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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 17-112 Updated  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
420 PM EST Fri Jan 19 2018

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

From:        Michelle Hawkins, Chief  
              Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Polygon-based Snow Squall Warnings to Begin on or about  
January 31, 2018, for Select Offices and Polygon-based Dust Storm Warnings  
and Dust Advisory Product Operational Demonstration at Select Weather  
Forecast Offices (WFOs) on or about June 20, 2018

Updated to amend the beginning date for the Snow Squall Warning  
Operational Demonstration to on or about January 31, 2018, for WFO  
Cheyenne, WY and to a date to be announced in a future Service Change  
Notice for WFO Buffalo, NY. Also updated to amend the beginning date for  
the Dust Storm Warnings and Dust Advisory locations to on or about June  
20, 2018.

To provide feedback on Dust Storm Warning and Dust Advisory:

[www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=DSWDSY](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=DSWDSY)

To provide feedback on Snow Squall Warnings:

[www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=SQW1718](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=SQW1718)

On January 16, 2018, the NWS began an operational demonstration to issue  
the highly localized, polygon-based Snow Squall Warnings at the following  
WFOs:

State College, PA  
Binghamton, NY  
Burlington, VT  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Detroit, MI

and effective on or about June 20, 2018, the polygon-based Dust Storm  
Warnings and Dust Advisory products at WFOs:

Phoenix, AZ  
Tucson, AZ

The software that provides the capability to issue these products will be  
implemented in a phased manner to all NWS offices by May 2018. Provision

of the new products will commence according to local office procedures. A Service Change Notice will be issued before the operational implementation of the new services.

The products will be issued for a portion of a county or counties within the warned area, as defined and depicted by the polygon LAT/LON point pairs. Portions of counties would be described by ordinal directions (e.g., North, Northeast, East, Southwest, Central, etc.). After an initial issuance, WFOs would update the product for an extension of area or time by issuing a new product. The WFO issuing the initial message would cancel or allow it to expire when conditions no longer meet criteria.

#### Snow Squall Warning Product:

The Snow Squall Warning will provide three discrete information sections segments per the example below when the following conditions are expected:

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HAZARD...White-out conditions in heavy snow and blowing snow
SOURCE...Radar indicated and webcams
IMPACT...Dangerous life-threatening travel
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The Snow Squall Warning will use the new SQ.W Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) with an operational (O) fixed identifier in the P-VTEC line, and Warning (W) significance code.

The new product will use existing World Meteorological Organization (WMO) headers and Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) identifiers as shown below:

WFO	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
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State College, PA	WWUS51 KCTP	SQWCTP
Binghamton, NY	WWUS51 KBGM	SQWBGM
Burlington, VT	WWUS51 KBTV	SQWBTV
Pittsburgh, PA	WWUS51 KPBZ	SQWPBZ
Detroit, MI	WWUS53 KDTX	SQWDTX
Cheyenne, WY	WWUS55 KCYS	SQWCYS

The Snow Squall Warning product will be available via NOAA Weather Wire Services, NOAAPort satellite broadcast and other sources under the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Header WWaa5i cccc:

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-aa corresponds to US, AK, CA, GM, HW or ZS
-i is equal to 0 (zero) to 9
-cccc is equal to the WFO 4-character site ID
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The Snow Squall Warning product will use the county Universal Geographic Code (UGC).

The Snow Squall Warning will appear on the weather.gov webpage as well as the local WFO webpages with a priority of number 23 and display color of medium violet red.

Snow Squall Warnings will broadcast over NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) using the NWR Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) SVS Event Code according to local policy. The 1050 Hz Warning Alarm Tone will also be invoked. NWS Offices will be working with state broadcasters' associations and State Emergency Communications Committees for possible future activations of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) for the Snow Squall Warning.

#### Dust Storm Warning Products:

The existing zone-based Dust Storm Warning will be replaced by two distinct warning products: a polygon-based Dust Storm Warning and a zone-based Blowing Dust Warning. The polygon-based Dust Storm Warning will be issued when widespread or localized blowing dust is forecast to suddenly reduce visibility to less than one quarter mile with sustained winds greater than 25 mph, resulting in dangerous and life-threatening travel conditions.

