

NOUS41 KWBC 182011  
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 16-17  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
411 PM EDT Wed May 18 2016

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

From:         Robyn Heffernan, Acting Chief  
              Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Changes to the Boundaries of Fire Weather Forecast Zones in Southwest Minnesota (MN) and Northwest Iowa (IA) Served by NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Sioux Falls, South Dakota (SD): Effective June 16, 2016

Effective Thursday, June 16, 2016, at 0600 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS WFO in Sioux Falls (FSD), SD will change its current fire weather forecast zones in southwest MN (MNZ900) and northwest IA (IAZ300 and IAZ301) to be identical to its current public weather zones in southwest MN and northwest IA.

After this change, WFO FSD fire weather forecast zones in southwest MN and northwest IA will be identical in zone name, zone number and geographic extent to its current public weather zones in southwest MN and northwest IA and also correspond to county names and boundaries in southwest MN and northwest IA. The WFO FSD current fire weather forecast zones in South Dakota and Nebraska will remain unchanged.

These changes will improve services for WFO FSD fire weather partners by allowing WFO FSD to better align expected weather with counties. This is especially crucial for being able to better time forecasted wind shifts.

Specifically, fire weather forecast zone MNX900 in southwest MN will be split into multiple fire weather forecast zones identical to current public weather zones and counties. Fire weather forecast zone MNZ900 will no longer exist.

New fire weather forecast zone numbers and names in southwest MN:

New Fire Weather Forecast Zone Number -----	New Fire Weather Forecast Zone Name -----
MNZ071	Lincoln
MNZ072	Lyon
MNZ080	Murray
MNZ081	Cottonwood
MNZ089	Nobles
MNZ090	Jackson

New Fire Weather Forecast Zone Number	New Fire Weather Forecast Zone Name
-----	-----
MNZ097	Pipestone
MNZ098	Rock

Likewise, fire weather forecast zones IAZ300 and IAZ301 in northwest IA will be split into multiple fire weather forecast zones identical to current public weather zones and counties. Fire weather forecast zones IAZ300 and IAZ301 will no longer exist.

New fire weather forecast zone numbers and names in northwest IA:

New Fire Weather Forecast Zone Number	New Fire Weather Forecast Zone Name
-----	-----
IAZ001	Lyon
IAZ002	Osceola
IAZ003	Dickinson
IAZ012	Sioux
IAZ013	O'Brien
IAZ014	Clay
IAZ020	Plymouth
IAZ021	Cherokee
IAZ022	Buena Vista
IAZ031	Woodbury
IAZ032	Ida

Graphical descriptions of the old and new fire weather forecast zones are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/fsd/firezonechange-2016>

NWS watch, warning and forecast products affected by these changes are:

Product	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
-----	-----	-----
Fire Weather Watch	WWUS83 KFSD	RFWFSD
Red Flag Warning	WWUS83 KFSD	RFWFSD
Fire Weather Planning Forecast	FNUS53 KFSD	FWFFSD

NWS partners and users will need to make necessary changes to their communications systems to accommodate these fire weather forecast zone changes.

A shapefile of the new fire weather forecast zones for WFO FSD is online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/firezone.htm>

For more information, please contact:

Mike Fuhs  
Fire Weather Program Leader  
NWS Sioux Falls, SD  
605-330-4246  
[michael.fuhs@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.fuhs@noaa.gov)

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

NNNN