

Experimental
New Point and Click Icons
Product Description
Document (PDD)
February 18, 2014

Part 1 - Mission Connection

a. Product Description - Currently, icons used on NWS' Point Forecast Pages are matched to the Zone Forecast Product based on a "*most hazardous* weather" philosophy. As a result, the weather conditions depicted via these icons are not always representative of the most current conditions. As a means to address this fact, and to enhance the clarity of the icons, the following enhancements are proposed to identify and display changing weather conditions during individual 6-hour periods out to Day 4:

- Provide new icons designed to be more visually appealing and discernable,
- Use dual, 6-hourly icons (i.e. am sunshine, afternoon showers) for those 12-h periods where changing weather conditions dictate the need for increased temporal specificity,
- Create new text phrases for the dual icons to describe these changing weather conditions as needed,
- Add yellow, orange and red blocks around the icons to indicate when long-fused Watches, Advisories and Warnings (WWAs), respectively, are in effect. These blocks are not proposed for short-fused hazard products, as they change too quickly and are too localized for this approach to be useful. The start and end times of the color blocks will be displayed at hourly resolution.

Notes:

- The need for increased temporal specificity and color blocks around the icons during long-fused WWAs was documented in a report issue by via the National Center for Atmospheric Research Report, "*Forecast at a Glance*":
<http://nldr.library.ucar.edu/repository/assets/technotes/TECH-NOTE-000-000-000-859.pdf>
- Due to space limitations, the new phrases under the icons and for the WWA color blocks will sometimes need to be shortened (e.g., "mostly sunny" becomes "sunny"). However, the full phrasing will still be available via mouse-over in this proposed version.

For most quiescent weather scenarios, dual icons will generally not be used.

b. Purpose - The new icons are intended to enhance communication of rapidly changing weather conditions, while also highlighting current weather hazards.

c. Audience - The audience includes the public, emergency managers, the media, academia, and other users who view the NWS Forecast Offices Point and Click "*Forecast at a Glance*" to view the latest forecasts.

d. Presentation Format – The icons will be split for each 12-h period with new text phrases when weather conditions warrant a significant change. Yellow, orange and red blocks around the icons will appear to indicate when long-fused Watches, Advisories and Warnings, respectively, are in effect.

e. Feedback Method – A Public Notification Statement will be issued linking to a static web link, providing examples of the changes proposed. A public comment period will be in effect for 30 days for users to respond to the proposed changes. The NWS will review the comments before determining to proceed to implement the proposed changes.

Part II – Technical Description

a. Format and Science:

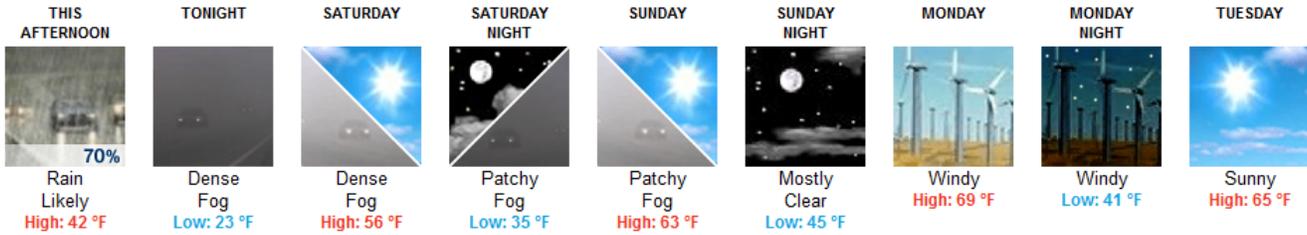
- The new icons are as follows:
<http://innovation.srh.noaa.gov/newicons/icons.html>
- One dual icon already exists (am fog, afternoon sunny). It is utilized frequently by WFOs along the west coast to describe marine layer conditions.
- Sample “current” and “proposed new” icons are provided in the Attachment.
- The “hazard blocks” were recommended via the National Center for Atmospheric Research Report, “*Forecast at a Glance*”:
<http://nldr.library.ucar.edu/repository/assets/technotes/TECH-NOTE-000-000-000-859.pdf>

Attachment: Examples of Proposed New Icons as Compared to Current Icons

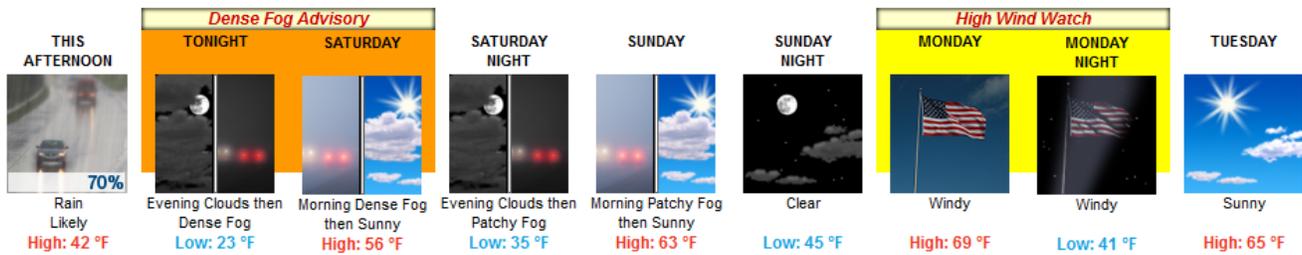
Three sample pairs of icons are shown below. For each pairing, the top row shows how the icons appear today on the Point Forecast pages for a given forecast scenario, while the second row shows the proposed new set of icons for the same scenerio.

