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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-20 Updated  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
200 PM EST Wed Feb 23 2022

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

From:        C. Bruce Entwistle  
              Chief, Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Operational Implementation of Graphical Forecasts for  
Aviation (GFA) for Alaska: Effective March 1, 2022

Updated to delay transition to operational status until March 1, 2022 due  
to Critical Weather Day declaration on the previously planned date.

Effective March 1, 2022 at 1900 Universal Coordinated Time (UTC), the GFA  
Expansion to Alaska produced by the National Weather Service (NWS)  
Aviation Weather Center (AWC) will transition to operational status.

The current operational GFA domain includes the conterminous United  
States (CONUS), Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Western Atlantic Ocean and  
the North Pacific Ocean including Hawaii. The GFA Expansion to Alaska  
provides meteorological information in a graphical format over Alaska,  
the Bering Sea, the Chukchi Sea and portions of the Arctic Ocean. The  
GFA includes observations and forecasts valid for the Alaska Flight  
Information Regions critical for aviation safety overlaid on high-  
resolution maps. Where gridded NWS forecasts do not exist, GFA uses  
automated computer model guidance from the Rapid Update (RAP) and Global  
Forecast System (GFS) models.

The Alaska Aviation Weather Unit (AAWU) will continue to provide text  
Area Forecasts (FA) for Alaska to support Alaskan users. Both products  
may be used for planning purposes.

The GFA provides the meteorological information necessary to meet the  
needs of the Federal Aviation Administration, pursuant to Title 49 United  
States Code Section 44720.

The GFA is available at:

<https://www.aviationweather.gov/gfa>

The Product Description Document can be found at:

[https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD\\_Opl\\_GFAExpansiontoAlaska\\_2022.pdf](https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_Opl_GFAExpansiontoAlaska_2022.pdf)

If you have any questions regarding the GFA, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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