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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-127
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 Forecast Zones for WFO Pittsburgh, PA:
Effective March 8, 2023

Effective Wednesday, March 8, 2023, by 4:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Pittsburgh, PA (PBZ) will complete changes to the Public Weather Forecast Zone encompassing Indiana County in western Pennsylvania. Indiana County will be split into a western and eastern half to better capture the topography difference. 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 for the general public and will enhance web-based graphical product consistency and appearance.

Indiana County's current zone will be converted into two separate zones. These new zones are being divided to optimize issuance of hazard products for conditions that vary significantly from lower elevations in the western part of the county to the eastern part. The new zones are listed in Table 2.

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

PAZ023: Indiana County

Table 2: UGC: New Public Zone Name

PAZ077: Indiana County
PAZ078: Higher Elevations of Indiana County

Table 3: NWS Products Affected by the WFO Pittsburgh, PA Public Forecast Zone Changes

Product Name -----	WMO Heading -----	AWIPS ID -----
Flood Watch	WGUS61 KPBZ	FFAPBZ
Special Weather Statement	WWUS81 KPBZ	SPSPBZ
Zone Forecast Product	FPUS51 KPBZ	ZFPPBZ
Hazardous Weather Outlook	FLUS41 KPBZ	HWOPBZ
Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/Advisory	WWUS71 KPBZ	NPWPBZ
Winter Weather Message	WWUS41 KPBZ	WSWPBZ
Area Forecast Matrix	FOUS51 KPBZ	AFMPBZ
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS51 KPBZ	PFMPBZ
Flood Watch/Warning/Advisory	WGUS61 KPBZ	FFAPBZ
Hydrologic Outlook	FGUS71 KPBZ	ESFPBZ
Hydrologic Statement	FGUS81 KPBZ	RVSPBZ
Hydrologic Summary	SRUS41 KPBZ	RVAPBZ
Daily River and Lake Summary	FGUS51 KPBZ	RVDPBZ
Public Information Statement	NOUS41 KPBZ	PNSPBZ
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS61 KPBZ	AFDPBZ
Air Quality Alert Message	AEUS71 KPBZ	AQAPBZ

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 weather forecast zones are available online at:

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

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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