



valid for Chicago, Illinois (KORD). All stations are identified by the ICAO four-character identifier.

The "NAM MOS GUIDANCE" appearing on the same line as the station call letters identifies the message contents. The date of the forecast cycle during which the message is issued follows this information. The form of mm/dd/yyyy where mm is the month (1 through 12), dd is the day (1 through 31), and yyyy is the four-digit year is used. The forecast cycle is identified by the standard 0000 or 1200 UTC. In this example, the MOS guidance for KORD was issued from the 1200 UTC forecast cycle of the NAM model on October 22, 2008.

The DT and HR lines denote the date and hour at which the forecasts are valid. The DT line indicates the day of the month. Note that the month is denoted by the standard three or four letter abbreviation. For temperature, dew point, sky cover, wind direction and speed, precipitation type, ceiling height, visibility, and obstruction to vision, the date and hour denote the specific time that the forecasts are valid. These forecasts are valid every 3 hours until 60 hours after initial time and then every 6 hours until 72 hours after initial time. For PoP, quantitative precipitation, thunderstorms, severe weather, and snowfall amount, the time indicates the end of the period over which the forecasts are valid. For the max/min temperature, the date group gives only the approximate ending time of the daytime and nighttime periods for which the max and min temperature guidance, respectively, are valid.

### 3. X/N - MAXIMUM/MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

KORD	NAM MOS GUIDANCE												10/22/2008				1200 UTC				
DT	/OCT	22/OCT	23										/OCT	24					/OCT	25	
HR	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	06	12
N/X							36						58			48			56	44	

The max/min surface temperature forecasts are displayed for projections of 24, 36, 48, 60, and 72 hours after the initial data time (0000 or 1200 UTC). Although the forecasts are presented at consecutive 12-h intervals, each forecast is actually valid for a daytime or nighttime period. For the NAM-based MOS guidance, daytime is defined as 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Local Standard Time (LST). Nighttime is defined as 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. LST. Thus, the valid date in the appropriate column of the DT and HR lines must be converted by the forecaster to his/her local date. This local date then denotes the appropriate daytime or nighttime for the max or min temperature forecast. For the 0000 UTC forecast cycle, the temperatures are shown in max/min (X/N) order and are valid for today's max, tonight's min, tomorrow's max, tomorrow night's min, and the day after tomorrow's max. For the 1200 UTC cycle, the temperatures are shown in min/max (N/X) order and are valid for tonight's min, tomorrow's max, tomorrow night's min, the day after tomorrow's max, and the night after tomorrow night's min. Each temperature forecast is presented to the nearest whole degree Fahrenheit, and three characters are allowed. A missing forecast is indicated by a 999.

#### 4. TMP - SURFACE TEMPERATURE

```

KORD  NAM MOS GUIDANCE  10/22/2008  1200 UTC
DT /OCT  22/OCT  23                /OCT  24                /OCT  25
HR   18 21 00 03 06 09 12 15 18 21 00 03 06 09 12 15 18 21 00 06 12
      ...
TMP  50 52 47 43 41 40 39 46 55 57 52 52 52 50 49 51 53 54 51 49 46

```

Time-specific 2-m temperature forecasts are valid every 3 hours from 6 to 60 hours, and then every 6 hours to 72 hours after 0000 and 1200 UTC. These forecasts are valid at 0600, 0900, ..., 2100, 0000 UTC, and so forth. Each temperature forecast is presented to the nearest whole degree Fahrenheit; a missing forecast is indicated by a 999. Note that only three characters are available for the temperature forecasts. Thus, two consecutive forecasts of 100 degrees or more or of -10 degrees or less appear with no spaces between them.

