



Memorandum No. 16-018

Date: 30 August 2016

TO: NWCG Executive Board Members
FROM: John Glenn, Chair, NWCG Executive Board
SUBJECT: National Weather Service (NWS) Spot Forecast

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Glenn", is written over the "SUBJECT" line of the memorandum.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide firefighters and fire managers information about changes to the NWS Spot Forecast (Spot Weather Forecast). Please distribute this request through your agency channels.

Site-specific (spot) forecasts are issued by Weather Forecast Offices in support of wildfire management and natural resource management. These forecasts aid the land management and fire control agencies in protecting life and property during wildland fires, hazardous fuels reduction, and rehabilitation and restoration of natural resources. Spot forecasts are also issued for hazardous materials incidents, marine incidents, search and rescue response and other threats to public safety.

Issue/Action Requested: The NWS Spot Forecast has been improved and updated. Beginning October 17, 2016, all NWS Spot Forecast requests must be submitted through the new webpage located at <http://weather.gov/spot>.

Some regions of the country may elect to transition to the new page prior to October 17, 2016. Please do not use the <http://weather.gov/spot> for operational purposes prior to October 17th without consulting with your local Weather Forecast Office.

Information and training for the new NWS Spot Forecast is located at <http://weather.gov/fire> under the "Forecasts" (left menu bar) entitled *SPOT Forecast Web Page Training*. Additional training may be provided by your local Weather Forecast Office.

Background: NWS Spot Forecasts are site specific weather forecasts developed at the request of emergency managers from local, state, tribal, and federal government agencies. NWS Spot Forecasts are based on on-site weather observations provided by the requesting entity. NWS Spot Forecasts are intended to support incident management decisions.

On June 1, 2015 a revised NWS Spot Forecast was made available for testing and to solicit, evaluate, and integrate user feedback. The updated NWS Spot Forecast is based on this effort. Improvements to the previous NWS Spot Forecast include:

- All-hazards applicable (hazardous materials incidents, marine incidents, search and rescue response and other threats to public safety).
- Incident type specification enables customized forecasts.
- Observation entry is standardized through drop-down menus.
- Consolidated web presence - a single location to request and monitor forecasts regardless of location or incident type.

- Google mapping interface.
- Customer options for forecast format.

Contact Information: Please contact your local NWS Weather Forecast Office if you have questions about the new NWS Spot Forecast.