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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 23-75
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
120 PM EDT Thu Jun 29 2023

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

From: Stephen Bieda, III, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Change to Fire Zone for WFO Pittsburgh, PA: Effective September 19, 2023

Effective Tuesday, September 19, 2023, by 5:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Pittsburgh, PA (PBZ) will complete changes to the Fire Weather Forecast Zone encompassing Indiana County in western Pennsylvania. Indiana County will be split into a western and eastern half to better capture the topography difference. After this change, all fire weather forecasts and related products will use the zone numbers and names shown in Table 2 below.

If September 19, 2023 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to September 21, 2023 at 2100 UTC.

These changes will result in more geographically precise forecast, watch and warning products and will enhance web-based graphical product consistency and appearance.

Indiana County's current zone will be converted into two separate zones. These new zones are being divided to optimize issuance of hazard products for conditions that vary significantly from lower elevations in the western part of the county to the eastern part. The new zones are listed in Table 2.

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

PAZ023: Indiana County

Table 2: UGC: New Fire Weather Forecast Zone Name

PAZ077: Indiana County
PAZ078: Higher Elevations of Indiana County

Table 3: NWS Products Affected by the WFO Pittsburgh, PA by these Forecast Zone Changes

Product Name -----	WMO Heading -----	AWIPS ID -----
Fire Weather Forecast	FNUS51 KPBZ	FWFPBZ
Fire Weather Message	WWUS81 KPBZ	RFWPBZ

NWS partners and users will need to make necessary changes to their communications systems to accommodate these weather forecast zone changes.

Preliminary shapefiles for fire weather forecast zones are available online at:

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

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on Tuesday, July 18, 2023.

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/pbz/FireZoneChange>

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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