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Service Change Notice 22-125
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
930 AM EST Thu Dec 15 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 and Fire Forecast Zones for WFO Baltimore,
 MD/Washington, DC: Effective March 8, 2023

Reference: Service Change Notice (SCN) 22-124: Changes to Public, Fire,
and Marine Forecast Zones for WFO Baltimore, MD/Washington, DC:
Effective March 8, 2023:
https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/scn22-124_public_fire_marine_lwx.pdf

Effective Wednesday, March 8, 2023, by 4:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Baltimore MD/Washington DC (LWX) will complete changes to the Public and Fire Weather Forecast Zones encompassing Prince William County in northern Virginia. After this change, all forecasts and related products will use the 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 will result in more geographically precise forecast, watch and warning products and will enhance web-based graphical product consistency and appearance.

One current zone for Prince William County, Virginia will be split into 2 separate zones. This zone division is being done to optimize issuance of hazard products for conditions that vary significantly between the higher elevations in the northwest part of the county from the lower elevation and more populous central and southeastern parts of the county. The new zones are listed in Table 2.

Table 1. Universal Geographic Codes (UGC): Current Public/Fire Zone Name

VAZ052: Prince William/Manassas/Manassas Park

Table 2. UGC: New Public/Fire Zone Names -----

VAZ526: Northwest Prince William
VAZ527: Central and Southeast Prince William/Manassas/Manassas Park

Table 3. NWS products issued by the WFO Baltimore MD/Washington DC, affected by these Public/Fire Weather forecast zone changes are listed below.

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT	WWUS81 KLWX	SPSLWX
HURRICANE LOCAL STATEMENT	WTUS81 KLWX	HLSLWX
TROPICAL CYCLONE WATCH/WARNING	WTNT81 KNHC	TCVAT1-5
COASTAL HAZARD MESSAGE	WHUS41 KLWX	CFWLWX
ZONE FORECAST PRODUCT	FPUS51 KLWX	ZFPLWX
ENHANCED LOCAL FORECAST	FEUS71 KLWX	EOLLWX
SHORT TERM FORECAST	FPUS71 KLWX	NOWLWX
HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK	FLUS41 KLWX	HWOLWX
NON-PRECIPIATION MESSAGE	WWUS71 KLWX	NPWLWX
WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE	WWUS41 KLWX	WSWLWX
AREA FORECAST MATRICES	FOUS51 KLWX	AFMLWX
FIRE WEATHER FORECAST	FNUS51 KLWX	FWFLWX
REGIONAL WEATHER STORY	AWUS81 KLWX	RWSLWX
FLOOD WATCH	WGUS61 KLWX	FFALWX
HYDROLOGIC OUTLOOK	FGUS71 KLWX	ESFLWX
FIRE WEATHER WATCH	WWUS81 KLWX	RFWLWX
RED FLAG WARNING	WWUS81 KLWX	RFWLWX
PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT	WOUS41 KLWX	PNSLWX
POINT FORECAST MATRICES	FOUS51 KLWX	PFMLWX
AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION	FXUS61 KLWX	AFDLWX
PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE SUMMARY	SXUS51 KLWX	HYDLWX
DAILY RIVER AND LAKE SUMMARY	FGUS51 KLWX	RVDLWX
HYDROLOGIC STATEMENT	FGUS81 KLWX	RVSLWX
HYDROLOGIC SUMMARY	SRUS41 KLWX	RVALWX
AIR QUALITY ALERT	AEUS71 KLWX	AQALWX
AIR QUALITY FORECAST	AEUS71 KLWX	AQILWX

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 and fire weather forecast zones are available online at:

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

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

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

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

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/lwx/PWZoneSplit>

Since there are NWS partners with systems associating NWS public zones with county equivalent names and/or Federal Information Processing Series (FIPS) codes, the updated zone-county correlation file is online at:

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

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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