

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-518**

**AUGUST 5, 2019**

**Operations and Services**

**Public Weather Services, NWSPD 10-5**

**NON-WEATHER EMERGENCY PRODUCTS SPECIFICATION**

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**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

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**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:** This instruction supersedes NWSI 10-518, “Non-Weather Related Products Specification,” dated April 30, 2018. The following revisions were made to this instruction:

- 1) Added Blue Alert as a new Non-Weather Emergency Message in Table 2 and Appendix B (with NWS operational capability to convey these messages to commence in late 2019, preceded by issuance of a National Service Change Notice).
- 2) Added additional guidance for forecasters in Section 3.1 to prevent duplicate EAS alerting issues.

Signed

7/22/2019

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Andrew D. Stern

Date

Director, Analyze, Forecast, and Support Office

**Non-Weather Emergency Products Specification**

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## **1 Introduction**

This procedural directive describes NWS support of hazardous releases and homeland security, and non-weather emergency products issued by the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), National Weather Service Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) and National Weather Service Meteorological Watch Offices (MWO).

## **2 NWS Support of Hazardous Releases and Homeland Security**

### **2.1 Mission Connection**

NWS is the primary provider of weather information to emergency responders and other government agencies, to include observations, forecasts and warnings, model data and model interpretation. To enhance and protect public safety, WFOs and Centers should work closely with the emergency management community and other government agencies to provide decision makers with the appropriate weather information.

### **2.2 Atmospheric Transport and Dispersion Models**

NWS participates with and supports the Atmospheric Transport and Dispersion (ATD) community from local first responders and emergency managers to large agencies such as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Department of Energy (DOE). NWS observations and forecasts, including NCEP models, provide input to a variety of ATD models such as the NOAA/National Ocean Service Areal Locations of Hazardous Atmospheres (ALOHA) model, the NOAA/Air Resources Laboratory Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPLIT) model, DOD's Hazard Prediction & Assessment Capability (HPAC) model, and DOE's National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center (NARAC) model. Some models, such as NARAC and HPAC, can use surface observations for an initial period (up to 2 hours from release). Most ATD models can also use DOD hydrometeorological models to initiate and run. (Section 2.6 addresses the Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center (IMAAC).)

### **2.3 Small Scale, Short Duration Releases**

For small scale (0-10 km), short duration (less than one hour) releases, many local jurisdictions including emergency responders use ALOHA (part of the Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) software suite) to forecast the dispersion impact. ALOHA contains a database of hundreds of chemical agents, and is designed to work in concert with CAMEO and Mapping Application for Response, Planning, and Local Operational Tasks (MARPLOT), a companion mapping program. A brief technical description of CAMEO/ALOHA is provided in Appendix A.

#### **2.3.1 WFO Support**

WFOs are not expected to run other models such as ALOHA. However, they may be asked to provide a site-specific observation or estimate (usually a wind vector but may include other factors such as stability class or relative humidity [RH]). Forecasters should be familiar with the various types of models to know what types of input may be requested of them by the local emergency responders. Generally, responders use the nearest observation or take an in situ observation and enter the information into the model.

## 2.4 Large Atmospheric Release

In the event of a large atmospheric release (horizontal extent usually >10 km lasting more than an hour) of some chemical, biological or radioactive contaminant, an emergency manager may call the WFO and request atmospheric transport and dispersion information.

### 2.4.1 WFO Support

The senior forecaster on duty should perform the following steps when providing atmospheric transport and dispersion information:

- a. Obtain appropriate information such as location and time of release (start and end, if known), rate of release, source term characteristics (if known), size and/or height of release, and who (and how) to contact with the results.
- b. Be prepared to provide local observation and forecast information such as: hourly observations (hourly roundup including ASOS, as well as any local mesonets or available remote sensors), site-specific (spot) forecasts of wind, weather, temperature, RH, and stability. (A commonly used stability index for dispersion is the Pasquill Stability Index, shown in Table 1.)
- c. Offer to provide HYSPLIT model output to the requestor (see section 2.5 for procedures to obtain HYSPLIT model results). If accepted, the forecaster will remind the requestor that HYSPLIT output cannot be released to the public without the consent of the coordinating agency.
- d. If actual conditions, especially wind speed and direction, are different than the meteorological model forecast (typically the North American Mesoscale Forecast System [NAM]) used by HYSPLIT, the forecaster will notify the requestor with their interpretation of potential model error.

**Table 1. Pasquill Stability Index**

A: Extremely unstable conditions	D: Neutral conditions
B: Moderately unstable conditions	E: Slightly stable conditions
C: Slightly unstable conditions	F: Moderately stable conditions
G: Extremely stable conditions	

**Meteorological conditions defining Pasquill stability classes. Source: Pasquill, 1961.**

**Meteorological conditions defining Pasquill stability classes.**

Surface wind speed (m/s)	Daytime insolation			Night-time conditions	
	Strong	Moderate	Slight	Thin overcast or > 4/8 low cloud	<= 4/8 cloudiness
< 2	A	A - B	B	E	F
2 - 3	A - B	B	C	E	F
3 - 5	B	B - C	C	D	E
5 - 6	C	C - D	D	D	D
> 6	C	D	D	D	D

Source: Pasquill, 1961.

**NOTES:**

1. Strong insolation corresponds to sunny midday in midsummer in England; slight insolation to similar conditions in midwinter.
2. Night refers to the period from 1 hour before sunset to 1 hour after sunrise.
3. The neutral category D should also be used, regardless of wind speed, for overcast conditions during day or night and for any sky conditions during the hour preceding or following night as defined above.

**PG classes for fluctuations in wind direction and the vertical temperature gradient.**

Pasquill Class	Sigma Theta (degrees)	Delta T/Delta Z (Deg C/100 m)
A	25	-1.9
B	20	-1.9 to -1.7
C	15	-1.7 to -1.5
D	10	-1.5 to -0.5
E	5	-0.5 to 1.5
F	2.5	1.5 to 4.0
G	1.7	>4.0

**2.5 Procedures for Obtaining HYSPLIT Dispersion Model Results for Familiarization and Hazardous Releases**

**2.5.1 Request for On-Demand HYSPLIT Forecast**

When a WFO or Outside Contiguous United States (OCONUS) Meteorological Watch Office (MWO) is asked for a dispersion forecast, usually by an emergency manager or another federal agency such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the forecaster should perform the following steps:

- a. Obtain appropriate source information such as specific location (latitude and longitude), size and/or height of release, start and end time of release, and type of contaminant (if known).
- b. Go to Interactive Web-based HYSPLIT for WFOs (WOC HYSPLIT) . A web-based version of HYSPLIT has been developed by the NOAA Air Resources Laboratory to be used by the WFO to run HYSPLIT interactively and is available at: <https://www.hysplit.noaa.gov> WOC HYSPLIT allows the forecaster to choose the model parameters and the meteorological data on which to base the run, and provides him or her the ability to run multiple scenarios without impacting the resources of the

NCEP Senior Duty Meteorologist (SDM). Access to the WOC HYSPLIT web site is available to all NOAA employees. The WOC HYSPLIT web site has links to the operational NCEP web site and to HYSPLIT training and informational materials. Model results from the web-based version of HYSPLIT will usually be available to the user within a few minutes of submitting the model run. If problems are encountered with the website or questions arise with the inputs, the on-demand run should be requested from the SDM (go to 2.5.2).

- c. Enter log-in name and password (NOAA e-mail address and password)
- d. Under Dispersion Model, choose “Run the model with current data.” (The trajectory model can also be used, if needed, but will not be discussed here.)
- e. Using the pull down menus, choose:
  - the release type, meteorology, and source location. West longitudes are prefixed with – (minus) and tenths of a degree as -90.9 which is to say 90 deg 54 min W)
  - meteorological data cycle hour and output options
  - confirm/modify the run details and output parameters (shape files, .kmz [Google Earth©], etc.)
  - quality control the input
- f. Request the run and pass the graphical results to the requestor via email, fax, or other similar method.

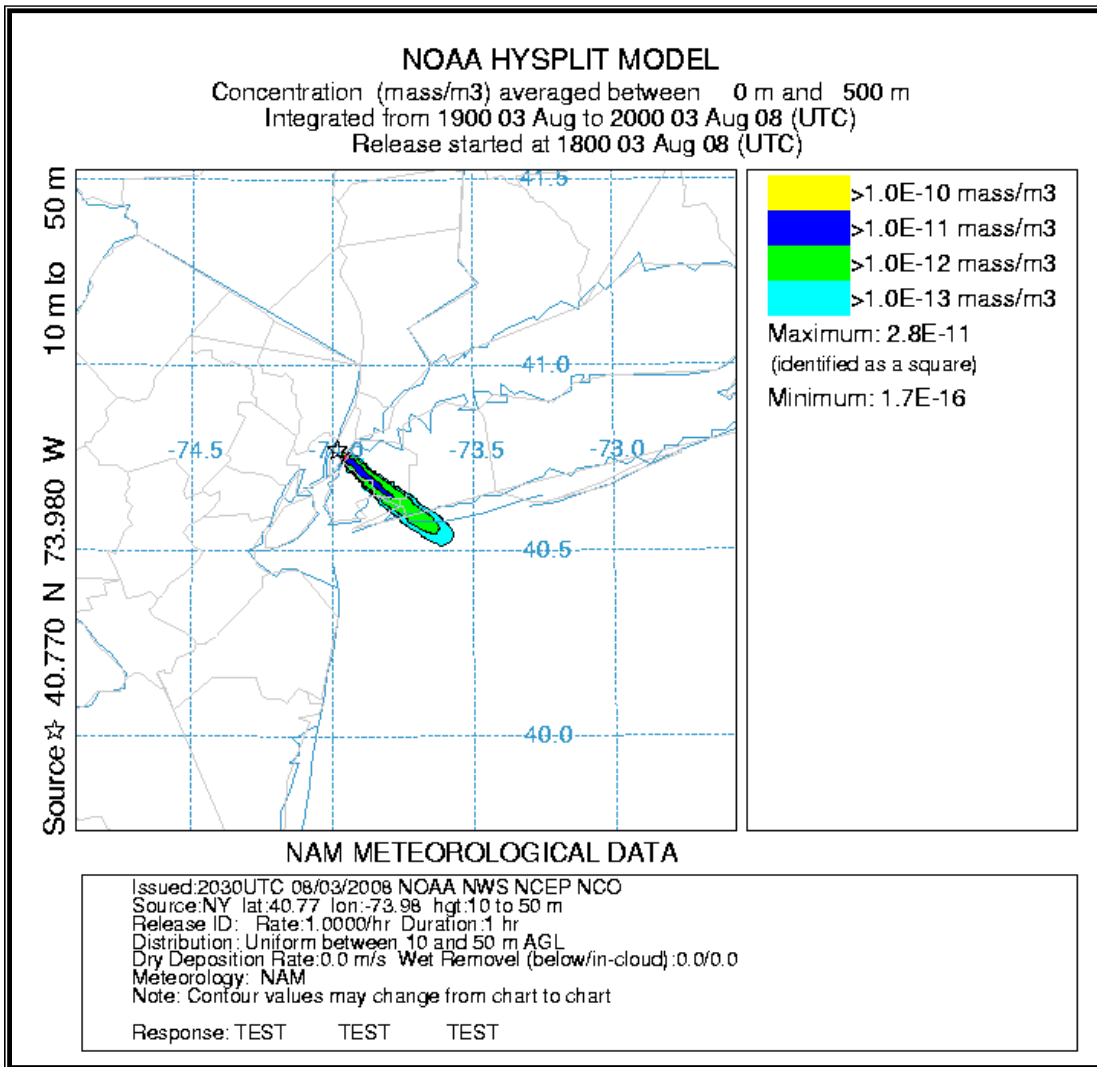
**2.5.2 Backup Means to Request On-Demand HYSPLIT Forecast run from the SDM.**

If problems are encountered with the website or questions arise with the inputs, the on-demand run should be requested from the SDM. Note, some products available on the web site may not be available to the SDM.