#### 5. DPT - SURFACE DEW POINT

```

KORD  NAM MOS GUIDANCE  10/22/2008  1200 UTC
DT /OCT  22/OCT  23                /OCT  24                /OCT  25
HR   18 21 00 03 06 09 12 15 18 21 00 03 06 09 12 15 18 21 00 06 12
      ...
DPT  25 24 27 28 28 29 29 32 33 34 36 38 39 40 40 40 40 41 43 44 42

```

Time-specific 2-m dew point forecasts are valid every 3 hours from 6 to 60 hours, and then every 6 hours to 72 hours after 0000 and 1200 UTC. These forecasts are valid at 0600, 0900, ..., 2100, 0000 UTC, and so forth. Each dew point forecast is presented to the nearest whole degree Fahrenheit; a missing forecast is indicated by a 999. Three characters are available for the dew point forecasts so that two consecutive forecasts of -10 degrees or less appear with no spaces between them.

#### 6. CLD - TOTAL SKY COVER CATEGORIES

```

KORD  NAM MOS GUIDANCE  10/22/2008  1200 UTC
DT /OCT  22/OCT  23                /OCT  24                /OCT  25
HR   18 21 00 03 06 09 12 15 18 21 00 03 06 09 12 15 18 21 00 06 12
      ...
CLD  OV BK FW SC SC SC CL CL CL SC SC OV OV OV OV OV OV OV OV OV OV

```

Forecast categories of total sky cover (see the following table) are available in plain language for projections at 3-h intervals from 6 to 60 hours, and then every 6 hours to 72 hours after the initial data times (0000 and 1200 UTC). All forecasts are valid for specific times (i.e., 0600, 0900, 1200, and so forth). Two characters identify the category (CL - clear; FW - few; SC - scattered; BK - broken; OV - overcast); a missing forecast is denoted by XX.

Total Sky Cover Categories

CL - clear;

FW - > 0 to 2 octas of total sky cover;

SC - > 2 to 4 octas of total sky cover;  
 BK - > 4 to < 8 octas of total sky cover;  
 OV - 8 octas of total sky cover or totally obscured.

**7. WDR - SURFACE WIND DIRECTION / WSP - SURFACE WIND SPEED**

KORD	NAM MOS GUIDANCE															10/22/2008						1200 UTC																																										
DT	/OCT 22/OCT 23															/OCT 24						/OCT 25																																										
HR	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	06	12	...	11	10	11	11	13	12	11	11	10	10	10	12	14	14	13	14	15	16	13	16	18	14	15	13	15	15	12	12	14	14	14	11	11	09	07	07	07	08	09	08	07	09
WDR	11	10	11	11	13	12	11	11	10	10	10	12	14	14	13	14	15	16	13	16	18	...	11	10	11	11	13	12	11	11	10	10	10	12	14	14	13	14	15	16	13	16	18	14	15	13	15	15	12	12	14	14	14	11	11	09	07	07	07	08	09	08	07	09
WSP	14	15	13	15	15	12	12	14	14	14	11	11	09	07	07	07	08	09	08	07	09	...	14	15	13	15	15	12	12	14	14	14	11	11	09	07	07	07	08	09	08	07	09	14	15	13	15	15	12	12	14	14	14	11	11	09	07	07	07	08	09	08	07	09

Surface wind direction (WDR) and speed (WSP) forecasts are given at 3-h intervals for projections of 6 to 60 hours, and then every 6 hours to 72 hours after the initial data times (0000 and 1200 UTC). These are forecasts of the 10-m winds (a 2-minute average) at specific times throughout each day (i.e., 0600, 0900, 1200 UTC, and so forth). The wind direction is given in tens of degrees and varies from 01 (10 degrees) to 36 (360 degrees). The normal meteorological convention for specifying wind direction is followed. The wind speed is given in knots; the maximum speed allowed in the message is 98 knots. For both direction and speed, missing forecasts are denoted by 99. A calm wind is indicated by a wind direction and speed of 00.

**8. P06 - PROBABILITY OF PRECIPITATION IN A 6-H PERIOD**

KORD	NAM MOS GUIDANCE															10/22/2008						1200 UTC											
DT	/OCT 22/OCT 23															/OCT 24						/OCT 25											
HR	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	06	12	...	1	1	1	3	8	2	10	67	34	30	56
P06	1	1	1	3	8	2	10	67	34	30	56	...	1	1	1	3	8	2	10	67	34	30	56										

The P06 forecasts are for the probability of 0.01 inches or more of liquid-equivalent precipitation (PoP) occurring during a 6-h period. The 6-h PoP's are valid for intervals of 6-12, 12-18, 18-24, 24-30, 30-36, 36-42, 42-48, 48-54, 54-60, 60-66, and 66-72 hours after the initial data times (0000 and 1200 UTC). In the message, the forecast values are displayed under the ending time of the 6-h period. The probability is given to the nearest percent. Values range from 0 to 100%. A missing forecast value is indicated by 999.

