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Service Change Notice 25-94 Updated  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
930 AM EST Wed Jan 7 2026

To: Subscribers:

-NOAA Weather Wire Service  
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
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From: Mary Mullusky, Chief  
Operations Services Division

Subject: Updated: Changes to Public, Marine and Fire Weather Forecast  
Zones for WFO Anchorage, AK effective March 3, 2026

Updated to include new public and fire weather zone numbers (Table 2 and 6). The names of the public and fire weather zones will not change.

Effective on Tue, March 3, 2026, at 12:00 pm Alaska Standard Time (AKDT), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Anchorage, Alaska (AFC) will implement minor refinements to Public, Marine and Fire Weather Forecast Zones boundaries. Due to the limited spatial extent of these changes, zones will not change numbers or names (and there is only one new marine zone created). Specifics are shown in Tables 2, 4 and 5 below.

If March 3, 2026 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 4, 2026 at 2100 UTC.

Minor changes will be made to the Eastern Aleutian Islands and Susitna Valley public (and fire weather) zones. Susitna Valley changes will better reflect forecasts during flooding events. No new zone names or numbers will result. Changes to the Aleutian Public Zones are below in Tables 2 and 3; aside from reflecting a naming convention preferred by the affected communities, Akutan will now be included in zone AKZ781, corresponding to the correct Borough boundary:

Table 1: UGC-Z: Current Public Zone Name of Impacted Zones

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AKZ781: Southern Alaska Peninsula  
AKZ785: Eastern Aleutians  
AKZ787: Central Aleutians  
AKZ791: Western Aleutians  
AKZ761: Central Alaska Peninsula  
AKZ773: Chignik

Table 2: UGC-Z: New Public Zone Name of Impacted Zones

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AKZ781: Aleutians East Borough  
AKZ785: Unalaska and Nikolski

AKZ787: Atka and Adak  
AKZ791: Shemya and Attu Islands  
AKZ761: Southern Alaska Peninsula  
AKZ773: Chignik and Perryville

Minor adjustments will be made to Marine Zones along the Aleutian Islands to better reflect marine zone forecasts in the area of Unimak Pass. It should be noted zone numbers and names in Table 3 are not changing. Additionally, one new marine zone will be created, see Table 4. Details are below:

Table 3: UGC-Z: Impacted Marine Zone Name

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AKZ770-774 were contracted, while AKZ755 and 759 were extended.  
AKZ770: Cape Sarichef to Nikoski Bering Side out to 15 NM  
AKZ772: Cape Sarichef to Nikoski Bering Side from 15 to 85 NM  
AKZ773: Cape Sarichef to Nikoski Pacific Side out to 15 NM  
AKZ774: Cape Sarichef to Nikoski Pacific Side from 15 to 85 NM  
AKZ755: Cape Tolstoi to Cape Sarichef 15 to 100 NM  
AKZ759: Nelson Lagoon to Cape Sarichef from 15 to 70 NM

Table 4: UGC-Z: New Marine Zone Name

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AKZ768: Unimak Pass

Fire Weather Zones will be adjusted on the Kenai Peninsula near the area of Skilak Lake to better differentiate fire weather conditions in areas west of the Kenai Mountains. Details below:

Table 5: UGC-Z: Impacted Fire Weather Forecast Zone Name

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AKZ723: Northwest Kenai Peninsula  
AKZ724: Skilak Lake / Eastern Sterling Highway

Table 6: UGC-Z: New Fire Weather Zone Name of Impacted Zones

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AKZ733: Northwest Kenai Peninsula  
AKZ734: Skilak Lake / Eastern Sterling Highway

These changes will improve forecast, watch, warning, and advisory services to the public, including the "point and click" forecast.

Table 7: NWS products affected by the WFO Anchorage zone changes are listed below.

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
Area Forecast Discussion	FXAK68	AFDAFC
Avalanche Weather Guidance	FWAK48	AVGAFC
Special Avalanche Bulletin	WWAK88	SABAFC
Coastal Flood Watch/Warning/Statement	WHAK42	CFWALU

Special Weather Statement	WWAK82	PAFC	SPSALU
Public Information Statement	NOAK48	PAFC	PNSAFC
Zone Forecast	FPAK52	PAFC	ZFPALU
Winter Weather Watch/Warning/Advisory	WWAK42	PAFC	WSWALU
Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/Advisory	WWAK72	PAFC	NPWALU
Fire Weather Forecast	FNAK51	PAFC	FWFAER
Red Flag Warning	WWAK61	PAFC	RFWAER
Tsunami Warning	WEPA41	PAAQ	TSUWCA
Flood/Flash Flood Watch	WGAK68	PAFC	FFAACFC
Flood Warning	WGAK58	PAFC	FLWAFC
Flash Flood Warning	WGAK58	PAFC	FFWAFC
Flood Statement	WGAK88	PAFC	FLSAFC
Flood Potential Outlook	FGAK78	PAFC	ESFAFC
Point Forecast Matrix	FOAK52	PAFC	PFMALU
Coastal Waters Forecast	FZAK52	PAFC	CWFALU
Special Marine Warning	WHAK58	PAFC	SMWAFC
Marine Weather Statement	FZAK78	PAFC	MWSAFC

Preliminary shapefiles for public, marine, and fire weather forecast zones and County Warning Area boundaries are available online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones>  
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/MarineZones>  
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones>  
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/CWABounds>

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on February 13, 2026.

Changes are also detailed online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/afc/NWSAnchorageLandandMarineBasedForecastChanges>

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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