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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SPECIAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
340 PM EDT WED AUG 11 1999

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ AND EMWIN SUBSCRIBERS
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: DONALD R. WERNLY
CHIEF...CUSTOMER SERVICE
OFFICE OF METEOROLOGY

SUBJECT: THREE NEW NATIONAL NWS PRODUCTS FOR SIGNIFICANT WEATHER...WATER
AND CLIMATE EVENTS

TODAY... WEDNESDAY...AUGUST 11 1999 AT A WHITE HOUSE PRESS
CONFERENCE...DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SECRETARY WILLIAM M. DALEY AND
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ DIRECTOR JACK KELLY WILL ANNOUNCE THREE NEW
NWS PRODUCTS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC INFORMATION ON SIGNIFICANT
WEATHER...WATER AND CLIMATE EVENTS. THE THREE PRODUCTS ARE THE NATIONAL
WEATHER SERVICES THREATS ASSESSMENT...THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE/S AND
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/S JOINT U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR PRODUCT...AND THE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE/S HEAT INDEX FORECAST PRODUCT.

BECOMING OPERATIONAL TODAY...THE THREATS ASSESSMENT PRODUCT IS A FORECAST
OF POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT WEATHER ACTIVITY OVER THE NEXT THREE TO TEN DAYS.
THIS FORECAST FOR EXTREME CONDITIONS SUCH AS
TEMPERATURE...PRECIPITATION...WIND AND DROUGHT...IS UPDATED WEEKLY OR MORE
FREQUENTLY AS EVENTS REQUIRE. THE THREATS ASSESSMENT PRODUCT PROVIDES
WEATHER-SENSITIVE USERS SUCH AS EMERGENCY MANAGERS...LOCAL
OFFICIALS...FORECASTERS AND THE PUBLIC ADVANCE NOTICE OF ONGOING AND
FUTURE WEATHER...WATER AND CLIMATE EVENTS. ARMED WITH THIS
INFORMATION...COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS CAN TAKE PRECAUTIONARY STEPS AND
PUT PLANS IN PLACE TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF POTENTIAL EXTREME EVENTS.

THE U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR PRODUCT SUMMARIZES THE EXTENT AND INTENSITY OF
DROUGHT NATIONWIDE AND FORECASTS WHETHER DROUGHTS WILL STRENGTHEN OR
WEAKEN IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. THE MAP USES A NEW CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM TO
SHOW DROUGHT INTENSITY AND TYPE...SIMILAR TO THOSE FOR HURRICANES AND
TORNADOES. THE MAP COMBINES KEY INDICES OF RAINFALL AND DROUGHT TO
PRODUCE THE FINAL DROUGHT INTENSITY RATING. SINCE DROUGHT OFTEN AFFECTS
VARIOUS ACTIVITIES DIFFERENTLY...THE MAP INDICATES IF DROUGHT IS AFFECTING
AGRICULTURE...FIRE DANGER OR WATER SUPPLIES. THIS PRODUCT IS STILL
EXPERIMENTAL AND IS EXPECTED TO BECOME OPERATIONAL BY EARLY SEPTEMBER.

THESE PRODUCTS CAN BE ACCESSED VIA INTERNET AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES
/ALL IN LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.DROUGHT.NOAA.GOV](http://www.drought.noaa.gov)
[HTTP://WWW.CPC.NCEP.NOAA.GOV/PRODUCTS/PREDICTIONS/THREATS](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/threats)

[HTTP://WWW.ENSو.UNL.EDU/MONITOR/MONITOR.HTML](http://www.ensو.unl.edu/monitor/monitor.html)

WE WILL WORK TO GET THE THREATS ASSESSMENT AND THE DROUGHT MONITOR ON THE EMERGENCY MANAGER/S WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/ AND NOAAPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE TWO-WEEK HEAT INDEX FORECAST PRODUCT WILL BECOME AVAILABLE NEXT SUMMER. TODAY...THE NWS USES A HEAT INDEX TO GIVE AN ACCURATE MEASURE OF HOW HOT IT REALLY FEELS WHEN RELATIVE HUMIDITY IS ADDED TO THE ACTUAL AIR TEMPERATURE. NEXT SUMMER...NWS WILL FORECAST THESE EXTREME HEAT EVENTS UP TO TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE. FOR THE FIRST TIME...THESE FORECASTS WILL PROVIDE LOCAL NWS OFFICES AS WELL AS HEALTH OFFICIALS AND LOCAL DECISION MAKERS WITH A "HEADS UP" FOR POTENTIALLY LIFE THREATENING CONDITIONS THAT FAR IN ADVANCE. LOCAL FORECAST OFFICES WILL THEN WORK WITH LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS AND LOCAL DECISION MAKERS TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPACTS TO THE LOCAL AREA.

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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