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APPLICABLE TO NWSI 10-517

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Administration and Management

Public Weather Service, NWSPD 10-5

Multi-Purpose Weather Products Specification, NWSI 10-517

ALASKA MULTI-PURPOSE WEATHER PRODUCTS SPECIFICATION

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

OPR: W/AR1x6 (D. Kochevar)

Certified by: W/AR1 (M. Mercer)

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:

This supplement supersedes Alaska Region Supplement 02-2003, “Alaska Multi-Purpose Weather Products Specification,” dated March 31, 2011, applicable to NWSI 10-517.

Update includes:

- 1) Revision to Short Term Forecast Instructions (page 4).
- 2) Renamed Section 2: Special Weather Statement and changed references of outlook statement to Special Weather Statement.
- 3) Revised Section 2.1.2 Issuance Criteria to clarify instruction and incorporate instruction from ARS 07-2002.
- 4) Corrected section 3 title in Table of Contents.
- 5) Revised section 2.1.2 Issuance Criteria to clarify use of the SPS for outlook and short term events.
- 6) Revised examples to reflect change to mixed-case text products.
- 7) Removed Appendix A and B.

/SIGNED/

4/12/2019

Carven Scott

Date

Regional Director

Multi Purpose Weather Products Specification

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1. Introduction. This supplement provides instruction to Alaska Region (AR) Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) regarding the creation and dissemination of Special Weather Statements. This supplement also describes AR's policy for Short Term Forecasts.

2. Special Weather Statement (SPS). The Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO) has not been implemented in the Alaska Region. Therefore, WFOs in Alaska will use the Special Weather Statements to in lieu of the Hazardous Weather Outlook to communicate weather hazards as needed. Further guidance is available below in Section 2.1.2 Issuance Criteria.

2.1 Issuance Guidelines.

2.1.1 Creation Software. WFOs will use the GFE Text Editor or WarnGen to issue the Special Weather Statements as appropriate.

2.1.2 Issuance Criteria. The SPS are used to raise awareness of a weather hazard for any forecast period, and may be treated as a HWO for weather events that are not expected to meet warning criteria but will still have significant societal impacts. Special Weather Statements should call attention to potentially hazardous winter, convective, non-precipitation, fire weather, hydrologic, or coastal flooding/high surf hazards.

Special Weather Statements will be issued when there is a 60 percent or greater chance of a hazardous weather event (such as exceeding local warning/advisory criteria, have a great impact due to timing, or other circumstances) in the outlook period. The outlook period is defined as the time period beyond the point normally covered by a watch, which is typically in the 3 to 7-day period.

For shorter lead times, the Special Weather Statements may also be issued to highlight the potential for significant impacts (even if sub-warning/advisory) or upcoming significant changes (such as an early arctic outbreak or mid-winter warming) within the 1-7 day time frame. To minimize confusion, a hazardous weather event currently addressed in a watch, warning, or advisory should not also be mentioned in an SPS. In these instances, information should be communicated in the watch, warning, or advisory statement(s).

2.1.3 Issuance Time. Special Weather Statements are non-scheduled, event driven products.

2.1.4 Valid Time. Special Weather Statements are valid from the time of issuance until the expiration or update time.

2.1.5 Product Expiration Time. Special Weather Statements will expire not more than 24 hours after the time of issuance.

2.2 Technical Description. Special Weather Statements will follow the format and content described in this section.

2.2.1 UCG Type. Special Weather Statements will use the Zone (Z) code of the UGC.

2.2.2 Mass News Disseminator Header. The statements will include the Mass News Disseminator (MND) phrase “SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT,” and be issued under the product category of SPS.

2.3 Content. Special Weather Statements should include a short description of the geographical area of potential impact. They may be written for a WFOs entire area of responsibility (AOR) or in multiple segments.

2.4 Format.

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WWAK81 PAFC 101315
SPSAER

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT
National Weather Service ANCHORAGE AK
515 AM AKDT Mon Jul 10 2017

AKZ101-111-121-125-131-135-141-145-171-110200-
Anchorage-Matanuska Valley-Western Kenai Peninsula-
Western Prince William Sound-Northeast Prince William Sound-
Southeast Prince William Sound-Copper River Basin-Susitna Valley-
Kodiak Island-
Including the cities of Anchorage, Eagle River, Indian, Eklutna,
Palmer, Wasilla, Sutton, Chickaloon, Kenai, Soldotna, Homer,
Cooper Landing, Whittier, Seward, Girdwood, Moose Pass, Valdez,
Thompson Pass, Cordova, Glennallen, Eureka, McCarthy, Paxson,
Slana, Talkeetna, Willow, Cantwell, and Kodiak City
515 AM AKDT Mon Jul 10 2017

...HOTTEST TEMPERATURES OF THE SUMMER IN STORE FOR SOUTHCENTRAL
LATER THIS WEEK...

A significant warm-up is expected across Southcentral Alaska and
Kodiak Island this week, which will likely result in some of the
hottest temperatures of the summer on Wednesday and Thursday.
Temperatures are expected to top out in the 70s for coastal areas
and in the 80s inland. Sunshine will be abundant, though there
is a chance of an afternoon or evening shower or thunderstorm,
especially inland and near the mountains.

Check out the detailed forecast for your location at
weather.gov/anchorage.
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Figure 1: Example of a Special Weather Statement in the outlook period.

2.5 Updates, Amendments and Corrections. Special Weather Statements should be updated as needed. WFOs will correct statements for format or grammatical errors.

3. Short Term Forecasts (product category NOW). Short term forecasts should follow instructions described in NWSI 10-517, and only be issued by WFO Anchorage, WFO Fairbanks and WFO Juneau. Content should be event driven (ie. limited to convey specific timing, evolution, or potential impacts in a detailed manner not available in other text products. Moderate to high impact events should be described by WFOs in an SPS or warning/advisory product as appropriate. Short Term Forecast issuance is not required in the Alaska Region.