- a. Obtain appropriate source information such as specific location (latitude and longitude), size and/or height of release, start and end time of release, type of contaminant (if known), and an identifier for the incident which is mutually agreed upon by both the requestor and the forecaster.
- b. Call the SDM. *The SDM phone number should be included in local office emergency procedures.*
- c. The SDM will run the HYSPLIT model with the inputs provided by the WFO, post the results to the NCEP secure web site, and notify the requesting WFO when the HYSPLIT output is available.
- d. The output will be made available on the NCEP secure web site <https://hysplit.ncep.noaa.gov/> within 10-15 minutes (see Figure 1 for an example of

the type of output). The requested run will be located under the section titled “On-Demand Runs” with the above mentioned incident identifier (Figure 2).

- e. Click on the incident identifier. From the table presented, find the model run time (most recent will be at the top) for links to the model output in individual and looping GIF images, kmz files (Google Earth©), Postscript files (ideal for detailed printing), and Geographical Information System (GIS) shapefiles in compressed tape archive (TAR) format.
- f. The forecaster should coordinate with the requestor to determine how the output will be disseminated (email attachment, fax, FTP, etc.).



**Figure 1. Sample dispersion output from HYSPLIT.**



NCEP HYSPLIT Model Forecast Runs	
On-Demand Runs	
RUN ID	Time of Last Update
Regularly Scheduled Runs	
RUN ID	Time of Last Update
<u>AZ</u>	Jul 31 08:23 UTC
<u>CA</u>	Jul 31 08:31 UTC
<u>DC</u>	Jul 31 08:29 UTC
<u>DEN</u>	Jul 31 08:23 UTC
<u>FPR</u>	Jul 31 08:25 UTC
<u>GABY</u>	Jul 31 08:32 UTC
<u>KA</u>	Jul 31 08:31 UTC
<u>KY</u>	Jul 31 08:23 UTC
<u>LAS</u>	Jul 31 08:29 UTC
<u>LA</u>	Jul 31 08:27 UTC
<u>LOT</u>	Jul 31 08:34 UTC
<u>MA</u>	Jul 31 08:33 UTC
<u>ME</u>	Jul 31 08:33 UTC
<u>MHX</u>	Jul 31 08:36 UTC
<u>MI</u>	Jul 31 08:27 UTC
<u>MN</u>	Jul 31 08:33 UTC
<u>MT</u>	Jul 31 08:25 UTC
<u>NE</u>	Jul 31 08:30 UTC
<u>NY</u>	Jul 31 08:31 UTC
<u>ORL</u>	Jul 31 08:29 UTC

Figure 2. Format of NCEP secure web site.

### 2.5.3 Routine HYSPLIT Forecasts

The same NCEP web site used to access on-demand HYSPLIT requests also provides real-time access to HYSPLIT output for about 20 changeable locations run routinely in NCEP operations (Fig. 2). The output is based on HYSPLIT runs using the current NAM meteorological data that is updated four times daily. This option can be useful for a continuing situation at a fixed location, such as a wildfire that burns for days. Contact your regional Meteorological Services Division for access or to request additional sites be added to the list.

### 2.5.4 WFO HYSPLIT Testing

All forecasters at WFOs will run annual drills using the WOC HYSPLIT interactive web site and an occasional on-demand test from the SDM. Forecasters should become familiar with

procedures to request and access HYSPLIT model runs from both sources in the event of a real emergency.

To test system viability and operational readiness, the Analyze, Forecast, and Support Office's Analysis and Mission Support Division (AFS1) will coordinate periodic testing at specific sites with prior notification of the responsible WFO. MSDs and MICs should inform AFS1 of any conflicts or local critical needs that may allow local offices to opt out of a test and may alter the schedule according to local needs. By spreading out access over a period of several weeks, impacts on the SDM and the web will be minimized. However, any office may access the NCEP secure web site or the WOC HYSPLIT web site at any time. Any problems should be noted and relayed to the SDM. Comments, concerns and issues may be sent to AFS1.

### **2.5.5 HYSPLIT models available on NOAA's public web site**

HYSPLIT may be run interactively by the public on ARL's READY (Real-time Environmental Applications and Display sYstem) at <http://www.ready.noaa.gov> or installed on a PC and run using a graphical user interface.

## **2.6 Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center (IMAAC)**

As described in the Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex to the National Response Framework, the IMAAC provides the single source of federal airborne hazard consequence predictions (plume prediction) for incidents requiring federal coordination. The IMAAC will leverage the combined expertise of all federal departments and agencies with ATD capabilities to provide a single, best, prediction of airborne hazard consequence. The IMAAC recognizes and subscribes to all statutory requirements pertaining to airborne transport and dispersion.

### **2.6.1 IMAAC Concept of Operations**

The IMAAC is a virtual construct in that it recognizes that many federal agencies have ATD models, each model has one or more areas for which they specialize, and some federal departments and agencies are, by law, the agency responsible for providing dispersion predictions for specific situations. For example, Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) is responsible for supporting incidents requiring dispersion modeling when the source is under DOD control or on a DOD facility or property. When an incident has progressed to the point where federal coordination may be required, the IMAAC Operations Coordinator (IOC), located in the Department of Homeland Security's National Operations Center (DHS/NOC) will be directed by the DHS Senior Watch Officer (SWO) to request a plume prediction. The IOC will determine which federal ATD model is best suited for the situation and direct the agency responsible to produce a plot. The resulting output from the model will be sent to the Incident Commander, the DHS/NOC, and other subject matter experts.

The IMAAC will coordinate and consult directly with the local NWS forecast office, Regional Operations Center (ROC) and the NOAA Watch Desk in the DHS/NOC regarding the local meteorological conditions as they relate to the plume prediction run and provided by the IMAAC.

### 3 Non-Weather Emergency Messages

WFOs will relay Non-Weather Emergency Messages (NWEMs) to provide time-critical, life- or property-saving emergency information from federal, state, tribal and local officials. The specific NWEMs in this directive are those authorized for use by the Emergency Alert System (EAS) as listed in 47 CFR Part 11. WFOs may relay other non-weather messages, such as Air Quality Alerts, at the request of federal, state, tribal and local government officials as referenced in other NWS directives; however, these messages, not listed in 47 CFR Part 11, will not be conveyed to the EAS.

#### 3.1 Mission Connection

In keeping with the expanding function of NWS dissemination systems as “all hazards,” the NWS encourages the use of its dissemination systems by other government agencies and authorized alerting authorities for a wide distribution of potentially life-saving messages.

- a. FEMA’s Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS) is the nation’s alert aggregator. WCMs will encourage non-NWS alerting authorities to directly transmit NWEMs to IPAWS. IPAWS then sends these NWEMs to the NWS All Hazards Emergency Message Collection System (HazCollect) for the widest dissemination in an automated manner and across multiple NWS pathways. See NWSI 10-1708, All Hazards Emergency Message Collection System (HazCollect).
- b. WCMs will encourage non-NWS alerting authorities lacking the resources to directly transmit NWEMs to IPAWS to establish agreements, or otherwise partner, with their respective state or other appropriate alerting authority capable of directly transmitting NWEMs to IPAWS and HazCollect on their behalf.
- c. In the event a non-NWS alerting authority has no capacity to convey NWEMs to IPAWS and also does not have a partner who can transmit a NWEM to IPAWS on their behalf, WFOs may relay the NWEM over NWS dissemination systems at the request of the alerting authority. For security reasons and to minimize the possibility of false or inappropriate releases of a NWEM by NWS, WFOs will develop and institute strict authentication procedures with alerting authorities. Note that since NWS is not authorized to transmit NWEMs to IPAWS, and IPAWS is the sole conduit to Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs), NWS cannot activate WEA for NWEMs. All NWEMs relayed by NWS on behalf of non-NWS alerting authorities will only be disseminated across NWS systems and the Emergency Alert System (EAS).
- d. NWS should not compose and relay an alert on behalf of a non-NWS alerting authority if the authority, or its assisting partner, is transmitting the alert to IPAWS. Doing so may result in confusion and duplicate EAS alerting issues.

WFOs will collaborate with federal, state, tribal and local officials to develop agreements and EAS Plans for conveying NWEMs over NWS dissemination systems. NWEMs for events affecting all or a significant portion of a state should be coordinated through a single state authority, such as the public health department or emergency management agency. This

coordination reduces the number of messages issued and provides a more coherent service to the public.

### **3.2 Issuance Guidelines**

WFOs will develop and institute authentication procedures with federal, state, tribal and local government officials to minimize the possibility of a false or inappropriate release of a non-weather emergency message. WCMs will encourage federal, state, tribal and local government officials to use HazCollect, which incorporates authentication procedures maintained by FEMA and additional authentication by NWS.

#### **3.2.1 Creation Software**

Authorized emergency response organizations should generate NWEMs through the use of incident management systems that are interoperable with IPAWS and HazCollect. See NWSI 10-1708. WFOs should use the AWIPS Graphical Hazards Generator (GHG) software to create NWEMs that are relayed on behalf of alerting authorities.

