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Service Change Notice 22-11
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 Public and Fire Forecast Zones for NWS Weather
Forecast Office Little Rock, AR: Effective March 22, 2022

Effective on or about Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 3:00 PM Central Daylight Time (CDT), 2000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Little Rock, AR (LZK) will change Public and Fire Weather Forecast Zones for portions of Northern and Western Arkansas. After this change, all public and fire forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names indicated below.

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

The change will split 11 forecast zones in the Ouachita and Ozark Mountains based largely on elevation and climatology. The split will allow for more flexibility and improved accuracy of forecasts and long-fused watches, warnings and advisory products for those zones.

Table 1: Current Public and Fire Weather Forecast Zones and Corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs) for WFO Little Rock, AR. These zone numbers will be discontinued.

UGC: Current Public/Fire Zone Name

ARZ003: Boone County
ARZ012: Newton County
ARZ013: Searcy County
ARZ021: Johnson County
ARZ022: Pope County
ARZ023: Van Buren County
ARZ030: Logan County
ARZ037: Scott County
ARZ038: Yell County
ARZ040: Polk County
ARZ041: Montgomery County

Table 2: New Public and Fire Weather Zones and Corresponding UGCs for WFO Little Rock, AR

UGC: New Public/Fire Zone Names

- ARZ103: Boone County Except Southwest
- ARZ203: Boone County Higher Elevations
- ARZ112: Newton County Lower Elevations
- ARZ212: Newton County Higher Elevations
- ARZ113: Searcy County Lower Elevations
- ARZ213: Northwest Searcy County Higher Elevations
- ARZ313: Eastern, Central and Southern Searcy County Higher Elevations
- ARZ121: Southern Johnson County
- ARZ221: Johnson County Higher Elevations
- ARZ122: Southern Pope County
- ARZ222: Pope County Higher Elevations
- ARZ123: Southeast Van Buren County
- ARZ223: Van Buren County Higher Elevations
- ARZ130: Western and Northern Logan County
- ARZ230: Southern and Eastern Logan County
- ARZ137: Northern Scott County
- ARZ237: Central and Southern Scott County
- ARZ138: Northwest Yell County
- ARZ238: Yell County Excluding Northwest
- ARZ140: Polk County Lower Elevations
- ARZ240: Northern Polk County Higher Elevations
- ARZ340: Southeast Polk County Higher Elevations
- ARZ141: Central and Eastern Montgomery County
- ARZ241: Northern Montgomery County Higher Elevations
- ARZ341: Southwest Montgomery County Higher Elevations

Table 3: NWS Products Affected by the WFO Little Rock, AR Public and Fire Zone Changes Effective March 22, 2022

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Hurricane Local Statement	WTUS84 KLZK	HLSLZK
Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning	WTNT84 KNHC	TCVAT1-5
Hurricane Local Watch/Warning Statement	WTUS84 KLZK	TCVLZK
Fire Weather Forecast	FNUS54 KLZK	FWFLZK
Fire Weather Message	WWUS84 KLZK	RFWLZK
Zone Forecast	FPUS54 KLZK	ZFPLZK
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS54 KLZK	PFMLZK
Public Information Statement	NOUS44 KLZK	PNSLZK
Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/Advisory	WWUS74 KLZK	NPWLZK
Flood Watch	WGUS64 KLZK	FFALZK
Special Weather Statement	WWUS84 KLZK	SPSLZK
Winter Weather Message	WWUS44 KLZK	WSWLZK
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS64 KLZK	AFDLZK
Hazardous Weather Outlook	FLUS44 KLZK	HWOLZK
Air Quality Alert Message	AEUS74 KLZK	AQALZK

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

Updated public and fire weather forecast zone shapefiles are online at:

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

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

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/lzk/newzones.htm>

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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