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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 23-53
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: David Novak
 Director, Weather Prediction Center

Subject: Changes to the Weather Prediction Center Day 3-7 Hazards Outlook:
Effective June 23, 2023

On or about June 23, 2023, several changes will be made to the categories and display for the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) Day 3-7 Hazards Outlook.

Hazard Category Changes:

Much Above Normal Temperatures will be discontinued.
Much Below Normal Temperatures will be discontinued.
Excessive Heat will be replaced with Hazardous Heat.
[NEW] Hazardous Cold category will be added.

Hazardous Heat and Cold categories are generally designed to highlight areas that may reach NWS Advisory criteria, or reasonable approximations, and therefore, indicate where temperatures may pose a hazard. The above and below normal temperature areas were related to temperature anomalies, and were not always associated with hazardous impacts.

[NEW] Frost/Freeze category will be added:

This category will be used to highlight areas that may fall below 36 degrees (for frost) or 32 degrees (for freeze) during the primary growing seasons.

Heavy Ice category will be discontinued:

This category was infrequently used, and the Freezing Rain category will still exist and highlight areas where icing is possible.

Enhanced Wildfire Risk to be renamed Critical Wildfire Risk:

This change is to match the category naming convention used by the Storm Prediction Center in their Fire Weather Outlooks, to ensure consistency.

Display Changes:

Severe Drought areas will no longer be depicted on the static image map. A web URL to the Drought Outlook will be provided on the static image map, and users can turn on the Severe Drought layer on the interactive web version.

The Hazards Outlook will continue to include the following Hazards with no changes: Flooding, Freezing Rain, Heavy Precipitation, Heavy Rain, Heavy Snow, Severe Weather, High Winds and Significant Waves.

These changes will align the WPC Day 3-7 Hazards Outlook with existing and future hazard products and forecasts from other national centers and NWS offices nationwide and better integrate probabilistic guidance.

The Day 3-7 Hazards Outlook is available on the WPC website at the following URL:

<https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/threats/threats.php>

If you have any additional questions, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are available at:

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

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