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Service Change Notice 22-121
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
500 PM EST Wed Dec 14 2022

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Mary Mullusky, Chief
 Forecast Services Division

Subject: Changes to Public and Fire Weather Zones for NWS Lake Charles,
LA: Effective March 8, 2023

Reference: Service Change Notice (SCN) 22-114: Changes to Marine Zones
for NWS Lake Charles, LA: Effective March 8, 2023:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/scn22-114_marine_forecast_zones_lch.pdf

Effective Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 3:00 PM Central Standard Time (CST), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Lake Charles, LA (LCH) will complete changes to Public and Fire Weather Forecast Zones encompassing Acadia, Calcasieu, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, St. Mary and Vermilion Parishes in Southwest and South-Central Louisiana, as well as Jefferson and Orange Counties in Southeast Texas. After this change, all forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names shown in Table 2 below.

If March 8, 2023 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 9, 2023 at 2100 UTC.

These changes are intended to provide increased flexibility and improved accuracy of forecast, watch, warning and advisory products.

The existing zones are being divided for improvements in warnings, watches, advisories and forecasts for coastal flooding and storm surge events, as well as to better target storm surge warning dissemination through the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. The new zone divisions roughly account for storm surge threats posed by most category 2 and lower hurricanes along with feedback provided by local emergency officials for the areas they use to describe local evacuations.

Table 1: Current Public Zones and Corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs) for WFO Lake Charles:

UGC: Current Public Zone Name

LAZ041: Calcasieu Parish

LAZ042: Jefferson Davis Parish
 LAZ043: Acadia Parish
 LAZ052: Vermilion Parish
 LAZ053: Iberia Parish
 LAZ054: St. Mary Parish
 TXZ215: Jefferson County
 TXZ216: Orange County

Table 2: Public Zones and Corresponding UGCs for which WFO Lake Charles Will Issue Forecasts and Warnings Effective March 8, 2023:

UGC: New Public Zone Name

 LAZ141: Northern Calcasieu Parish
 LAZ241: Southern Calcasieu Parish
 LAZ142: Northern Jefferson Davis Parish
 LAZ242: Southern Jefferson Davis Parish
 LAZ143: Northern Acadia Parish
 LAZ243: Southern Acadia Parish
 LAZ152: Upper Vermilion Parish
 LAZ252: Lower Vermilion Parish
 LAZ153: Upper Iberia Parish
 LAZ253: Lower Iberia Parish
 LAZ154: Upper St. Mary Parish
 LAZ254: Lower St. Mary Parish
 TXZ515: Upper Jefferson County
 TXZ615: Lower Jefferson County
 TXZ516: Northern Orange County
 TXZ616: Southern Orange County

Table 3: NWS Products Affected by the WFO Lake Charles, LA, Zone Changes Effective March 8, 2023:

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Hurricane Local Statement	WTUS82 KLCH	HLSLCH
Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning	WTNT81 KNHC	TCVAT1-5
Coastal Hazard Message	WHUS42 KLCH	CFWLCH
Fire Weather Forecast	FNUS52 KLCH	FWFLCH
Fire Weather Message	WWUS82 KLCH	RFWLCH
Fire Danger Statement	FNUS62 KLCH	RFDLCH
Zone Forecast	FPUS52 KLCH	ZFPLCH
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS52 KLCH	PFMLCH
Tabular State Forecast	FPUS62 KLCH	SFTLCH
Tsunami Message	WEXX20 PAAQ	TSUAT1
Public Information Statement	NOUS42 KLCH	PNSLCH
Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/Advisory	WWUS72 KLCH	NPWLCH
Flood Watch	WGUS62 KLCH	FFALCH
Special Weather Statement	WWUS82 KLCH	SPSLCH
Winter Weather Message	WWUS42 KLCH	WSWLCH
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS62 KLCH	AFDLCH
Hydrologic Outlook	FGUS72 KLCH	ESFLCH
Hazardous Weather Outlook	FLUS42 KLCH	HWOLCH

NWS partners and users should take the appropriate action to ensure systems recognize the new UGCs (Z) and new zone alignments and names.

Preliminary shapefiles for public and fire weather forecast zones are available online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones>
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones>

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on January 17, 2023.

A written and graphical depiction of this change is available online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/lch/2023PublicZoneChange>

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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