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Service Change Notice 18-121 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
920 AM EST Thu Jan 31 2019

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

From: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Extending Forecast for Quantitative Precipitation Forecast, Ice Accumulation and Snow Accumulation Grids in NDFD: Effective February 5, 2019

Updated effective date due to lapse in appropriations.

Effective February 5, 2019, at 1400 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS will extend the forecast valid period for three operational National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) forecast elements and one experimental element from 72 hours out to 84 hours from 00 UTC on Day 1 as follows:

- QPF 6 grids will be extended by two 6-hour periods to 84 hours from 00 UTC Day 1 beginning at 11 UTC Day 1 in the contiguous U.S. (CONUS) and 13 UTC Day 1 outside the CONUS (OCONUS).
- 6-Hour Ice Accumulation will be extended by two 6-hour periods to 84 hours from 00 UTC Day 1 beginning at 11 UTC Day 1 in the CONUS and 13 UTC Day 1 in the OCONUS.
- 6-Hour Snow Accumulation will be extended by two 6-hour periods to 84 hours from 00 UTC Day 1 beginning at 11 UTC Day 1 in the CONUS and 13 UTC Day 1 in the OCONUS.
- Snow Level will be extended at 3-hour intervals to 84 hours from 00 UTC Day 1 beginning at 11 UTC Day 1 for select WFOs in the CONUS (additional information on the Snow Level grid can be found in NWS Public Information Statement 18-30).

The Wind Gust grid is the maximum 3-second wind speed (in knots) forecast to occur within a 2-minute interval at a height of 10 meters. Wind gust grids are currently available hourly out to 36 hours from NDFD issuance time, then every three hours out to 72 hours from 00 UTC Day 1. The grids will be extended out to 168 hours (Day 7) across the CONUS at 6-hour intervals from 00 UTC Day 1.

The Snow Level grid is based on the height of the 0.5 C Wet Bulb Temperature (Tw). Snow Level grids are currently available hourly out to 36 hours from 00 UTC Day 1, then every three hours out to 72 hours from 00 UTC Day 1. The grids will be extended out to 84 hours at 33 WFOs at 3-hour intervals from 00 UTC Day 1.

These enhancements to the NDFD reflect an NWS requirement to provide Impact Based Decision Support Services for NWS partners and users. Product Description Documents for these elements are located at:

https://products.weather.gov/

These grids are available from NDFD in the following standard methods:

- Gridded Binary version two (GRIB2) files via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
- Extensible Markup Language (XML) via Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP)
- Graphics via Web browser

Users who pull NDFD elements in gridded binary version two (GRIB2) format via the Internet may need to update their procedures and scripts to access the extended forecast periods. New forecast periods for snow amount, ice accumulation, QPF, and snow level elements will be appended to the day 1-3 forecast files beginning at the specified hour until 22 UTC when a new forecast day is introduced. Day 4-7 files for these elements will not be produced. Day 4-7 wind gusts will be available at the following URLs:

GRIB2 files:
ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.004-007/ds.wgust.bin
http://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.004-007/ds.wgust.bin

NDFD Information:
https://www.weather.gov/mdl/ndfd_info

NDFD online graphics:
http://digital.weather.gov/

XML SOAP service:
http://preview.weather.gov/xml/

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:
https://www.weather.gov/mdl/ndfd_home

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

For technical questions regarding NDFD data please contact:

David Ruth
MDL Digital Forecast Services Branch
National Weather Service Headquarters
Silver Spring, MD
301-427-9457
david.ruth@noaa.gov

For questions regarding this notice, please contact:

Michelle Hawkins
Chief, Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch
National Weather Service Headquarters
Silver Spring, MD
301-427-9374
michelle.hawkins@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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