

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ALASKA REGION SUPPLEMENT 02-2003

APPLICABLE TO NWSI 10-517

March 31, 2011

Administration and Management

Public Weather Service, NWSPD 10-5

Multi-Purpose Weather Products Specification, NWSI 10-517

ALASKA MULTI-PURPOSE WEATHER PRODUCTS SPECIFICATION

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OPR: W/AR1x6 (A. Fish)

Certified by: W/AR1 (C. Scott)

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:

This supplement supersedes Alaska Region Supplement 02-2003, “Alaska Multi-Purpose Weather Products Specification,” dated July 22, 2004, applicable to NWSI 10-517.

Update includes:

- 1) Removal of many Short Term Forecast instructions; NWSI 10-517 allows for issuance discretion consistent with Alaska Region requirements.
- 2) Inclusion of HWO waiver and instruction to use SPS for outlook statements. This provides consistency instructions already provided in ARS 07-2002.

_____/SIGNED/
Frank P. Kelly
Regional Director

March 17, 2011
Date

Multi Purpose Weather Products Specification

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1. Introduction. This supplement provides instruction to Alaska Region (AR) Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) regarding the creation and dissemination of outlook statements. This supplement also describes AR's policy for Short Term Forecasts.

2. Special Weather Statement (SPS) as Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO). The Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO) has not been implemented in the AR. Therefore, WFOs in Alaska will use the product category SPS to issue Hazardous Weather Outlook Statements for weather hazards in the outlook period.

2.1 Issuance Guidelines.

2.1.1 Creation Software. WFOs will use the GFE Text Editor to issue the outlook statement

2.1.2 Issuance Criteria. Outlook Statements will be issued when there is a 60 percent or greater chance a hazardous weather event will exceed local warning criteria (or have great impact due to timing or other circumstances) in the outlook period. The outlook period is defined as the time period beyond the point normally covered by a watch. This is typically the 3 to 7-day period. Outlook Statements may also be issued to highlight the potential for significant impacts (even if sub-warning/advisory) or upcoming significant changes (such as an early arctic outbreak or mid-winter warming) within the 1-7 day time frame.

2.1.3 Issuance Time. Outlook statements are non-scheduled, event driven products.

2.1.4 Valid Time. Outlook statements are valid from the time of issuance until the expiration or update time.

2.1.5 Product Expiration Time. Outlook statements will expire not more than 24 hours after the time of issuance.

2.2 Technical Description. Outlook statements will follow the format and content described in this section.

2.2.1 UCG Type. Outlook statements will use the Zone (Z) code of the UGC.

2.2.2 Mass News Disseminator Header. The statements will include the Mass News Disseminator (MND) phrase “SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT,” yet be issued under the product category of SPS.

2.3 Content. Outlook statements should include a short description of the geographical area of potential impact. They may be written for a WFOs entire area of responsibility (AOR) or in multiple segments. Outlook Statements should call attention to potentially hazardous winter, convective, non-precipitation, fire weather, small-stream or river flooding, or coastal flooding/high surf hazards.

2.4 Format.

```
WWaa8i cccc ddhhmm
SPSccc

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CITY STATE
time am/pm time_zone day mon dd yyyy

STZ001-002-003-ddhhmm-
Zone 1-Zone 2-Zone 3-
time am/pm time_zone day mon dd yyyy

...HEADLINE...

BRIEF SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL WEATHER CONDITIONS IN THE 3 TO 5 DAY
FORECAST PERIOD.

$

STZ004-005-006-ddhhmm-
Zone 4-Zone 5-Zone 6-
time am/pm time_zone day mon dd yyyy
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Figure 1: Hazardous Weather Outlook Statement (SPS) Format

2.5 Updates, Amendments and Corrections. Outlook statements should be updated as needed. WFOs will correct statements for format or grammatical errors.

3. Short Term Forecasts (product category NOW). Short term forecasts should follow instructions described in NWSI 10-517, and only for areas (and by offices) listed in Appendix B. Content should be limited to convey specific timing, evolution and any potential impacts in a detailed manner not available in other text products. Moderate to high impact events should be described by WFOs in an SPS or warning/advisory product as appropriate. Short Term Forecast issuance is not required in the Alaska Region and will be limited to station duty hours.

APPENDIX A


**Waiver for the Issuance of Product Category SPS Instead of HWO
For Winter Weather and Non-Precipitation Outlooks**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
1325 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283

NOV 19 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR: Richard C. Przywarty
Director, Alaska Region

FROM: 
Gregory A. Mandt
Director, Office of Climate, Water,
and Weather Services

SUBJECT: Waiver from Hazardous Weather Outlook Product

Your request for a waiver from the Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO) product per National Weather Service Instruction 10-517 is approved.

I anticipate the HWO policy to change as we receive feedback from our customers. One change that has already been proposed is for segmentation. If changes in the national HWO policy occur, this waiver will be rescinded. Of course, you will be able to request a new waiver to the new policy if you desire.

cc

W/CS22 - James E. Lee
W/CS22 - Richard J. Okulski



APPENDIX B

Area / Issuing Office Pairings for Short Term Forecasts

Zones for which Short Term Forecasts may be issued. The primary issuing office is listed in the second column.

Zone(s)	Issuing Office
017	WSO Yakutat
018-026	WFO Juneau
027-029	WSO Annette
101	WFO Anchorage
131	WSO Valdez
151	WSO McGrath
155	WSO Bethel
161	WSO King Salmon
171	WSO Kodiak
181	WSO Cold Bay
195	WSO St. Paul
202	WSO Barrow
209	WSO Kotzebue
211	WSO Nome
222	WFO Fairbanks