Enhanced Fire Weather Planning Forecast (FWF) Text Format
Product Description Document (PDD)
December 2013

Part I - Mission Connection

a. Product Description – Due to varied terrain, vegetation and climatology, the Fire Weather Planning Forecast (FWF) in the western U.S. requires varying amounts of forecaster editing following production of draft text from GFE formatters. This FWF text format utilizes left-justified asterisks to begin each line of text. The asterisks help maintain proper word wrapping and indentations in the AWIPS text editor, significantly reducing the amount of time needed to "post edit" the product before dissemination. The format change is accomplished through use of a FWF GFE formatter developed by Western Region. The rest of the FWF product is left unchanged. A portion of a sample product is listed below:

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.TODAY...
*  SKY/WEATHER.........SUNNY IN THE MORNING...BECOMING
   PARTLY CLOUDY IN THE AFTERNOON WITH A SLIGHT CHANCE OF
   SHOWERS.
*  LAL.................1.
*  MAX TEMPERATURE.....62-68 VALLEYS AND 54-62 MOUNTAINS.
*    24 HR TREND.......1 DEGREE WARMER.
*  MIN HUMIDITY........30-45 PERCENT.
*  24 HR TREND.......5 PERCENT DRIER VALLEYS AND 5
   PERCENT WETTER MOUNTAINS.
*  20-FOOT WIND........
*    VALLEYS/LWR SLOPES...UPSLOPE/UPVALLEY 2 TO 5 MPH.
*    RIDGES/UPR SLOPES....VARIABLE 2 TO 5 MPH.
*  HAINES INDEX........2 VERY LOW.
*  MIXING HEIGHT.......3000 FT AGL.
*  TRANSPORT WINDS.....WEST 3 TO 7 MPH IN THE MORNING
   SHIFTING TO THE SOUTHWEST IN THE AFTERNOON.
*  CWR (> 0.10 IN).....0 PERCENT.
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The FWF is typically updated twice a day during the fire weather season and is disseminated through AWIPS under the product ID NNNFWFXXX where NNN is the node and XXX is the issuing WFO. For example, the product ID for WFO Pendleton, Oregon is PDXFWFPDT. The WMO header for PDT is FNUS56 KPDT. The FWF product can also be found on WFO web pages under the "fire weather" section of the website.

b. Product Type – Operational (Nationally optional)

c. Purpose - The purpose of this change is to reduce the amount of time needed to post edit the FWF without impacting users of the product. This change allows more time for customer interaction and decision support activities.

d. Audience- The primary audience is comprised of core fire weather partner agencies in Southern Region and any other NWS Region interested in utilizing the format.

e. Presentation Format – Dissemination occurs through normal NWS channels, including NWS web pages. There is no impact to dissemination systems with this optional format.

f. Example URL:

WFO Pendleton, OR
http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/total_forecast/getprod.php?wfo=pdt&pil=FWF&sid=pdt

g. Feedback Method – The following participating NWS offices will gather customer feedback on this experimental format from local fire weather and DSS customers throughout the spring 2014 fire season:

Southern region: WFOs Albuquerque, El Paso, Midland and Lubbock.

Feedback can be provide via electronic survey at the following link:
www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=expFWF

In addition, formal comments regarding the specifics of the new FWF format can be directed to:

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Part II - Technical Description

a. Format and Science Basis - This text format has been developed to reduce the amount of time needed to manually edit the Fire Weather Planning Forecast (FWF) prior to dissemination. This allows NWS forecasters more time to focus on activities such as fire weather customer briefings and decision support.

b. Availability – The FWF is routinely issued twice per day (once in the morning and again in the afternoon) during the fire weather season and updated on an unscheduled basis as conditions warrant.