

NOUS41 KWBC 142200
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-118
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 Fire Forecast Zones for WFOs Buffalo, NY, Binghamton, NY, Albany, NY, New York/Upton, NY and Burlington, VT: Effective March 8, 2023

On or about Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 04:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Offices in Buffalo, NY (BUF), Binghamton, NY (BGM), Albany, NY (ALY), New York/Upton, NY (OKX) and Burlington, VT (BTV) will change Fire Weather Forecast Zones encompassing the entire state of New York. After this change, all fire forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names shown below.

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

The current zones which mirror the public zones will be converted into 14 zones to better reflect areas of similar topography, fuels and weather. These changes are intended to more closely align the NWS fire weather zones to recently revised Fire Danger Rating Areas (FDRA), and to allow fire partners to better plan for and respond to fire concerns.

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

NYZ001: Niagara
NYZ002: Orleans
NYZ003: Monroe
NYZ004: Wayne
NYZ005: Northern Cayuga
NYZ006: Oswego
NYZ007: Jefferson
NYZ008: Lewis
NYZ009: Northern Oneida
NYZ011: Genesee
NYZ012: Wyoming
NYZ013: Livingston
NYZ014: Ontario
NYZ015: Yates

NYZ016: Seneca
NYZ017: Southern Cayuga
NYZ018: Onondaga
NYZ019: Chautauqua
NYZ020: Cattaraugus
NYZ021: Allegany
NYZ022: Steuben
NYZ023: Schuyler
NYZ024: Chemung
NYZ025: Tompkins
NYZ026: Northern St. Lawrence
NYZ027: Northern Franklin
NYZ028: Eastern Clinton
NYZ029: Southeastern St. Lawrence
NYZ030: Southern Franklin
NYZ031: Western Clinton
NYZ032: Northern Herkimer
NYZ033: Hamilton
NYZ034: Western Essex
NYZ035: Eastern Essex
NYZ036: Madison
NYZ037: Southern Oneida
NYZ038: Southern Herkimer
NYZ039: Southern Fulton
NYZ040: Montgomery
NYZ041: Northern Saratoga
NYZ042: Northern Warren
NYZ043: Northern Washington
NYZ044: Cortland
NYZ045: Chenango
NYZ046: Otsego
NYZ047: Schoharie
NYZ048: Western Schenectady
NYZ049: Eastern Schenectady
NYZ050: Southern Saratoga
NYZ051: Western Albany
NYZ052: Eastern Albany
NYZ053: Western Rensselaer
NYZ054: Eastern Rensselaer
NYZ055: Tioga
NYZ056: Broome
NYZ057: Delaware
NYZ058: Western Greene
NYZ059: Eastern Greene
NYZ060: Western Columbia
NYZ061: Eastern Columbia
NYZ062: Sullivan
NYZ063: Western Ulster
NYZ064: Eastern Ulster
NYZ065: Western Dutchess
NYZ066: Eastern Dutchess
NYZ067: Orange
NYZ068: Putnam
NYZ069: Rockland

NYZ070: Northern Westchester
 NYZ071: Southern Westchester
 NYZ072: New York (Manhattan)
 NYZ073: Bronx
 NYZ074: Richmond (Staten Island)
 NYZ075: Kings (Brooklyn)
 NYZ078: Northwest Suffolk
 NYZ079: Northeast Suffolk
 NYZ080: Southwest Suffolk
 NYZ081: Southeast Suffolk
 NYZ082: Northern Fulton
 NYZ083: Southeast Warren
 NYZ084: Southern Washington
 NYZ085: Southern Erie
 NYZ087: Southwestern St. Lawrence
 NYZ176: Northern Queens
 NYZ177: Northern Nassau
 NYZ178: Southern Queens
 NYZ179: Southern Nassau

Table 2: UGC: New Fire Zone Forecast Name

 NYZ200: Southern Tier
 NYZ201: Lake Ontario Plains
 NYZ202: St. Lawrence
 NYZ203: Northern Adirondacks
 NYZ204: Adirondack High Peaks
 NYZ205: Champlain Valley (NY)
 NYZ206: Southern Adirondacks
 NYZ207: Upper Hudson Valley
 NYZ208: Middle Hudson Valley
 NYZ209: Catskills
 NYZ210: Leatherstocking
 NYZ211: Lower Hudson Valley
 NYZ212: New York City
 NYZ213: Long Island

Table 3: NWS Products Affected by these Fire Zone Changes

| Product Name ----- | WMO Heading ----- | AWIPS ID ----- |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Fire Weather Planning Forecast | FNUS51 KALY | FWFALY |
| Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning | WWUS81 KALY | RFWALY |
| Fire Weather Planning Forecast | FNUS51 KBGM | FWFBGM |
| Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning | WWUS81 KBGM | RFWBGM |
| Fire Weather Planning Forecast | FNUS51 KBTV | FWFBTV |
| Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning | WWUS81 KBTV | RFWBTV |
| Fire Weather Planning Forecast | FNUS51 KBUF | FWFBUF |
| Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning | WWUS81 KBUF | RFWBUF |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| Fire Weather Planning Forecast | FNUS51 KOKX | FWFOKX |
| Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning | WWUS81 KOKX | RFWOKX |

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 and fire weather forecast zones are available online at:

<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/okx/FireWeatherZoneChanges>

For more information, please contact:

NWS Eastern Region:
Melissa DiSpigna
Regional Fire Program Manager
National Weather Service
Eastern Region Headquarters
Bohemia, NY
Telework: 607-972-9649
Office: 631-224-0122
melissa.dispigna@noaa.gov

WFO Albany:
Stephen DiRienzo
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service
Albany, NY
518-626-7542
stephen.dirienzo@noaa.gov

WFO Binghamton:
Mark Pellerito
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service
Johnson City, NY
607-770-9531, x 223
mark.pellerito@noaa.gov

WFO Burlington:
Scott Whittier
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service
South Burlington, VT
scott.whittier@noaa.gov

WFO Buffalo:
Mike Fries
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service
Cheektowaga, NY
716-565-0103, x 223
michael.j.fries@noaa.gov

WFO New York/Upton:
Nelson Vaz
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service
Upton, NY
631-924-0037, x 223
nelson.vaz@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

NNNN