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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 03-39  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
1010 AM EDT FRI JUL 18 2003

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS  
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS  
EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/  
SUBSCRIBERS  
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS  
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: GLENN AUSTIN  
ACTING CHIEF...FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: ZONE FORECAST PRODUCT MODIFIED FORMAT AND PHASED IMPLEMENTATION:  
BEGINNING OCTOBER 1 2003

ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1 2003...AT 1800 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME  
/UTC/...THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST OFFICES /WFOS/ WILL  
IMPLEMENT A NEW DIRECTIVE...NWS INSTRUCTION /NWSI/ 10-503...WFO PUBLIC  
WEATHER FORECAST PRODUCTS SPECIFICATION. THIS NEW DIRECTIVE SETS POLICY  
FOR AN IMPROVED ZONE FORECAST PRODUCT /ZFP/ IN A MODIFIED FORMAT.

THE NEW ZFP FORMAT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT MOST CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES  
/CONUS/ WFOS ON OCTOBER 1 2003. THE MODIFIED ZFP FORMAT WILL BE PHASED IN  
AT THE REMAINDER OF CONUS WFOS THROUGH DECEMBER 31 2003...AS NEW SOFTWARE  
BECOMES AVAILABLE AT THOSE LOCATIONS. OUTSIDE THE CONUS /OCONUS/ WFOS  
WILL ALSO BEGIN ISSUING THE ZFP IN THIS MODIFIED FORMAT AS SOFTWARE  
BECOMES AVAILABLE DURING 2004. THE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OF THE NEW ZFP  
FORMAT AT OCONUS WFOS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN A FUTURE SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE.

THIS NEW DIRECTIVE EXTENSIVELY CHANGES THE ZFP FORMAT. THE MOST  
SIGNIFICANT CHANGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- THE DAY FOUR /4/ THROUGH DAY SEVEN /7/ 24-HOUR FORECASTS HAVE BEEN  
BROKEN INTO 12-HOUR SEGMENTS...RESULTING IN SEAMLESS 13 OR 14 PERIOD  
FORECASTS DEPENDING UPON THE ISSUANCE TIME.
- THE TWO MANDATORY ZFP ISSUANCE TIME WINDOWS HAVE BEEN MODIFIED TO NO  
LATER THAN 4 AM AND 4 PM LOCAL TIME.
- WIND FORECASTS ARE EXTENDED TO 60 HOURS.
- THE DOT LESS THAN CODE /.</ USED TO MARK OPTIONAL SITE SPECIFIC  
FORECASTS HAS BEEN REPLACED BY THE STANDARD DOUBLE AMPERSAND /&&/ AND A  
CARRIAGE RETURN TO MAINTAIN COMPLIANCE WITH DISSEMINATION POLICY IN NWSI  
10-1701...TEXT PRODUCT FORMATS AND CODES.

THE 7-DAY ZFP WILL CONTINUE TO BE ROUTINELY ISSUED AT LEAST TWICE DAILY.  
OTHER ISSUANCES WILL BE ON AN EVENT-DRIVEN BASIS. NO COMMUNICATIONS  
CHANGES ARE REQUIRED TO RECEIVE THE IMPROVED ZFP.

THE FOLLOWING WEB LINK BELOW PROVIDES AN EXAMPLE OF THE MODIFIED ZONE  
FORECAST PRODUCT FORMAT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIFICATIONS/ZONE\\_EXAMPLE0715.HTM](http://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIFICATIONS/ZONE_EXAMPLE0715.HTM)

ZFP POLICY...FORMAT AND GENERIC EXAMPLES CAN BE FOUND IN NWS INSTRUCTION  
10-503 LOCATED ON THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DIRECTIVES INTERNET WEBSITE  
AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/DIRECTIVES/010/PD01005003A.PDF](http://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/DIRECTIVES/010/PD01005003A.PDF)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT THESE CHANGES...PLEASE  
CONTACT:

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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS  
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NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE)

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