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Service Change Notice 20-80 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1130 AM EST Wed Nov 9 2023

To: Subscribers:
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 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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From: Stephen Bieda III
 Chief, Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather
 Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Enhancements to the Winter Storm Severity Index,
 Effective November 9, 2023

Updated to describe enhancements to the Winter Storm Severity Index.

Effective November 9, 2023, the operational web-based Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI) will feature enhanced non-meteorological datasets for vegetation index, coniferous forest density, and also increased resolution of land use.

WSSI will be updated with enhanced meteorological information, including extending Flash Freeze and Ground Blizzard out to 72 hours, and allowing Flash Freeze to account for refreezing of snow melt. Further updates include several ice accumulation improvements, an updated ice & wind methodology, the introduction of an ice climatology, and impact-level threshold changes. Additionally, a snow load climatology has been introduced providing some changes to impact-level thresholds for snow load.

The purpose of the WSSI is to provide NWS forecasters, partners, and the public with an indication of the severity of winter weather hazards and resulting societal impacts. The WSSI does not depict official warnings, and should always be used in context with official NWS forecasts and warnings.

The WSSI will continue to be updated every two hours at approximately 0100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), 0300 UTC, 0500 UTC, etc. No communication system changes are required to view this web-based information.

Additional information is provided in the Product Description Document (PDD) at the link below:

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/556f95301bd6f1d0ee15a7dbe54bcb35

For questions regarding the WSSI, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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