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Service Change Notice 18-74
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
200 PM EDT Thu Aug 2 2018

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

From: Mark Tew
 Chief, Analysis and Mission Support Division

Subject: Transition NDFD 3 km Alaska Region (AR) Gridded Forecasts to
Operational Status: Effective August 30, 2018

Effective Thursday, August 30, 2018, at 1400 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the experimental National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) 3 km Alaska Forecast Grids will transition to operational status. Alaska has been issuing these forecast grids experimentally since August 24, 2016.

Specifications for the 3 km NDFD Alaska grid can be viewed at:

http://www.weather.gov/mdl/ndfd_srs

This implementation will affect Alaska forecasts available from NDFD in these standard methods: Gridded Binary version two (GRIB2) files via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP).

This implementation WILL NOT affect Alaska forecasts available from NDFD in eXtensible Markup Language (XML) via Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP), which will remain at its current 6 km resolution operationally on graphical.weather.gov and at 3 km resolution experimentally on preview.weather.gov.

Users who pull NDFD elements in GRIB2 format, either via the Internet or other methods, may need to update their procedures and scripts to access these elements at fine resolution.

To access experimental fine resolution grids before the operational implementation, use the following URLs:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.alaska/>

or

<http://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.alaska/>

To access fine resolution grids after 1400 UTC on Thursday, August 30, 2018, use the following URLs:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.alaska/>
or

<http://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.alaska/>

Legacy Alaska grids at the current resolution will be made available for at least 90 days after the operational implementation at the following URLs:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.alaska/>

or

<http://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.alaska/>

To view NDFD grids for Alaska at full resolution, use the NDFD map viewer at the following URL:

<https://digital.weather.gov>

If August 30, 2018, is a critical weather day, this implementation may be postponed. Partners and users will be notified of that decision via a 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 questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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Public Information Statements specifically related to NDFD are online at:

[https://www.weather.gov/mdl/ndfd TINs](https://www.weather.gov/mdl/ndfd_TINs)

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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