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PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 08-50
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
800 AM EDT FRI JUN 6 2008

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:
-FAMILY OF SERVICES
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK
-NOAAPORT
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: ELI JACKS
CHIEF...FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION...SKY COVER AND SNOW AMOUNT ELEMENTS
TO BECOME OPERATIONAL IN THE NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST DATABASE AT 1400
UTC ON JULY 8 2008 /MIDNIGHT LOCAL TIME ON JULY 9 2008 IN GUAM/

REFERENCE: [TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE /TIN/ 08-49](#) ANNOUNCING HAZARD
GRIDS BECOMING EXPERIMENTAL IN THE NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST DATABASE ON
THE SAME DATE

EFFECTIVE JULY 8 2008 AT 1400 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/...JULY 9
2008 AT MIDNIGHT LOCAL TIME IN GUAM...THE QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION...SKY
COVER AND SNOW AMOUNT ELEMENTS IN THE NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST DATABASE
/NDFD/ WILL BE UPGRADED FROM EXPERIMENTAL TO OPERATIONAL STATUS.
QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION...SKY COVER AND SNOW AMOUNT HAVE BEEN
EXPERIMENTAL ELEMENTS IN THE NDFD SINCE JUNE 2003.

THE QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION...SKY COVER AND SNOW AMOUNT ELEMENTS ARE
AVAILABLE FROM THE NDFD AT A FIVE KILOMETER SPATIAL RESOLUTION FOR THE
CONTERMINOUS U.S. /CONUS/...THE 16 PRE-DEFINED NDFD CONUS
SUBSECTORS...PUERTO RICO AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS...HAWAII AND GUAM.

EXCEPTIONS: NDFD DOES NOT ISSUE QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION FOR GUAM. NDFD
DOES NOT ISSUE FORECASTS FOR SNOW AMOUNT FOR GUAM OR PUERTO RICO AND THE
VIRGIN ISLANDS.

FORECASTS FOR QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION ARE ISSUED FOR 6-HOUR PERIODS OUT
TO 72 HOURS. FORECASTS FOR SKY COVER ARE ISSUED FOR 3-HOUR PERIODS OUT TO
72 HOURS...THEN FOR 6-HOUR PERIODS OUT TO 168 HOURS. FORECASTS FOR SNOW
AMOUNT ARE ISSUED FOR 6-HOUR PERIODS OUT TO 48 HOURS. FORECASTS FOR SNOW
AMOUNT WILL BE SPECIFIED WHENEVER A MEASURABLE SNOWFALL IS FORECAST FOR
ANY HOUR DURING A VALID PERIOD.

THIS CHANGE PRIMARILY AFFECTS USERS WHO PULL THESE ELEMENTS IN GRIDDED
BINARY VERSION TWO /GRIB2/ FORMAT FROM THE NWS FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL
/FTP/ SERVER...EITHER VIA THE INTERNET OR VIA THE FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/
SERVER ACCESS SERVICE...AND USERS WHO PULL HTML FILES FROM THE NWS HTTP
SERVER. THOSE USERS WILL NEED TO PULL THE QUANTITATIVE
PRECIPITATION...SKY COVER AND SNOW AMOUNT ELEMENTS FOR THE DOMAIN/S/ OF

INTEREST FROM A DIFFERENT URL/S/ AND MAY NEED TO UPDATE PROCEDURES AND/OR SCRIPTS TO ENSURE CONTINUED RECEIPT OF THE DATA.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT THIS IMPLEMENTATION...INCLUDING SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR FTP AND HTTP USERS...ARE AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NDFD/QPF SNOW SKY OPNL IMLEM.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/qpf_snow_sky_opnl_implem.htm)

FOR USERS WHO KEY ON THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/ SUPER HEADINGS TO ACCESS NDFD ELEMENTS...THE LIST OF SUPER HEADINGS FOR THESE ELEMENTS IS ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NDFD/RESOURCES/QPF SNOW SKY WMO HDG NDFD.PDF](http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/resources/qpf_snow_sky_wmo_hdg_ndfd.pdf)

USERS OF THE NDFD IN EXTENSIBLE MARKUP LANGUAGE /XML/ VIA WEB SERVICE...NDFD IN GEOGRAPHIC MARKUP LANGUAGE /GML/ VIA WEB FEATURE SERVICE AND NDFD GRAPHICS VIA INTERNET ARE NOT DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY THIS IMPLEMENTATION. THOSE USERS CAN USE THE SAME METHODS THEY CURRENTLY USE TO ACQUIRE NDFD ELEMENTS FOR THE DOMAIN/S/ OF INTEREST. THIS CHANGE WILL BE TRANSPARENT TO THEM. FOR XML AND GML USERS...THERE IS NO DISTINCTION IN THE DATA ITSELF BETWEEN EXPERIMENTAL AND OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS. FOR GRAPHICS USERS...THE ONLY CHANGE WILL BE THE REMOVAL OF THE EXPERIMENTAL LABEL CURRENTLY ON THE QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION...SKY COVER AND SNOW AMOUNT GRAPHICS ON THE ABOVE EFFECTIVE DATE.

IF JULY 8 2008 IS A CRITICAL WEATHER DAY...THIS IMPLEMENTATION MAY BE POSTPONED. IN THAT CASE...USERS WILL BE NOTIFIED VIA A TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE.

DETAILED INFORMATION ON OPTIONS FOR ACCESSING AND USING THE NDFD IS AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://NDFD.WEATHER.GOV/TECHNICAL.HTM](http://ndfd.weather.gov/technical.htm)

USERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK ON BOTH EXPERIMENTAL AND OPERATIONAL NDFD ELEMENTS VIA ONE OF THE BRIEF ONLINE SURVEY AND COMMENT FORMS POSTED AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://NDFD.WEATHER.GOV/CUSTOMER.HTM](http://ndfd.weather.gov/customer.htm)

FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NDFD...PLEASE EMAIL:

NWS.NDFD@NOAA.GOV

IF YOU HAVE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NDFD...PLEASE CONTACT:

DAVID RUTH
CHIEF...MESOSCALE PREDICTION BRANCH
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND
EMAIL: DAVID.RUTH@NOAA.GOV

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS NOTICE...PLEASE CONTACT:

ANDY HORVITZ
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES
FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND
EMAIL: ANDY.HORVITZ@NOAA.GOV

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO THE NDFD ARE
AVAILABLE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NDFD/TINS.HTM](http://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NDFD/TINS.HTM)

NATIONAL TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE)

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