AVIATION AREA FORECAST COVERAGE AREAS

The AWC issues FAs for six geographical areas shown below.

AREA FORECAST FORMAT AND CONTENT

The FA is an 18-hour forecast composed of the following 4 sections:

1. Communication and Product Header
   a. The Communication and Product Header section (Table 1) contains descriptive information about the product.
   b. Study Table 1, which provides an example of this section of the Area Forecast. Then, reference Table 2 to learn how to decipher the section.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LINE</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>DFW C FA 120945</td>
<td>Area Forecast region identifier. Indicates VFR clouds and weather forecast. Product type. Issuance and beginning of valid date/time (UTC).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SYNOPSIS AND VFR CLDS/WX</td>
<td>Statement of weather information contained in this forecast message.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SYNOPSIS VALID UNTIL 130400</td>
<td>Synopsis valid date and time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>CLDS/WX VALID UNTIL 122200...OTLK VALID 122200-130400</td>
<td>The main forecast for VFR clouds and weather valid time. The valid date and time of the outlook.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>OK TX AR TN MS AL AND CSTL WTRS</td>
<td>Description of the area for which the FA is valid.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Area Forecast – Communication and Product Header Example

Table 2. Decoding the Communications and Product Header
2. Precautionary Statements
   a. The Precautionary Statements section consists of three lines.
   b. Study the table below and then reference the text immediately following it to learn the purpose of each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LINE</th>
<th>SEE AIRMET SIERRA FOR IFR CONDS AND MTN OBSCN.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SEE AIRMET SIERRA FOR IFR CONDS AND MTN OBSCN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>TS IMPLY SEV OR GTR TURB SEV ICE LLWS AND IFR CONDS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>NON MSL HGTS DENOTED BY AGL OR CIG.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   Table 3. Area Forecast – Precautionary Statements Example

   1) Line 1 is included to alert users that IFR conditions and/or mountain obscurations may be occurring or are forecast to occur and are not included in the product.
   2) Line 2 is included as a reminder of all hazards associated with thunderstorms. These hazards are not spelled out in the body of the FA.
   3) Line 3 indicates height references are MSL unless they are preceded by AGL or CIG.

3. Synopsis
   a. The Synopsis section contains a brief summary of the location and movement of fronts, pressure systems, and other circulation features for the entire 18 hour valid period.
   b. Study the synopsis example below and then read the explanation of it.

   | SYNOPSIS...LOW PRES TROF 10Z OK/TX PNHDL AREA |
   | FCST MOV EWD INTO CNTRL-SWRN OK BY 04Z. |
   | WRMFNT 10Z CNTRL OK-SRN AR-NRN MS FCST LIFT |
   | NWND INTO NERN OK-NRN AR XTRM NRN MS BY 04Z. |

   Table 4. Area Forecast – Synopsis Example

   c. The Synopsis is decoded as follows:

   Synopsis...low pressure through at 1000 UTC over the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandle area forecast to move eastward into central/southwestern Oklahoma by 0400 UTC. A warm front at 1000 UTC from central Oklahoma to southern Arkansas to northern Mississippi is forecast to lift northward into northeastern Oklahoma to northern Arkansas to extreme northern Mississippi by 0400 UTC.

   a. The VFR CLDS/WX section describes conditions consisting of
      1) MVFR cloud ceilings (1,000 to 3,000 feet AGL),
      2) MVFR obstructions to visibility (3-5 statute miles), and
      3) Any other significant VFR clouds (bases at or below FL180) or VFR precipitation.
   b. The CLDS/WX section also includes widespread, sustained surface winds of 20 knots or greater.
   c. Occasionally, IFR conditions may be forecast in the Hawaii FA as IFR conditions may not reach AIRMET geographical coverage criteria.
   d. This section contains a 12-hour forecast, followed by a 6-hour categorical outlook of IFR, MVFR and/or VFR, giving a total forecast period of 18 hours.
   e. The CLDS/WX section is divided into regions with generally uniform weather conditions. These divisions may be by geographical regions (e.g., LM – Lake Michigan) or states using their 2-letter designations (e.g., ND – North Dakota).
f. Study the example below of a CLD/WX section and then read the explanation of it.

Table 5. Area Forecast – VFR Clouds and Weather Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S CNTL AND SERN TX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGL SCT-BKN010. TOPS 030. VIS 3-5SM BR. 14-16Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCMG AGL SCT 030. 19Z AGL SCT050. OTLK...VFR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNHDL AND NW...AGL SCT030 SCT-BKN100. TOPS FL200. 15Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGL SCT040 SCT100. AFT 20Z SCT TSRA DVLPG..FEW POSS SEV. CB TOPS FL450. OTLK...VFR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMAINDER OF STATE...CIG BKN020. TOPS 050. VIS 3-5SM BR. 14Z AGL SCT-BKN040. TOPS 100. 18Z CIG BKN060. TOPS FL180. 22Z SCT TSRA DVLPG..FEW POSS SEV. CB TOPS ABV FL450. OTLK...VFR.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

g. The VFR CLDS/WX section is decoded as follows:

South central and southeast Texas.
Scattered to broken at 1,000 feet above ground level (AGL). Tops at 3,000 feet above mean sea level (MSL). Visibility 3 to 5 statute miles in mist. Between 1400 and 1600 UTC...clouds becoming scattered at 3,000 feet AGL. 1900 UTC...scattered at 5,000 feet AGL. Outlook...VFR.

