

The WFO Paducah Navigator

A GUIDE TO PRODUCTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY WFO 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.crh.noaa.gov/pah/navigator>

Foreword

The WFO Paducah Navigator was designed specifically for the news media, emergency management, and other communities who rely on the National Weather Service for weather products and services. We hope you will find this a handy reference tool for answering questions concerning the daily mission of the National Weather Service. If you should have any questions or would like to offer comments on this guide, please contact one of the following office managers:

Beverly A. Poole,
Meteorologist-In-Charge
WFO Paducah, Kentucky
(270) 744-6440 (x642)

Ricky L. Shanklin,
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
WFO Paducah, Kentucky
(270) 744-6440 (x726)

Acknowledgements

The author would like to credit the following sources for inspiring both the structure and content of *The WFO Paducah Navigator*:

- (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 Team Members	I-4
II. Information Outlets	
A. NOAA Weather Wire Service	II-1
B. Emergency Managers Weather Information Network	II-1
C. Information Superhighway	II-2
D. NOAA Weather Radio	II-3
E. Weather Information Now	II-4
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	V-3
G. Tornado	V-4
H. Winter Storm	V-4
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: Product Cross Reference (AWIPS-WMO)	E-1
Appendix F: Expanded NOAA Weather Radio Coverage	F-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
AOMC	ASOS Operations and Monitoring Center
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
AWS	Area Weather Summary
BKN	broken (sky cover)
BNA	Nashville/Old Hickory, TN (NWS product identifier)
C	Celsius
CCF	Coded Cities Forecast
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)
CLI	Daily Climate Report
CLM	Monthly Climate Report
CLR	clear below 12,000 feet (sky cover)
CONUS	contiguous United States
CPC	Climate Prediction Center (NCEP component)
CPM	Cooperative Program Manager
CR	Central Region (NWS)
CRH	Central Region Headquarters
CRS	Console Replacement System (NOAA Weather Radio)
CST	Central Standard Time
CWA	county warning area
CWFA	county warning and forecast area
DAPM	Data Acquisition Program Manager
DIFAX	digital facsimile
DOC	Department of Commerce

DOD	Department of Defense
DOT	Department of Transportation
DY1	Day 1
DY2	Day 2
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
ESA	Electronic Systems Analyst
ESF	Hydrologic Outlook
EST	Eastern Standard Time
ET	Electronics Technician (also EI Tech)
EUMETSAT	European Meteorological Satellite (NOAA equivalent)
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
FOSFAX	FOS Facsimile Network (NAFAX & DIFAX)
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
GOES-NEXT	Next-Generation 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)
HPC	Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (NCEP component)
HPX	Hopkinsville/Fort Campbell, KY (WSR-88D)
HSA	Hydrologic Service Area
HSB	Harrisburg, IL (AWOS)
HTML	HyperText Markup Language
HTTP	HyperText Transfer Protocol
HWO	Hazardous Weather Outlook
IFPS	Interactive Forecast Preparation System
IFR	instrument flight rules
IL	Illinois
ILX	Central Illinois/Lincoln, IL (NWS product identifier, WSR-88D)
IMET	Fire Weather Incident 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
LAWRS	Limited Aviation Weather Reporting Station
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 (WSR-88D)
MAR	Modernization and Associated Restructuring of the NWS
MB	millibar
MCD	Mesoscale Convective Discussion
MDH	Carbondale, IL (ASOS)

MEM	Memphis, TN (NWS product identifier)
MET	Meteorologist/Forecaster
METAR	Meteorological Aviation Report
METEOSAT	European Space Agency Meteorological Satellite
METSAT	meteorological satellite
MHz	megahertz
MIC	Meteorologist-In-Charge
MIT	Meteorologist Intern
MND	mass news disseminator
MO	Missouri
MOS	model output statistics (FWC, MAV, 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)
NAFAX	National Facsimile Network
NAWAS	National Warning System
NCDC	National Climatic Data Center (NESDIS component)
NCEP	National Centers for Environmental Prediction (formerly NMC)
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
NGM	nested grid model (forecast model)
NHC	National Hurricane Center (also Tropical Prediction Center)
NIDS	NEXRAD Information Dissemination Service
NM	nautical mile
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOW	Short Term Forecast (Nowcast)
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
NWS	National Weather Service (NOAA)
NWSTC	NWS Training Center (also NTC)
NWSTG	NWS Telecommunications Gateway
NWWS	NOAA Weather Wire Service

OBS	observations
OHRFC	Ohio River Forecast Center (Wilmington, OH)
OHX	Nashville/Old Hickory, TN (WSR-88D)
OLY	Olney, IL (AWOS)
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
ROSA	Remote Observation System Automation
RTP	Regional Temperature and Precipitation Summary
RUC	rapid update cycle (forecast model)
RVA	Hydrologic Summary
RVS	Hydrologic Statement
SAME	Specific Area Message Encoder
SAR	Sparta, IL (AWOS)
SAW	Preliminary Watch Notification
SAWRS	Supplementary Aviation Weather Reporting Station
SCT	scattered (sky cover)
SDF	Louisville, KY (NWS product identifier)
SEL	Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch
SELS	Severe Local Storms Unit
SFD	State Forecast Discussion
SFP	State Forecast Product
SFT	Tabular State Forecast
SGF	Springfield, MO (NWS product identifier, WSR-88D)
SH	Service Hydrologist
SID	station identifier
SKC	clear (sky cover)
SLO	Salem, IL (AWOS)

SLO	Special Liaison Officer
SLS	Weather Watch Redefining Statement
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)
STP	State Temperature and Precipitation Summary
SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning
SVS	Severe Weather Statement
SWO	Severe Weather Outlook
SWR	State Weather Roundup
TAF	Terminal Aerodrome Forecast
TN	Tennessee
TOR	Tornado Warning
TPC	Tropical Prediction Center (NCEP component)
TWB	Transcribed Weather Broadcast
TWEB	Transcribed Weather Broadcast
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 (new Tri-State Doppler radar site)
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
WSH	National Weather Service Headquarters
WSR	weather surveillance radar
WSR-88D	Weather Surveillance Doppler Radar
WSW	Winter Weather Message
WV	water vapor
WWA	Watch, Warning, Advisory, & Statement application (IFPS)
WWA	Weather Watch Status Report
WWW	world-wide web
WX	weather
ZFP	Zone Forecast Product