS LISTED IN TABLE 2 USING THE ZONE /Z/ FORM OF THE UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHIC CODE /UGC/ MAY NEED TO PROGRAM THE NEW Z CODES INTO THEIR SYSTEMS NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 19 2003 TO CONTINUE TO PROCESS THE PRODUCTS.

A WEB PAGE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO ALLOW USERS TO TEST THE CHANGES TO ENSURE THEY CAN DECODE THE MODIFIED PRODUCT CORRECTLY. SEE EXAMPLES AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.ARH.NOAA.GOV/CHANGES/](http://www.arh.noaa.gov/changes/)

PARTNERS/CUSTOMERS SHOULD NOTIFY THE FOLLOWING POINT OF CONTACT IF THEY BELIEVE THE CHANGES WILL ADVERSELY IMPACT THEIR OPERATIONS...OR IF YOU HAVE COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS CHANGE:

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 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
 ALASKA REGION PUBLIC PROGRAM MANAGER
 ANCHORAGE ALASKA
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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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