

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE EASTERN REGION SUPPLEMENT 05-2010
APPLICABLE TO NWSI 10-517
May 21, 2010

Operations and Services
Public Weather Services, NWSPD 10-5
Multi-Purpose Weather Products Specification, NWSI 10-517
SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENTS

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

OPR: W/ER1x2 (F. McMullen)

Certified by: W/ER1 (J. Guiney)

Type of Issuance: Initial

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This supplement establishes policy for the inclusion of latitude longitude information within Special Weather Statements

<signed>

4/29/10

Christopher S. Strager
Director, NWS Eastern Region

Date

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1. Purpose. The purpose of this Supplement is to define Eastern Region (ER) policy for certain issuances of Special Weather Statements (SPS) at Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) occurring through the first period or within 12 hours.
2. Background. Storm-based (SB) warnings were implemented nationally in 2008 and are essential to effectively warn for severe weather and flash floods. SB warnings show the specific hydro-meteorological threat area and are not restricted to county boundaries. By focusing on the true threat area, polygons help improve NWS warning accuracy.
3. Policy. All ER WFOs should include latitude / longitude information in SPS's where areal specificity can be attained from remote sensing platforms, such as radar, lightning detection, or satellite systems. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - Heavy snow bands during a winter storm event
 - Lake-effect snow bands that briefly reduce visibility
 - Heavy rainfall that is not expected to cause flooding
 - Thunderstorm winds of 40* to 57 miles per hour (sustained or in gusts)
 - Hail less than one inch in diameter
 - Frequent to continuous lightning
 - Funnel clouds or cold air funnels
 - Dense Valley Fog

*A lower value may be used at forecaster discretion

SPSs with latitude / longitude polygons are not required for phenomena that can't be observed by remote sensing and have indefinite geographic specificity, e.g. black ice, patchy dense valley fog, urban heat, temperatures not meeting frost advisory or freeze warning thresholds.

- 3.2 Creation Software: WFOs should use WarnGen to issue SPSs that contain latitude / longitude.
- 3.3 Issuance Time: SPSs are non-scheduled, event driven products.
- 3.4 Valid Time: SPSs are valid from time of issuance until the expiration or update time.
- 3.5 Product Format: For a SPS with latitude / longitude:

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE city st
time am/pm time_zone day mon dd yyyy

(Issuing Office)
(Issuance time and date)

STZ001-002-003-ddhhmm-
Zone 1-Zone 2-Zone 3-
time am/pm time_zone day mon dd yyyy

...HEADLINE...

...BRIEF SUMMARY OF ONGOING OR FORECAST WEATHER CONDITIONS LESS
THAN WARNING OR ADVISORY CRITERIA....

LAT...LON 3216 9231 3215 9236 3215 9263 3216 9264
3249 9241 3248 9241 3241 9241 3232 9230

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