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PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 08-50
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1030 AM EDT TUE AUG 5 2008

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

FROM: ROBERT J. MCLEOD
CHIEF...AWARENESS BRANCH
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES

SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF CALL-TO-ACTION MARKERS IN
WATCH/WARNING/ADVISORY AND FOLLOW-UP STATEMENTS: BEGINNING FEBRUARY 11
2009

ON WEDNESDAY...FEBRUARY 11 2009...NWS WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFOS/ WILL
BEGIN A PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OF CALL-TO-ACTION /CTA/ MARKERS IN ALL
WATCH/WARNING/ADVISORY AND FOLLOW-UP STATEMENTS /W/W/A/S/. THE
IMPLEMENTATION WILL CONTINUE THROUGH APPROXIMATELY MAY 15 2009...AT WHICH
TIME...ALL WFOS WILL BE ISSUING W/W/A/S PRODUCTS WITH CTA MARKERS
INCLUDED. THE CTA MARKERS IMPLEMENTATION IS PART OF ADVANCED WEATHER
INTERACTIVE PROCESSING SYSTEM /AWIPS/ OPERATIONAL BUILD 9 SOFTWARE
INSTALLATION AT EACH WFO. CTA MARKERS WILL IDENTIFY THE BEGINNING AND END
OF THE CTA STATEMENT/S/ IN A PRODUCT. INSERTION OF CTA MARKERS ENABLES
SPECIALIZED USE OF CTA STATEMENTS BY NWS...PARTNERS AND OTHER USERS.

A [PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT](#) ON FEBRUARY 13 2008 ANNOUNCED A COMMENT
PERIOD THAT WAS CONDUCTED FROM FEBRUARY 13 2008 TO MARCH 7 2008 ON THE
PROPOSAL TO DELINEATE CTA STATEMENTS WITH MARKERS. THE MARINE WEATHER
WARNING /MWW/ PRODUCT PROTOTYPED CTA MARKERS STARTING IN EARLY OCTOBER
2007. SEE [SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE /SCN/ 08-36](#) FOR INFORMATION ON THE
OPERATIONAL USE OF CTA MARKERS IN THE MWW PRODUCT BEGINNING AUGUST 5 2008.

THE CTA MARKERS WILL USE THE PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...AND &&
CHARACTER STRINGS AS THE CTA BEGINNING AND ENDING MARKERS RESPECTIVELY.
THE PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...AND && CHARACTER STRINGS WILL BE
LEFT JUSTIFIED WITH NO OTHER PRINTABLE CHARACTERS ON THE SAME LINE OF
TEXT. THE GENERIC CTA MARKER FORMAT IS SHOWN BELOW:

/BLANK LINE/ PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...
/BLANK LINE/
/SINGLE- OR MULTI-LINE TEXT CONTENT OF CALL-TO-ACTION OR INSTRUCTION
STATEMENT/S//
/BLANK LINE/
&&
/BLANK LINE/

ONE SET OF CTA MARKERS WILL BE INSERTED INTO EACH WFO W/W/A/S PRODUCT SEGMENT THAT CONTAINS A CTA STATEMENT/S/. IN CERTAIN HYDROLOGIC POINT-FORECAST FLOOD PRODUCTS IN WHICH CTA STATEMENTS ARE IN THE OVERVIEW/SYNOPSIS SECTION...CTA MARKERS WILL BE INSERTED ONLY IN THE OVERVIEW/SYNOPSIS SECTION.

AN EXAMPLE OF THE CTA MARKER FORMAT IN A TORNADO WARNING IS SHOWN BELOW:

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

THIS IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND LIFE THREATENING SITUATION. A LARGE TORNADO HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. IF YOU ARE IN THE PATH OF THIS DESTRUCTIVE TORNADO...TAKE COVER IMMEDIATELY IN A BASEMENT OR OTHER UNDERGROUND SHELTER AND GET UNDER SOMETHING STURDY.

&&

IF THERE IS NO CTA...CTA MARKERS NORMALLY WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE PRODUCT OR PRODUCT SEGMENT. THIS OCCURS MOST FREQUENTLY WITH CANCELLATION OR EXPIRATION PRODUCTS.

THIS CHANGE WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT UPDATE TO NWS INSTRUCTION /NWSI/ 10-1701...TEXT PRODUCT FORMATS AND CODES...AND IN INDIVIDUAL SERVICE PROGRAM PRODUCT SPECIFICATION NWSIS.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON CTA MARKERS...INCLUDING A DRAFT OF NWSI 10-1701...DESCRIPTION OF CTA MARKERS...A LISTING OF THE AFFECTED PRODUCT CATEGORIES...AND SAMPLE PRODUCTS IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OS/CTAMARKER/INDEX.SHTML](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/ctamarker/index.shtml)

USERS WHO AUTOMATICALLY PROCESS PRODUCTS DESCRIBED AT THE ABOVE WEBSITE SHOULD REVISE THEIR PROCESSING PROCEDURES NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 11 2009 TO ENSURE THEIR CONTINUED ABILITY TO PROCESS THESE PRODUCTS.

THERE ARE NO CHANGES TO ADVANCED WEATHER INTERACTIVE PROCESSING SYSTEM /AWIPS/ IDENTIFIERS...WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/ PRODUCT HEADINGS OR PRODUCT ISSUANCE TIMES.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS... PLEASE CONTACT:

HERB WHITE
DISSEMINATION SERVICES MANAGER
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND
PHONE: 301-713-0090 EXT. 146
EMAIL: HERBERT.WHITE@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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