

NOUS41 KWBC 121905
PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 08-40
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
305 PM EDT MON MAY 12 2008

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:
-FAMILY OF SERVICES
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK
-NOAAPORT
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

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

SUBJECT: RESTRUCTURING OF SOME NWS WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY AND WARNING
PRODUCTS: EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 9 2008

EFFECTIVE TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 9 2008 AT 0001 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME
/UTC/...THE NWS WILL MAKE SOME CHANGES TO THE SUITE OF PRODUCTS USED TO
ADVISE AND WARN PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC OF SIGNIFICANT WINTER WEATHER.
THE PURPOSE OF THESE CHANGES IS TO SIMPLIFY AND CLARIFY THE COMMUNICATION
AND DISSEMINATION OF EXPECTED WINTER WEATHER HAZARDS.

A PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT /PNS/ SOLICITING COMMENTS ON THESE PROPOSED
CHANGES WAS ISSUED IN FEBRUARY 2008. THIS PNS IS AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER
CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/MEDIA/NOTIFICATION/PDFS/PNS08WINTER WEATHER.PDF](https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/pns08winter_weather.pdf)

OVER 100 COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED...A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY OF WHICH STRONGLY
SUPPORTED MOVING FORWARD WITH THESE CHANGES. THESE COMMENTS ARE
CONSISTENT WITH FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM MANY OF OUR PARTNERS AND PUBLIC
USERS AS WELL AS WITH FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM NWS FIELD MANAGERS AND
FORECASTERS OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE COMMENTS
RECEIVED...AS WELL AS AN ANALYSIS OF ALL THE COMMENTS...IS AVAILABLE AT
/USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/WINTER/RESOURCES/ANALYSIS.PDF](http://www.weather.gov/os/winter/resources/analysis.pdf)

NWS WILL RESTRUCTURE ITS WINTER WEATHER PRODUCTS BY COMBINING A NUMBER OF
CURRENT ADVISORY AND WARNING PRODUCTS INTO CATEGORIES ASSOCIATED WITH
SIMILAR IMPACTS. FOR EXAMPLE...CONDITIONS THAT CURRENTLY PROMPT THE
ISSUANCE OF SEPARATE WINTER WEATHER... SNOW...SNOW AND BLOWING
SNOW...SLEET AND/OR BLOWING SNOW ADVISORIES WILL BE ISSUED...AND VALID
TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/-CODED...AS WINTER WEATHER ADVISORIES.
SIMILARLY...CONDITIONS THAT CURRENTLY PROMPT THE ISSUANCE OF WINTER
STORM...HEAVY SNOW AND/OR SLEET WARNINGS WILL BE ISSUED...AND VTEC-
CODED...AS WINTER STORM WARNINGS. IN ADDITION...CONDITIONS THAT CURRENTLY
PROMPT THE ISSUANCE OF SEPARATE LAKE EFFECT SNOW AND LAKE EFFECT SNOW AND
BLOWING SNOW ADVISORIES BY SOME CENTRAL REGION WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES
/WFOS/ WILL BE ISSUED...AND VTEC-CODED...AS LAKE EFFECT SNOW ADVISORIES BY

THOSE WFOS. NWS WILL NO LONGER USE OF THE VTEC CODES ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISCONTINUED ADVISORY AND WARNING PRODUCTS.

FREEZING RAIN...LAKE EFFECT SNOW...AND WIND CHILL ADVISORIES WILL STILL BE ISSUED AS SEPARATE PRODUCTS AND WILL RETAIN THEIR CURRENT VTEC CODES DUE TO THE UNIQUENESS OF THEIR IMPACTS. SIMILARLY...BLIZZARD...ICE STORM...LAKE EFFECT SNOW AND WIND CHILL WARNINGS WILL CONTINUE TO BE ISSUED AS SEPARATE PRODUCTS WITH THEIR CURRENT VTEC CODES.

IN ALL CASES...THE SPECIFIC HAZARD INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS WILL BE CLEARLY DEPICTED IN THE FIRST LINE OF THE BODY OF THE ADVISORY OR WARNING PRODUCT IN A STANDARDIZED FORMAT. A TABLE CONTAINING A LIBRARY OF THE STANDARDIZED WORDING NWS FORECASTERS WILL BE DIRECTED TO USE...ALONG WITH AN EXAMPLE OF HOW IT WILL BE UTILIZED IN THE SIMPLIFIED WARNINGS AND ADVISORIES...CAN BE FOUND AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/WINTER/RESOURCES/WORDING.PDF](http://www.weather.gov/os/winter/resources/wording.pdf)

THESE CHANGES WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SPECIFIC WINTER WEATHER WARNING AND ADVISORY PRODUCTS AND ENHANCE THEIR CLARITY AND CONSISTENCY AMONG ADJOINING NWS FORECAST OFFICES DURING WINTER WEATHER EVENTS. ALSO...THE GRAPHICAL DEPICTION OF FORECAST WINTER WEATHER HAZARDS VIA THE NWS HOMEPAGES WILL BE MORE UNDERSTANDABLE.

NO SOFTWARE CHANGES BY NWS PARTNERS OR USERS ARE ANTICIPATED AS A RESULT OF THESE PROPOSED CHANGES.

THE FOLLOWING TABLES SHOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CURRENT AND FUTURE ADVISORY AND WARNING CATEGORIES:

TABLE 1 - WINTER ADVISORIES

CURRENT WINTER ADVISORIES	FUTURE WINTER ADVISORIES
FREEZING RAIN	FREEZING RAIN
LAKE EFFECT SNOW	LAKE EFFECT SNOW
LAKE EFFECT SNOW AND BLOWING SNOW	LAKE EFFECT SNOW
WIND CHILL	WIND CHILL
WINTER WEATHER	WINTER WEATHER
SNOW	WINTER WEATHER
SNOW AND BLOWING SNOW	WINTER WEATHER
SLEET	WINTER WEATHER
BLOWING SNOW	WINTER WEATHER

TABLE 2 - WINTER WARNINGS

CURRENT WINTER WARNINGS	FUTURE WINTER WARNINGS
BLIZZARD	BLIZZARD
ICE STORM	ICE STORM
LAKE EFFECT SNOW	LAKE EFFECT SNOW
WIND CHILL	WIND CHILL
WINTER STORM	WINTER STORM
HEAVY SNOW	WINTER STORM

SLEET ----- WINTER STORM

A GRAPHICAL DEPICTION OF TABLES 1 AND 2 CAN BE FOUND AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/WINTER/RESOURCES/WSW_EX.PDF](http://www.weather.gov/os/winter/resources/wsw_ex.pdf)

NWS INSTRUCTION 10-513...WFO WINTER WEATHER PRODUCTS SPECIFICATION...WILL BE UPDATED TO REFLECT THESE CHANGES.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE ISSUANCE AND DISSEMINATION OF WINTER WEATHER ADVISORIES AND WARNINGS...PLEASE CONTACT:

PAUL STOKOLS
FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND
301-713-1867 EXT. 139
PAUL.STOKOLS@NOAA.GOV

OR THE WARNING COORDINATION METEOROLOGIST /WCM/ AT YOUR LOCAL WFO.

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

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

\$\$
NNNN