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Public Information Statement, Comment Request
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1028 AM EDT Tue Mar 27 2012

To: Subscribers:
-Family of Services
-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Manager Weather Information Network
-NOAAPORT
Other NWS partners and NWS employees

From: Dave Soroka
Acting Chief, Marine and Coastal Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments for Two Experimental Services
from the National Hurricane Center from June 1
Through November 30, 2012

Effective June 1 and continuing through November 30, 2012, NWS is seeking user feedback on two experimental services from the National Hurricane Center (NHC).

In an effort to provide users with additional information to enhance planning and preparedness decisions, NHC will provide audio briefings (also called podcasts) and videocasts, when the media pool is activated by the NHC Public Affairs Officer. In general, the media pool is activated by NHC when a hurricane watch is initiated for a portion of the United States coastline. The experimental services will summarize the NHC media advisories. Because the services are experimental, they may not be available in a timely manner and they may not be available for every media event.

1. Audio briefings (podcasts)

The audio briefings will be provided in mp3 format, an industry standard which allows the products be disseminated via the Web. Users wishing to download the audio files may do so using their Web browser. Links to mp3 files will be provided with Extensible Markup Language (XML)/Really Simple Syndication (RSS) technology.

To subscribe to a podcast, a user would access the XML/RSS file using podcasting software. This software is widely available on the Web and manages audio feeds. Once a user subscribes to the RSS feed, the podcasting software will check for new audio files and download them to the user's computer or mp3 player.

Users wishing to subscribe to the podcast should go to:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/audio/index_podcast.xml

Feedback concerning this experimental service is welcomed at:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=nhcpod>

2. Videocasts

NHC has entered into an agreement with Weather Decision Technologies (WDT), Inc. to provide Internet protocol-based audio and video streaming of its hourly hurricane briefings. The relationship with WDT, Inc. is intended to provide distant media outlets and the general public with access to these briefings.

The video briefings are available to anyone with a Web browser supporting mp4 format audio and video at:

<http://www.imaphurricane.info/>

Feedback concerning this experimental service is welcomed at:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=nhcvid>

If you have comments or questions, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm>

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