

Experimental Bulleted Winter Storm (WSW) and Non-Precipitation (NPW) Statements Product Description Document (PDD)

Part I – Mission Connection

a. Product Description –

During winter storm and non-precipitation events affecting multiple forecast zones, WSW and NPW statements become very long and time consuming for forecasters to produce. The length of the product can make it difficult for users to quickly scan multiple forecast zones for vital storm information.

WFO Reno GFE focal point has modified the baseline WSW and NPW formatters to produce a bulleted product with a format similar to severe thunderstorm and flash flood warnings. This format is easier for users to read and quickly gather vital watch, warning and advisory information. Bulleted statements for severe thunderstorms and flash flood events are familiar to users that provide warning information in a quick easy to read format.

The new formatter will be tested at WFO Reno through the rest of the winter of 2009.

b. Purpose – To produce WSW and NPW statements that are easy to read and contain the most important storm and impact information during hazardous winter and non-precipitation events.

c. Audience – Emergency Managers, Media, Department of Transportation and the general public.

d. Presentation Format – The current presentation methods for WSW and NPW products will be used on the NWS Reno website. <http://weather.gov/reno>

e. Feedback Method – Sample bulleted WSW and NPW statements have been shown to local television meteorologists, with vary favorable feedback. TV meteorologists commented that the bulleted format will be much easier to gather information for their broadcasts. WFO Reno NV will seek user comments during the course of their routine outreach program. If user comments are positive, the bulleted WSW and NPW statements will become the standard format for WFO Reno. The comment period will run from January- April 2009.

Technical and policy questions and comments on the bulleted WSW and NPW statements may be addressed to:

NOAA National Weather Service
Attn: Brian Brong - Senior Forecaster
2350 Raggio Parkway
Reno, NV 89512

Or, e-mail questions and comments to: Brian.Brong@noaa.gov.

f. Examples –

Sample Winter Storm Warning for: Greater Lake Tahoe Area
National Weather Service - Reno NV

CAZ072-NVZ002-150900-
/O.EXT.KREV.WS.W.0009.081214T2300Z-081216T0600Z/
GREATER LAKE TAHOE AREA-
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...SOUTH LAKE TAHOE...TAHOE CITY...
TRUCKEE...MARKLEEVILLE...GLENBROOK...INCLINE VILLAGE
300 PM PST SUN DEC 14 2008

...WINTER STORM WARNING NOW IN EFFECT UNTIL 10 PM PST MONDAY...

THE WINTER STORM WARNING FOR HEAVY SNOW IS NOW IN EFFECT UNTIL 10
PM PST MONDAY.

- * TOTAL SNOW ACCUMULATIONS THROUGH MONDAY NIGHT: 10 TO 20
INCHES...WITH 18 TO 30 INCHES ABOVE 7000 FEET.
- * WINDS: SOUTHWEST WINDS 10 TO 20 MPH WITH GUSTS TO 35 MPH. RIDGE
GUSTS UP TO 65 MPH.
- * IMPACTS: VISIBILITY WILL BE REDUCED TO NEAR ZERO AT TIMES IN
HEAVY SNOW AND BLOWING SNOW. DRIFTING SNOW WILL CREATE DANGEROUS
DRIVING CONDITIONS...ESPECIALLY OVER SIERRA PASSES. THE MONDAY
MORNING AND AFTERNOON COMMUTES WILL BE AFFECTED. EXPECT DELAYS
AND POSSIBLE ROAD CLOSURES.

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Sample High Wind Watch for: Greater Reno, Carson City, Minden Area
National Weather Service - Reno NV

NVZ003-111230-
/O.CON.KREV.HW.A.0008.081213T0300Z-081213T1200Z/
GREATER RENO-CARSON CITY-MINDEN AREA-
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...SPARKS...VERDI...GARDNERVILLE
1004 PM PST WED DEC 10 2008

...HIGH WIND WATCH REMAINS IN EFFECT FROM FRIDAY EVENING THROUGH
LATE FRIDAY NIGHT...

A HIGH WIND WATCH REMAINS IN EFFECT FROM FRIDAY EVENING THROUGH
LATE FRIDAY NIGHT.

- * SOUTHWEST WINDS OF 25 TO 40 MPH...WITH GUSTS OF 60 TO 70 MPH ARE
POSSIBLE FRIDAY EVENING INTO THE PRE-DAWN HOURS SATURDAY
MORNING. THESE WINDS WILL AFFECT AREAS IN THE LEE OF THE SIERRA
INCLUDING RENO...CARSON CITY...AND MINDEN. THE STRONGEST WINDS
ARE LIKELY DOWNWIND OF CANYON OPENINGS.
- * TRAVELERS...ESPECIALLY THOSE IN HIGH PROFILE VEHICLES...WILL BE
IMPACTED BY STRONG WINDS FRIDAY NIGHT AND EARLY SATURDAY
MORNING. THIS INCLUDES HIGHWAY 395...INTERSTATE 80...AND
HIGHWAY 50. ANY REMAINING OUTDOOR PATIO FURNITURE OR UNSECURED
GARBAGE CANS SHOULD BE SECURED OR MOVED INDOORS BEFORE THE
STRONG WINDS START.

A HIGH WIND WATCH MEANS THERE IS POTENTIAL FOR STRONG DAMAGING WINDS TO AFFECT THE AREA. CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE LATEST FORECASTS AT WEATHER.GOV/RENO.

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Part II – Technical Description

a. Format and Science Basis – Using these formatter customizations, Forecasters can quickly create products focused on the most important information users need during winter storm and non-precipitation weather events.

b. Availability – These products will be issued and updated as needed during winter storm and non precipitation weather events.