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Service Change Notice 20-20
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
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From: Mike Angove, Acting Chief
 Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Addition of 60-hour Tropical Cyclone Forecasts on or about May 15, 2020

Effective on or about May 15, 2020, the NWS will include a 60-hour tropical cyclone forecast, when applicable, in products issued by the National Hurricane Center (NHC), the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC), and the Weather Prediction Center (WPC). Examples of all of the products detailed below affected by this change can be found at:

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/productexamples/>

NHC and CPHC issue Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisory (TCM) products for all tropical cyclone system types, including ongoing and potential tropical cyclones, subtropical cyclones, post-tropical cyclones, and remnants of tropical cyclones.

The TCM provides forecast information, as applicable, out 120 hours (5 days) into the future. Information provided by the TCM product includes track, intensity, size, and system type (i.e., post-tropical, remnant low) analysis and forecasts. Through the 2019 hurricane season, the TCM included forecasts at 12-hour time steps through 48 hours and forecasts at 24-hour time steps from 48 hours through 120 hours. Beginning in the 2020 hurricane season, 60-hour forecast information will be provided, including the forecast system type, position, intensity, and 34-knot and 50-knot wind radii in all quadrants when applicable. The TCM will then include forecasts at 12-hour time steps through 72 hours and forecasts at 24-hour time steps from 72 hours through 120 hours.

An example of the 2020 TCM product that includes a 60-hour forecast is provided at:

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/productexamples/TCM_example.txt

NHC and CPHC also provide a table of the analysis and forecast system type, position and intensity at the bottom of their Tropical Cyclone Discussion (TCD) products. This table within the TCD product will include the 60-hour forecast information, when applicable, beginning in 2020.

Tropical Cyclone Track and Watch/Warning Graphics (also known as the cone graphic) for both the 3-day and 5-day forecast periods will include the 60-hour forecast point. An example of the Tropical Cyclone Track and Watch/Warning Graphic including a 60-hour point can be found here:

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/images/cone_5day_with_wind.png

The track errors used to create the error cone on the Tropical Cyclone Track and Watch/Warning Graphics are updated annually and posted in the spring at:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/verification/verify4.shtml>

In addition, when an inland tropical depression is forecast to persist for 60 hours or longer, WPC will provide the 60-hour forecast system type, position and intensity information in their Tropical Cyclone Public Advisory (TCP) product. WPC does not issue TCM or TCD products. An example of the WPC TCP product with a 60-hour forecast can be found here:

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/productexamples/TCP_wpc.txt

A full description of NWS Tropical Cyclone Forecast Center Products is provided in NWSI 10-607, which is available at:

<https://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01006007curr.pdf>

This directive will be updated by June 1 for the 2020 hurricane season to include these changes.

For questions or comments, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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