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Service Change Notice 24-42
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
100 PM EDT Tue Apr 16 2024

To: Subscribers:
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From: Marina Timofeyeva, Chief
 Climate Services Branch

Subject: The "Rapid Onset Drought" Hazard Type Within the 8- to 14-Day
 Hazards Outlook (Contiguous U.S. and Alaska) Will Transition to
 Operational Status, Effective May 16, 2024

Effective May 16, 2024, the "Rapid Onset Drought" hazard type within the 8- to 14-Day Hazards Outlook (Contiguous U.S. and Alaska) will transition from experimental to operational status.

The Rapid Onset Drought hazard type uses initial conditions, such as antecedent dryness, and skillful temperature and precipitation outlooks during the next 2 weeks to communicate the risk of rapidly developing drought during the next 2-4 weeks.

Following positive feedback received in 2022 and 2023, Rapid Onset Drought areas will continue to be identified and updated once per week on Thursday, coinciding with the issuance of the U.S. Drought Monitor that serves as the basis for subsequent verification. Interim updates to the areas of Rapid Onset Drought will occur only to ensure consistent messaging in the case of a large change in forecast information; such updates will only be made on Mondays.

Please see the NWS Product Description Document (PDD) for more details:

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/6edd09201b68c610ee15a7dbe54bc9

The CPC issues the Week-2 U.S. Hazards Outlook at the following website, which also includes links to Geographic Information System (GIS) data files:

<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/threats/threats.php>

When included in the Week-2 U.S. Hazards Outlook, Rapid Onset Drought areas will be included in the current "soils" ArcGIS shapefile.

For questions or comments regarding this product, please contact:

Jon Gottschalck
Chief, Operational Prediction Branch
NWS - NCEP - Climate Prediction Center
College Park, MD
jon.gottschalck@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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