

Multi Purpose Weather Products Specification

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1. Introduction. This supplement describes two variances in the Short Term Forecast policy in the Alaska Region compared to the procedures in National Weather Service Instruction (NWSI) 10-517. First, the responsibility for issuing Short Term Forecasts is shared with Weather Service Offices (WSO) in the Alaska Region. Second, Short Term Forecasts may be issued on a routine basis, rather than an event-driven basis to serve local customer and partner requirements.

2. Short Term Forecast (product category NOW).

2.2 Issuance Guidelines. In the Alaska Region, Short Term Forecasts will be produced by WSOs in coordination with their area Weather Forecast Office (WFO). The zone areas for which WSOs will issue Short Term Forecast products are given in Appendix A.

Coordination and collaboration between WFOs and WSOs is important. WFOs should be mindful of the Short Term Forecasts prepared by WSOs within their area of responsibility to ensure consistency between zone and short term forecasts. Coordination is required if a WSO intends to issue a Short Term Forecast that will contain information that conflicts with the WFO zone forecast.

2.2.2 Issuance Criteria. WFOs and WSOs should issue Short Term Forecasts to discuss the evolution of precipitation, convective events, winter weather, fog, significant winds, blowing dust, and extreme temperatures within their geographic area of responsibility. Local policy may require Short Term Forecasts to be issued routinely, rather than on an event-driven basis, to address local customer and partner requirements. These procedures for Short Term Forecast issuance will be documented locally by the WFO meteorologist in charge.

2.3 Technical Description.

2.3.3 Content. In addition to the guidance provided in NWSI 10-517, Alaska Region WSOs and WFOs should include a time reference in each Short Term Forecast product to help ensure clarity in the short term trend being forecast. The time reference may be general, i.e., “BY LATE MORNING,” but specificity is encouraged, i.e., “BY 11 AM.” Refer to Appendix B for additional examples.

Appendix A - Areas of Responsibility for Product Issuance

Table 1: Zones for which Short Term Forecasts are issued. The primary issuing office is listed in the second column.

Zone(s)	Issuing Office
017	WSO Yakutat
018-026	WFO Juneau
027-029	WSO Annette
101	WFO Anchorage
131	WSO Valdez
151	WSO McGrath
155	WSO Bethel
161	WSO King Salmon
171	WSO Kodiak
181	WSO Cold Bay
195	WSO St. Paul
202	WSO Barrow
209	WSO Kotzebue
211	WSO Nome
222	WFO Fairbanks

Appendix B - Short Term Forecast Examples

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1. <u>Short Term Forecast.</u>	

FPAK78PAFC 272155
NOWAFC

SHORT TERM FORECAST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ANCHORAGE AK
100 PM AST WED MAR 27 2003

AKZ101-280400-
ANCHORAGE AND VICINITY-
100 PM AST THU MAR 27 2003
.NOW...

SNOW WILL TAPER OFF BRIEFLY...EARLY THIS AFTERNOON. HOWEVER
RADAR SHOWS YET ANOTHER BAND OF MOISTURE MOVING UP THE INLET
TOWARD ANCHORAGE. ADDITIONAL ACCUMULATIONS OF 1 TO 3 INCHES OF
SNOW ARE POSSIBLE BY EVENING.

2. Short Term Forecast with Multiple Segments.

FPAK77 PAJK 130048
NOWAJK

SHORT TERM FORECAST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE JUNEAU AK
345 PM AST WED MAR 12 2003

AKZ018-025-130700-
TAIYA INLET AND KLONDIKE HIGHWAY-JUNEAU BOROUGH AND NORTHERN
ADMIRALTY ISLAND-
INCLUDING...SKAGWAY...JUNEAU
345 PM AST WED MAR 12 2003

.NOW...
...HIGH WIND WARNING INTO TONIGHT...
...WIND CHILL ADVISORY ABOVE 1000 FEET INTO TONIGHT...