#### **3.2.2 Issuance Criteria**

NWEMs will comply with all the following criteria:

- a. PUBLIC SAFETY IS INVOLVED-Information to be disseminated will aid in reducing the loss of life or the substantial loss of property.
- b. OFFICIAL INFORMATION-The source of the information should be a federal, state, tribal or local government agency, whose information directly supports agency responsibilities concerning the protection of life and property.
- c. TIME CRITICAL-Event requires immediate public knowledge to avoid adverse impact.
- d. Other means of disseminating the information are not adequate to ensure rapid delivery of urgent information of an immediate threat or of significant importance to protect life and property.
- e. Information length and format is consistent with other NWS disseminated messages. The free-text narrative section will be limited to 200 words to accommodate the approximate 2-minute maximum audio length imposed by the EAS.
- f. Information is non-routine and infrequent (see Appendix B).
- g. Information is complementary and not counterproductive to the NWS warning program.

#### **3.2.3 Issuance Time**

A NWEM is a nonscheduled product and will be relayed at the request of federal, state, tribal or local officials over NWS dissemination systems.

### **3.2.4 Valid Time**

A NWEM is valid for the time designated by the requesting federal, state, tribal or local official in the text message, when appropriate.

### **3.2.5 Product Expiration Time**

The expiration time is designated by the requesting federal, state, tribal or local official and is placed in the Universal Geographic Code (UGC).

### **3.2.6 Event Expiration Time**

The event expiration time is designated by the requesting federal, state, tribal or local official in the text message, when appropriate.

### **3.2.7 Technical Description**

NWEMs follow the format and content described in this section.

### **3.2.8 AWIPS Product Identifier line**

NWEM AWIPS product identifiers use the form NNNXXX or NNNXX defined where NNN is defined in Table 4 and XXX and XX is defined as follows:

- a. AWIPS ID NNNXXX, where XXX = site ID, is used for NWEM products issued by local city or county jurisdictions;
- b. AWIPS ID NNNXX, where XX = USPS 2-character state or territorial ID, is used for NWEM products issued by state or federal agencies; and
- c. AWIPS ID NNNXXX, where XXX = site ID, is used for any NWEM that includes a marine zone (this requirement is caused by AWIPS zone-county correlation file and software relationships). In the event the message also includes land areas, two NWEM products will be generated for the event, e.g., NNNXXX (site ID) or NNNXX (state ID) for the land area and NNNXXX (site ID) for the marine zone(s).

### **3.2.9 Universal Geographic Code Type**

WFOs in the Alaska Region will use the (Z) form of the UGC. WFOs in the remaining regions will use the (C) form or (Z) form of the UGC. The UGC for statements will include the county(ies) or zone(s) affected by the event.

### **3.2.10 Mass News Disseminator (MND) Header Block Broadcast Instruction line**

The MND Broadcast Instruction Line will include one of the following phrases at the request of the authorizing agency:

"BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED"  
"BULLETIN - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED"  
"URGENT - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED"

Note: The use of "EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED" or "IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED" is at the discretion of, and coordinated with, state and local EAS committees.

The use of "BULLETIN" and "URGENT" follows convention established by the print and electronic media. These terms signify levels of dissemination urgency. The NWS only uses "BULLETIN" and "URGENT" in weather-related messages, but other instructions may be used at the request of the authorizing agency. The complete list of MND Broadcast Instruction Lines is in NWSI 10-1701, Text Product Formats and Codes.

**3.2.11 Mass News Disseminator Product Type Line**

The MND will include the Product Type Line from Table 4 that matches an appropriate event description in Appendix C. The listed AWIPS product identifier categories (NNN) and MND Product Type Line titles intentionally mimic the NWR Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) and EAS Event Code and Nature of Activation titles of the identical non-weather emergency messages. Demonstration and test message product categories not listed in Appendix B are included in Table 2 and may be created through GHG or HazCollect.

**Table 2. Non-Weather Emergency Message product categories and product names**

AWIPS NNN	MND Product Type Line	AWIPS NNN	MND Product Type Line
ADR	Administrative Message	LEW	Law Enforcement Warning
AVA	Avalanche Watch	NUW	Nuclear Power Plant Warning
AVW	Avalanche Warning	RHW	Radiological Hazard Warning
BLU**	Blue Alert	SPW	Shelter In Place Warning
CAE	Child Abduction Emergency	TOE	911 Telephone Outage Emergency
CDW	Civil Danger Warning	VOW	Volcano Warning
CEM	Civil Emergency Message		
EQW	Earthquake Warning	DMO	Practice/Demo Warning
EVI	Evacuation Immediate	RMT	Required Monthly Test
FRW	Fire Warning	RWT	Required Weekly Test
HMW	Hazardous Materials Warning	NPT*	National Periodic Test
LAE	Local Area Emergency		

\*for future use

\*\*NWS ability to convey these messages will phase in across offices, beginning in late 2019.

**3.2.12 NWEM Content**

- a. **Headline.** A headline statement may be included if appropriate.
- b. **Information Source.** The lead-in to the NWEM will contain the source of the information in a format consistent with the following:
 

"The following message is transmitted at the request of (OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY) (remainder of text)."
- c. **Content of Text.** Detailed content is obtained from the civil authority(s) requesting agency. If the authorizing agency requests EAS activation, the word count of the

message should be 200 words or less, so that broadcast over NWS and EAS takes less than two minutes. The following information will be included as appropriate:

- 1) type of hazard
  - 2) location of hazard
  - 3) actions to be taken by affected people
  - 4) where to get additional information (such as point of contact, phone number, website)
- d. Where demographics demand and logistics have been preplanned, the originator may provide text in multiple languages for NWS dissemination.

### 3.2.13 NWEM Generic Format

#### 3.2.13.1 Relayed from the Contiguous U.S. Regions and Pacific Region

<u>Product Format</u>	<u>Description of Entry</u>
WOaaii cccc ddhhmm	<i>(WMO Heading)</i>
nnnxxx	<i>(AWIPS ID; may be nnnxx)</i>
stC001-002-003-004-005>015-ddhhmm-	<i>(UGC: C or Z form &amp; Product expiration time)</i>
BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED	<i>(MND Broadcast Instruction)</i>
NON-WEATHER EMERGENCY MESSAGE	<i>(Product name or MND)</i>
GOVERNMENT AGENCY NAME CITY STATE	<i>(Requesting Agency)</i>
RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CITY STATE	<i>(NWS Issuing Office)</i>
TIME AM/PM TIME ZONE DAY MON dd 20yy	<i>(Issuance time/date)</i>
...[HEADLINE]...	<i>(Optional)</i>
"THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF (OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY)"	<i>(Information Source)</i>
[REMAINDER OF TEXT]	
\$\$	<i>(UGC Delimiter)</i>
NAME/INITIALS/FORECASTER ID	<i>(Optional)</i>

**Figure 3. Generic format for a NWEM relayed in the Contiguous U.S. and Pacific Regions**

**3.2.13.2 Relayed in Alaska Region**

<u>Product Format</u>	<u>Description of Entry</u>
WOaaii cccc ddhhmm	(WMO Heading)
nnnxxx	(AWIPS ID; may be nnnxx)
stZ001-002-003-004-005>015-ddhhmm-	(UGC: Z form & Product expiration time)
BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED	(MND Broadcast Instruction)
NON-WEATHER EMERGENCY MESSAGE	(Product name or MND)
GOVERNMENT AGENCY NAME CITY STATE	(Requesting Agency)
RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CITY STATE	(NWS Issuing Office)
TIME AM/PM TIME ZONE DAY MON dd 20yy	(Issuance time/date)
...[HEADLINE]...	(Optional)
"THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF (OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY)"	(Information Source)
[REMAINDER OF TEXT]	
\$\$	(UGC Delimiter)
NAME/INITIALS/FORECASTER ID	(Optional)

**Figure 4. Generic format for a NWEM relayed in Alaska Region**

**3.2.14 NWS Dissemination Systems**

NWEMs will be disseminated on NWS systems, including NOAA Weather Wire Service (NWWS), Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN), NOAAPORT and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR). See NWSI 10-1710, NWR Dissemination, for SAME and 1050 Hz Warning Alarm Tone recommendations for NWEMs.

**3.2.15 Earthquake Information**

WFOs no longer issue Earthquake Reports (EQRs). Comprehensive earthquake information, which includes the latest earthquakes and maps for all US states and territories, is provided by the US Geological Survey’s National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC) at <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes>. However, WFOs may convey earthquake information in a Public Information Statement after first confirming with the NEIC that an event was an earthquake.

**3.3 NWEM Agreements**

**3.3.1 Local Non-Weather Emergencies Covered by Agreement**

Statewide agreements should cover most anticipated situations. In some cases, such as Amber Alerts, a separate agreement may be necessary with a law enforcement or justice agency. Copies of these agreements and detailed procedures to carry out the agreements should be kept in the WFO operations area. Agreements to disseminate non-weather emergency information



(including possible use of the warning alarm tones and NWR-SAME codes) will be approved by the Regional Headquarters

### 3.3.2 Local Non-Weather Emergencies Not Covered by Agreement

Any crisis could have facets that are different from, or unaddressed by, this directive. As a result, nothing in this directive should supersede good judgment, common sense, and the need to preserve life and prevent injury. At times when events occur requiring the use of NWS dissemination systems by known and verified government sources that are not covered by any agreements, the senior forecaster on duty should accept the request for relay of the emergency information. The regional headquarters should be contacted as soon as possible afterward with details of the event and to assess the need for a new agreement or addendum to cover future similar events. Examples of situations that would fall under this category are (1) a serious chemical spill or leak, (2) an explosion in a populated area, or (3) a dangerous nuclear or bio-hazard release, whether accidental or the result of an act of terrorism.

### 3.4 Updates and Corrections

WFOs should relay a time-critical, updated NWEM over NWS dissemination systems at the request of a federal, state, tribal or local official. Updates (including cancellations) of an event in progress should be sent as an Administrative Message (see ADR description in Appendix B). If an event has expanded into additional county(s) or geographic zone(s), or if the expiration time has been extended, a new NWEM of the event type should be issued. No additional formatting for an updated non-weather emergency message is required. Proofread your non-weather emergency message prior to sending messages. If typographical errors significant enough to cause confusion in individuals that need to take protective action or to change the intent of the message are found after transmission, correct the error and retransmit the product using the original AWIPS product category in the following format:

WOaaii cccc ddhhmm CCx  
 Nnnxxx  
 stC001-ddhhmm-

*(Where, x=A,B,C...,X)*

*(UGC: C or Z form for all Regions, except C-only form for Alaska Region)*

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED  
 non-weather emergency message...**CORRECTED**  
 government agency name city state  
 RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE city  
 state  
 time am/pm time\_zone day mon dd yyyy

### **CORRECTED FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR**

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF...

