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Service Change Notice 16-20: Amended
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1016 AM EDT Tue Aug 16 2016

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

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SUBJECT: Amended: Phase 2 Mixed-Case Text and Expanded
 95 Character ASCII Character Set Use in NWS Text
 Products Effective December 6, 2016

Amended to change the effective date to December 6, 2016

Effective Tuesday, December 6, 2016, the NWS will continue its transition of text products to a mixed-case text format/ expanded 95 ASCII character set at all Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) with the following text products:

Product Name	AWIPS ID*
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Tornado Warning	TORXXX
Severe Thunderstorm Warning	SVRXXX
Severe Weather Statement	SVSXXX
Flash Flood Warning	FFWXXX
Flood Warning	FLWXXX
Flash Flood Statement	FFSXXX
Flood Statement	FLSXXX
Extreme Wind Warning	EWVXXX
Short Term Forecast	NOWXXX
Special Weather Statement	SPSXXX

* XXX is the WFO Three-Letter ID

NWS will not transition the Special Marine Warning (SMW) and Marine Weather Statement (MWS) to mixed-case text at this time. When these products are ready to transition, NWS will send another Service Change Notice.

Samples of Watch, Warning and Advisory products are online in a compressed file readable by standard decompression software:

<http://www.weather.gov/om/public/mc2.zip>

and in a Word document:

<http://www.weather.gov/om/public/mixed-case2.docx>

None of the sample products shown were actually issued; these products are shown for sample formatting purposes only. If weather conditions prevent any WFO from making this change on December 6, 2016, the change to the mixed-case text format will occur on the next suitable day.

This second phase roll-out of the mixed-case text format was preceded by an initial phase that included mixed-case text for the Area Forecast Discussion (AFD), local Public Information Statement (PNS) and Regional Weather Summary (RWS) products on May 11, 2016.

Most other NWS text products will be issued using mixed case by January 2017. NWS will issue a Service Change Notice (SCN) to announce this transition with at least 30 days lead time. The notice will include AWIPS product identifiers and actual effective dates.

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 links directly rather than requiring conversion 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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