

NOUS41 KWBC DDHHMM
PNSWSH

Public Information Notice
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1100 AM EST Fri Feb 28 2014

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

FROM: Cindy Woods
Chief, Operations and Requirements Division
Chief, Performance and Awareness Division

SUBJECT: Use of Mixed-Case Letters in Select NWS National
Hurricane Center and Central Pacific Hurricane Center
Products Effective on or about May 15, 2014

Effective on or about May 15, 2014, the NWS intends to expand its mixed-case text product risk-reduction effort to include select products issued by both the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC).

Table 1: Operational NHC and CPHC Products Being Tested Experimentally in the Mixed-Case Text Format

Product Name	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
Tropical Weather Outlook (Atlantic)	ABNT20 KNHC	TWOAT
Tropical Weather Outlook (Eastern Pacific)	ABPZ20 KNHC	TWOEP
Tropical Weather Outlook (Central Pacific)	ACPN50 PHFO	TWOCP
Tropical Cyclone Discussion (Atlantic)	WTNT/41-45/ KNHC	TCDAT/1-5/
Tropical Cyclone Discussion (Eastern Pacific)	WTPZ/41-45/ KNHC	TCDEP/1-5/
Tropical Cyclone Discussion (Central Pacific)	WTPA/41-45/ PHFO	TCDCP/1-5/

This expansion in the number of available mixed-case text products is a continuation of the risk-reduction effort which began in August 2010 by issuing National Public Information

Notice (PNS) products using mixed-case letters and the expanded punctuation/character set (Table 2):

http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/scn10-28mixed_case.txt

AFD, RWS and PNS products at select Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) in October 2011:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/pns11mixedcase.txt>

Some RiverPro generated products at select WFOs in July 2013:

[pns13atan1096riverpro.txt](#)

and The PWO product issued by the Storm Prediction Center in July 2013:

[pns13spcmixedcase.txt](#)

The NWS first began seeking comments regarding mixed-case text products in May 2010:

http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/pns10mixed_case.txt

NWS partners and users of these NHC and CPHC text products are encouraged to consider the NWS' intent and comment regarding this next step in the risk-reduction effort. User feedback will help the NWS better plan the eventual transition of all NWS text products to mixed case and the expanded character set.

Please provide comments at:

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

Use of mixed-case letters in text products will make them easier to read and allow users to click on Internet links directly rather than converting them to lowercase or mixed case. Additional punctuation and other characters that are part of the international reference Alphabet No. 5 will also be included as appropriate.

Table 2: Allowed Mixed-Case Character Set

“space” ! “ # \$ % ampersand symbol ‘ () * + , - . /
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 : ; < = (greater than symbol ?
@ A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O
P Q R S T U V W X Y Z [\] ^ _
` a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o
p q r s t u v w x y z { | } ~

Ampersand and greater than symbols were replaced in the txt version to avoid issues with the RSS feed. These symbols can be used in messages, just not in this notice.

In this phase of our risk-reduction effort, partners and users

will have the opportunity to further identify and correct any anomalous behavior of their systems and their customers' systems that may be caused by mixed case and the expanded punctuation/character set in these text products.

These products will continue to be issued using mixed-case text through the end of the 2014 Atlantic, Eastern Pacific and Central Pacific Hurricane Seasons, normally November 30, 2014; however, partners and users should be aware these products may revert back to using all uppercase letters at any time if the NHC and/or CPHC determine it to be necessary to meet operational requirements.

For more information, please contact:

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National Public Information Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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