

NOUS41 KWBC 202035  
PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 25-18  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
435 PM EDT Thu March 20, 2025

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

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

Subject: Reduction of Radiosonde Observations (RAOB) to One  
Flight Per Day at Aberdeen, SD, Gaylord, MI, Grand Junction, CO,  
Green Bay, WI, North Platte, NE, and Riverton, WY, Effective  
March 20, 2025.

Effective immediately, and until further notice, the National  
Weather Service (NWS) is temporarily reducing weather balloon  
launches to one flight per day at Aberdeen, SD, Grand Junction,  
CO, Green Bay, WI, Gaylord, MI, North Platte, NE, and Riverton,  
WY, 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 | RAOB Suspended |
|--------------------|--------|--------|----------------|
| Aberdeen, SD       | 72659  | KABR   | 12Z            |
| Grand Junction, CO | 72476  | KGJT   | 12Z            |
| Green Bay, WI      | 72645  | KGRB   | 12Z            |
| Gaylord, MI        | 72634  | KAPX   | 00Z            |
| North Platte, NE   | 72562  | KLBF   | 00Z            |
| Riverton, WY       | 72672  | KRIW   | 12Z            |

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 are used to  
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:

Susan Buchanan  
Director of Public Affairs  
National Weather Service  
Phone: 202-834-5235  
E-mail: [susan.buchanan@noaa.gov](mailto:susan.buchanan@noaa.gov)

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

NNNN