## APPENDIX A - Weather Emergency Models and Product Examples

### A.1 Introduction

This section contains information and examples of models and products used for non-weather related emergency events.

### A.2 Technical Description of Atmospheric Transport and Dispersion Models (ATD)

#### A.2.1 CAMEO - Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations

CAMEO is a suite of software designed to help first responders and emergency planners plan for and quickly respond to chemical accidents. Within CAMEO, ALOHA (Areal Locations of Hazardous Atmospheres) is an ATD program that uses simplified meteorological input (for example a single point wind vector), along with physical property data from its extensive chemical library, to predict how a hazardous gas cloud might disperse in the atmosphere after an accidental chemical release. ALOHA can estimate rates of chemical release from broken gas pipes, leaking tanks, and evaporating puddles, and can model the dispersion of both neutrally-buoyant and heavier-than-air gases. In addition to toxic threats, ALOHA can also estimate the danger from flammable and explosive chemical releases.

ALOHA can display a "footprint" plot or Threat Zone of the area downwind of a release where either concentrations may exceed a user-set toxic threshold level, or an area where thermal or overpressure limits are exceeded if a flammable gas cloud is ignited. It can also display plots of source strength (release rate), as well as concentration, over time. ALOHA accepts weather data transmitted from portable monitoring stations, and can plot footprints on electronic maps displayed in a companion mapping application, MARPLOT, as in the example below or in ArcMap by ESRI (with a supplied Arc Tool).

Additional information on CAMEO/ALOHA is available at <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/cameo/intro.html>

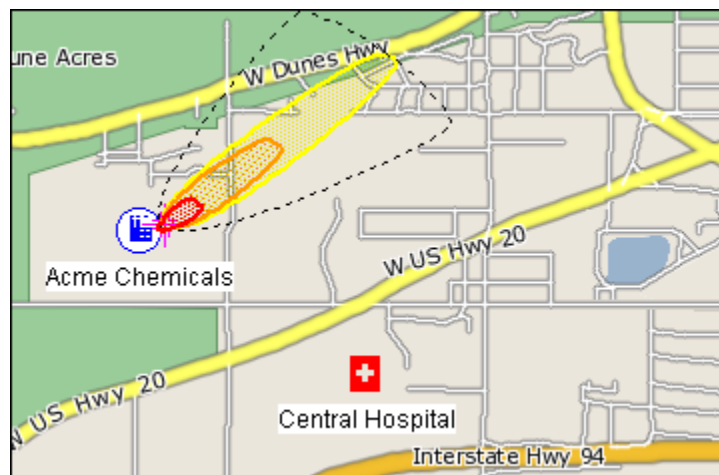
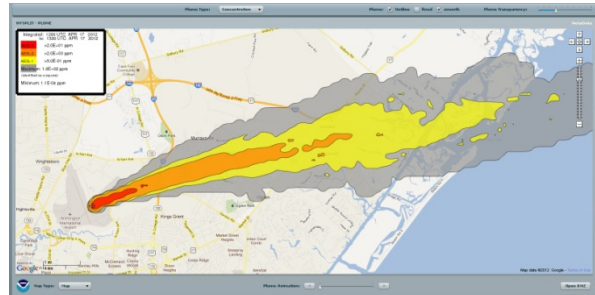


Figure A-1. Example of CAMEO/ALOHA Output

### A.2.2 HYSPLIT - Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory Model

The NOAA Air Resources Laboratory's (ARL) HYSPLIT (HYbrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory) model is a complete system for computing trajectories, complex dispersion, and deposition simulations using either puff or particle approaches. The model calculation method is a hybrid between the Lagrangian approach, which uses a moving frame of reference as the air parcels move from their initial location, and the Eulerian approach, which uses a fixed three-dimensional grid as a frame of reference. In the model, advection and diffusion calculations are made in a Lagrangian framework following the transport of the air parcel, while pollutant concentrations are calculated on a fixed grid.

The current version of the model uses an iterative advection algorithm, updated stability and dispersion equations, a graphical user interface (GUI), and the option to include modules for chemical transformations. HYSPLIT can be run interactively by the public on ARL's READY (Real-time Environmental Applications and Display System: <http://www.ready.noaa.gov>) website or installed on a PC and run using a graphical user interface.

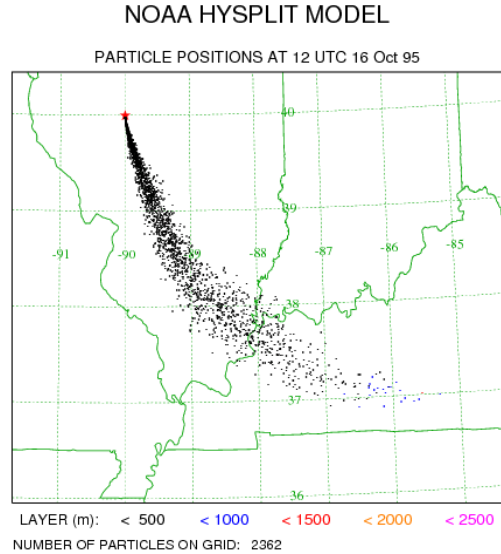


Google Earth Display

The model is designed to support a wide range of simulations related to the atmospheric transport and dispersion of pollutants and hazardous materials, as well as the deposition of these materials to the earth's surface. Some of the applications include tracking and forecasting the release of radioactive material, volcanic ash, wildfire smoke, and pollutants from various stationary and mobile emission sources. Operationally, the model is currently used by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) through the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) and by local Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs). Operational prediction of wildfire smoke forecast guidance that combines HYSPLIT model with detections of smoke sources from satellite imagery is available at the NOAA National Air Quality Forecast Guidance website (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/aq/>).

At the local and regional level, field forecasters regularly respond to requests for dispersion forecasts from state and local emergency managers. At the state level, air quality forecasters routinely run HYSPLIT on the ARL web server for daily air quality impacts. At the national level, the model is often applied to needs from the aviation industry and air quality regulators. Nationally and internationally, NOAA supports and provides dispersion model forecasts in the event of large scale nuclear incidents through its participation with the Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center (IMAAC) World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a Regional Specialized Meteorological Center (RSMC).

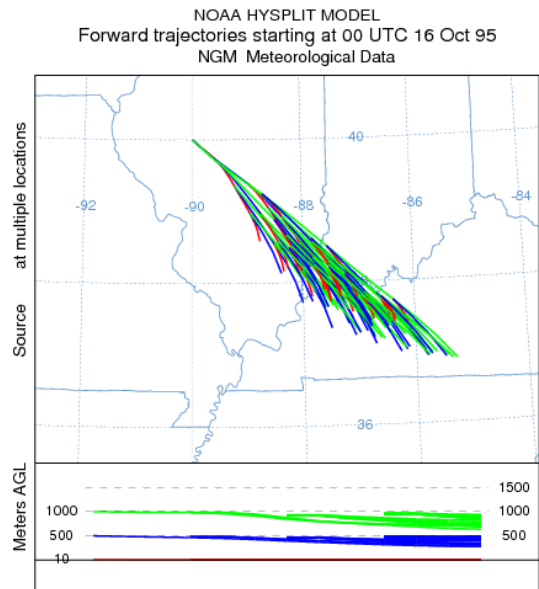
**Particle Display**



The accidental or intentional release of chemical, biological or nuclear agents can have significant health, safety, security, economic, and ecological implications. The HYSPLIT model is a tool that helps explain how, where, and when hazardous materials are atmospherically transported, dispersed, and deposited. Having this understanding is essential for responding appropriately and preventing disaster. For instance, accurate predictions of the path of a chemical release help emergency managers evacuate the right people. Predictions of volcanic ash plume locations allow aircraft to avoid dangerous areas. Understanding the sources of hazardous air pollutants allows air quality managers to develop targeted policies and plans to mitigate the problem.

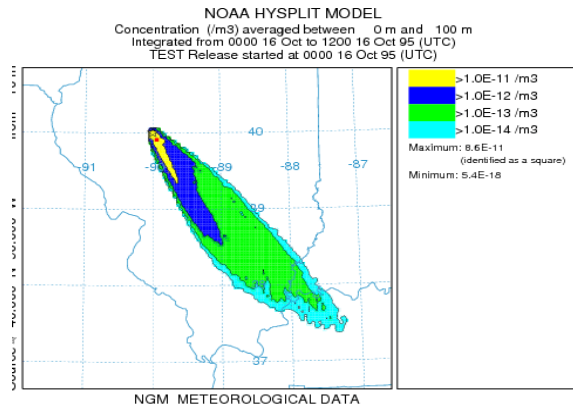
**Trajectory Display**

Gridded meteorological data, on a latitude-longitude grid or one of three conformal (Polar, Lambert, Mercator) map projections, are required by the model at regular time intervals to drive the transport of pollutants. The input data are interpolated to an internal sub-grid centered over the computation area to reduce memory requirements and increase computational speed. Calculations may be performed sequentially or concurrently on multiple meteorological grids, usually specified from fine resolution near the source to coarse resolution farther away.



Air concentration calculations require the definition of the pollutant's emissions and physical characteristics (if deposition is required). When multiple pollutant species are defined, an emission would consist of one particle or puff associated with each pollutant type. Alternately, the mass associated with a single particle or puff may contain several species. The latter approach is used for calculation of chemical transformations when all the species follow the same transport pathway. Some simple chemical transformation routines are provided with the standard PC model distribution.

The dispersion of a pollutant is calculated by assuming either a Gaussian or Top-Hat horizontal distribution within a puff or from the dispersal of a fixed number of particles. A single released puff will expand until its size exceeds the meteorological grid cell spacing and then it will split into several puffs. An alternate approach combines both puff and particle methods by assuming a puff distribution in the horizontal and particle dispersion in the vertical direction. The resulting calculation may be started with a single particle, but as its horizontal distribution expands beyond the meteorological grid size, it will split into multiple particle-puffs, each with their respective fraction of the pollutant mass. In this way, the greater accuracy of the vertical dispersion parameterization of the particle model is combined with the advantage of having an expanding number of particles represent the pollutant distribution as the spatial coverage of the pollutant increases and therefore a single particle can represent increasingly lower concentrations.



Air Concentration Display

Air concentrations are calculated at a specific grid point for puffs and as cell-average concentrations for particles. A concentration grid is defined by latitude-longitude intersections. Simultaneous multiple grids with different horizontal resolutions and temporal averaging periods can be defined for each simulation. Each pollutant species is summed independently on each grid.