The polygon-based Dust Storm Warning will provide three discrete information sections segments per the example below when the following conditions are expected:

HAZARD...Visibility less than one-quarter mile in blowing dust  
SOURCE...Radar indicated and webcams  
IMPACT...Dangerous and life-threatening travel

The zone-based Blowing Dust Warning will be issued if similar conditions are forecast over a long duration, generally greater than 90 minutes.

#### Dust Advisory Products:

The new polygon-based Dust Advisory will be issued when widespread or localized blowing dust suddenly reduces visibility to between one quarter of a mile and 1 mile, resulting in hazardous travel conditions. The polygon-based Dust Advisory will provide three discrete information sections, per the example below, when the following conditions are expected:

HAZARD...Visibility between one-quarter and 1 mile in blowing dust  
SOURCE...Radar indicated and webcams IMPACT...Hazardous travel

The existing Blowing Dust Advisory will remain a zone-based product and will be issued if similar conditions persist over a long duration, generally greater than three hours.

All Dust Warning and Advisory products will be available via NOAA Weather Wire Service (NWWS), NOAAPort satellite broadcast and other sources under the WMO Header WWaa7i cccc:

-aa corresponds to US, AK, CA, GM, HW or ZS  
-i is equal to 0 (zero) to 9  
-cccc is equal to the WFO 4-character site ID

The polygon-based (with county UGC) Dust Storm Warning and Dust Advisory will have an AWIPS Identifier of DSWxxx, where xxx is equal to WFO site ID.

The zone-based (with zone UGC) Blowing Dust Warning and Blowing Dust Advisory will have an AWIPS identifier of NPWxxx, where xxx is equal to the 3-character WFO site ID.

The Dust Storm Warning will use the existing VTEC code DS.W and the Dust Advisory will use the new DS.Y VTEC code. Both of the warning products will use existing WMO headings (WWUS55 KPSR for WFO Phoenix and WWUS55 KTWC for WFO Tucson) and AWIPS identifiers (DSWPSR for WFO Phoenix and DSWTWC for WFO Tucson) for dissemination over NOAAPort and NOAA Weather Wire Services. NWS will broadcast the polygon-based Dust Storm Warning over NWR and disseminate with both SAME (using the DSW Event Code) and 1050 Hz warning alarm tones. NWS will display the warning polygon on NWS radar depictions.

The Dust Storm Warning and the Blowing Dust Warning will appear on the weather.gov web page as well as the local WFO webpages with a priority of number (40) and display color of bisque. The Dust Advisory and the Blowing Dust Advisory will appear on the weather.gov webpage as well as the local WFO web pages with a priority of number (87) and display color of dark khaki.

#### Common Alerting Protocol:

The Snow Squall Warning and Dust Storm Warning products will be disseminated in Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) format through several methods. CAP is pre-parsed and is intended for use by the weather enterprise and other partners. For more information on CAP and how to obtain it via NOAAPort, NWS web file services, in raw eXtensible Markup Language (XML) format or via a web service API, please see the following Service Change Notice issued on September 1, 2017:

[https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn17-98cap1\\_2.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn17-98cap1_2.pdf)

Examples of these products including more information about activation of the Emergency Alert System and Wireless Emergency Alerts can be found in the Product Description Documents linked below:

Dust Storm Warning/Dust Advisory:

<https://nws.weather.gov/products/docs/PDD-DustStormWarningandAdvisoryProducts.pdf>

Snow Squall Warning:

<https://nws.weather.gov/products/docs/PDD-NewSnowSqualWarning.pdf>

Additional information on UGC and VTEC can be found in NWS Instructions (NWSI) 10-1701 and NWSI 10-1703, respectively at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01017001curr.pdf>  
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01017003curr.pdf>

To provide feedback on Dust Storm Warning and Dust Advisory:

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To provide feedback on Snow Squall Warnings:

[www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=SQW1718](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=SQW1718)

For questions or comments on these new products, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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