

When an office installs AWIPS Build 5.0, the installation will wipe out the site's forecast and warning product database. The only way to replenish the database is to request the products via the WAN from neighboring sites. If an old expired weather message that is restored into the database is a trigger for CAFÉ, it may erroneously be broadcast over NWR. Basically, there are two categories of weather messages that are handled by CAFÉ:

1. Most messages received by CAFÉ contain a UGC line with an expiration time. If not, CRS assumes that the message is current and adds an offset (2 hours) to generate an expiration time. These messages will broadcast on NWR for the amount of time specified in the offset.

2. The expiration time in the UGC line specifies only the day, hour, and minute. CAFÉ has no way of knowing what month and year the product should actually expire in. This presents a problem when a product is generated at the end of the last day of the month and expires on the first day of the next month.

Normally, CAFÉ generates the expiration month using the current month. However, CAFÉ compares the current day of the month with the day of the month in the expiration time. If the current day is less than or equal to the expiration day, CAFÉ leaves the expiration day alone. If the current day is greater than the expiration day, CAFÉ assumes that the message is wrapping around from the current month to the next and increments the month by one. Hence, old messages containing the expiration time in the UGC line may be generated by CAFÉ with an expiration time that is nearly a month in the future. These messages would broadcast on NWR.

The bottom line here is that almost any old expired message that CAFÉ receives has the potential for being broadcast on NWR. Sites should be aware of this if they need to replenish their database as the result of the Build 5.0 installation. They should carefully monitor the CRS Broadcast Cycle and quickly expunge any old expired messages from the CRS active broadcast schedule using the Broadcast Cycle Expire capability.