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Service Change Notice 24-113
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1045 AM EST Mon Dec 23 2024

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

From: Stephen Bieda, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Changes to Public and Fire Forecast Zones for WFO Baltimore,
MD/Washington, DC: Effective on or about March 18, 2025

Effective on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 5:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Baltimore, MD/Washington, DC (WFO LWX) will complete changes to the Public and Fire Weather Forecast Zones encompassing Garrett County in western Maryland. After this change, all forecasts and related products will use the zone numbers and names shown in Table 2 below.

If March 18, 2025 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 19, 2025 at 2100 UTC.

These changes will result in more geographically precise forecast, watch and warning products for the general public and will enhance web-based graphical product consistency and appearance.

One current zone for Garrett County, Maryland will be converted into two separate zones. This zone division is being done to optimize issuance of hazard products for winter weather conditions that vary significantly between the higher elevations of the western and central portions of the county from the eastern parts of the county. The new zones are listed in Table 2.

Table 1. Universal Geographic Code (UGC): Current Public/Fire Forecast
Zone Name

MDZ001: Garrett County MD

Table 2. UGCs: New Public/Fire Forecast Zone Name

MDZ509: Western Garrett County
MDZ510: Eastern Garrett County

Table 3. NWS Products Affected by the WFO Baltimore, MD/Washington, DC Public/Fire Weather Forecast Zone Changes

Product Name -----	WMO Heading -----	AWIPS ID -----
Special Weather Statement	WWUS81 KLWX	SPSLWX
Hurricane Local Statement	WTUS81 KLWX	HLSSLWX
Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning	WTNT81 KNHC	TCVAT1-5
Coastal Hazard Message	WHUS41 KLWX	CFWLWX
Zone Forecast Product	FPUS51 KLWX	ZFPLWX
Enhanced Local Forecast	FEUS71 KLWX	EOLLWX
Short Term Forecast	FPUS71 KLWX	NOWLWX
Hazardous Weather Outlook	FLUS41 KLWX	HWOLWX
Non-Precipitation Message	WWUS71 KLWX	NPWLWX
Winter Weather Message	WWUS41 KLWX	WSWLWX
Area Forecast Matrices	FOUS51 KLWX	AFMLWX
Fire Weather Forecast	FNUS51 KLWX	FWFLWX
Regional Weather Story	AWUS81 KLWX	RWSLWX
Flood Watch	WGUS61 KLWX	FFALWX
Hydrologic Outlook	FGUS71 KLWX	ESFLWX
Fire Weather Watch	WWUS81 KLWX	RFWLWX
Red Flag Warning	WWUS81 KLWX	RFWLWX
Public Information Statement	WOUS41 KLWX	PNSLWX
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS51 KLWX	PFMLWX
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS61 KLWX	AFDLWX
Precipitation and Temperature Summary	SXUS51 KLWX	HYDLWX
Daily River and Lake Summary	FGUS51 KLWX	RVDLWX
Hydrologic Statement	FGUS81 KLWX	RVSLWX
Hydrologic Summary	SRUS41 KLWX	RVALWX
Air Quality Alert	AEUS71 KLWX	AQALWX
Air Quality Forecast	AEUS71 KLWX	AQILWX

NWS partners and users will need to make necessary changes to their communications systems to accommodate these public/fire weather forecast zone changes.

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

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

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on February 28, 2025.

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/lwx/GarrettZoneSplit>

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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