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Service Change Notice 24-48
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Mike Hopkins, Director
 Surface and Upper Air Division
 Office of Observations

Subject: Cooperative Hurricane Upper Air Stations (CHUAS) to Transition from the GRAW DFM09 to the GRAW DFM17 (Capless) Radiosonde and Supporting Software Version by July 27, 2024

All ten CHUAS sites will convert to an updated software version and new radiosonde through the next three months. The first part of this transition will be to start the implementation of the software upgrade the week of May 5, 2024. The quantity of legacy radiosondes that remain at each site will determine the order of the phased implementation. The anticipated completion date is estimated to be July 27, 2024, based on the radiosonde inventories at each of the CHUAS observing stations.

The GRAW DFM17 (Capless) radiosonde will provide an exposed Relative Humidity sensor that will be more sensitive to changes in moisture concentrations encountered in the atmospheric sounding. The intention is to provide a better representation of relative humidity values than given by the legacy radiosonde.

The required software upgrade (Version GRAWMET 5.16.04.22) to initialize the GRAW DFM17 (Capless) radiosonde will increase the number of Significant (SGL) levels in the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Traditional Alphanumeric Codes (TAC) coded messages.

This change of radiosonde models will align the CHUAS network's radiosonde software version with the GRAW sites in the contiguous United States.

This change will not have any impact on observing services because each site will remain operational during its transition.

If you have questions or feedback, please contact:

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