The routine meteorological data fields required for the calculations may be obtained from existing archives or from forecast model outputs already formatted for input to HYSPLIT. In addition, several different pre-processor programs are provided with the PC model distribution to convert NOAA, NCAR (National Center for Atmospheric Research) reanalysis, or ECMWF (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts) model output fields to a format compatible for direct input to the model. The model's meteorological data structure is compressed and in "direct-access" format. For each time period within the data file, the file contains an index record that includes grid definitions of the spatial domain, check-sums for each record to ensure data integrity, meteorological variable identification, and level information. These data files require no conversion between computing platforms.

The PC-based modeling system includes a graphical user interface (GUI) to set up a trajectory, air concentration, and/or deposition simulation. The post-processing part of the model package

incorporates graphical programs to generate multicolor or black and white publication quality Postscript printer graphics, .kml files for display with Google Earth & Maps, and pdf files.

A complete description of all the equations and model calculation methods for trajectories and air concentrations has been published and is available on-line at the following web site: [http://www.arl.noaa.gov/HYSPLIT\\_info.php](http://www.arl.noaa.gov/HYSPLIT_info.php).

#### **A.2.2.1 HYSPLIT Operational Support at NWS NCEP**

HYSPLIT model simulations, in support of requests from Emergency Managers to WFOs and driven by the NAM or Global Forecast System (GFS) meteorological forecast data, are operationally supported 24x7 at NCEP. Backup/contingency operations support is in place. Outputs are posted to an NCEP secure web site, for electronic access by NWS field forecasters and other registered users, or faxed/emailed, if necessary. Field forecasters regularly respond with HYSPLIT model results to requests from government and other emergency managers. Two product streams are currently available:

- a. Routine - Nationwide, four times each day, linked to the NAM forecast data. Scenarios are produced four times each day for ~25 sample locations and WFO requested locations, for model evaluation, forecaster training, and prolonged events.
- b. On-demand - NWS Senior Duty Meteorologist (SDM) at NCEP runs HYSPLIT interfaced to models such as the NAM and GFS, for specified locations, at the request of NWS field forecasters, 24x7.

In addition to GIF and PostScript, graphical outputs of NWS/NCEP HYSPLIT simulations are also available in Google Earth© formatted .kml files and GIS shapefile format, which can be imported into ArcView or similar GIS systems.

Note: a web-based version of HYSPLIT has been made available (<https://www.hysplit.noaa.gov>) to all WFOs (HYSPLIT WFO, Section 2.2.8). This system has several enhanced capabilities that are not currently available to the SDM. As the system continues to be developed, all comments and suggestions are encouraged using the email link on the main page of the site called “Questions/Comments?”.

#### **A.2.2.2 When to Use HYSPLIT**

HYSPLIT is well suited for calculations of dispersion from pollutant point sources for situations where a quick turnaround is essential. The model's performance has been evaluated by comparing the calculations for a variety of different applications to real data observations, such as observed balloon trajectories, measured air concentrations of inert tracers, measured radioactive deposition, and satellite photographs of ash from volcanic eruptions, smoke from wildfires, and dust. Various assessment studies have been conducted and summarized at [http://www.arl.noaa.gov/HYSPLIT\\_info.php](http://www.arl.noaa.gov/HYSPLIT_info.php).

It is appropriate to use HYSPLIT:

- to address problems with source-to-receptor distances greater than 1/4 the resolution of the meteorological data driving the model simulation.

- to estimate source strengths based upon the ratio of the air concentration measurement to the model's unit emission air concentration prediction.
- to model the transport and dispersion of neutrally-buoyant materials, or buoyant plumes after stabilization.
- to estimate air concentration or exposure over time at specific locations or areas downwind when temporal and/or spatial variations in meteorological conditions are expected and when estimates of dry and/or wet deposition of the pollutant are required.
- to obtain a forecast of plume position using the most recent NWS/NCEP forecast meteorological data.

### A.2.2.3 When Not to Use HYSPLIT

HYSPLIT is not appropriate for:

- plume height changes due to non-meteorological factors (i.e., plume rise from the heat of a large fire). If the plume rise has been constrained, for instance by a thermal inversion, then the model could be run using the inversion height as the initial height of the source. A HYSPLIT configuration that includes a plume rise scheme is used to produce NWS operational wildfire smoke forecast guidance that is available at the NOAA National Air Quality Forecast Guidance website (<http://airquality.weather.gov>).
- transport or dispersion at distances less than 1 km (~1/2 mile) from the source..
- emissions containing dense gases, especially very near the source (flow controlled by gravity, not meteorology).
- emissions involving any chemical reactions more complex than radioactive decay if quantitative concentration estimates are required. The model can be run for all situations to infer plume transport directions and plume width estimates.
- cases where the plume may be diverted due to local topographic features and effects such as sea breezes, unless the local topography and effects are well represented by the meteorological model used to run HYSPLIT. Plume transport within HYSPLIT is driven only by the input meteorological data.

### A.2.2.4 Where to Run HYSPLIT

The primary location for WFOs to run HYSPLIT interactively is the WOC HYSPLIT web site at <https://www.hysplit.noaa.gov>. The model can also be run on Desktop PCs, Apple computers, UNIX/LINUX workstations, or through the NOAA ARL READY web site (<http://www.ready.noaa.gov>). A backup WOC HYSPLIT website for WFOs is available on the non-operational ARL web server at: [https://ready.arl.noaa.gov/hysplitnoaa/hysplit\\_info.html](https://ready.arl.noaa.gov/hysplitnoaa/hysplit_info.html)). The Windows Desktop PC and Apple executables, user manuals, and other documentation, can be downloaded from ARL's web site: <http://ready.arl.noaa.gov/HYSPLIT.php>.

WFO forecasters can run the HYSPLIT model on the ARL web server using their NOAA login information (LDAP), however, registration is required for non-NOAA personnel to run the dispersion model on the ARL READY web site using forecast meteorological data or to download the registered version executables. Registration is not needed in order to run HYSPLIT trajectories or archived dispersion simulations on the public version of HYSPLIT,

however the public version does not have some of the input options that are on the WOC site. Registration is open to all government, commercial, and educational institutions at no cost. In summary, these are the URLs for running HYSPLIT:

- Operational (WOC) HYSPLIT for WFOs:  
<https://www.hysplit.noaa.gov> (retrieve results only)
- Non-operational (ARL) HYSPLIT for WFOs:  
[https://ready.arl.noaa.gov/hysplitnoaa/hysplit\\_info.html](https://ready.arl.noaa.gov/hysplitnoaa/hysplit_info.html)
- Public (ARL) HYSPLIT: <http://ready.arl.noaa.gov/HYSPLIT.php>

#### **A.2.2.5 Meteorological Data**

Gridded fields of meteorological variables are required by HYSPLIT at regular temporal intervals. The time interval between fields should be constant for each defined grid. Meteorological data fields may be provided on a variety of different vertical coordinate systems. At a minimum, the model requires horizontal wind components, temperature, height or pressure, and the surface pressure. The precipitation field is required for wet deposition calculations. Current forecast meteorological data files produced at NCEP in a format compatible for input to HYSPLIT are available through anonymous FTP from <ftp://ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/hysplit/prod/>. Access to the data from the PC version is configured in the HYSPLIT GUI and obtained automatically from the NCEP ftp server. Meteorological data may also be available by special arrangement with the NWS and from other sources using standard GRIB decoding software provided with the model.

#### **A.2.2.6 Estimating Model Parameters**

On the PC, the model can be run in batch mode with simulation parameters specified in a “CONTROL” file or run interactively through a GUI. The range of model configurations is more limited for the current on-line web-based versions. A model simulation requires, at a minimum, the emission location, release start time, duration, and height of the release. Pollutant specific simulations are possible if more detailed characteristics, such as particle size, density, deposition velocity, and emission rate, are known in advance. Typically, the model is run with a unit source strength emission unless more detailed information is available.

#### **A.2.2.7 Typical Model Output**

Two basic types of output are available: trajectories and air concentrations (Figures A-2 and A-3). Trajectories represent the transport pathway of a single pollutant particle with the mean wind, while air concentration simulations model the transport and dispersion of many particles released over the duration of the emission. The latter, therefore, provides a more realistic and quantitative estimate. Post-processing graphics programs are integrated within the GUI or web-based menus for the display of trajectories and air concentrations. Output averaging intervals and display heights are specified by the user. HYSPLIT will also produce output in Google Earth© format (.kml/kmz).