**9. P12 - PROBABILITY OF PRECIPITATION IN A 12-H PERIOD**

KORD	NAM MOS GUIDANCE															10/22/2008						1200 UTC					
DT	/OCT 22/OCT 23															/OCT 24						/OCT 25					
HR	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	06	12	...	3	8	11	74	70
P12	3	8	11	74	70	...	3	8	11	74	70																

The P12 forecasts are for the probability of 0.01 inches or more of liquid-equivalent precipitation (PoP) occurring during a 12-h period. For nearly

all stations, the 12-h PoP's are valid for intervals of 12-24, 24-36, 36-48, 48-60, and 60-72 hours after the initial data times (0000 and 1200 UTC). For stations in Hawaii, however, the 12-h PoP's are valid for intervals of 6-18, 18-30, 30-42, 42-54, and 54-66 hours after 0000 and 1200 UTC. In the message, the forecast values are displayed under the ending time of the 12-h period. The probability is given to the nearest percent. Values range from 0 to 100%. A missing forecast value is indicated by 999.

**10. Q06 - QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION AMOUNT IN A 6-H PERIOD**

KORD	NAM MOS GUIDANCE 10/22/2008 1200 UTC																				
DT	/OCT 22/OCT 23						/OCT 24						/OCT 25								
HR	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	06	12
Q06		0		0		0		0		0		0		0		3		1		1	1

Guidance for liquid-equivalent precipitation amount (QPF) accumulated during a 6-h period is presented in categorical form on the line designated Q06. These forecasts are available for projections of 6-12, 12-18, 18-24, 24-30, 30-36, 36-42, 42-48, 48-54, 54-60, 60-66, and 66-72 hours after the initial data time (0000 and 1200 UTC). The forecasts are displayed beneath the hour indicating the end of the 6-h period. The Q06 guidance is a categorical forecast of liquid-equivalent precipitation equaling or exceeding certain specified amounts in the 6-h periods. The categories are as follows:

- Q06 Categories  
 0 = no precipitation expected;  
 1 = 0.01 - 0.09 inches;  
 2 = 0.10 - 0.24 inches;  
 3 = 0.25 - 0.49 inches;  
 4 = 0.50 - 0.99 inches;  
 5 =  $\geq$  1.00 inches.

Missing forecasts are denoted by 9.

**11. Q12 - QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION AMOUNT IN A 12-H PERIOD**

KORD	NAM MOS GUIDANCE 10/22/2008 1200 UTC																				
DT	/OCT 22/OCT 23						/OCT 24						/OCT 25								
HR	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	06	12
Q12																		3			2

Guidance for liquid-equivalent precipitation amount (QPF) accumulated during a 12-h period is presented in categorical form on the line designated Q12. These forecasts are available for projections of 12-24, 24-36, 36-48, 48-60, and 60-72 hours after the initial data time (0000 and 1200 UTC). For stations in Hawaii, however, the 12-h QPF's are valid for intervals of 6-18, 18-30, 30-42, 42-54, and 54-66 hours after 0000 and 1200 UTC. The forecasts are displayed beneath the hour indicating the end of the 12-h period. The Q12 guidance is a categorical forecast of liquid-equivalent precipitation



**13. T12 - PROBABILITY OF THUNDERSTORMS/CONDITIONAL PROBABILITY OF SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS IN A 12-H PERIOD**

KORD	NAM MOS GUIDANCE												10/22/2008 0000 UTC									
DT	/OCT 22/OCT 23				/OCT 24						/OCT 25											
HR	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	18	00	
T12	0/ 1				0/ 5						2/ 2				5/ 2				4/ 5			

