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PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 09-24  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
950 AM EDT WED AUG 12 2009

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: HAZARDS GRID IN THE NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST DATABASE /NDFD/  
TRANSITIONS TO OPERATIONAL STATUS: EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 15 2009

EFFECTIVE TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 2009 AT 1400 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME  
/UTC/...THE NDFD HAZARDS GRID WILL TRANSITION FROM EXPERIMENTAL TO  
OPERATIONAL STATUS IN THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES /CONUS/...PUERTO RICO  
AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS...HAWAII AND GUAM SECTORS...INCLUDING ALL 16 CONUS  
SUBSECTORS.

THE HAZARDS GRID IN THE ALASKA SECTOR WILL REMAIN IN EXPERIMENTAL STATUS  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

THE NWS BEGAN ISSUING THE HAZARDS GRID EXPERIMENTALLY ON JULY 8 2008. THE  
HAZARDS GRID CONTAINS ALL THE ACTIVE LONG DURATION WATCH...WARNING...AND  
ADVISORY HAZARDS AVAILABLE FROM THE NDFD AT A FIVE KILOMETER SPATIAL  
RESOLUTION. THE HAZARDS GRID IS ISSUED FOR ONE-HOUR PERIODS OUT TO 72  
HOURS...THEN AT SIX-HOUR PERIODS OUT TO 120 HOURS.

A DETAILED LISTING OF ALL HAZARDS INCLUDED IN THE HAZARDS GRID IS  
AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NDFD/HAZARDS-GRID-WWA.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/NDFD/HAZARDS-GRID-WWA.HTM)

THE HAZARDS GRID DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY SHORT FUSE HAZARDS...INCLUDING BUT  
NOT NECESSARILY LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- TORNADO WARNING
- SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING
- EXTREME WIND WARNING
- FLASH FLOOD WARNING
- SPECIAL MARINE WARNING
- AREAL FLOOD WARNING
- FLOOD WATCH FOR FORECAST POINTS
- FLOOD WARNING FOR FORECAST POINTS

MORE DETAILS REGARDING THE HAZARDS GRID WILL BE PROVIDED IN A PRODUCT  
DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT /PDD/ WHICH WILL BE ADDED TO THE ONLINE CATALOG OF

OFFICIAL NWS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES BEFORE THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE. PDDS ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://PRODUCTS.WEATHER.GOV/VIEWLIST.PHP](http://products.weather.gov/viewlist.php)

THE HAZARDS GRID WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE NDFD IN THREE OF THE FOUR STANDARD METHODS:

GRIDDED BINARY 2 /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

THE HAZARDS GRID WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE IN GEOGRAPHY MARKUP LANGUAGE /GML/ THROUGH THE NDFD WEB FEATURE SERVICE /WFS/.

THIS CHANGE PRIMARILY AFFECTS USERS WHO PULL NDFD ELEMENTS IN THE GRIB2 FORMAT FROM THE NWS FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL /FTP/ SERVER...EITHER VIA THE INTERNET OR THE FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SERVER ACCESS SERVICE...AND USERS WHO PULL HTML FILES FROM THE NWS HYPERTEXT TRANSFER PROTOCOL /HTTP/ SERVER. THOSE USERS WILL NEED TO PULL THESE ELEMENTS FOR THE DOMAINS OF INTEREST FROM A DIFFERENT UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATOR /URL/ AND MAY NEED TO UPDATE PROCEDURES AND SCRIPTS TO ENSURE CONTINUED RECEIPT OF THE DATA.

DETAILS REGARDING THIS IMPLEMENTATION...INCLUDING SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR HTTP AND FTP USERS...ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NDFD/HAZARDS NDFD OPNL IMLEM.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/ hazards ndfd opnl implem.htm)

FOR USERS WHO USE THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/ SUPER HEADINGS TO ACCESS NDFD ELEMENTS...THE LIST OF SUPER HEADINGS FOR THE HAZARDS GRID HAS NOT CHANGED. THE LIST IS ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NDFD/RESOURCES/HAZARD WMO HDG NDFD.PDF](http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/resources/hazard_wmo_hdg_ndfd.pdf)

USERS OF THE NDFD IN XML VIA SIMPLE OBJECT ACCESS PROTOCOL /SOAP/ ARE NOT DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY THIS IMPLEMENTATION. THOSE USERS CAN USE THE SAME METHODS THEY CURRENTLY USE TO ACQUIRE THESE ELEMENTS FOR THE DOMAINS OF INTEREST. FOR XML USERS...THERE IS NO DISTINCTION IN THE DATA ITSELF BETWEEN EXPERIMENTAL AND OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS.

USERS WHO VIEW THE ONLINE NDFD GRAPHICS VIA WEB BROWSER ARE NOT DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY THIS IMPLEMENTATION EITHER. NDFD HAZARDS GRAPHICS WILL STILL BE LABELED EXPERIMENTAL FOR THOSE IMAGES COVERING ALASKA.

SUPPLEMENTAL NDFD HAZARD IMAGES WILL REMAIN AVAILABLE AT THREE-HOURLY RESOLUTION OUT TO 72 HOURS AND SIX-HOURLY RESOLUTION OUT TO 120 HOURS. THIS REDUCED TEMPORAL RESOLUTION FOR THE ONLINE GRAPHICS WILL CONTINUE WHILE THE NWS STUDIES THE IMPACT OF INCREASED TEMPORAL RESOLUTION ON WEB FARM PERFORMANCE.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACCESSING AND USING NDFD ELEMENTS IS ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://NDFD.WEATHER.GOV/TECHNICAL.HTM](http://ndfd.weather.gov/technical.htm)

IF SEPTEMBER 15 2009 IS A CRITICAL WEATHER DAY...THIS IMPLEMENTATION MAY BE POSTPONED. USERS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THAT DECISION VIA A TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE /TIN/ AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE.

FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS REGARDING NDFD DATA...PLEASE EMAIL:

[NWS.NDFD@NOAA.GOV](mailto:NWS.NDFD@NOAA.GOV)

FOR TECHNICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING NDFD DATA...PLEASE CONTACT:

DAVID RUTH  
CHIEF...MESOSCALE PREDICTION BRANCH  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND  
[DAVID.RUTH@NOAA.GOV](mailto:DAVID.RUTH@NOAA.GOV)

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS NOTICE...PLEASE CONTACT:

KEVIN SCHARFENBERG  
SEVERE STORMS SERVICES COORDINATOR  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES  
NORMAN OKLAHOMA  
[KEVIN.SCHARFENBERG@NOAA.GOV](mailto:KEVIN.SCHARFENBERG@NOAA.GOV)

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO THE NDFD ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NDFD/TINS.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/tins.htm)

NATIONAL TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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