

Experimental Mixed Case Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Text Products Product Description Document

Part I – Mission Connection:

a. Product Description – Many NWS partners and users have identified the need for NWS text products to be provided in mixed case letters and to include an expanded punctuation and character set. Previously, national Public Information Statements (PNSs), including national Service Change Notices (SCNs) and national Technical Implementation Notices (TINs), were provided in mixed case letters with an expanded punctuation/character set for a risk reduction effort using non-operational products:

(http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/scn10-28mixed_case.txt).

In October 2011, the risk reduction effort was expanded to a few operational, but non-critical, Weather Forecast Office (WFO) text products: the Area Forecast Discussion (AFD), the Regional Weather Summary (RWS) and local PNS's (including local SCN's and TIN's) for four WFOs: Kansas City/Pleasant Hill, MO – EAX, Louisville, KY – LMK, Spokane, WA – OTX, Tallahassee, FL – TAE

Beginning in July 2013 the number of WFOs participating in this effort will be expanded to include ten additional WFOs:

Current: Kansas City/Pleasant Hill, MO - EAX

Current: Louisville, KY - LMK

New: Paducah, KY - PAH

New: Central Illinois (Lincoln) - ILX

New: St. Louis, MO - LSX

New: Springfield, MO - SGF

New: Topeka, KS - TOP

New: Dodge City, KS - DDC

Current: Spokane, WA - OTX

New: Sacramento, CA - STO

Current: Tallahassee, FL - TAE

New: San Angelo, TX - SJT

New: Midland/Odessa, TX - MAF

New: Tulsa, OK – TSA

Also beginning in July 2013 the NWS will expand its mixed case text Product Risk Reduction effort to include:

-The NWS Storm Prediction Center (SPC) Public Severe Weather Outlook product (WOUS40 KWNS/PWOSPC) and

- select RiverPro Products at 17 WFOs.

RIVERPRO Products

ESF - Hydrologic Outlook
FFA - Flood Watch for Forecast Points
FLW - Flood Warning for Forecast Points
FLS - Follow-up to Flood Warning for FP
FLS - Flood Advisory for Forecast Points
RVS - Hydrologic Statement
RVA - Hydrologic Summary
RVD - River and Lake Forecast Product
HYx - Hydrometeorological Data Summary
RTP - Regional Temp and Precipitation
AGO - Agricultural Observations

Participating WFOs

Central Region

Kansas City/Pleasant Hill, MO - EAX
Louisville, KY - LMK
Paducah, KY - PAH
Central Illinois (Lincoln) - ILX
St. Louis, MO - LSX
Springfield, MO - SGF
Topeka, KS - TOP
Dodge City, KS - DDC
Indianapolis, IN - IND
Wichita, KS - ICT

Southern Region

San Angelo, TX - SJT
Midland/Odessa, TX - MAF
Tulsa, OK - TSA

Western Region

Medford, OR -MFR
Portland, OR - PQR
San Joaquin Valley/Hanford, CA - HNX
Pendleton, OR - PDT

b. Purpose – To produce and disseminate AFD, RWS and PNS text products at select WFOs using mixed case letters and an expanded punctuation/character set. Users of these WFO text products will have the opportunity to identify and correct any anomalous behavior of their systems and their customer's systems that may be caused by the use of mixed case letters and the expanded punctuation/ character set.

c. Audience – NWS partners, users and the general public.

d. Presentation Format – Text based.

e. Feedback Method – Experimental period will run from Wednesday, July 31, 2013 until July 31, 2014 when a test WFO installs AWIPS II software as these experimental products are only applicable to AWIPS I software.

Technical and policy questions and comments may be addressed to:

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A web survey is online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/report.php?type=nws&code=mixed-case>

PART 2 – Technical:

a. Format and Science Basis: Evan Bookbinder (WFO EAX) modified the AWIPS I text workstation tickle file (textWindow.tcl) to allow mixed case Area Forecast Discussions (AFD's) (TEXT WORKSTATION VERSION ONLY - NOT GRAPHICAL FORECAST EDITOR (GFE) VERSION), Regional Weather Summary's (RWS's) and local PNS's. All other text workstation products will continue to be issued in all upper case letters and with a restricted punctuation/character set.

An AWIPS Test Authorization Note (ATAN) will be approved, and the NWS Office of Operational Systems (OOS) AWIPS Site Support Team (SST) will install the modified tcl file on all AWIPS workstations at the test WFOs. The ATAN will be for AWIPS I software ONLY.

b. Product Availability: Text products will be routinely issued.