The T12 line represents forecasts for the probability of thunderstorms (to the left of the diagonal) and the conditional probability of severe thunderstorms (to the right of the diagonal) occurring during a 12-h period. The 12-h probability forecasts are valid for intervals of 6-18, 18-30, 30-42, 42-54, and 54-66 hours after the initial data times (0000 and 1200 UTC). In the message, the pair of forecast values is displayed under the ending time of the 12-h period. The thunderstorm probability is given to the nearest whole percent. Values range from 0 to 100%. A missing forecast value is indicated by 999. The conditional severe thunderstorm probability is given to the nearest whole percent. Values range from 0 to 98%. A missing forecast value is given by 99. Both the thunderstorm and conditional severe storm probabilities are available year-round for stations in the contiguous U.S. Note that these probabilities represent the likelihood of the event within a box approximately 40 km on a side and containing the station specified. The conditional severe thunderstorm probabilities represent the likelihood of the event within a box approximately 80 km on a side and containing the station specified. Forecasts are unavailable for stations in Alaska, Hawaii, or Puerto Rico because reports from the NLDN used to define the thunderstorm predictand were unavailable for locations in those areas.

**14. SNW - SNOWFALL AMOUNT CATEGORICAL FORECAST**

KORD	NAM MOS GUIDANCE												10/22/2008 1200 UTC								
DT	/OCT 22/OCT 23				/OCT 24						/OCT 25										
HR	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	06	12
SNW	0				0						0				0						

Categorical forecasts of snowfall amount are available in the message for 24-h periods ending approximately 36 and 60 hours after 0000 UTC and approximately 24, 48, and 72 hours after 1200 UTC. Since observations from the cooperative observer network are used to define the event, the valid times are approximations. The categories are denoted as follows:

- Snowfall Amount Categories
- 0 = no snow or a trace expected;
  - 1 = > a trace to < 2 inches expected;
  - 2 = 2 to < 4 inches;
  - 4 = > 4 to < 6 inches;
  - 6 = > 6 to < 8 inches;
  - 8 = > 8 inches.

A missing forecast is denoted by 9; forecasts are disseminated only for the period of September 1 - May 31.

15. CIG - CEILING HEIGHT CATEGORICAL FORECASTS

KORD	NAM MOS GUIDANCE																		10/22/2008						1200 UTC					
DT	/OCT 22/OCT			23						/OCT 24						/OCT 25														
HR	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	06	12									
CIG	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	7	2	3	5	5	5	2								

Forecasts of eight categories of ceiling height (see the following table) are available for specific times valid every 3 hours from 6 to 60 hours and then every 6 hours to 72 hours after 0000 and 1200 UTC. The forecasts are displayed beneath the time of the day for which they are valid. Values of 1 through 8 are allowed for the categorical guidance; a value of 9 denotes a missing forecast. The categories are as follows:

Ceiling Height Categories

- 1 = ceiling height of < 200 feet;
- 2 = ceiling height of 200 - 400 feet;
- 3 = ceiling height of 500 - 900 feet;
- 4 = ceiling height of 1000 - 1900 feet;
- 5 = ceiling height of 2000 - 3000 feet;
- 6 = ceiling height of 3100 - 6500 feet;
- 7 = ceiling height of 6600 - 12,000 feet;
- 8 = ceiling height of > 12,000 feet or unlimited ceiling.

The categorical guidance is prepared by using probability forecasts of the same categories.

16. VIS - VISIBILITY CATEGORICAL FORECASTS

KORD	NAM MOS GUIDANCE																		10/22/2008						1200 UTC					
DT	/OCT 22/OCT			23						/OCT 24						/OCT 25														
HR	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	06	12									
VIS	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	5	5	5	7	5	4								

Forecasts of seven categories of visibility (see the following table) are available for specific times valid every 3 hours from 6 to 60 hours and then every 6 hours to 72 hours after 0000 and 1200 UTC. The forecasts are displayed beneath the time of the day for which they are valid. Values of 1 through 7 are allowed for the categorical guidance; a value of 9 denotes a missing forecast. The categories are as follows:

Visibility Categories

- 1 = visibility of < 1/2 mi;
- 2 = visibility of 1/2 - < 1 mi;
- 3 = visibility of 1 to < 2 mi;
- 4 = visibility of 2 to < 3 mi;
- 5 = visibility of 3 to 5 mi;
- 6 = visibility of 6 mi;
- 7 = visibility of > 6 mi.





