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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 23-72 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
350 PM EDT Fri Jul 7 2023

To: Subscribers:
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 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Stephen W. Bieda III, Ph.D., Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Changes to Public Forecast Zones for WFO El Paso, TX:
Effective September 19, 2023

Updated to correct the number of zones the change will result in. Three current zones will be converted into five zones on September 19, 2023.

Effective Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 3:00 PM Mountain Daylight Time (MDT), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in El Paso, TX (EPZ) will complete changes to Public Weather Forecast Zones encompassing Grant, Sierra, Dona Ana and Otero Counties in southwestern and south-central New Mexico, affecting the Tularosa Basin and Southern Gila Highlands. After this change, all forecasts and related products will use the zone numbers and names shown in Table 2 below.

If September 19, 2023 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to September 21, 2023 at 2100 UTC.

These changes will result in improved warning products and forecast services and enhance web-based graphical product consistency and appearance.

Three current zones will be converted into five separate zones. These new zones are being divided to optimize the issuance of hazard products for conditions that vary significantly in the Tularosa Basin of south-central New Mexico and in the Southern Gila Highlands of southwestern New Mexico. The new zones are listed in Table 2.

Table 1: Universal Geographic Codes (UGC): Current Public Forecast Zone Name

NMZ402: Southern Gila Highlands/Black Range
NMZ412: Central Tularosa Basin
NMZ413: Southern Tularosa Basin

Table 2: UGC: New Public Forecast Zone Name

NMZ425: Central Grant County/Silver City Area
NMZ426: Southern Gila Region Highlands/Black Range
NMZ427: West Central Tularosa Basin/White Sands
NMZ428: East Central Tularosa Basin/Alamogordo
NMZ429: Southeast Tularosa Basin

Table 3: NWS Products Affected by the WFO El Paso, TX Zone Changes

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Air Quality Alert	AEUS74 KEPZ	AQAEPZ
Zone Forecast	FPUS54 KEPZ	ZFPEPZ
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS54 KEPZ	PFMEPZ
Tabular State Forecast	FPUS64 KEPZ	SFTEPZ
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS64 KEPZ	AFDEPZ
Hazardous Weather Outlook	FLUS44 KEPZ	HWOEPZ
Short-Term Forecast	FPUS74 KEPZ	NOWEPZ
Special Weather Statement	WWUS84 KEPZ	SPSEPZ
Public Information Statement	NOUS44 KEPZ	PNSEPZ
Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/Advisory	WWUS74 KEPZ	NPWEPZ
Flood Watch	WGUS64 KEPZ	FFAEPZ
Hydrologic Outlook	FGUS74 KEPZ	ESFEPZ
Winter Weather Message	WWUS44 KEPZ	WSWEPZ
Watch County Notification	WWUS64 KEPZ	WCNEPZ

NWS partners and users will need to make necessary changes to their communications systems to accommodate these weather forecast zone changes.

Preliminary shapefiles for public forecast zones are available online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones>

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on or around Tuesday, July 18, 2023.

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/epz/2023ZoneReconfiguration>

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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