

The WFO Paducah Navigator

A GUIDE TO PRODUCTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY NWS PADUCAH FOR SOUTHEAST MISSOURI, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS, WESTERN KENTUCKY, AND SOUTHWEST INDIANA

Prepared by:

Ryan J. Presley, Meteorologist/Forecaster
National Weather Service
8250 KY Highway 3520
West Paducah, KY 42086

E-mail: ryan.presley@noaa.gov

Web site: <http://www.weather.gov/pah/ServiceGuide>

Foreword

The WFO Paducah Navigator was designed specifically for the news media, emergency management, first responders, and partners who rely on the National Weather Service for weather products and services. We hope this reference guide will help answer some of your questions regarding the daily mission of the National Weather Service as we work towards a Weather Ready Nation. Should you have any questions or would like to offer suggestions for improvement, please contact one of the following office managers:

Steven G. Eddy,
Meteorologist-In-Charge
WFO Paducah, Kentucky
(270) 744-6440 (x642)
steven.eddy@noaa.gov

Ricky L. Shanklin,
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
WFO Paducah, Kentucky
(270) 744-6440 (x726)
ricky.shanklin@noaa.gov

Acknowledgements

The author would like to credit the following sources for inspiring both the structure and content of *The WFO Paducah Navigator* as it originated in the late 1990s:

- (1) *A Guide to Products and Services Provided by WSFO Louisville for Kentucky and Southern Indiana*, written by Van L. DeWald.
- (2) *Wisconsin Media Guide to Frequently Used NWS Weather Terms*, authored by Steve Thompson and Anton F. Kapela.

The author would also like to thank those at WFO Paducah who have graciously reviewed this guide and provided numerous suggestions for improvement.

Table of Contents

I. About WFO Paducah		
A.	Background & Mission	I-1
B.	NWS Office Configuration	I-2
C.	Zone Numbers & FIPS Codes	I-3
D.	Contacting Our Team	I-4
II. Information Sources		
A.	National Digital Forecast Database	II-1
B.	WFO Paducah Web Page	II-1
C.	NOAA Weather Wire Service	II-2
D.	Emergency Managers Weather Information Network	II-2
E.	NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards	II-3
F.	Event-Driven Services	II-4
G.	Decision Support Services	II-4
H.	NWSChat	II-5
I.	Social Media	II-5
J.	Multimedia Briefings	II-5
K.	Weather Information Now	II-6
III. Weather Products		
A.	Forecast Products	III-1
B.	Severe Weather Products	III-2
C.	Hydrological Products	III-3
D.	Climatological Products	III-4
E.	General Public Information Products	III-5
F.	Winter Weather Products	III-6
G.	Non-Precipitation Weather Products	III-7
H.	Standard Product Format	III-8
IV. Weather Glossary		IV-1
V. Safety Rules		
A.	Blizzard	V-1
B.	Boating Weather	V-1
C.	Flash Flood	V-2
D.	Fog	V-2
E.	Heat Wave	V-3
F.	Thunderstorm & Lightning	V-3
G.	Tornado	V-4
H.	Winter Storm	V-5
Appendix A: Anatomy of a Zone Forecast		A-1
Appendix B: Interpreting the Area/Point Forecasts		B-1
Appendix C: Severe Weather Descriptors		C-1
Appendix D: Wind Chill & Heat Index Charts		D-1
Appendix E: NOAA Weather Radio Coverage		E-1

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFD	Area Forecast Discussion
AFM	Area Forecast Matrices
AGL	above ground level
AHPS	Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services
AMS	American Meteorological Society
AP	anomalous propagation
AR	Arkansas
ARG	Walnut Ridge, AR (AWOS)
ASA	Administrative Support Assistant
ASL	above sea level
ASOS	Automated Surface Observing System
AWC	Aviation Weather Center (NCEP component)
AWIPS	Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System
AWOS	Automated Weather Observing System
BKN	broken (sky cover)
C	Celsius
CAE	Child Abduction Emergency (Amber Alert)
CDD	cooling degree-day
CDT	Central Daylight Time
CEM	Civil Emergency Message
CGI	Cape Girardeau, MO (ASOS)
CHI	Chicago/Romeoville, IL (NWS product identifier)
CKV	Clarksville, TN (ASOS)
CLA	Annual Climate Report
CLI	Daily Climate Report
CLM	Monthly Climate Report
CLR	clear below 12,000 feet (sky cover)
CLS	Seasonal Climate Report
CONUS	contiguous United States
CPC	Climate Prediction Center (NCEP component)
CPM	Cooperative Program Manager
CR	Central Region (NWS)
CRH	Central Region Headquarters
CST	Central Standard Time
CWA	county warning area
CWFA	county warning and forecast area
DGT	Drought Information Statement
DOC	Department of Commerce
DOD	Department of Defense
DOT	Department of Transportation

