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Service Change Notice 21-56 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1150 AM EDT Mon Oct 4 2021

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
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From: Mary Mullusky
 Chief, Water Resources Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Implementation of the Consolidation and/or Reformatting
of Flood Watches, Warnings and Advisories on or after November 4, 2021

Updated to begin this implementation on or after November 4, 2021.

Effective on or after November 4, 2021, the NWS will begin to implement
the consolidation and/or reformatting of Flood Watches, Warnings and
Advisories. The changes are as follows:

- First, Flash Flood Watches and Flood Watches will be consolidated into
one Flood Watch product when the immediate cause is excessive rainfall.
Flash Flood Watches will be maintained for these specific situations only:
* Threat of flash flooding due to non-convective causes (e.g., dam or
levee failure, ice jam).
* Threat of flash flooding and debris flows caused by excessive rainfall
on burn scars or in debris flow and landslide-prone areas.

- Second, the five types of individual headlines associated with Flood
Advisory products, including Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisories,
Arroyo and Small Stream Flood Advisories, Small Stream Flood Advisories,
Flood Advisories and Hydrologic Advisories will be consolidated into Flood
Advisories.

- Third, the Flood Watch, Flood Watch for Forecast Points, Flash Flood
Watch, Flood Warning, Flood Warning for Forecast Points, Flood Advisory
and Flood Advisory for Forecast Points will be reformatted into "What,"
"Where," "When," "Impacts," "Additional Details" information ordering
format. The Flash Flood Warning and Flash Flood Statement will remain in
Impact-Based Warning (IBW) format as described in the Product Description
Document (PDD) at the link below:

<https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/IBWforFlashFloods 2019.pdf>

NWS has also announced the decision to eliminate Advisory headlines across
all hazards with plain language headlines no earlier than 2024. However,
NWS has still decided to move forward with consolidating and reformatting
Advisory products now to reap the benefits of improved message clarity
immediately.

Examples of consolidated and/or reformatted flood products are contained in the Product Description Document (PDD) at the link below:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_Op1_ConsolidationandReformatting_FloodProducts_2021.pdf

For more information, please email: daniel.roman@noaa.gov.

National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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