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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 16-12: Corrected
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
330 PM EDT Mon Apr 12 2016

TO: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPORT
 Other NWS partners and NWS employees

FROM: Mark Tew
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SUBJECT: Corrected: Use of Mixed-Case Text and Expanded 25
 Character ASCII Character Sets in NWS Text Products
 Effective May 11, 2016

Corrected to change Tuesday to Wednesday in second paragraph

Effective Wednesday, May 11, 2016, the NWS will transition the experimental mixed-case text format in text products to operational status.

On or about Wednesday, May 11, 2016, all NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) will begin operationally issuing the Area Forecast Discussion (AFD), local Public Information Statement (PNS), and Regional Weather Summary (RWS) products using mixed-case text and an expanded 25 character ASCII character set. (Note: some WFOs do not issue an RWS). Examples of the mixed-case format AFD, local PNS, and RWS are online at:

http://www.weather.gov/om/public/afd_phase1.docx

If weather conditions prevent any WFO from making the change on May 11, 2016, the change to the mixed-case text format will occur on the next suitable day.

This initial roll-out of the mixed case text format will be followed later in 2016 (tentatively July - August 2016) by NWS short duration Watch, Warning, and Advisory products. Most other NWS text products will be issued using mixed case by January 2017. Future Service Change Notices (SCNs) to announce these transitions will be issued with at least 30 days lead time, complete with AWIPS product identifiers and actual effective dates for each grouping.

These changes are based on feedback NWS received over a period of time from partners and users.

The NWS originally sought comments regarding the proposed change to mixed-case text products via the PNS below:

http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/pns10mixed_case.txt

Favorable comments resulted in the NWS issuing national PNS products using mixed-case characters on an experimental basis starting in August 2010.

http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/scn10-28mixed_case.txt

The use of mixed-case characters was extended to include the AFD, local PNS, and RWS products at select WFOs starting in October 2011.

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/pns11mixedcase.txt>

Continued favorable feedback regarding those products is the basis for this operational implementation.

Partners and users of NWS text products should modify their systems to accommodate mixed case and the expanded character set. This change will make text products easier to read and allow users to click on internet links directly rather than converting them to lowercase or mixed case.

If you have questions, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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