National Weather Service
Product Description Document (PDD)
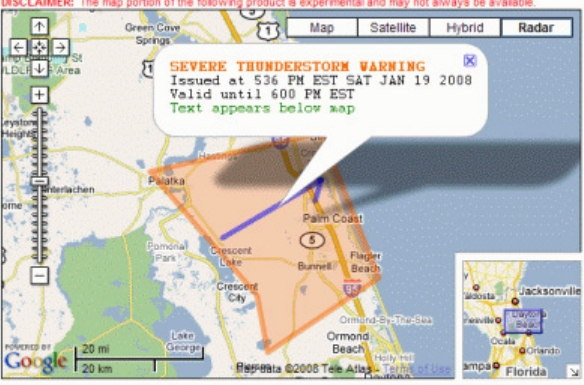## Google Maps™ for Polygon-based Warnings

Part 1 – Mission Connection

1. Product Description: NWS has the responsibility to make its weather, water, and climate information widely available to taxpayers using commonly accepted standards and technologies. Currently, the NWS provides warning information for all NWS county warning areas on the NWS Internet pages.

The National Weather Service Southern Region and the National Weather Service Offices in Jacksonville, FL, and Miami, FL, have developed a method to display warning polygon information on Google Maps™ enabled pages. These pages allow users to see areas covered by warnings, as well as zoom to road level and overlay radar data. In addition, warning text is displayed beneath the map with coding information removed.

The following is an example image with associated descriptions:

2. Feedback Method: Comments will be compiled through March 1, 2008 and will be evaluated by the appropriate NWS Program Team. Feedback will be obtained through the survey which will be linked off of the office severe weather pages.

http://weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=_____

Technical or webpage architecture questions may be addressed to: Scott.Carroll@noaa.gov, Pablo.Santos@noaa.gov, or Douglas.Gaer@noaa.gov.

Google Maps questions may be addressed to Keith.Stellman@noaa.gov.

Part 2 – Technical

1. Format and Science Basis: The polygon overlays are produced by decoding polygon vertex latitude and longitude coordinates from text statements and warnings. Radar overlays are produced from RIDGE radar KML files produced by the National Weather Service. Displaying a graphical representation of NWS warning polygons on a high quality and user-interactive base map allows better communication of valid warning areas to the public and best utilizes the new polygon warning methodology.

2. Availability: This service will be available 24 hours/day, seven days a week by visiting either http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jax/severe (for Jacksonville) or http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/severe.php (for Miami). Severe thunderstorm warnings, tornado warnings, special marine warnings, flash flood warnings, and severe weather statements will have Google polygon pages which are linked from icons on the severe weather tables on each severe weather page.

3. Additional Information: This experimental service will be tested on the NWS Jacksonville and NWS Miami web pages.