Example 1: Dense Fog/Fog during the late night/early morning hours. Dense Fog Advisory for Tonight into Saturday. Wind advisory for Monday and Monday Night.

Current Icons:

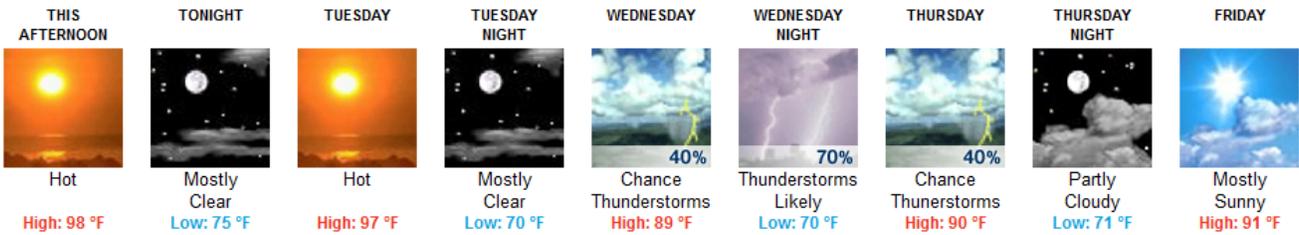


Proposed New Icons:

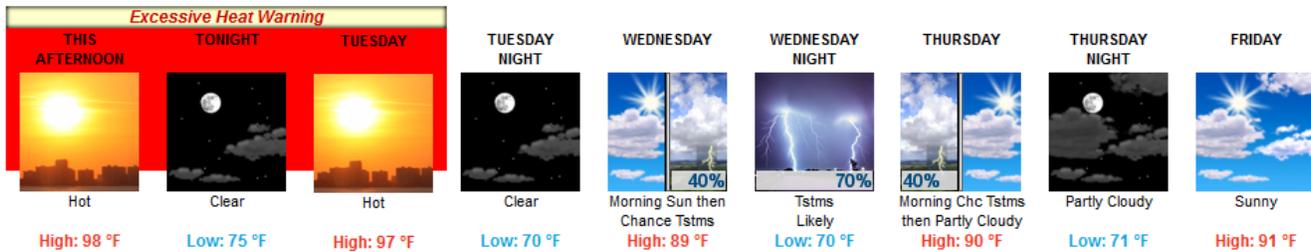


Example 2: Chance for thunderstorms starts on Wednesday afternoon and extends into Thursday morning. Excessive Heat Warning for This Afternoon through Tuesday.

Current Icons:

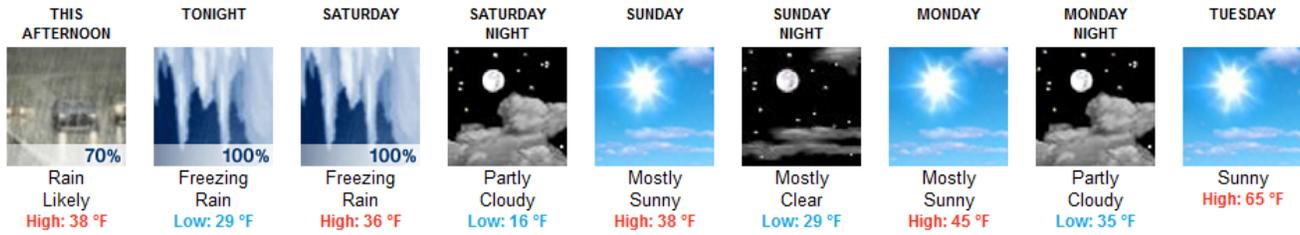


Proposed New Icons:

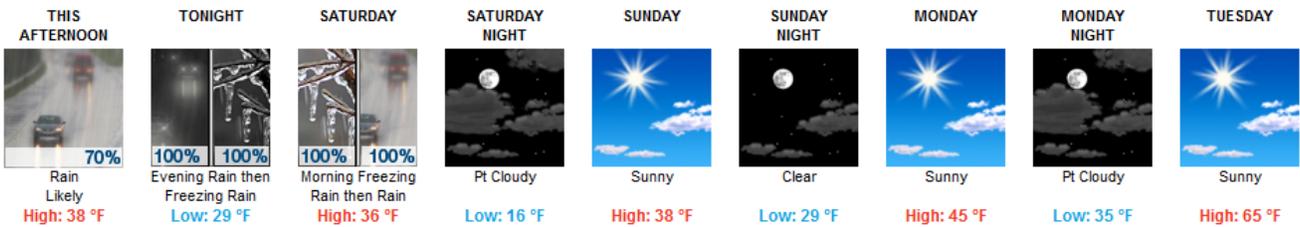


Example 3: Rain/Freezing Rain event where the rain changes to freezing rain late in the Tonight period and then back to rain on Saturday. No Watches, Warnings, or Advisories.

Current Icons:



Proposed New Icons:



b. Product Availability – Will be available at each NWS Forecast Office via the NWS’ Point Forecast Page.

c. Additional Information - Please contact:

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