

NOUS41 KWBC 011840
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 15-45
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
240 PM EDT Tue Sep 1 2015

To: Subscribers:
 -Family of Services
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Heath Hockenberry, Acting Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Change to P-VTEC Line(s) and Associated Headline(s) When
Upgrading from Winter Storm Warning or Lake Effect Snow Warning to Ice
Storm and Blizzard Warning: Effective November 17, 2015

Effective Tuesday, November 17, 2015, the National Weather Service (NWS)
is changing some of the P-VTEC line(s) and headlines in the Winter Weather
Watches, Warnings and Advisories product (WSW). Positive comments were
received from a Public Information Statement on this topic:
<https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/pns15vtec-winter.pdf>
disseminated July 28, 2015.

The change is summarized below:

When a Winter Storm Warning or Lake Effect Snow Warning is upgraded to an
Ice Storm or Blizzard Warning for the same geographical area, the WSW
segment will now contain only one headline and two P-VTEC lines. The
headline will list the new warning only. The first P-VTEC line will use
the "UPG" action code to show the old Winter Storm or Lake Effect Snow
Warning being upgraded. The second P-VTEC line will use the NEW action
code to start the new Ice Storm or Blizzard Warning.

This change is intended to avoid confusion for those who may not fully
understand the distinctions between the two winter hazard products in
question (i.e., the original product and the upgraded product). It will
lead to more effective automated communication of winter weather warning
information.

For example, under current policy, the following P-VTEC lines and
headlines are disseminated when a Winter Storm Warning is changed to an
Ice Storm Warning for the same geographical area:

```
/O.CAN.KOUN.WS.W.0005.000000T0000Z-010129T0000Z/ (P-VTEC line 1)  
/O.NEW.KOUN.IS.W.0002.010128T1030Z-010129T0000Z/ (P-VTEC line 2)  
...Winter Storm Warning is Cancelled...  
...Ice Storm Warning in Effect until 6pm CST Sunday...
```

After this change, the following P-VTEC lines and headline will be disseminated when a Winter Storm Warning is upgraded to an Ice Storm Warning for the same geographical area:

/O.UPG.KOUN.WS.W.0005.000000T0000Z-010129T0000Z/ (P-VTEC line 1)

/O.NEW.KOUN.IS.W.0002.010128T1030Z-010129T0000Z/ (P-VTEC line 2)

...Ice Storm Warning in Effect until 6pm CST Sunday...

The example shown above would be identical when upgrading from a Winter Storm Warning to a Blizzard Warning and when upgrading from a Lake Effect Snow Warning to an Ice Storm or Blizzard Warning. No other changes are being made to the WSW product at this time.

Users do not need to take any actions for these changes. Please submit questions or comments to:

David Soroka
NWS Winter Weather Program Leader
david.soroka@noaa.gov
301-427-9346

National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

\$\$
NNNN