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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 13-64
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
720 AM EDT Thu Sep 26 2013

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

From: Eli Jacks
Chief, Fire and Public Weather Services Branch

Subject: Experimental Ice Accumulation Grids Transition to Operational Status in the National Digital Forecast Database for CONUS Only: Effective November 5, 2013

Effective Tuesday, November 5, 2013, at 1400 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), Ice Accumulation grids will become operational in the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) at a select number of NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) in the Conterminous United States (CONUS) only. The WFOs issuing these grids, as well as more information regarding these elements, are in the online Product Description Document (PDD):

http://products.weather.gov/

The Ice Accumulation grids depict the expected new ice accumulation on exposed surfaces (in hundredths of inches) during a 6-hour period. An Ice Accumulation grid will be specified whenever at least a trace of ice accumulation is forecast for any hour during a valid period. The Ice Accumulation grids will be added to the NDFD CONUS sector and to the 16 pre-defined NDFD CONUS subsectors for each 6-hour period out to 48 hours from 00 UTC Day 1.

With this implementation, these forecasts will be available from NDFD in the standard methods:

GRIdded Binary version 2 (GRIB2) files via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP)

eXtensible Markup Language (XML) via Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) and Representational State Transfer (REST)

Graphics via web browser

Users who pull NDFD elements in gridded binary version two (GRIB2) format, either via the Internet or via the Family of Services server access service, may need to update their procedures and scripts to access these new elements.

For customers who key on the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) super heading to access NDFD elements, the super headings for the operational Ice Accumulation grids are:

Geographic Area	WMO Header
Central Great Lakes	YZFZ98 KWBN
Central Mississippi Valley	YZHZ98 KWBN
Central Plains	YZKZ98 KWBN
Central Rockies	YZNZ98 KWBN
CONUS	YZUZ98 KWBN
Eastern Great Lakes	YZEZ98 KWBN
Mid-Atlantic	YZCZ98 KWBN
Northeast	YZBZ98 KWBN
Northern Plains	YZJZ98 KWBN
Northern Rockies	YZMZ98 KWBN
Pacific Northwest	YZPZ98 KWBN
Pacific Southwest	YZQZ98 KWBN
Southeast	YZDZ98 KWBN
Southern Mississippi Valley	YZIZ98 KWBN
Southern Plains	YZLZ98 KWBN
Southern Rockies	YZOZ98 KWBN
Upper Mississippi Valley	YZGZ98 KWBN

Customers who use the NDFD in XML via web service or the online graphical NDFD images can use the same methods they currently use to acquire these new operational elements.

General information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

http://ndfd.weather.gov/technical.htm

If November 5, 2013, is declared a critical weather day, this implementation may be postponed. In that case, partners and users will be notified of that decision via an updated Service Change Notice as far in advance as possible.

For general questions regarding NDFD data, please email: NWS.NDFD@noaa.gov.

For technical questions regarding NDFD data, please contact:

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For general questions regarding the Ice Accumulation grids or this notice, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive

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