

NOUS41 KWBC 211527
PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 06-46
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1027 AM EST THU DEC 21 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: UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHIC CODE /UGC/ CHANGE FOR AVALANCHE
WATCHES/WARNINGS IN CERTAIN MOUNTAINOUS AREAS: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY...CERTAIN NWS WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFOS/ IN
MOUNTAINOUS AREAS OF NWS CENTRAL...SOUTHERN AND WESTERN REGIONS MAY BEGIN
USING THE ZONE /Z/ FORM OF THE UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHIC CODE /UGC/ INSTEAD OF
THE COUNTY /C/ FORM OF THE UGC FOR AVALANCHE WATCH /AVA/ AND AVALANCHE
WARNING /AVW/ PRODUCTS. THE UGC IS EMBEDDED WITHIN THE VALID TIME EVENT
CODE /VTEC/ OF THESE PRODUCTS.

AFFECTED WFOS WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH THEIR USERS OF AVA/AVW PRODUCTS TO
ENSURE USERS ARE AWARE OF THIS CHANGE IF IT AFFECTS AVA/AVW PRODUCTS THEY
ISSUE. USERS UNSURE WHETHER THIS CHANGE AFFECTS AVA/AVW PRODUCTS THEY USE
SHOULD CONTACT THE ISSUING WFO FOR GUIDANCE.

RECENT EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT USING THE COUNTY /C/ FORM OF THE UGC FOR
AVA/AVW PRODUCTS IN MOUNTAINOUS AREAS OVERSTATES THE INTENDED
WATCH/WARNING AREA. IN ADDITION...USING THE ZONE /Z/ FORM OF THE UGC FOR
AVA/AVW PRODUCTS MORE CLOSELY ALIGNS THESE PRODUCTS WITH OTHER WINTER
WEATHER PRODUCTS THAT USE THE ZONE /Z/ FORM OF THE UGC.

TABLE 1 BELOW DETAILS THE GENERIC ADVANCED WEATHER INTERACTIVE PROCESSING
SYSTEM /AWIPS/ ID AND WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/ HEADINGS OF
AVA/AVW PRODUCTS AFFECTED BY THIS CHANGE.

TABLE 1. AVA/AVW AWIPS ID AND WMO HEADINGS

PRODUCT	AWIPS ID	WMO HEADING
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AVALANCHE WATCH	AVAXXX	WOUSII KYYY
AVALANCHE WARNING	AVWXXX	WOUSII KYYY

NOTE: XXX IS THE THREE-LETTER WFO IDENTIFIER AND YYY IS THE AWIPS NODE.

AGAIN ...AFFECTED WFOS WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH THEIR USERS OF AVA/AVW PRODUCTS TO ENSURE USERS ARE AWARE OF THIS CHANGE IF IT AFFECTS AVA/AVW PRODUCTS THEY ISSUE. USERS UNSURE WHETHER THIS CHANGE AFFECTS AVA/AVW PRODUCTS THEY USE SHOULD CONTACT THE ISSUING WFO FOR GUIDANCE.

ALTHOUGH THIS NOTIFICATION IS LESS THAN THE REQUIRED 120 DAYS AS SPECIFIED BY NWS INSTRUCTION /NWSI/ 10-1805... THE NWS BELIEVES IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION IS WARRANTED BECAUSE AVALANCHE DANGER ALREADY EXISTS FOR WFOS WITH WARNING RESPONSIBILITY FOR MOUNTAINOUS AREAS.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE CHANGES...PLEASE CONTACT:

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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND
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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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