DSS	Decision Support Services
DY1	Day 1
DY2	Day 2
DY3	Day 3
D48	Days 4-8
DYR	Dyersburg, TN (AWOS)
EAS	Emergency Alert System
ECMWF	European Centre for Medium-Range Forecasting (forecast model)
EHR	Henderson, KY (AWOS)
EMWIN	Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
ENL	Centralia, IL (AWOS)
ENSO	El Niño-Southern Oscillation
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQR	Earthquake Report
ESA	Electronic Systems Analyst
ESF	Hydrologic Outlook
EST	Eastern Standard Time
ET	Electronics Technician
EVV	Evansville, IN (ASOS)
F	Fahrenheit
FA	forecast area
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FAM	Farmington, MO (AWOS)
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FEW	few (sky cover)
FFA	Flood Watch
FFG	Flash Flood Guidance
FFS	Flash Flood Statement
FFW	Flash Flood Warning
FIPS	Federal Information Processing Standard
FLS	Flood Statement
FLW	Flood Warning
FM	frequency modulation
FOA	Flora, IL (AWOS)
FOS	Family of Services
FWC	Fairfield, IL (AWOS)
FWF	Fire Weather Forecast
FWM	NFDRS Fire Weather Point Forecast
GFE	Graphical Forecast Editor (IFPS)
GFS	Global Forecast System (forecast model)
GMT	Greenwich Mean Time
GOES	Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite

HAZMAT	hazardous material
HDD	heating degree-day
HI	heat index
HKA	Blytheville, AR (ASOS)
HMT	Hydrometeorological Technician
HNB	Huntingburg, IN (AWOS)
HOP	Hopkinsville/Fort Campbell, KY (manual observation site)
HPX	Hopkinsville/Fort Campbell, KY (WSR-88D)
HSA	Hydrologic Service Area
HSB	Harrisburg, IL (AWOS)
HWO	Hazardous Weather Outlook
IFR	instrument flight rules
IL	Illinois
ILX	Central Illinois/Lincoln, IL (NWS product identifier, WSR-88D)
IMET	Incident Support Meteorologist
IN	Indiana
IND	Indianapolis, IN (NWS product identifier, WSR-88D)
IR	infrared
ITO	Information Technology Officer
IWIN	Interactive Weather Information Network
K	Kelvin
KY	Kentucky
LDS	Lightning Detection System
LIT	Little Rock, AR (NWS product identifier)
LLWS	low-level wind shear
LMK	Louisville, KY (NWS product identifier)
LMRFC	Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center (Slidell, LA)
LOT	Chicago/Romeoville, IL (NWS product identifier)
LSR	Local Storm Report
LSX	St. Louis/St. Charles, MO (NWS product identifier, WSR-88D)
LVX	Louisville, KY (WSR-88D)
LWV	Lawrenceville, IL (ASOS)
LZK	Little Rock, AR (NWS product identifier, WSR-88D)
MB	millibar
MCD	Mesoscale Convective Discussion
MDH	Carbondale, IL (ASOS)
MEG	Memphis, TN (NWS product identifier)
MEM	Memphis, TN (NWS product identifier)
MET	Meteorologist/Forecaster
METAR	Meteorological Aviation Report
METSAT	meteorological satellite
MHz	megahertz