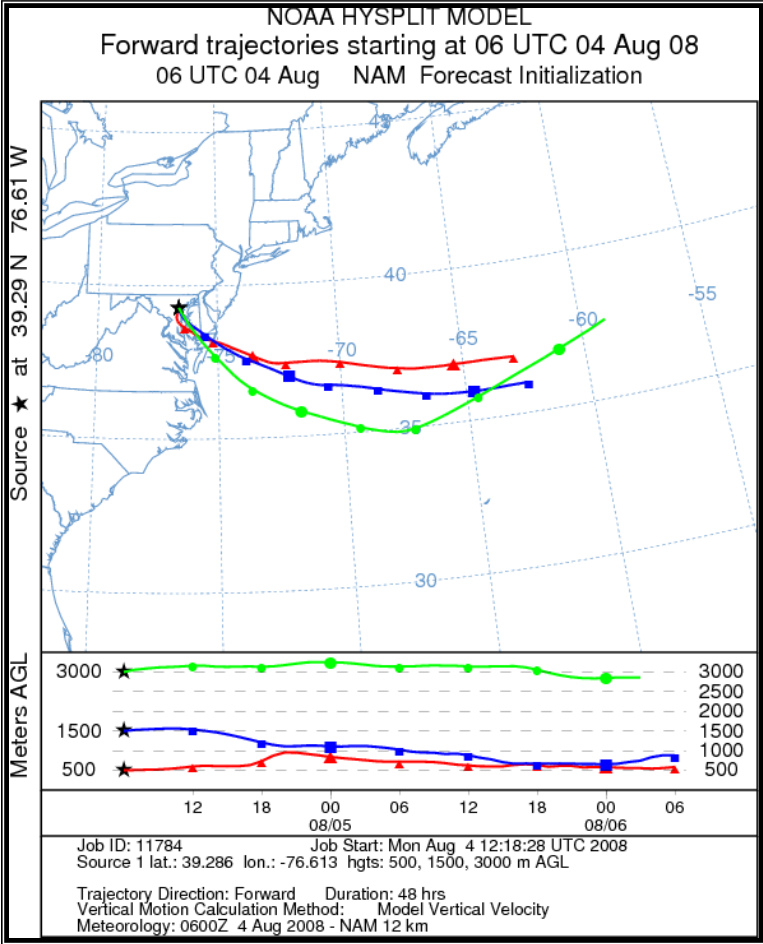
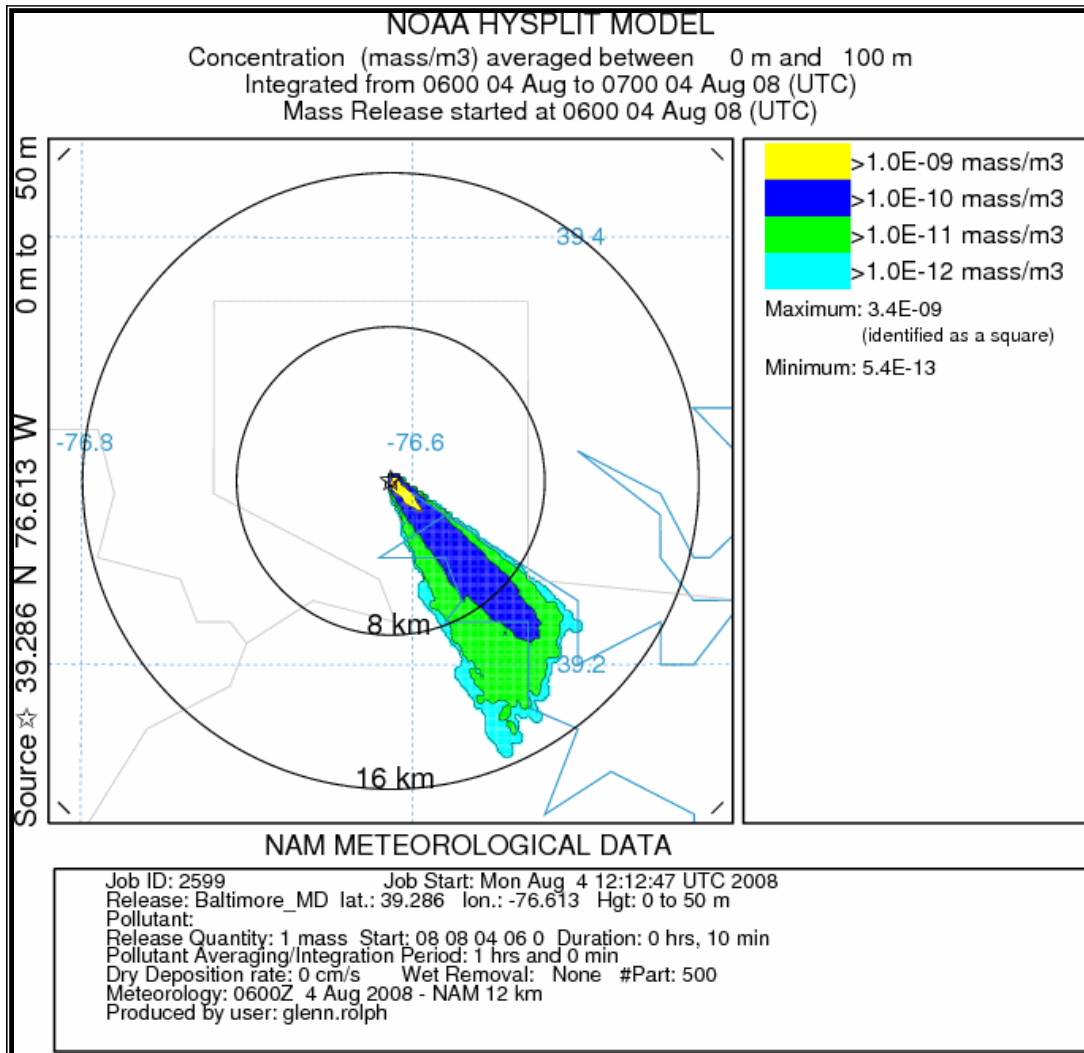


Figure A-2. Example of HYSPLIT Trajectories Using NAM 12 km Forecast



**Figure A-3. Example of HYSPLIT Dispersion Plume Using NAM 12 km Forecast**

The following is a description of what the standard concentration graphic contains:

- Identification of the product as a NOAA HYSPLIT MODEL product.
- Indicates at the top of the chart that the air concentration is averaged vertically (in this example) between the ground (0 meters) and 100 meters and the units are in mass per cubic meter (mass/m<sup>3</sup>). Ground-level deposition maps, if available, are identified with units of mass per square meter (mass/m<sup>2</sup>) unless a specific chemical is chosen for the source, in which case the units will be either parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per cubic meter (mg/ m<sup>3</sup>).
- The integration or averaging period, also indicated at the top, is the time that the time-integrated or time-averaged concentrations apply. All times are in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) and are indicated by the start and end of the integration/averaging period. In this case, this simulation was for a one hour averaging period.
- The UTC time that the release started is the last line indicated at the top of the chart. In this case, a pollutant release duration of ten minutes started at this release time.

- The latitude, longitude, and height of the release are indicated on the left-hand side of the graphic. Latitude and longitude are in decimal degrees. Single letter abbreviations are used for East, West, North and South. Source heights are in meters and indicate the height or layer of the release. A star is used to represent the source location on the map.
- Colors used for plotting the four contour intervals and their corresponding values with yellow representing the highest concentrations (chemical results are indicated with red, orange and yellow for Levels of Concern). If the range of values on the map is less than eight orders of magnitude then the contour intervals are at factors of 10. If the range is greater, then the contour intervals are at factors of 100. Any values smaller than the smallest concentration range indicated are not plotted on the map.
- The size of the solid red square (white box on Google Earth & Google Maps) indicates the size and location of the concentration grid cell with the maximum concentration.
- Information about the model run is displayed immediately below the map.
- In this example, the yellow shaded area represents the  $1.0\text{E}-09$  mass/m<sup>3</sup> contour. If the actual pollutant emission rate were known, say  $1.0\text{E}+7$  particles, then the predicted 1-hour average air concentration in this region would be  $1.0\text{E}-02$  particles/m<sup>3</sup> ( $1.0\text{E}-09 \times 1.0\text{E}+7 = 1.0\text{E}-02$ ).

#### A.2.2.8 WOC HYSPLIT Output.

HYSPLIT is now available to all WFOs through a new web-based system (<https://www.hysplit.noaa.gov>) in a more operational environment (NOAA Web Operations Center) than the ARL READY web site. In addition, this site allows the user to select a chemical from the CAMEO database if the source term is known. HYSPLIT will calculate a concentration of the chemical and display the results in both the standard GIF image or in KML (Google Earth) format. At this time, no chemical transformations are performed during the HYSPLIT calculation and dense gases cannot be modeled.

Figure A-4 shows the HYSPLIT results using the new WOC HYSPLIT web-based version of HYSPLIT for a hypothetical chlorine release in both standard HYSPLIT output format (left) and the .kml (Google Earth) format (right). HYSPLIT formats the output of chemical releases by default as concentration thresholds of concern (AEGL, ERPG, TEEL), terms familiar to emergency responders and users of the NOAA CAMEO/ALOHA program (additional information is available on the WOC HYSPLIT website). WFOs can enter most of the chemicals used by CAMEO/ALOHA, albeit without the extensive source term model used by ALOHA to determine the emission characteristics. In a future update to the web-based HYSPLIT for WFOs, the ALOHA chemical source term model will be incorporated directly into the menus for running HYSPLIT so that the forecaster can enter specific information on the release scenario (size of container, leak type, hole size, state of chemical, etc.) to obtain a more realistic HYSPLIT forecast of a chemical release.

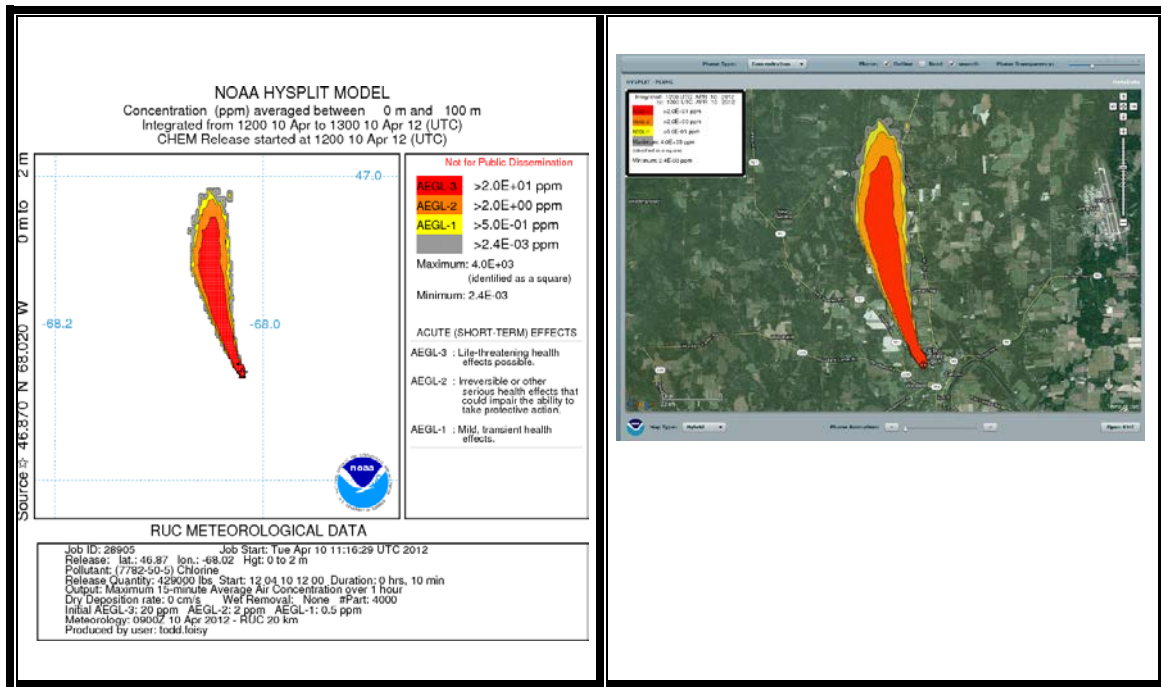
#### A.2.3 User Support

Additional information on HYSPLIT and the output products produced are available to WFOs on the WOC HYSPLIT web site. Also, more detailed information about the HYSPLIT model may

be obtained from the ARL HYSPLIT web site at: <http://ready.arl.noaa.gov/HYSPLIT.php>. WFOs with immediate HYSPLIT questions should contact the SDM at NCEP, who may contact ARL if they cannot answer the question.

