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Public Information Statement 19-24 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Soliciting Comments on Experimental Provision of Wet
Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) Grids in the NDFD through September 30, 2020

Updated to include link to experimental WBGT grids and updated point of
contact.

Effective on or about August 23, 2019, and continuing through September
30, 2020, the NWS is seeking user feedback on experimental Wet Bulb Globe
Temperature (WBGT) grids in the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD).
The WBGT experimental grids can be viewed here:

<https://digital.mdl.nws.noaa.gov/>

NWS currently uses the Heat Index to convey heat risk during summer heat
events. While the heat index is useful for sedentary populations,
research has proven that the WBGT is a more effective means of assessing
heat risk to persons involved in physical activity. The WBGT is a
composite parameter that estimates the effect of temperature, humidity,
wind chill, and solar radiation on humans, while the Heat Index only takes
into account temperature and humidity.

Based upon engagement with core partners, particularly emergency
management officials, the NWS has identified the need to provide WBGT
forecasts because it is becoming an increasingly needed parameter by
partners in Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS) activities. In
particular, WBGT is important for those partners who need a numerical
(finite) value, rather than a threat index, to determine necessary
modifications to their respective activities in the interest of protecting
life.

To better meet users' needs, NWS will provide gridded forecasts of WBGT in
the NDFD on an experimental basis for the Continental United States
(CONUS), Hawaii, Guam and Puerto Rico. CONUS data will be available
hourly out to 36 hours from NDFD issuance time, then every three hours out
to 72 hours from 0000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) Day 1, then every
six hours out to 168 hours from 0000 UTC Day 1. Data for Hawaii, Guam and
Puerto Rico will be available every three hours out to 72 hours from 0000
UTC Day 1, then every six hours out to 168 hours from 0000 UTC Day 1.

After the implementation date, WBGT data for forecast days 1-3 and forecast days 4-7 will be made available via https and ftp from the following URLs:

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.wbgt.bin>

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.004-007/ds.wbgt.bin>

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.hawaii/VP.001-003/ds.wbgt.bin>

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.hawaii/VP.004-007/ds.wbgt.bin>

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.guam/VP.001-003/ds.wbgt.bin>

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.guam/VP.004-007/ds.wbgt.bin>

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.puertori/VP.001-003/ds.wbgt.bin>

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<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.puertori/VP.004-007/ds.wbgt.bin>

Please see NWS Product Description Document (PDD) for more details:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpWetBulbGlobeTemperature_2019.pdf

NDFD gridded binary version 2 (GRIB2) files can be downloaded and displayed by the user with software available for download at the following URL:

https://www.weather.gov/mdl/degrib_home

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on this experimental service by using the brief survey and comment form available online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WetBulbGlobeTemp>

Questions related to WBGT can be directed to:

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Policy questions related to WBGT can be directed to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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