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Service Change Notice 26-27
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From: Jamie Rhome, Deputy Director
 National Hurricane Center

Subject: Operational Implementation of the National Hurricane Center
Tropical Cyclone Track and Error Cone Graphic with U.S. Inland Watches
and Warnings on or about May 15, 2026

Effective on or about May 15, 2026, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) will transition the experimental version of the Tropical Cyclone (TC) Track and Error Cone Graphic (i.e., Cone Graphic) that depicts both U.S. coastal and inland tropical wind watches and warnings to operational status based on the feedback received during the 2024 and 2025 hurricane seasons.

This new operational cone graphic will be similar to the previous operational cone graphic, with the following changes:

1. Depiction of U.S. inland tropical wind watches and warnings, in addition to the coastal watches and warnings provided on the previous cone graphic, for the contiguous U.S., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Hawaii.
2. If there is a Hurricane Watch and Tropical Storm Warning for an area, it will be depicted as pink (Hurricane Watch) and blue (Tropical Storm Warning) hatching. This additional shading option is defined in the legend.
3. The five-day forecast cone is depicted as a solid white area for days 1-5 rather than a solid white area for days 1-3 and a stippled area for days 4-5.

An example of the new operational cone graphic is linked below:
<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnhcgraphics.shtml?#WATCHWARN>

The updated operational cone graphic can be found on [hurricanes.gov](https://www.hurricanes.gov) by selecting the cone graphic thumbnail.

You can access the static cone graphic directly at the following web address:
https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/storm_graphics/BBXX/CCXXYYYY_5day_cone.png

Where BB is the basin (AT - Atlantic, EP - Eastern Pacific, CP - Central Pacific), XX is the storm number, CC is the basin (AL - Atlantic, EP - Eastern Pacific, CP - Central Pacific), and YYYY is the four digit year.

A GeoJSON file containing the active tropical wind watches and warnings displayed on the cone graphic will be available at the following link:
<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gis/>

The legacy GIS files containing tropical wind watches and warnings on the <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gis> webpage will continue to provide only the coastal tropical wind watches and warnings.

The new operational cone graphic will be produced for routine and special advisories and available close to advisory time (03, 09, 15, and 21Z for routine advisories). The complete depiction of inland watches and warnings can take additional time to compile. In order to ensure the timely issuance of the cone graphic, a cone with only the coastal tropical watches and warnings may be issued first and then replaced by a cone graphic showing the complete depiction of inland and coastal watches and warnings, once available.

For more information on the Cone Graphic, please see the Product Description:

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnhcgraphics.shtml?#WATCHWARN>

If you have questions, please contact:

NWS Tropical Program
National Hurricane Center
tropical.program@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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