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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 19-31 Updated  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
1115 AM EDT Mon Aug 31 2020

To:           Subscribers:  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
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              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:         Captain James Crocker  
              Acting Director, Surface and Upper Air Division  
              Office of Observations

Subject: Updated: Transition of Manual Radiosonde Observations to  
Automated Radiosonde Observations at Anchorage, Alaska on or about May 3,  
2019

Updated to report the missing Vaisala Autosonde products: Freezing Level  
Data (RADAT), High Resolution Binary Universal Form for the Representation  
of meteorological data (BUFR), National Centers for Environmental  
Information (NCEI) archive, were implemented June 1, 2020.

Effective on or about May 3, 2019, radiosonde observations (RAOB) from  
Anchorage, AK, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)# 70273, Station ID  
PAFC, will be transitioned from the manually launched Lockheed Martin 1680  
MHz LMS6 radiosonde to the Vaisala 403 MHz RS41-SGPA radiosonde using the  
Vaisala Autosonde as the launch vehicle.

During the transition period of up to 30 days, dual radiosonde flights may  
be performed until the Vaisala Autosonde System is declared operational  
for the regularly scheduled observations of 00Z and 12Z.

Messages from the Vaisala Autosonde currently do not contain the following  
components: RADAT, High Res BUFR, NCEI archive format. A software update  
was to be implemented in 2019 that will produce these data.

For additional information on the message requirements, see WMO 306 Manual  
on Codes (International Codes):  
- Volume I.1 Part A - Alphanumeric Codes  
- Volume I.2 Part B - Binary Codes  
- Volume II Regional Codes and National Coding Practices (WMO Region IV)

A follow up Service Change Notice (SCN) will be issued when the above  
stated software update is implemented and the Autosonde RAOB products  
contain these components.

If you have questions or feedback, please contact:

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