Oklahoma
Panhandle and northwest...scattered at 3,000 feet AGL, scattered to broken at 10,00 feet AGL. Tops at flight level 20,000 feet MSL. 1500 UTC...scattered at 4,000 feet AGL, scattered at 10,000 feet AGL. After 2000 UTC...scattered thunderstorms with rain showers developing...a few possible severe. Cumulonimbus tops to flight level 45,000 feet MSL. Outlook...VFR.

Remainder of the state...Ceilings broken at 2,000 feet AGL. Tops at 5,000 feet MSL. Visibility 3 to 5 statute miles in mist. 1400 UTC...scattered to broken at 4,000 feet AGL. Tops at 10,000 feet MSL. 1800 UTC...ceilings broken 6,000 feet AGL. Tops to flight level 18,000 feet MSL. 2200 UTC...scattered thunderstorm with rain showers developing...a few possibly severe. Cumulonimbus tops above flight level 45,000 feet MSL. Outlook...VFR.
FAUS5 KDFW 030953  (ICAO Communication Header)  
FA4W  
DFWC FA 030945  (AMD or COR if needed)  
SYNOPSIS AND VFR CLDS/WX  
SYNOPSIS VALID UNTIL 040400  
CLDS/WX VALID UNTIL 032200...OTLK VALID 032200-040400  
OK TX AR TN LA MS AL  
SEE AIRMET SIERRA FOR IFR COND AND MT OBSCN.  
TS IMPLY SEV OR GTR TURB SEV ICE LLWS AND IFR CONDS.  
NON MSL HGT DENOTED BY AGL OR CIG.  
SYNOPSIS...HURCN LILI MOVG ONSHORE OVER CENTRAL LA COASTLINE.  SEE LATEST  
ADVISORY FM NHC.  QUASI-STNR FRONTAL SYSTEM EXTENDS FM N OH AND CENTRAL IN  
ACROSS S IL..SW MO..SW OK INTO SE CORNER OF NM.  BY 04Z...COLD FRONT WILL EXTEND  
FM A LOW OVER SERN NE ACROSS CENTRAL KS AND W OK INTO BIG BEND AREA OF SW TX.  
OK  
OK PANHANDLE/W OK...CIG OVC010.  CLDS LYR TO FL240.  
VIS 3-5SM BR.  BECMG 1618 CIG OVC015-025.  WIDELY SCT -SHRA/ISOL EMBD  
-TSRA.  CB TOP FL350.  OTLK...MVFR CIG TSRA BR.  
ERN OK...AGL SCT-BKN015-025.  TOPS 030-050.  VIS 3-5SM BR.  BECMG 1417 AGL SCT030-050.  
OTLK...VFR.  
NW TX  
CIG010.  CLDS LYR TO FL240.  VIS 3-5SM BR.  BECMG 1618 CIG OVC015-025.  
WIDELY SCT -SHRA/ISOL EMBD -TSRA.  CB TOP FL350.  OTLK...MVFR CIG TSRA BR.  
SW TX  
AGL SCT040-060.  OTLK...VFR.  
CENTRAL TX  
CIG BKN015-025.  TOP 030-050.  VIX 3-5SM BR.  BECMG 1417 AGL SCT030-050.  
OTLK...VFR.  
E TX  
SKC.  BECMG 1316 AGL SCT030-050.  OTLK...VFR.  
AR  
AGL SCT030-050.  SCT-BKN100.  TOP FL200.  BKN CI.  OTLK...MVFR CIG TSRA BR.  
LA  
N LA...AGL SCT-BKN030-050.  BKN100.  TOPS FL240.  ISOL -SHRA.  BECMG 1618  
CIG BKN030-050.  WIDELY SCT TSRA/SHRA DEVELOPING.  CB TOP FL400.  
OTLK...MVFR CIG TSRA WND.  
S LA...CIG OVC010-020.  CLDS LYR TO FL280.  OCNL RA/+RA...SCT  
+TSRA...POSS SEV.  CB TOPS FL450.  SFC WND 14030G50KT.  E SECTIONS...WND  
30025G40KT.  WND DIMINISHING TO 20G30KT 19-22Z.  
OTLK...MVFR CIG SHRA WND.  
TN  
BKN CI.  OCNL VIS 3-5SM BR TIL 14Z.  OTLK...VFR.  
MS AL  
N AND CENTRAL MS-AL/SE AL..SCT-BKN100.  BKN150.  TOPS FL280.  BECMG 1618  
AGL SCT-BKN050 BKN100 OVC150.  OTLK...MVFR CIG TSRA.  
S MS/SW AL...AGL SCT-BKN050 BKN100 OVC150.  TOPS FL280.  BECMG 1316 CIG  
OVC015-025.  OCNL RA/SCT EMBD TSRA.  CG TOP FL410.  OTLK...MVFR CIG TSRA.