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Public Information Statement 25-17  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
415 PM EDT Thu March 20, 2025

To:       Subscribers:  
          -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
          -Emergency Manager Weather Information Network  
          -NOAAPORT  
          Other NWS Partners and Employees

From:     Mike Hopkins, Director  
          Surface and Upper Air Division  
          Office of Observations

Subject: Suspension of Radiosonde Observations at Omaha, Nebraska, and  
Rapid City, South Dakota, Effective March 20, 2025.

Effective immediately, and until further notice, the National Weather Service (NWS) is temporarily suspending weather balloon observations at Omaha, NE and Rapid City, SD, due to a lack of Weather Forecast Office (WFO) staffing. Offices will perform special observations as needed. The stations have the following NWS Upper Air site identifier and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Upper Air site number:

UPPER AIR SITE	WMO ID	NWS ID
Omaha, NE	72558	KOAX
Rapid City, SD	72662	KUNR

The NWS launches weather balloons twice daily from 100 upper air sites throughout the United States, Caribbean, and the Pacific Basin.

Radiosondes are instruments attached to weather balloons that send back a wide range of upper atmospheric data to support weather forecasts, including temperature, dew point, relative humidity, barometric pressure, wind speed, and wind direction. Radiosondes are one of many technologies that collect earth observation data for weather modeling and forecasting. Data is also collected from instruments aboard commercial aircraft, surface observing stations, satellites, radars, and buoys.

If you or your organization have any questions about these changes, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:  
<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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