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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-08
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
300 PM EST Thu Jan 6 2022

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

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

Subject: Changes to Fire Forecast Zones for WFO Gray, ME: Effective March 22, 2022

On or about Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 400 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), 2000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Gray, Maine (GYX) will change Fire Weather Forecast Zones encompassing the entire state of New Hampshire. After this change, fire weather forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names shown below.

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, and warning products in the fire weather program. These changes will result in an alignment of land agency fire danger rating areas and fire weather forecast zones. This aligning will better connect fire danger rating outputs with our fire weather forecast products for our government partners, media partners and the general public.

The current 15 fire weather zones across the state of New Hampshire will be converted and consolidated down to six fire weather zones. The new zones are as follows:

NHZ021: Coos County will include the entire county of Coos

NHZ022: White Mountains will include most of northern Grafton and Carrol Counties

NHZ023: Central Lakes will include most of Southern Grafton and Carroll Counties, in addition to Belknap County and northern Strafford

NHZ024: Lake Sunapee and Monadnocks will include Sullivan and Cheshire Counties, in addition to sections of western Merrimack and Hillsborough Counties.

NHZ025: Merrimack Valley with include interior Rockingham and sections of eastern Hillsborough and Merrimack Counties

NHZ026: Seacoast with include coastal Rockingham and southern Strafford Counties

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

NHZ001: Northern Coos
NHZ002: Southern Coos
NHZ003: Northern Grafton
NHZ004: Northern Carroll
NHZ005: Southern Grafton
NHZ006: Southern Carroll
NHZ007: Sullivan
NHZ008: Merrimack
NHZ009: Belknap
NHZ010: Strafford
NHZ011: Cheshire
NHZ012: Eastern Hillsborough
NHZ013: Interior Rockingham
NHZ014: Coastal Rockingham
NHZ015: Western and Central Hillsborough

Table 2: UGC: New Fire Zone Forecast Name

NHZ021: Coos County
NHZ022: White Mountains
NHZ023: Central Lakes
NHZ024: Lake Sunapee and Monadnocks
NHZ025: Merrimack Valley
NHZ026: Seacoast

Table 3: NWS Products Affected by the WFO NWS Gray, ME Fire Zone Changes

AWIPS ID	WMO Heading	Product Name
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SPSGYX	WWUS81 KGYX	Special Weather Statement
FWFGYX	FNUS51 KGYX	Fire Weather Forecast
RFWGYX	WWUS81 KGYX	Fire Weather Watch
RFWGYX	WWUS81 KGYX	Red Flag Warning

NWS partners and users should take the appropriate action to ensure systems recognize the new UGC (Z) and new zone alignments and names.

Updated fire zone shapefiles are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones>
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/Counties>

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gyx/NewHampshireFireZoneChanges>

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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