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WFO Severe Weather Products Specification NWSI 10-511***

One Inch Hail Criterion Experiment

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This supplement establishes the policy and procedures for the state of Kansas Weather Forecast Offices to participate in the One Inch Hail Criterion Experiment.

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2/21/2006

Date

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1. Introduction/Background. NWSI 10-511, issued November 1, 2005 “WFO Severe Weather Products Specification”, Section 2.2.2 “Issuance Criteria” states in part, that Severe Thunderstorm Warnings should be issued when there is radar or satellite indication and/or reliable spotter reports of wind gusts equal to or in excess of 50 knots (58 mph) and/or hail size of ¾ inch (penny) diameter or larger.

In an effort to better represent hail sizes that produce damage and to reduce user complacency to numerous severe thunderstorm warnings for ¾ inch hail, the Warning Forecast Offices (WFOs) that serve the state of Kansas will participate in an experiment to issue Severe Thunderstorm Warnings that will use a hail criterion of 1 inch in diameter or larger as opposed to the referenced ¾ inch criterion above. The experiment will begin on the date this supplement is posted and will continue until supplement rescission.

2. Central Region Policy. All WFOs serving the state of Kansas will participate in the one inch hail criterion experiment. This will encompass the county warning areas of the following WFOs: Topeka, Kansas; Wichita, Kansas; Dodge City, Kansas; Goodland, Kansas; Hastings, Nebraska; Pleasant Hill, Missouri; and Springfield, Missouri.

All counties located in the state of Kansas will be included in the experiment. The states surrounding Kansas that will have counties involved in this experiment include the following:

Colorado: Cheyenne, Kit Carson, Yuma

Nebraska: Dundy, Hitchcock, Red Willow, Furnas, Harlan, Franklin, Webster, Nuckolls, Thayer, Gosper, Phelps, Kearney, Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Dawson, Buffalo, Hall, Hamilton, York, Sherman, Howard, Merrick, Polk, Valley, Greeley, and Nance

Missouri: Atchison, Nodaway, Worth, Harrison, Mercer, Putnam, Schuyler, Holt, Gentry, Grundy, Sullivan, Adair, Andrew, De Kalb, Daviess, Livingston, Linn, Macon, Buchanan, Clinton, Coldwell, Chariton, Randolph, Platte, Clay, Ray, Carroll, Jackson, Lafayette, Saline, Howard, Cass, Johnson, Pettis, Cooper, Bates, Henry, Vernon, St. Clair, Benton, Morgan, Miller, Maries, Camden, Hickory, Cedar, Polk, Dallas, Laclede, Pulaski, Phelps, Barton, Dade, Greene, Webster, Wright, Texas, Dent, Jasper, Lawrence, Christian, Douglas, Shannon, Newton, McDonald, Barry, Stone, Taney, Ozark, Howell, and Oregon.

3. Central Region Procedure. The WFOs taking part in this experiment will issue Severe Thunderstorm Warnings for storms indicated by radar or satellite and/or reliable spotter reports that have wind gusts equal to or in excess of 50 knots (58 mph) and/or hail size of 1 inch in diameter or larger.

WFOs will issue a Significant Weather Alert (SPS) for thunderstorms that are expected to remain below severe limits in their county warning areas. This product would include expected hail sizes and/or wind speed estimates (i.e., a storm with winds of 45 to 50 mph and pea size hail). Offices will also continue to collect and distribute hail reports that are $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter or greater by way of the Local Storm Report (LSR) in as near real time as possible.