

NOUS41 KWBC 071751  
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
145 PM EDT TUE SEP 7 2004

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS...NOAA WEATHER  
WIRE SERVICE /NWWS/ SUBSCRIBERS...EMERGENCY MANAGERS  
WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/ SUBSCRIBERS...  
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS...OTHER NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
/NWS/ CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS...AND NWS EMPLOYEES

FROM: DEIRDRE R. JONES  
DIRECTOR...SYSTEMS ENGINEERING CENTER  
NWS OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT: VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ AND WATCH BY COUNTY /WBC/  
OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION /OTE/ UPDATE

REFERENCE: PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS... SAME SUBJECT  
TRANSMITTED AUGUST 20 2004 AND AUGUST 26 2004  
SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-40 TRANSMITTED JULY 1 2004  
SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-45 TRANSMITTED AUGUST 2 2004  
SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-51 TRANSMITTED AUGUST 18 2004

THE COMBINED VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ AND WATCH BY COUNTY /WBC/ PERATIONAL  
TEST AND EVALUATION /OTE/ STARTED AUGUST 30 2004 AND IS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE  
UNTIL OCTOBER 15 2004.

ON SEPTEMBER 7 2004 NWS OFFICES LISTED IN TABLE 1 AND TABLE 2 OF THE AUGUST 26  
2004 VTEC AND WBC OTE UPDATE PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT WILL BEGIN ISSUING  
MORE TEST PRODUCTS ON AN INTERMITTENT BASIS UNTIL THE SCHEDULED END OF THE OTE  
ON OCTOBER 15 2004. NWS OFFICES MAY ISSUE LOCAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS  
ON DAYS THEY EXPECT TO ISSUE TEST PRODUCTS. DURING THIS TEST OF SOFTWARE AND  
OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES...EACH TEST PRODUCT SHOULD BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED BY:

- THE /T/ FIXED IDENTIFIER CODE AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH P-VTEC STRING
- THE WORD TEST IN THE MASS NEWS DISSEMINATOR PRODUCT TYPE LINE
- THE WORD TEST AND SOMETIMES WORDS INDICATING THAT NO SEVERE WEATHER IS  
OCCURRING IN THE MENTIONED AREA IN THE PRODUCT TEXT AND ANY HEADLINE

OPERATIONAL AND TEST PRODUCTS CONTAINING EXPERIMENTAL OR TEST VTEC STRINGS WILL  
BE ISSUED BY NWS WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES AND THE STORM PREDICTION CENTER /SPC/  
THROUGH OCTOBER 15 2004 AS NOTED IN PREVIOUS PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS. IN  
ADDITION... ALL OFFICES PARTICIPATING IN THE VTEC OTE WILL USE A SEGMENTED  
FORMAT FOR FLOOD WATCHES /FFA/...FLOOD WARNINGS /FLW/ AND FLOOD STATEMENTS /FLS/  
/THIS INCLUDES FLOOD ADVISORIES/. NOTE THAT FLASH FLOOD WARNINGS /FFW/ AND  
FOLLOWUP STATEMENTS /FFS/ WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED /NON-SEGMENTED/ THROUGH THE OTE.

VTEC IS DESCRIBED IN FURTHER DETAIL IN NWS INSTRUCTION 10-1703  
AVAILABLE ON THE NWS DIRECTIVES WEB SITE AND THROUGH A LINK ON THE

VTEC WEB SITE. MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON VTEC... WBC... AND VTEC/WBC OTE CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT THESE WEB SITES /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OS/VTEC](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/vtec)  
[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OS/WATCH/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/watch/)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON VTEC-WBC OTE OR THE NWS IMPLEMENTATION OF VTEC... PLEASE CONTACT:

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IF YOU HAVE WBC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS...PLEASE CONTACT:

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THIS AND OTHER VTEC UPDATE NOTICES ARE POSTED ON THE VTEC WEB PAGE SHOWN ABOVE.

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