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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-01
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
300 PM EST Thu Jan 6 2022

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

From: Kimberly McMahon, Acting Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Changes to Fire Forecast Zones for WFO Burlington, VT, and WFO
Albany, NY: Effective March 22, 2022

On or about Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 400 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), 2000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Offices in Burlington, Vermont (BTV) and Albany, NY (ALY) will change Fire Weather Forecast Zones encompassing the entire state of Vermont. After this change, fire weather forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names shown below.

If March 22, 2022 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 29, 2022.

These changes are intended to provide increased flexibility and improved accuracy of forecast, watch and warning products in the fire weather program. These changes will result in an alignment of land agency fire danger rating areas and fire weather forecast zones. This aligning will better connect fire danger rating outputs with our fire weather forecast products for our government partners, media partners and the general public.

The current 19 fire weather zones across the state of Vermont will be converted and consolidated down to 9 fire weather zones. The new zones are as follows:

VTZ030: Champlain Valley includes the western portions and lower elevations of Franklin, Chittenden, Addison and extreme northern Rutland counties and all of Grand Isle County.

VTZ031: Northeast Kingdom includes all of Essex and Orleans counties, much of Caledonia County except the Connecticut River from St. Johnsbury south, and the foothills/mountains of eastern Franklin and northern Lamoille counties.

VTZ032: Central VT includes all of Washington and Orange Counties, most of Lamoille County, the western foothill communities of eastern Chittenden and northeast Addison Counties and the Connecticut River Valley of Caledonia County from St. Johnsbury south.

VTZ033: Northern Taconics includes much of western Rutland except the foothills of the western Green Mountains.

VTZ034: South-Central Greens includes the foothills/mountainous communities of southeast Addison, eastern Rutland and western Windsor Counties.

VTZ035: Lower Connecticut Valley North includes the communities in the Connecticut River Valley of eastern Windsor County.

VTZ036: Southern Taconics includes a portion of the Valley of Vermont and the higher terrain of the Taconics in western Bennington County

VTZ037: Southern Greens includes the higher terrain of eastern Bennington and western Windham Counties

VTZ038: Lower Connecticut Valley South includes the communities in the Connecticut River Valley of eastern Windham County

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

VTZ001:	Grand Isle
VTZ002:	Western Franklin
VTZ003:	Orleans
VTZ004:	Essex
VTZ005:	Western Chittenden
VTZ006:	Lamoille
VTZ007:	Caledonia
VTZ008:	Washington
VTZ009:	Western Addison
VTZ010:	Orange
VTZ011:	Western Rutland
VTZ012:	Windsor
VTZ013:	Bennington
VTZ014:	Western Windham
VTZ015:	Eastern Windham
VTZ016:	Eastern Franklin
VTZ017:	Eastern Chittenden
VTZ018:	Eastern Addison
VTZ019:	Eastern Rutland

Table 2: UGC: New Fire Zone Forecast Name

VTZ030:	Champlain Valley	VTZ031:	Northeast Kingdom
VTZ032:	Central VT		
VTZ033:	Northern Taconics		
VTZ034:	South-Central Greens		
VTZ035:	Lower Connecticut Valley North		
VTZ036:	Southern Taconics		
VTZ037:	Southern Greens		
VTZ038:	Lower Connecticut Valley South		

Table 3: NWS Products Affected by the Fire Zone Changes

AWIPS ID	WMO Heading	Product Name
FWFBTV	FNUS51 KBTW	Fire Weather Planning Forecast
RFWBTV	WWUS81 KBTW	Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning
FWFALY	FNUS51 KALY	Fire Weather Planning Forecast
RFWALY	WWUS81 KALY	Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning

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

Updated fire zone shapefiles are online at:

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

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/media/btv/NewFireZones.pdf>
https://www.weather.gov/media/aly/FireWX/NewFireZones_ALY.pdf

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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