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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 18-118 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
800 AM EST Fri Feb 22 2019

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: Implementing Improved Public Zone Coverage for WFO
Midland/Odessa, TX: Effective April 2, 2019

Updated to change implementation date to April 2, 2019 due to the Government Lapse in Appropriations and to inform users and partners there was an error in the original shapefile and an updated shapefile is now available with the file name "z_02ap19.zip".

Effective Tuesday April 2, 2019, at 100 PM Central Daylight Time (CDT), 1800 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS will realign public zones within the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Midland/Odessa area of responsibility.

If April 2, 2019 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to April 4, 2019.

Nine current zones will be converted into 15 separate zones. These new zones are being divided to optimize issuance of hazard products for conditions that vary significantly near the Rio Grande and higher elevations of west Texas and southeast New Mexico.

NMZ027 (Guadalupe Mountains of Eddy County) will include parts of Eddy County having elevations above 5,000 feet.

NMZ028 (Eddy County Plains) will include those parts of Eddy County below 5,000 feet.

TXZ057 (Van Horn and Highway 54 Corridor) will be divided among four segments: the Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains (TXZ271) above 5,000 feet, the Van Horn and Highway 54 Corridor (TX272) including Culberson County west of the Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains below 5,000 feet, Eastern Culberson County (TXZ273) east of the Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains below 5,000 feet and the Presidio Valley (TXZ281) including elevations below 4,000 feet near the Rio Grande.

TXZ058 (Reeves County and Upper Trans Pecos) will be divided among two segments: Eastern Culberson County (TXZ273) east of the Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains and the Reeves County Plains (TXZ274).

TXZ074 (Davis/Apache Mountains Area) will be divided among two segments: the Davis Mountains (TXZ277) above 4,800 feet and the Davis Mountains Foothills (TXZ278) for lower elevations.

TXZ079 (Presidio Valley) will be divided among three segments: the Chinati Mountains (TXZ275) including elevations above 4,000 feet toward the Chinati Mountains, the Marfa Plateau (TXZ276) for elevations above 4000 feet in southern Presidio County, and the Presidio Valley (TXZ281) including areas near the Rio Grande in Presidio County below 4,000 feet.

TXZ080 (Marfa Plateau) will be divided among four segments: the Chinati Mountains (TXZ275) above 5,000 feet, the Marfa Plateau (TXZ276) including Presidio County above 4,000 feet (excluding the Chinati and Davis Mountains), the Davis Mountains (TXZ277) above 4,800 feet, and the Presidio Valley (TXZ281) below 4,000 feet.

TXZ081 (Big Bend Area) will be divided among four segments: the Davis Mountains (TXZ277) above 4,800 feet, Central Brewster County (TXZ279) including elevations from 3,000 to 4,800 feet (not including the Chisos Basin), the Chisos Basin (TXZ280) in southern Brewster County above 4,500 feet, and Lower Brewster County (TXZ282) near the Rio Grande below 3,000 feet.

TXZ258 (Guadalupe Mountains) will be divided among four segments: the Guadalupe Mountains in Texas above 7000 feet (TXZ270), the Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains (TXZ271) from 5,000 to 7,000 feet, the Van Horn and Highway 54 Corridor (TXZ272) west of the Delaware Mountains and below 5,000 feet, and Eastern Culberson County (TXZ273) east of the Delaware mountains and below 5,000 feet.

Table 1: Current Public Zones and Corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs) for WFO Midland/Odessa, TX

UGC: Current Public Zone Name

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- NMZ027: Guadalupe Mountains of Eddy County
- NMZ028: Eddy County Plains
- TXZ057: Van Horn and Highway 54 Corridor
- TXZ058: Reeves County and Upper Trans Pecos
- TXZ074: Davis/Apache Mountains Area
- TXZ079: Presidio Valley
- TXZ080: Marfa Plateau
- TXZ081: Big Bend Area
- TXZ258: Guadalupe Mountains

Table 2: Public Zones and Corresponding UGCs for which WFO Midland/Odessa, TX will Issue Forecasts and Warnings Effective April 2, 2019

UGC: New Public Zone Name

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- NMZ027: Guadalupe Mountains of Eddy County
- NMZ028: Eddy County Plains
- TXZ270: Guadalupe Mountains above 7,000 Feet

TXZ271: Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains
 TXZ272: Van Horn and Highway 54 Corridor
 TXZ273: Eastern Culberson County
 TXZ274: Reeves County Plains
 TXZ275: Chinati Mountains
 TXZ276: Marfa Plateau
 TXZ277: Davis Mountains
 TXZ278: Davis Mountains Foothills
 TXZ279: Central Brewster County
 TXZ280: Chisos Basin
 TXZ281: Presidio Valley
 TXZ282: Lower Brewster County

Table 3: Primary Cities Included in the New Public Zones Effective April 2, 2019

UGC: Primary Cities within New Zones

 NMZ027: Carlsbad Caverns
 NMZ028: Artesia, Carlsbad
 TXZ270: Guadalupe Peak
 TXZ271: Pine Springs
 TXZ272: Van Horn
 TXZ273: (no city)
 TXZ274: Pecos, Balmorhea
 TXZ275: Chinati Peak
 TXZ276: Marfa, Valentine
 TXZ277: Fort Davis
 TXZ278: Alpine, Kent
 TXZ279: Marathon, Panther Junction
 TXZ280: Chisos Basin
 TXZ281: Presidio
 TXZ282: Lajitas, Terlingua

Table 4: NWS Products Affected by the WFO Midland/Odessa, TX Public Zone Changes Effective April 2, 2019:

Product Name	AWIPS ID	WMO Heading
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Non-Precipitation Warning	NPWMAF	WWUS74 KMAF
Winter Weather Message	WSWMAF	WWUS44 KMAF
Flood Watch	FFAMAF	WGUS64 KMAF
Hazardous Weather Outlook	HWOMAF	FLUS44 KMAF
Area Forecast Matrices	AFMMAF	FOUS54 KMAF
Tabular State Forecast	SFTMAF	FPUS64 KMAF
Short Term Forecast	NOWMAF	FPUS74 KMAF
Special Weather Statement	SPSMAF	WWUS84 KMAF
Zone Forecast	ZFPMAF	FPUS54 KMAF
Recreational Forecast	RECMAF	SXUS44 KMAF
Public Information Statement	PNSMAF	NOUS44 KMAF

Users of WFO Midland/Odessa products must re-program affected hardware and software to continue correctly processing the above-mentioned products.

Users accessing NWS graphical forecasts must download updated zone map shapefiles to correctly view forecasts for southeast New Mexico and southwest Texas. Updated zone map shapefiles containing the new public zones are available online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/AWIPSShapefiles>

Graphical images of the current and future public weather zones listed above are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/media/maf/news/2018/PublicZoneChangesMAF.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact:

Pat Vesper
Meteorologist-in-Charge
Midland, TX
432-563-5901, x 222

or

Melinda Bailey
NWS Southern Region Headquarters
Fort Worth, TX
904-741-4470. x 223

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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