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Service Change Notice 21-102
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
130 PM EST Wed Dec 22 2021

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

From: Kimberly McMahon, Acting Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Changes in NWS Public Zones, Fire Weather Zones and County Warning Area and Hydrologic Service Area Boundaries: Effective March 22, 2022

Reference: [Service Change Notice \(SCN\) 21-103](#), Changes to Marine Zones for WFOs Anchorage and Fairbanks, AK: Effective March 22, 2022

Reference: [SCN 21-104](#), Deletion of Valdez-Cordova Census Area and Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Code and Addition of Chugach Census Area and Copper River Census Area with New FIPS Codes

On or about Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 12:00 PM Alaska Daylight Time (AKDT), 2000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau, AK will change public and fire weather forecast zones such that new County Warning Area (CWA) boundaries will align with borough and census area boundaries. Forecast office CWAs consist of their public and fire weather zones, so after this change, forecast office CWA boundaries will no longer cross borough and census area boundaries. The new Hydrologic Service Area (HSA) boundaries will be identical to the CWA boundaries.

If March 22, 2022 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 29, 2022.

These changes are intended to provide increased flexibility and improved accuracy of forecast, watch, warning and advisory products in the public and fire weather programs, provide greater clarity on the exact WFO issuing a given warning, and reduce unintended over-alerting of NWS warnings by some dissemination systems.

The impacted public and fire weather zones will retain their current zone numbers and names as shown in Table 1. There will be no new public and fire weather zones.

Table 1: Universal Geographic Code (UGC): Public/Fire Zone Forecast Name

AKZ214: Yukon Delta
AKZ155: Kuskokwim Delta
AKZ152: Lower Kuskokwim Valley
AKZ227: Upper Kuskokwim Valley
AKZ145: Susitna Valley
AKZ225: Denali
AKZ215: Lower Yukon Valley
AKZ224: Upper Tanana Valley and the Fortymile Country
AKZ226: Eastern Alaska Range
AKZ017: Cape Fairweather to Cape Suckling Coastal Area
AKZ135: Southeast Prince William Sound
AKZ141: Copper River Basin

NWS partners and users should take the appropriate actions to ensure that systems recognize the new Public zone boundaries, Fire zone boundaries, CWA and HSA boundaries, and new shapefiles.

Updated shapefiles are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones>
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones>
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/CWABounds>
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/HSABounds>

Some alerting systems use Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) location codes, derived from Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) codes, to identify census county-equivalent areas. An updated NWS zone-county correlation file showing the updated relationships between NWS public zones and FIPS codes is available at:

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

NWS partners and users should take the appropriate actions to implement these new relationships in their systems.

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://bit.ly/2Z3Av9A>

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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