Additional WFO online training is available from COMET at: <http://www.meted.ucar.edu/dispersion/hysplit>

<http://meted.ucar.edu/dispersion/basics/index.htm>



**Figure A-4. Example of Chlorine Release in Standard Format (left) and KML (Google Earth/Maps) Format (right).**

## APPENDIX B - NWEM Product Description Guidelines and Examples

### B.1 Introduction

This section provides descriptive guidelines used for NWEMs.

### B.2 Background

In 2002, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a Report and Order (FCC-02-64) allowing local and state Emergency Alert System (EAS) committees the option of utilizing new event codes for non-weather related events. The NWS adopted the EAS non-weather event codes as NWS Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) Identifier product category codes for use in non-weather emergency text products (WMO heading WOUSii Kxxx/WOAKii PAXX/WOPAIi PXXX/WOCAii Txxx) to align the audio broadcast codes and text message identifiers to improve message dissemination.

### B.3 Message Description Guidance

The most recently approved EAS Event Code is BLU, for Blue Alerts. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and FEMA have not provided definitions or criteria for the NWEM Event Codes. Therefore, using language provided in previous FCC Reports and Orders along with help of the Houston, Texas Local Emergency Communications Committee, the NWS provides general definitions for each NWEM in Section B.4. Local and State Emergency Communication Committees (LECCs/SECCs) are encouraged to follow these guidelines to provide consistent use of these codes across state borders. Use of specific, unambiguous code is preferred.

LECCs and SECCs can best determine which state and local officials are authorized to request specific NWEMs and EAS event codes, and/or transmit them through HazCollect. Such authority will vary by local ordinance, state law, and/or federal regulation, as will the agency names and titles of authorized officials. For example, in the State of Texas, only the governor of the state, mayor of an incorporated city, or county judge of an unincorporated area are authorized to recommend evacuation. However, in Texas any evacuation is voluntary, not mandatory or required, as may be true in other states.

A warning, watch, or emergency message is normally issued only once to provide initial alert of the event. A new warning, watch, or emergency message should be issued if the hazard or recommended public protective action(s) has expanded into another county or geographic zone, or if the expiration time has been extended. All other updates or cancellations of the event should be sent as a non-emergency Administrative Message (ADR) or by other means (e.g., telephone, fax, e-mail, or media briefings) to local news media outlets.

### B.4 NWEMs

The following list of FCC-authorized NWEMs may be relayed by NWS in text products and broadcast on NWR, as coordinated with respective LECCs and SECCs.

**B.4.1 Administrative Message (ADR)**

A non-emergency message providing updated information about an event in progress, an event that has expired or concluded early, pre-event preparation or mitigation activities, post-event recovery operations, or other administrative matters pertaining to the Emergency Alert System.

**B.4.2 Avalanche Watch (AVA)**

A message issued by authorized officials when conditions are forecast to become favorable for natural or human-triggered avalanches that could affect roadways, structures, or backcountry activities.

**B.4.3 Avalanche Warning (AVW)**

A warning of current or imminent avalanche activity when avalanche danger is considered high or extreme. Authorized officials may recommend or order protective actions according to state law or local ordinance when natural or human-triggered avalanches are likely to affect roadways, structures, or backcountry activities.

**B.4.4 Blue Alert (BLU)\***

A message issued by state and local authorities to warn the public when there is actionable information, related to a law enforcement officer who is missing, seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, or when there is an imminent, credible threat to an officer. A Blue Alert could quickly warn the public if a violent suspect may be in your community, along with providing instructions on what to do if the suspect is spotted and how to stay safe.

A message warning the public when there is actionable information, related to a law enforcement officer who is missing, seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, or when there is an imminent, credible threat to an officer. This message is initiated by state and local authorities. A Blue Alert could quickly warn the public if a violent suspect may be in your community, along with providing instructions on what to do if the suspect is spotted and how to stay safe.

\*NWS ability to convey these messages will phase in across offices, beginning in late 2019

**B.4.5 Child Abduction Emergency (CAE)**

Widely referred to as an “Amber Alert,” this is an emergency message, based on established criteria, about a missing child believed to be abducted. Note that the agency/organization establishing the criteria varies by jurisdiction but most criteria loosely follow those of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). The law enforcement agency investigating the abduction will describe the missing child, provide a description of the suspect and/or vehicle, and ask the public to notify the requesting agency if they have any information on the whereabouts of the child or suspect.

**B.4.6 Civil Danger Warning (CDW)**

A warning of an event that presents a danger to a significant civilian population. The CDW, which usually warns of a specific hazard and gives specific protective action, has a higher

priority than the Local Area Emergency (LAE). Examples include contaminated water supplies and imminent or in-progress military or terrorist events. Public protective actions could include evacuation, shelter in place, or other actions (such as boiling contaminated water or seeking medical treatment).

**B.4.7 Civil Emergency Message (CEM)**

An emergency message regarding an in-progress or imminent significant threat(s) to public safety and/or property. The CEM is a higher priority message than the Local Area Emergency (LAE), but the hazard is less specific than the Civil Danger Warning (CDW).

**B.4.8 Earthquake Warning (EQW)**

A warning of current or imminent earthquake activity. Authorized officials may recommend or order protective actions according to state law or local ordinance.

**B.4.9 Evacuation Immediate (EVI)**

A warning where immediate evacuation is recommended or ordered according to state law or local ordinance. As an example, authorized officials may recommend the evacuation of affected areas due to an approaching tropical cyclone. In the event a flammable or explosive gas is released, authorized officials may recommend evacuation of designated areas where casualties or property damage from a vapor cloud explosion or fire may occur.

**B.4.10 Fire Warning (FRW)**

A warning of a spreading structural fire or wildfire that threatens a populated area. Evacuation of areas in the fire's path may be recommended by authorized officials according to state law or local ordinance.

**B.4.11 Hazardous Materials Warning (HMW)**

A warning of the release of a non-radioactive hazardous material (such as a flammable gas, toxic chemical or biological agent) that may recommend evacuation (for an explosion, fire or oil spill hazard) or shelter-in-place (for a toxic fume hazard).

**B.4.12 Law Enforcement Warning (LEW)**

A warning of a bomb explosion, riot, or other criminal event (e.g. a jailbreak). An authorized law enforcement agency may blockade roads, waterways, or facilities, evacuate or deny access to affected areas, and arrest violators or suspicious persons.

**B.4.13 Local Area Emergency (LAE)**

An emergency message that defines an event that, by itself, does not pose a significant threat to public safety and/or property. However, the event could escalate, contribute to other more serious events, or disrupt critical public safety services. Instructions, other than public protective actions, may be provided by authorized officials. Examples include a disruption in water, electric or natural gas service, or a potential terrorist threat where the public is asked to remain alert.

**B.4.14 Network Message Notification (NMN)**

Not yet defined and not in the suite of products for relay by NWS.

**B.4.15 911 Telephone Outage Emergency (TOE)**

An emergency message that defines a local or state 9-1-1 telephone network outage by geographic area or telephone exchange. Authorized officials should provide alternative phone numbers with which to reach 9-1-1 or dispatch personnel.

**B.4.16 Nuclear Power Plant Warning (NUW)**

A warning of an event at a nuclear power plant classified as a Site Area Emergency or General Emergency by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

- A Site Area Emergency is confined to the plant site; no off-site impact is expected.
- A General Emergency is confined to an area less than a 10-mile radius around the plant. Authorized officials may recommend evacuation or medical treatment of exposed persons in nearby areas.

**B.4.17 Radiological Hazard Warning (RHW)**

A warning of the loss, discovery, or release of a radiological hazard. Examples include, the theft of a radioactive isotope used for medical, seismic, or other purposes; the discovery of radioactive materials; a transportation (aircraft, truck or rail, etc.) accident which may involve nuclear weapons, nuclear fuel, or radioactive wastes. Authorized officials may recommend protective actions to be taken.

**B.4.18 Shelter in Place Warning (SPW)**

A warning of an event where the public is recommended to shelter in place (go inside, close doors and windows, turn off air conditioning or heating systems, and turn on the radio or TV for more information). Examples include the release of hazardous materials where toxic fumes or radioactivity may affect designated areas.

**B.4.19 Volcano Warning (VOW)**

A warning of current or imminent volcanic activity. Authorized officials may recommend or order protective actions according to state law or local ordinance.

**NWEM Product Examples**

**Avalanche Warning**

WOUS46 KOTX 140034  
AVWOTX  
IDC009-017-021-055-079-150100-



AVALANCHE WARNING  
IDAHO PANHANDLE AVALANCHE CENTER  
RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SPOKANE WA  
434 PM PST WED JAN 13 2016

THE IDAHO PANHANDLE AVALANCHE CENTER HAS ISSUED AN AVALANCHE WARNING INDICATING HIGH AVALANCHE HAZARD FOR THE ENTIRE FORECAST REGION, WHICH INCLUDES BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI AND SHOSHONE COUNTIES. THIS WARNING DOES NOT APPLY TO LOCAL SKI AREAS WITHIN THE FORECAST REGION.

THIS WARNING IS VALID FOR TODAY, WEDNESDAY, JAN 13 AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT THROUGH 5 PM PST ON THURSDAY.

FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON AVALANCHE ACTIVITY AND EXPECTED TRENDS IN STABILITY...CONTRIBUTING WEATHER FACTORS...AND MOUNTAIN TRAVEL RECOMMENDATIONS PLEASE REFER TO THE IDAHO PANHANDLE AVALANCHE ADVISORY AT

[HTTP://WWW.FS.USDA.GOV/GOTO/IPNF/AC](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/ipnf/ac)

OR CALL THE IPNF AVALANCHE HOTLINE AT 208-765-7323 OR 866-489-8664.

FOR RESOURCES ON AVALANCHE AWARENESS AND EDUCATION AND OTHER REGIONAL AVALANCHE ADVISORIES GO TO

[HTTP://WWW.AVALANCHE.ORG](http://www.avalanche.org)

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AT THE REQUEST OF THE IDAHO PANHANDLE AVALANCHE CENTER. THIS CENTER TYPICALLY ONLY ISSUES WARNINGS ON FRIDAYS. THE ABSENCE OF A WARNING ON ANY OTHER DAY OF THE WEEK SHOULD NOT BE USED TO INFER AVALANCHE CONDITIONS ON THOSE DAYS.

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WOUS45 KREV 152253  
AVWREV  
CAZ072-NVZ002-171400-

URGENT - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED  
Avalanche Warning  
Forest Service Sierra Avalanche Center  
Relayed by National Weather Service Reno NV  
353 PM PDT Thu Mar 15 2018

The Sierra Avalanche Center in Truckee has issued a Backcountry Avalanche Warning for the following areas: Greater Lake Tahoe

\* Timing...In effect through 7 AM PDT Saturday.