MIC	Meteorologist-In-Charge
MND	mass news disseminator
MO	Missouri
MOS	model output statistics (MAV, MET, MEX)
MPH	miles per hour
MSL	mean sea level
MSLP	mean sea-level pressure
MTR	Meteorological Aviation Report (METAR or SPECI)
MVFR	marginal visual flight rules
MVN	Mt. Vernon, IL (AWOS)
MWA	Marion, IL (AWOS)
NAM	North American Mesoscale model
NAWAS	National Warning System
NCDC	National Climatic Data Center (NESDIS component)
NCEP	National Centers for Environmental Prediction
NCRFC	North Central River Forecast Center (Chanhassen, MN)
NDFD	National Digital Forecast Database
NDS	NWS Directives System
NEIC	National Earthquake Information Center
NESDIS	National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NOAA)
NFDRS	National Fire Danger Rating System
NHC	National Hurricane Center (also Tropical Prediction Center)
NIDS	NEXRAD Information Dissemination Service
NM	nautical mile
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPW	Weather Message (non-precipitation weather)
NQA	Memphis, TN (WSR-88D)
NVA	negative vorticity advection
NWA	National Weather Association
NWP	numerical weather prediction
NWR	NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards
NWS	National Weather Service (NOAA)
NWSTG	NWS Telecommunications Gateway
NWWS	NOAA Weather Wire Service
OBS	observations
OHRFC	Ohio River Forecast Center (Wilmington, OH)
OHX	Nashville/Old Hickory, TN (NWS product identifier, WSR-88D)
OLY	Olney, IL (AWOS)
OPL	Operations Program Leader
OPM	Office of Personnel Management
OVC	overcast (sky cover)
OWB	Owensboro, KY (manual observation site)

PAH	Paducah, KY (NWS product identifier, WSR-88D, ASOS)
PFM	Point Forecast Matrices
PHT	Paris, TN (AWOS)
PNS	Public Information Statement
POES	Polar-Orbiting Environmental Satellite
POF	Poplar Bluff, MO (ASOS)
POP	probability of precipitation
PVA	positive vorticity advection
PWO	Public Severe Weather Outlook
QPF	quantitative precipitation forecast
RD	Regional Director
RER	Record Report
RFC	River Forecast Center
RH	relative humidity
RTP	Regional Temperature and Precipitation Summary
RUC	rapid update cycle (forecast model)
RVA	Hydrologic Summary
RVS	Hydrologic Statement
RWR	State Weather Roundup
RWS	Weather Summary
SAME	Specific Area Message Encoding
SAR	Sparta, IL (AWOS)
SAW	Preliminary Watch Notification
SCT	scattered (sky cover)
SDF	Louisville, KY (NWS product identifier)
SEL	Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch
SFT	Tabular State Forecast
SGF	Springfield, MO (NWS product identifier, WSR-88D)
SID	station identifier
SKC	clear (sky cover)
SLO	Salem, IL (AWOS)
SM	statute mile
SOO	Science and Operations Officer
SPC	Storm Prediction Center (NCEP component)
SPECI	Special Meteorological Aviation Report
SPS	Special Weather Statement
SR	Southern Region (NWS)
SRH	Southern Region Headquarters
SRM	storm-relative motion
STL	St. Louis/St. Charles, MO (NWS product identifier)
SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning
SVS	Severe Weather Statement
SWO	Severe Weather Outlook

TAF	Terminal Aerodrome Forecast
TDS	tornadic debris signature
TN	Tennessee
TOR	Tornado Warning
TPC	Tropical Prediction Center (NCEP component)
TVS	tornado vortex signature
UA	upper air
UCY	Union City, TN (AWOS)
UGC	Universal Geographic Code
UKMET	United Kingdom (forecast model)
UNO	West Plains, MO (ASOS)
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time
UV	ultraviolet
UVI	ultraviolet index
VFR	visual flight rules
VHF	very high frequency
VIL	vertically integrated liquid
VIS	visible
VWX	Owensville, IN (WSR-88D)
WARNGEN	Warning Generator (AWIPS)
WC	wind chill
WCF	wind-chill factor
WCM	Warning Coordination Meteorologist
WCN	Watch County Notification
WFO	Weather Forecast Office
WIN	Weather Information Now
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WOU	Watch Outline Update
WPC	Weather Prediction Center (NCEP component)
WRF	Weather Research & Forecasting model
WRN	Weather-Ready Nation
WSH	National Weather Service Headquarters
WSR	weather surveillance radar
WSR-88D	Weather Surveillance Doppler Radar
WSW	Winter Weather Message
WV	water vapor
WWA	Weather Watch Status Report
WX	weather
ZFP	Zone Forecast Product