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PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 06-20  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
1100 AM EDT WED MAY 10 2006

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: ELI JACKS  
CHIEF...FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE BOUNDARIES OF SOME NORTHERN INTERIOR CALIFORNIA  
FIRE WEATHER ZONES: EFFECTIVE JUNE 1 2006

EFFECTIVE THURSDAY JUNE 1 2006 AT 1200 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME  
/UTC/...NWS SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA /STO/ WILL CHANGE SOME NORTHERN INTERIOR  
CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER ZONE BOUNDARIES AND ZONE DESCRIPTOR NAMES.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHANGE IS TO SUPPORT A MORE EFFICIENT FORECAST PROCESS  
AND PROVIDE NWS FIRE WEATHER CUSTOMERS WITH IMPROVED WATCH...WARNING AND  
FORECAST PRODUCTS. HISTORICALLY...THE WEST SLOPES OF THE CENTRAL SIERRA  
NEVADA MOUNTAINS OF NORTHERN INTERIOR CALIFORNIA HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED BY  
ONE /1/ LARGE FIRE WEATHER ZONE /CAZ269/. THIS HAS RESULTED IN BROAD AND  
GENERIC FORECASTS. THE CHANGE BEING IMPLEMENTED WILL DIVIDE THIS LARGE  
ZONE INTO TWO ZONES MORE CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH FIRE AGENCY DISPATCH  
BOUNDARIES AND CLIMATIC REGIMES.

ONCE THIS CHANGE HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED...THE FOLLOWING ZONE NAMES AND  
GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTORS WILL BE USED IN ALL FIRE WEATHER FORECAST  
PRODUCTS ISSUED FOR NORTHERN INTERIOR CALIFORNIA:

FIRE WEATHER ZONE:

NUMBER ZONE NAME/PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

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CAZ269 TAHOE AND ELDORADO NATIONAL FORESTS WEST OF THE SIERRA

INCLUDES ALL OF TAHOE FORESTS AND ELDORADO NATIONAL FORESTS /NF/ WEST OF  
THE SIERRA NEVADA CREST ABOVE 3000 FEET.

CAZ221 STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST WEST OF THE SIERRA CREST

INCLUDES ALL OF THE LAND FROM THE STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST WEST OF THE  
SIERRA CREST...BORDERED ON THE NORTH BY THE ELDORADO NF AND BORDERED ON  
THE SOUTH BY YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK.

NWS WATCH...WARNING AND FORECAST PRODUCTS AFFECTED BY THESE CHANGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FOR CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER ZONES 269 AND 221:

PRODUCT -----	WMO HEADING -----	AWIPS ID -----
FIRE WEATHER WATCH	WWUS85 KSTO	RFWSTO
RED FLAG WARNING	WWUS85 KSTO	RFWSTO
FIRE WEATHER PLANNING FORECAST	FNUS55 KSTO	FWFSTO
NATIONAL FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM FORECAST	FNUS85 KSTO	FWMSTO

NWS CUSTOMERS SHOULD NOW BEGIN PLANS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES TO THEIR COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS TO ACCOMMODATE THESE ZONE CHANGES.

ALTHOUGH THIS NOTIFICATION IS LESS THAN THE REQUIRED 120 DAYS AS SPECIFIED BY NWS INSTRUCTION /NWSI/ 10-1805...THE NEW CONFIGURATION PROPOSED FOR IMPLEMENTATION ON JUNE 1 WAS REQUESTED BY...AND HAS BEEN CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH...LOCAL FIRE WEATHER PARTNERS AND CUSTOMERS.

SHAPEFILES OF THE NEW FIRE WEATHER ZONES FOR THE NWS SACRAMENTO OFFICE ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD FROM THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE /USE LOWER CASE/:

[WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/GEODATA/CATALOG/WSOM/HTML/FIREZONE.HTM](http://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/GEODATA/CATALOG/WSOM/HTML/FIREZONE.HTM)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE PRODUCT CHANGES...PLEASE CONTACT:

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METEOROLOGIST-IN-CHARGE  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA  
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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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