\* Affected Area...Central Sierra Nevada Mountains between Yuba Pass (Highway 49) on the north and Ebbetts Pass (Highway 4) on the south, including the Greater Lake Tahoe area. This warning applies only to backcountry areas outside of established ski

area boundaries and highway corridors where avalanche mitigation programs exist.

- \* Avalanche Danger...HIGH avalanche danger (4 out of 5) will exist in the warning area.
- \* Reason/Impacts...Strong winds, significant snow accumulation, and intense snowfall rates will create unstable avalanche conditions. Expect widespread avalanches both above and below treeline.
- \* Precautionary / Preparedness Actions...Very dangerous avalanche conditions exist. Travel in or near avalanche terrain is not recommended. Natural avalanches are likely and human-triggered avalanches are very likely. Large destructive avalanches may occur and could run long distances.

### **Avalanche Watch**

WOUS45 KREV 142251  
AVAREV  
CAZ072-NVZ002-160000-

URGENT - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED  
Avalanche Watch  
U.S. Forest Service Sierra Avalanche Center  
Relayed by National Weather Service Reno NV  
351 PM PDT Wed Mar 14 2018

#### BACKCOUNTRY AVALANCHE WATCH

THE SIERRA AVALANCHE CENTER IN TRUCKEE HAS ISSUED A BACKCOUNTRY AVALANCHE WATCH FOR THE FOLLOWING AREAS: GREATER LAKE TAHOE

- \* TIMING...IN EFFECT THROUGH SATURDAY 7 AM PDT.
- \* AFFECTED AREA...CENTRAL SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS BETWEEN YUBA PASS (HWY 49) ON THE NORTH AND EBBETTS PASS (HWY 4) ON THE SOUTH, INCLUDING THE GREATER LAKE TAHOE AREA.
- \* AVALANCHE DANGER...THE AVALANCHE DANGER FOR THE WARNING AREA IS EXPECTED TO RANGE FROM CONSIDERABLE TO HIGH AVALANCHE DANGER THROUGH SATURDAY MORNING.
- \* REASON/IMPACTS...FORECAST HEAVY SNOW COMBINED WITH WIND MAY RESULT IN WIDESPREAD AVALANCHES.
- \* PRECAUTIONARY / PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...VERY DANGEROUS AVALANCHE CONDITIONS MAY OCCUR. IF SO, TRAVEL IN AVALANCHE TERRAIN IS NOT RECOMMENDED. AVALANCHES MAY RUN LONG DISTANCES AND CAN RUN INTO MATURE FORESTS, VALLEY FLOORS, OR FLAT TERRAIN.

CONSULT [HTTPS://WWW.SIERRAAVALANCHECENTER.ORG/](https://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org/) OR [WWW.AVALANCHE.ORG](http://WWW.AVALANCHE.ORG) FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION.

SIMILAR AVALANCHE DANGER MAY EXIST AT LOCATIONS OUTSIDE THE  
COVERAGE AREA OF THIS OR ANY AVALANCHE CENTER.

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**Child Abduction Emergency (CAE)**

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED  
CHILD ABDUCTION EMERGENCY  
TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BROWNSVILLE TX  
834 PM CST MON NOV 13 2017

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE TEXAS  
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

THE SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT IS SEARCHING FOR JOSE GONZALEZ,  
HISPANIC, MALE, 3 YEARS OLD, DATE OF BIRTH SEPTEMBER 27TH 2014, 2  
FEET TALL, 32 POUNDS, BROWN HAIR, BROWN EYES, AND LAST SEEN  
WEARING A PINK AND RED SHIRT WITH A GRAY COLLAR, CUTOFF JEAN  
SHORTS, AND BLUE AND BROWN SPERRY SHOES.

POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR UNKNOWN SUSPECTS IN CONNECTION WITH HIS  
ABDUCTION.

THE SUSPECT IS DRIVING A GREEN 1998 FORD MUSTANG WITH A TEXAS  
LICENSE PLATE NUMBER D D 2 P 6 7 6, WITH A RIPPED BLACK CONVERTIBLE  
TOP, FRONT LEFT DAMAGE, RIGHT TAIL LIGHT OUT, BACK GLASS FALLING  
OUT, AND A PORTABLE GAS TANK VISIBLE.

THE SUSPECT WAS LAST HEARD FROM IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS BELIEVE THIS CHILD TO BE IN GRAVE OR  
IMMEDIATE DANGER. IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THIS  
ABDUCTION, CALL THE SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT AT 210-207-7660.

NEWS MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT IS THE SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT AT  
210-207-7660.

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**Civil Emergency Message**

WOUS44 KHGX 280310  
CEMHGX  
TXC201-290315-

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED  
CIVIL EMERGENCY MESSAGE  
HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT  
RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HOUSTON/GALVESTON TX  
1010 PM CDT SUN AUG 27 2017

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE HARRIS

COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT.

THIS IS A VOLUNTARY EVACUATION FOR ALL RESIDENTS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF INVERNESS FOREST SUBDIVISION...ALL STREETS NORTH OF WHITESTONE LANE, INCLUDING EAST AND WEST GREENBROOK DRIVE, AND ALL OF KENCHESTER DRIVE. WATER LEVELS ON CYPRESS CREEK NEAR I-45 WILL POSSIBLY TOP THE LEVEE BY TOMORROW MORNING. RESIDENTS IN THIS AREA ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEEK HIGHER GROUND. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT AT 713 684 4000

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WOUS44 KHGX 301622  
CEMHGX  
TXC201-311630-

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED  
CIVIL EMERGENCY MESSAGE  
NORTHGATE CROSSING MUNICIPAL UTILICITY NO.1 (WATER DISTRICT)  
RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HOUSTON/GALVESTON TX  
1122 AM CDT WED AUG 30 2017

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE NORTHGATE CROSSING MUNICIPAL UTILICITY NO.1 (WATER DISTRICT).

THE NORTHGATE CROSSING MUNICIPAL UTILITY NO. 1 (THE WATER DISTRICT) HAS ANNOUNCED THAT A MANDATORY EVACUATION FROM THE WATER DISTRICT IS NECESSARY. THIS INCLUDES THE NORTHWOOD PINES SUBDIVISION. IT IS POSSIBLE, IF CONDITIONS CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE AT THE CURRENT RATE, YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE WATER DISTRICT AFTER 11 PM.

NORTHWOOD PINES RESIDENTS SHOULD PREPARE FOR IMMEDIATE MANDATORY EVACUATION. PLEASE EXIT THE WATER DISTRICT ALONG I-45 SOUTH AND PROCEED TO SPRING HIGH SCHOOL LOCATED AT 19428 I-45, SPRING TX 77373 FOR SHELTER. TO REACH SPRING HIGH SCHOOL, EXIT CYPRESSWOOD DRIVE AND TURN LEFT. SPRING HIGH SCHOOL IS LOCATED ON THE LEFT.

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**Evacuation Immediate**

WOUS44 KMRX 290447  
EVIMRX  
TNC155-290800-

URGENT - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED  
EVACUATION IMMEDIATE  
TENNESSEE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MORRISTOWN TN  
1147 PM EST MON NOV 28 2016

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE

PIGEON FORGE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.

PIGEON FORGE MAYOR DAVID WEAR HAS ISSUED A MANDATORY EVACUATION: IF YOU ARE LOCATED IN THE AREA BETWEEN THE SPUR AND TRAFFIC LIGHT NUMBER 8 IN THE CITY OF PIGEON FORGE, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS. PEOPLE WHO ARE IN A HARDENED STRUCTURE LOCATED ON THE PIGEON FORGE PARKWAY IN THE DESIGNATED AREA SHOULD REMAIN IN THAT STRUCTURE. IF YOU ARE IN A STRUCTURE LOCATED OFF THE PIGEON FORGE PARKWAY IN THE DESIGNATED AREA, IT IS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO EVACUATE NOW. PLEASE USE 441 NORTH PARKWAY TO TRAVEL. PLEASE AVOID SIDE STREETS AND BACKROADS.

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**Fire Warning**

WOUS44 KOUN 070304  
FRWOUN  
OKZ010-070400-

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED  
FIRE WARNING  
REQUESTED BY WOODWARD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE NORMAN OK  
859 PM CST MON MAR 6 2017

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS BEING TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF WOODWARD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

A FIRE WAS LOCATED NEAR BOILING SPRINGS STATE PARK AND MOVING SOUTHWARD. RESIDENTS BETWEEN COUNTY ROAD EW 36 AND COUNTY ROAD EW 41...AND BETWEEN COUNTY ROAD NS 206 AND COUNTY ROAD NS 211 SHOULD EVACUATE SOUTHWARD. THERE ARE SHELTERS SET UP AT THE MOORELAND COMMUNITY CENTER IN MOORELAND AND AT THE WOODWARD PIONEER ROOM AT 1212 9TH STREET IN WOODWARD.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

FOLLOW SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS FROM LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

HEED ANY EVACUATION ORDERS AND FOLLOW ALL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.

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WOUS44 KAMA 132142  
FRWAMA  
TXC233-341-132245-

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED  
FIRE WARNING  
BORGER OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AMARILLO TX  
442 PM CDT FRI APR 13 2018

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE BORGER OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

RESIDENTS TO THE WEST AND SOUTHWEST OF LAKEVIEW DRIVE AND NORTHWEST OF TEXAS HIGHWAY 136 ARE ASKED TO EVACUATE. NO EVACUATION CENTERS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED AT THIS TIME. RESIDENTS ARE ADVISED TO HEAD EAST INTO FRITCH, AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS FROM LOCAL POLICE AND SHERIFF.

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**Shelter In Place Warning**

WOUS44 KOHX 141042  
SPWOHX  
TNC149-141245-

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED  
SHELTER IN PLACE WARNING  
TENNESSEE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY NASHVILLE TENNESSEE  
RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE NASHVILLE TN  
442 AM CST WED DEC 14 2016

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE TENNESSEE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY NASHVILLE TENNESSEE.

THIS IS A SHELTER IN PLACE WARNING IN EFFECT FOR RUTHERFORD COUNTY. THE LOCATION IS ALONG I-24 AT MILE MARKER 87. AN ACTIVE HAZMAT EXISTS AND IS ON FIRE AND IS CREATING AN INHALATION HAZARD. THE PLUME EXTENDS SOUTHWARD FOR ABOUT 1 MILE.

GO INDOORS, CLOSE DOORS AND WINDOWS, TURN OFF AIR CONDITIONING AND HEATING SYSTEMS, AND TURN ON RADIO AND TELEVISION FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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