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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 22-12 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
150 PM EDT Wed Oct 12 2022

To: Subscribers:
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From: Daniel Roman, Acting Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Enhancements to the Experimental Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index (PWSSI): Effective October 11, 2022

Updated to:

- Correct the Public Information Statement (PNS) number. It was originally sent earlier today with a number of 22-64.
- Updated with enhancements of features and impact definitions for the Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index.

Effective October 11, 2022, the experimental Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index (PWSSI) will feature the removal of the limited category. Minor impacts will now serve as the lowest impact level on the PWSSI scale. Experimental PWSSI values are produced for 116 NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) across the contiguous 48 states for Days 1-7. The experimental PWSSI allows for detailing the likelihood of potential impacts (i.e., "What is my chance of reaching a moderate impact?"). The PWSSI output conveys a range of winter weather impact possibilities enabling enhanced preparedness and decision making.

The purpose of the experimental PWSSI is to:

- Serve as a tool to assist NWS operational forecasters in maintaining situational awareness regarding the possible significance of winter weather-related impacts based upon the WPC Probabilistic Winter Precipitation Forecast (PWPF) input, thus informing the winter watch/warning decision process, and
- Enhance communication with external partners, media, and the general public of the likelihood of potential societal impacts due to expected winter hazards and their geographical and temporal distributions. The experimental PWSSI does not depict official warnings and should always be used in context with official NWS forecasts and warnings.

The experimental PWSSI will be updated every twelve hours at approximately 0200, 0500, 1400 and 1700 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). No communication system changes are required to view this web-based information.

The website is listed below:

https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/wssi/prob_wssi.php

Additional information is provided in the Product Description Document (PDD) located at the link below:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpProbabilisticWSSI_2022-2023.pdf

Comments may be submitted via the survey link below. The survey link will also be available on the WFO webpages:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ExpProbabilisticWSSI_2022-2023

If comments and experimental evaluation are favorable, the product may be transitioned to operational status on a nationwide scale. User notification will be provided prior to operational implementation.

If you have questions, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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