

Service Description Document
March 29, 2013

Experimental Service:
National Weather Service Provision of Supplemental Public Safety Information
before, during and after High Impact Events

Part I - Mission Connection

a. Product Description –A number of government agencies (federal, state and local) produce supplemental public safety information that is useful to the general public before, during and after high impact events. Recently, after two such high impact events, the National Weather Service (NWS) was able to share supplemental public safety information via the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio (NWR) and as messages in text format via the Public Information Statement (PNS) or Special Weather Statement (SPS) as described in NWSI 10-501 and NSWI 10-517. This SDD describes a service that will provide an established method of dissemination of this important information, without incurring the cost that would come with setting up a dissemination architecture system.

b. Purpose – This service will connect other government agencies with the NWS for timely dissemination of supplemental life-saving public safety information to the American public before, during and after high impact events to reduce environmental, public health and safety impacts. This collaboration is responsive to Presidential Policy Directive 8 for National Preparedness by adopting an all-hazards, capability-based approach to preparedness planning, public information and warning, and operational coordination.

c. Audience –The target audience for this service is the general public and decision making officials for high impact events.

d. Presentation Format –The supplemental public safety information will be disseminated from the appropriate Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in text format (using a standard template) via the PNS or SPS (see figure1). The content in black text will remain fixed for all messages. The content in red text will be developed by the government agency supplying the information.

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF [INSERT NAME OF GOVERNMENT AGENCY]:

IN THE WAKE OF [INSERT WEATHER EVENT] IT IS IMPORTANT FOR CITIZENS TO REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING SAFETY INFORMATION:

*[INSERT INFORMATION]

FOR MORE IMPORTANT [INSERT TYPE OF INFORMATION] RELATED INFORMATION CALL [INSERT CONTACT INFORMATION]

[INSERT WEBSITE ADDRESS]

Figure 1 Example of template

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC):

IN THE WAKE OF [INSERT WEATHER EVENT] IT IS IMPORTANT FOR CITIZENS TO REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO PROTECT YOUR LIFE AND HEALTH AND THAT OF YOUR FAMILY:

* [INSERT HEALTH INFORMATION]

FOR MORE LIFE SAVING HEALTH RELATED INFORMATION CALL [INSERT CONTACT INFORMATION]

[INSERT WEBSITE ADDRESS]

Figure 2 Example of the template used by the CDC during Hurricane Sandy.

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WWUS81 KPHI 021807
SPSPHI

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MOUNT HOLLY NJ
207 PM EDT FRI NOV 2 2012

DEZ001>004-MDZ008-012-015-019-020-NIZ001-007>010-012>027-PAZ054-
055-060>062-067>071-031800-

NEW CASTLE-KENT-INLAND SUSSEX-DELAWARE BEACHES-CECIL-KENT MD-QUEENANNES-TALBOT-CAROLINE-SUSSEX-WARREN-
MORRIS-HUNTERDONSOMERSET-MIDDLESEX-WESTERN MONMOUTH-EASTERN MONMOUTH-MERCER-SALEM-GLOUCESTER-
CAMDEN-NORTHWESTERN BURLINGTON-OCEAN-CUMBERLAND-ATLANTIC-CAPE MAY-ATLANTIC COASTAL CAPE MAY-COASTAL
ATLANTIC-COASTAL OCEAN-SOUTHEASTERN BURLINGTON-CARBON-MONROE-BERKS-LEHIGH-NORTHAMPTON-
CHESTER-MONTGOMERY-BUCKS-DELAWARE-PHILADELPHIA-
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...WILMINGTON...DOVER...GEORGETOWN...REHOBOTH
BEACH...ELKTON...CHESTERTOWN...CENTREVILLE...EASTON...DENTON...NEWTON...WASHINGTON...MORRISTOWN...FLEMINGTON...
SOMERVILLE...NEW BRUNSWICK...FREEHOLD...SANDY HOOK...TRENTON...PENNSVILLE...GLASSBORO...CAMDEN...CHERRY
HILL...MOORESTOWN...MOUNT HOLLY...JACKSON...MILLVILLE...HAMMONTON...CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE...OCEAN CITY...ATLANTIC
CITY...LONG BEACH ISLAND...WHARTON STATE FOREST...JIM THORPE...STROUDSBURG...READING...ALLENTOWN...BETHLEHEM...WEST
CHESTER...NORRISTOWN...DOYLESTOWN...MEDIA...PHILADELPHIA
207 PM EDT FRI NOV 2 2012

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC):

IN THE WAKE OF SANDY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR CITIZENS TO REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO PROTECT YOUR LIFE AND
HEALTH AND THAT OF YOUR FAMILY:

- * DRINK CLEAN SAFE WATER AND EAT SAFE UNCONTAMINATED FOOD.
- * KEEP GENERATORS OUTSIDE AT LEAST 25 FT FROM DOORS WINDOWS AND VENTS.
- * DO NOT GRILL INSIDE YOUR HOME THE FUMES CAN KILL.
- * NEVER TOUCH A DOWNED POWER LINE OR ANYTHING TOUCHING ONE.
- * USE 1 CUP OF BLEACH FOR EACH GALLON OF WATER TO REMOVE MOLD.
- * NEVER MIX BLEACH AND AMMONIA THE FUMES CAN KILL.
- * WASHING YOUR HANDS PREVENTS ILLNESS.
- * SEEK HELP IF HAVING TROUBLE COPING.

FOR MORE LIFE SAVING HEALTH RELATED INFORMATION CALL THE CDC AT
800-232-4636...TTY 888-232-6348. HTTP://EMERGENCY.CDC.GOV/DISASTERS/

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GORSE

Figure 3. Actual SPS issued by NWS for the CDC during Sandy.

e. Feedback Method – We are always seeking to improve our services based on user feedback. Comments regarding NWS provision of supplemental public safety information before, during and after high impact events should be sent via electronic survey using the link below:

www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=NWSSPSI
Experimental Feedback Period: April 1, 2013 through November 30, 2013.

For further information contact:

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Part II - Technical Description

a. Format and Science Basis –

- The government agency will be responsible for crafting weather-related supplemental public safety information that is event specific, geo-targeted, and actionable with a clear relationship to NWS mission. Examples from the CDC include Health impacts of extended excessive heat related to NWS Heat Watches/Warnings and Health hazards associated with an extended period of power outages due to a severe winter storm.
 - The government agency will develop the wording of the supplemental information message and submit to the NWS National Operations Center (NWSOC) for dissemination using the template provided by the NWS (see figure 1).
- The NWS will be responsible for interacting with the government agency to disseminate the supplemental public safety information to the public in text format within a PNS or SPS.
 - The government agency will submit public safety information via the information template to the NWSOC.
 - The NWSOC will forward the information template to the appropriate Regional Operations Center (ROC).
 - The ROC will forward the information template to the appropriate WFO for dissemination within a PNS or SPS.

b. Product Availability –

Event driven, as needed.

c. Additional Information –

NOAA is working with other government agencies to better understand and communicate the linkages between environmental factors and public safety information

in order to support preparedness and response efforts that lead to reduced adverse impacts from weather and climate extremes. Joining with other government agencies to communicate public safety information bolsters the efforts of our collective agency assets and amplifies the life-saving mission of our agencies. Through this service, the NWS can significantly elevate awareness of serious threats such as but not limited to carbon monoxide poisoning from generator use during power outages, harmful mold exposure during or after flooding, and heat stroke during heat waves.