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Service Change Notice 22-122
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
500 PM EST Wed Dec 14 2022

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

From: Mary Mullusky, Chief
 Forecast Services Division

Subject: Changes to Public Weather Forecast Zones for NWS
 Weather Forecast Office New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA:
 Effective March 8, 2023

Effective Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 3:00 PM Central Standard Time (CST), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Slidell, Louisiana (LIX) will complete changes to Public Weather Forecast Zones encompassing Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties in coastal Mississippi. After this change, forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names shown in Table 2 below.

If March 8, 2023 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 9, 2023 at 2100 UTC.

These changes are intended to provide increased flexibility and improved accuracy of forecast, watch, warning, and advisory products in the public weather programs.

The existing zones are being divided or reconfigured to optimize issuance of coastal flood and storm surge hazard products as well as other hazardous weather conditions that vary significantly from areas near the coast to areas farther inland.

Table 1: Current public zones and corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) for WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge

UGC: Current Public Zone Name

MSZ080: Hancock County
MSZ081: Harrison County
MSZ082: Jackson County

Table 2: Public zones and corresponding UGC for which WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge will issue forecasts and warnings effective March 8, 2023

UGC: New Public Zone Name

MSZ083: Northern Hancock County
 MSZ084: Northern Harrison County
 MSZ085: Northern Jackson County
 MSZ086: Southern Hancock County
 MSZ087: Southern Harrison County
 MSZ088: Southern Jackson County

Table 3: Primary cities included in the new public zones effective March 8, 2023

UGC: Primary cities within New Zones

 MSZ083: Nacaise, Sellers
 MSZ084: Lyman, Saucier
 MSZ085: Wade, Vancleave, Escatawpa
 MSZ086: Kiln, Pearlington, Waveland, Bay St. Louis, Diamondhead
 MSZ087: Pass Christian, Long Beach, Gulfport, Biloxi
 MSZ088: Ocean Springs, Gautier, Moss Point, Pascagoula

Table 4: NWS products affected by the WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA, zone changes effective March 8, 2023:

PRODUCT NAME	AWIPS ID	WMO	HEADING
NON PRECIPITATION WARNING/ WATCH/ADVISORY	NPWLIX	WWUS74	KLIX
WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE	WSWLIX	WWUS44	KLIX
FLOOD WATCH	FFALIX	WGUS64	KLIX
TABULAR STATE FORECAST	SFTLIX	FPUS64	KLIX
POINT FORECAST MATRICES	PFMLIX	FOUS54	KLIX
SHORT TERM FORECAST	NOWLIX	FPUS74	KLIX
SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT	SPSLIX	WWUS84	KLIX
ZONE FORECAST	ZFPLIX	FPUS54	KLIX
PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT	PNSLIX	NOUS44	KLIX
LOCAL TROPICAL WATCH/WARNING	TCVLIX	WTUS84	KLIX
HURRICANE LOCAL STATEMENT	HLSLIX	WTUS84	KLIX
COASTAL HAZARD MESSAGE	CFWLIX	WHUS44	KLIX
AIR QUALITY ALERT	AQALIX	AEUS74	KLIX
HYDROLOGIC OUTLOOK	ESFLIX	FGUS72	KLIX
AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION	AFDLIX	FXUS64	KLIX
ATLANTIC NATIONAL TCV	TCVAT[1-5]	WTNT81	KNHC

NWS partners and users should take the appropriate action to ensure systems recognize the new UGC (Z) and new zone alignments and names.

Preliminary shapefiles for public weather forecast zones are available online at:

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

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

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on January 17, 2023.

Verbal and graphical descriptions of the changes is online at:

www.weather.gov/lix/forecastzonechanges

If you have any questions, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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