

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PACIFIC REGION SUPPLEMENT 08-2003
APPLICABLE TO NWS Observing Handbook No. 10 (Rawinsonde Observations)
April 07, 2003***

Operations and Services

Upper Air Program

RADIOSONDE SECOND RELEASE POLICY

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OPR: W/PR12x2 (D. Leeloy)

Certified by: W/PR12 (K. Turner)

Type of Issuance: Initial

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This supplement supersedes Regional Operations Manual Letter (ROML) P-07-99, dated September 30, 1999, filed with B-40.

Signed by _____ March 18, 2003
R. J. LaDouce _____ Date
Director, Pacific Region

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1. Purpose. To promulgate National Weather Service (NWS) and Pacific Region Headquarters (PRH) policy on second-release of radiosondes at Pacific Region (PR) upper-air stations.

2. Policy. Upper-air observations support operational analysis and forecasting at local offices and national centers. A successful upper-air observation is when data is obtained up to the 400 Millibar (mb) level. When an upper-air observation fails to provide data up to the 400 mb level, a decision to attempt a second release is needed. Unnecessary second releases help conserve both funds and equipment without jeopardizing public safety.

3. Procedure. Specifically, when a routine upper-air flight fails to reach 400 mbs, the following shall be done:

a. PR Upper-Air Stations. Upper-air stations should contact the appropriate Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Senior Forecaster (SF) listed below and inquire if a second release should be attempted.

(1) WFO Honolulu (SF): (808) 973-5280 Lihue, Hilo, and Pago Pago.

(2) WFO Guam (SF): (671) 472-0950 Guam, Koror, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Majuro.

b. WFO Shift Senior Forecaster (SF). If the SF believes the local forecast/warning situation justifies a second release, they will authorize the release. If the SF believes the situation doesn't warrant a second release, the SF shall call the National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Senior Duty Meteorologist (SDM) to let them know. If the SDM believes a second release is required for national purposes, the SF shall authorize the second release. Third releases are not authorized except under the most extraordinary circumstances.

4. Documentation. The upper-air station and WFO SF shall make an entry in their station logs documenting the decision and collaboration, if any.