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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 20-54  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
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From:         Bruce Entwistle  
              Chief, Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch

Subject: The Second ICAO APAC Volcanic Ash Exercise, Named APAC VOLCEX 20/02, is Scheduled for July 16, 2020, and will Include the Honolulu Meteorological Watch Office, the Washington Volcanic Ash Advisory Center and Center Weather Service Unit Oakland, CA

The second International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Asia and Pacific (APAC) volcanic ash exercise named APAC VOLCEX 20/02 is scheduled for July 16, 2020. The scenario will simulate a volcanic eruption in Tonga; specifically, the simulated eruption of Tofua (19 degrees 45'S, 175 degrees 4'W) in the central part of the Tonga Islands group, in the South Pacific. The spread of the simulated ash cloud will move into the Washington Volcanic Ash Advisory Center (VAAC)/Honolulu Meteorological Watch Office (MWO) area of responsibility in the 6-hour or 12-hour forecast.

United States participation will be limited to the Honolulu MWO for the Significant Meteorological Information (SIGMET) issuance, the Washington VAAC for the Volcanic Ash Advisory (VAA) issuance, and the Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) Oakland, CA for Ocean Route Air Traffic Control (ATC) decision support.

Exercise date and time: 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) July 16, 2020 - 0300 UTC July 17, 2020.

This exercise can be terminated or canceled by the VOLCEX group if actual volcanic activity is an issue. A test SIGMET will be issued during this time, followed by a cancellation SIGMET to indicate the conclusion of the exercise.

An example of the Honolulu MWO SIGMET is below:

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KZAK SIGMET OSCAR 1 VALID 170000/170600 PHFO-  
OAKLAND OCEANIC FIR EXER MT TOFUA PSN S1945 W17504 VA CLD  
FCST AT 1200Z WI (coordinates provided by VAAC) SFC/FL350 MOV N 20 KT
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For more information or questions, please contact:

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