DANGEROUSLY WINDY CONDITIONS WILL CONTINUE INTO THIS EVENING.
EXPECT NORTHEAST WINDS 35 TO 45 MPH WITH GUSTS IN EXCESS OF 70
MPH IN EXPOSED AREAS. WIND CHILL TEMPERATURES TO 35 BELOW ZERO
ARE LIKELY ABOVE 1000 FEET.

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AKZ019-020-130700-
HAINES BOROUGH AND LYNN CANAL-GLACIER BAY-
INCLUDING HAINES...GUSTAVUS
345 PM AST WED MAR 12 2003

.NOW...
...WIND ADVISORY INTO TONIGHT...

LOCALLY WINDY CONDITIONS WILL CONTINUE INTO THIS EVENING. EXPECT
NORTHEAST WINDS 15 TO 25 MPH WITH GUSTS TO 55 MPH IN EXPOSED
AREAS. A FEW FLURRIES ARE ALSO POSSIBLE.

\$\$
AKZ021-022-026-130700-
EASTERN CHICHAGOF ISLAND-SALISBURY SOUND TO CAPE FAIRWEATHER
COASTAL AREA-INNER CHANNELS FROM KUPREANOF ISLAND TO ETOLIN
ISLAND-
INCLUDING HOONAH...ELFIN COVE...PELICAN...PETERSBURG...
WRANGELL...KAKE
345 PM AST WED MAR 12 2003

.NOW...
...WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT...

AREAS OF SNOW WILL BECOME MORE WIDESPREAD AND HEAVIER IN
INTENSITY AFTER 6 PM. ADDITIONAL ACCUMULATIONS OF 3 TO 6 INCHES
ARE EXPECTED BY LATE EVENING. LOW VISIBILITIES AND SNOWPACKED
ROADS WILL MAKE FOR DANGEROUS DRIVING CONDITIONS. NORTHEAST
WINDS TO 25 MPH WITH GUSTS TO 35 MPH WILL CONTINUE IN EXPOSED
AREAS.

\$\$
AKZ023-024-130700-
CAPE DECISION TO SALISBURY SOUND COASTAL AREA-EASTERN BARANOF
ISLAND AND SOUTHERN ADMIRALTY ISLAND-
INCLUDING SITKA...PORT ALEXANDER...ANGOON
345 PM AST WED MAR 12 2003

.NOW...
...WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT...

MIXED RAIN AND SNOW WILL BECOME ALL RAIN AFTER 6 PM. WINDS WILL
SHIFT TO SOUTHEAST 25 MPH WITH GUSTS TO 35 MPH IN EXPOSED AREAS.

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3. Short Term Forecast with No Significant Weather (Routine Issuance).

FPAK77 PANT 240650
NOWANN

SHORT TERM FORECAST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ANNETTE AK
10 PM AST WED MAR 12 2003

AKZ027>029-241300-
SOUTHERN INNER CHANNELS-DIXON ENTRANCE TO CAPE DECISION COASTAL
AREA-MISTY FJORDS-
INCLUDING... KETCHIKAN...METLAKATLA...CRAIG...KLAWOCK...HYDER
10 PM AST WED MAR 12 2003

.NOW...
INCREASING HIGH CLOUDS WITH LIGHT WINDS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH
EARLY THURSDAY MORNING. TEMPERATURES WILL FALL BELOW FREEZING
SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT.

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CW

4. Short Term Forecast with Correction.

FPAK77 PAYA 251928 **CCA**
NOWYAK

SHORT TERM FORECAST...**CORRECTED**
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE YAKUTAT AK
1028 AM AST WED MAR 25 2003

AKZ017-260100-
CAPE FAIRWEATHER TO CAPE SUCKLING COASTAL AREA-
INCLUDING YAKUTAT
1028 AM AST WED MAR 25 2003

CORRECTED FOR GRAMMAR

.NOW...

FOG AND A STEADY DRIZZLE WILL CONTINUE INTO THIS AFTERNOON.
VISIBILITIES ARE EXPECTED TO STAY BELOW 2 MILES IN MOST
LOCATIONS. TEMPERATURES WILL REMAIN AROUND 40 DEGREES WITH LIGHT
AND VARIABLE WINDS.

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