METSE1

FOUS46 KWNO - North Central U.S.  
METNC1

FOUS47 KWNO - South Central U.S.  
METSC1

FOUS48 KWNO - Rocky Mountain Region (CONUS)  
METRM1

FOUS49 KWNO - West Coast Region (CONUS)  
METWC1

FOAK47 KWNO - Southeast Alaska (Juneau)  
METAJK

FOAK48 KWNO - Central Alaska (Anchorage)  
METAFC

FOAK49 KWNO - Northern Alaska (Fairbanks)  
METAFG

## 19. STATION LIST

The NAM MOS guidance will be available for approximately 1687 stations. The guidance is transmitted in the 10 bulletins described in Section 18.

The user may check the following home pages for the station lists and corresponding WMO headers:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mdl/synop/namstadrg.php>

**Figure 1. Sample 0000 UTC message.**

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KORD   NAM MOS GUIDANCE   10/22/2008  0000 UTC
DT /OCT  22                /OCT  23                /OCT  24                /
HR   06 09 12 15 18 21 00 03 06 09 12 15 18 21 00 03 06 09 12 18 00
X/N                54                38                58                48 56
TMP  44 41 39 45 51 52 47 44 43 41 40 47 54 56 51 50 51 50 49 53 51
DPT  31 30 29 31 29 29 31 31 31 31 31 33 32 32 35 37 39 41 42 44 44
CLD  SC CL FW SC BK BK BK FW FW SC CL CL CL CL FW OV OV OV OV OV OV
WDR  07 08 10 11 09 10 10 11 11 11 10 11 10 10 11 12 15 11 15 16 13
WSP  06 06 07 11 13 14 13 11 12 11 09 13 13 14 10 08 06 05 06 12 07
P06                1    2    2    2    3    2    7    28    30 56 69
P12                3                4                7                47 74
Q06                0    0    0    0    0    0    0    1    0 3 2
Q12                0                0                0                1 3
T06                0/ 0  0/ 1  0/ 0  0/ 0  0/ 0  0/ 0  0/ 0  3/ 0  3/ 0  3/ 9
T12                0/ 1                0/ 0                0/ 0                3/ 0  4/ 4
SNW                0                0
CIG  8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 7 7 6 2 4
VIS  7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 3 5
OBV  N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N BR HZ

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**Figure 2. Sample 1200 UTC message.**

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KORD   NAM MOS GUIDANCE   10/22/2008  1200 UTC
DT /OCT  22/OCT  23                /OCT  24                /OCT  25
HR   18 21 00 03 06 09 12 15 18 21 00 03 06 09 12 15 18 21 00 06 12
N/X                36                58                48                56 44
TMP  50 52 47 43 41 40 39 46 55 57 52 52 52 50 49 51 53 54 51 49 46
DPT  25 24 27 28 28 29 29 32 33 34 36 38 39 40 40 40 40 41 43 44 42
CLD  OV BK FW SC SC SC CL CL CL SC SC OV OV OV OV OV OV OV OV OV OV
WDR  11 10 11 11 13 12 11 11 10 10 10 12 14 14 13 14 15 16 13 16 18
WSP  14 15 13 15 15 12 12 14 14 14 11 11 09 07 07 07 08 09 08 07 09
P06                1    1    1    3    8    2    10    67    34 30 56
P12                3                8                11                74 70
Q06                0    0    0    0    0    0    0    3    1 1 1
Q12                0                0                0                3 2
T06                0/ 0  0/ 1  0/ 0  0/ 5  1/ 0  2/ 2  3/ 1  4/ 2  4/ 5  2/ 0
T12                0/ 1                0/ 5                2/ 2                5/ 2  4/ 5
SNW                0                0
CIG  8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 7 7 2 3 5 5 5 2
VIS  7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 7 5 4
OBV  N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N BR N N BR BR

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