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Public Information Statement 23-49
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
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 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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From: Mary Mullusky, Chief
 NWS Forecast Services Division

Subject: Soliciting Comments on Transition to Plain Language Headlines
within NWS Alerting System through September 17, 2023

The National Weather Service (NWS) is soliciting comments through September 17, 2023 on major changes to its hazard messaging headlines coming no earlier than calendar year 2025. A Service Change Notice (SCN) will be sent to specify the exact date for this change. This decision is based on results of extensive social science research with partners and the public, which documented significant confusion with the "Advisory" headline term.

The major changes are as follows:

- All "Advisory" products within what is currently the NWS Watch, Warning and Advisory system will be replaced with plain language headlines that clearly articulate the nature of the hazard. These messages will continue to be equipped with computer-readable Valid Time Event Code (VTEC).
- Exceptions to the transition to plain language will apply to Tsunami and Small Craft Advisories. The Small Craft Advisory will be transitioned to a Small Craft Warning. The Tsunami Advisory will remain unchanged while further research is underway.
- All "Special Weather Statements" (SPS') will be discontinued, also in favor of plain language headlines. In addition, these messages will be in bulleted "What, Where, When, Impacts" format and equipped with VTEC.

The NWS is now seeking public comment on the format and display of the plain language headlines. The following Product Description Document (PDD) provides a description of the technical and display details associated with this change.

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/PDDs/PDD_Haz_Simp.pdf

Comments on this change can be directed to the NWS Hazard Simplification Team at hazsimp@noaa.gov.

Additional details can be found on the project website:

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

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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