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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 18-74  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
200 PM EDT Thu Aug 2 2018

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

From:         Mark Tew  
              Chief, Analysis and Mission Support Division

Subject:      Transition NDFD 3 km Alaska Region (AR) Gridded  
              Forecasts to Operational Status Effective  
              August 30, 2018

Effective Thursday, August 30, 2018, at 1400 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the experimental National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) 3 km Alaska Forecast Grids will transition to operational status. Alaska has been issuing these forecast grids experimentally since August 24, 2016.

Specifications for the 3km NDFD Alaska grid can be viewed at:  
[http://www.weather.gov/mdl/ndfd\\_srs](http://www.weather.gov/mdl/ndfd_srs)

This implementation will affect Alaska forecasts available from NDFD in these standard methods: Gridded Binary version 2 (GRIB2) files via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP)

This implementation WILL NOT affect Alaska forecasts available from NDFD in eXtensible Markup Language (XML) via Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP), which will remain at its current 6km resolution operationally on [graphical.weather.gov](http://graphical.weather.gov) and at 3km resolution experimentally on [preview.weather.gov](http://preview.weather.gov)

Users who pull NDFD elements in GRIB2 format, either via the Internet or other methods, may need to update their procedures and scripts to access these elements at fine resolution.

To access experimental fine resolution grids before the operational implementation, use the following URLs:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.alaska/>  
or  
<http://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.alaska/>

To access fine resolution grids after 1400 UTC on Thursday, August 30, use the following URLs:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.alaska/>  
or  
<http://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.alaska/>

Legacy Alaska grids at the current resolution will be made available for at least 90 days after the operational implementation at the following URLs:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.alaska/>  
or  
<http://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.alaska/>

To view NDFD grids for Alaska at full resolution, use the NDFD map viewer at the following URL:

<https://digital.weather.gov>

If August 30, 2018, is a critical weather day, this implementation may be postponed. Partners and users will be notified of that decision via a Service Change Notice 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, Digital Forecast Services Branch  
NOAA/NWS Office of Science and Technology Integration  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
[David.Ruth@noaa.gov](mailto:David.Ruth@noaa.gov)

For questions regarding this notice, please contact:

Douglas C. Young  
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Analyze, Forecast and Support Office  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
[douglas.young@noaa.gov](mailto:douglas.young@noaa.gov)

Public Information Statements specifically related to NDFD are online at:

[https://www.weather.gov/mdl/ndfd\\_TINs](https://www.weather.gov/mdl/ndfd_TINs)

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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