

NOUS41 KWBC DDHHMM CCA  
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 00-110...COR  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
330 PM EST TUE NOV 21 2000

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS...NOAA WEATHER  
WIRE SERVICE /NWWS/ CUSTOMERS...OTHER NATIONAL WEATHER  
SERVICE /NWS/ CUSTOMERS...NWS EMPLOYEES

FROM: PAUL STOKOLS...ACTING CHIEF  
FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION AND TESTING OF THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE  
AT THE CHARLESTON WV FORECAST OFFICE...EFFECTIVE  
JANUARY 3 2001

...CORRECTED TO CHANGE YEAR IN EFFECTIVE DATE IN SUBJECT LINE...

EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3 2001 AT 8 A.M. EASTERN STANDARD  
TIME /EST/...1300 UNIVERSAL COORDINATED TIME /UTC/... THE  
WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE IN CHARLESTON WEST VIRGINIA WILL BEGIN  
INCLUDING THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ IN WINTER WEATHER  
/WSW/ AND NON-PRECIPITATION WEATHER /NPW/ MESSAGES...AS WELL AS  
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM /SVR/ AND TORNADO /TOR/ WARNINGS  
/SEE TABLE 1/.

TABLE 1: MESSAGES FROM THE CHARLESTON WV OFFICE WHICH WILL  
CONTAIN THE VTEC CODE.../W/W/A STANDS FOR WATCHES..WARNINGS...OR  
ADVISORIES/

| MESSAGE TYPE                | AWIPS ID | WMO HEADING |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------------|
| NON-PRECIPITATION W/W/A     | NPWCRW   | WWUS71 KRLX |
| WINTER WEATHER W/W/A        | WSWCRW   | WWUS41 KRLX |
| SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING | SVRCRW   | WUUS51 KRLX |
| TORNADO WARNING             | TORCRW   | WFUS51 KRLX |

THIS TEST WILL BE CONTINUOUSLY EVALUATED...WITHOUT A PLANNED  
ENDING DATE. IF ANY SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ARISE...THE TEST WILL  
BE DISCONTINUED AT AN ANNOUNCED DATE/TIME. THE TEST WILL ALLOW  
THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TO ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAMS WHICH  
CREATE THE VTEC RUN CORRECTLY AND ALSO ALLOW EXTERNAL CUSTOMERS  
TO DETERMINE WAYS TO UTILIZE THE VTEC IN THEIR DISSEMINATION AND  
NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS.

THE VTEC SPECIFIES THE CONTENT OF EACH MESSAGE SO THAT CUSTOMERS  
CAN USE AUTOMATED PROGRAMS TO READ...PROCESS...AND REDISTRIBUTE  
MESSAGES /OR PORTIONS OF MESSAGES/ WITHOUT HUMAN INTERVENTION.  
A VTEC STRING WILL BE LOCATED DIRECTLY BELOW THE UGC LINE/S/ IN  
EACH WSW...NPW...SVR...AND TOR PRODUCT FROM THE CHARLESTON WV  
OFFICE...WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MESSAGES ISSUED ON BEHALF OF

CHARLESTON BY SURROUNDING OFFICES ACTING IN A BACKUP CAPACITY.

SEE TABLE 2 FOR A KEY OF THE VTEC ELEMENTS. FOR A DESCRIPTION OF THE CODE AND ALL ELEMENTS...SEVERAL PRODUCT EXAMPLES...AND IMPLEMENTATION PLANS...PLEASE SEE THE INTERNET SITE /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/VTEC/VTEC.PDF](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/vtec/vtec.pdf)

ALL CUSTOMERS SHOULD TEST THEIR DISSEMINATION SYSTEM/S/ TO ENSURE THE TEST VTEC LINE/S/ DOES NOT ADVERSELY IMPACT THEIR SYSTEM BY JANUARY 3 2001.

VTEC FORMAT:

HERE IS THE GENERIC FORMAT OF ONE VTEC STRING TO DESCRIBE A SINGLE EVENT /EACH WATCH...WARNING...OR ADVISORY IS ACCOMPANIED BY A VTEC STRING...SO TWO WARNINGS IN ONE SEGMENT WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY TWO VTEC STRINGS/.

/AAA.CCCC.PP.S.####.DBHHMM-DEHHMM/

AAA.CCCC.PP.S.#### DESCRIBES EACH WEATHER EVENT AND DBHHMM-DEHHMM DESCRIBES THE VALID BEGINNING AND ENDING TIME OF THE EVENT

TABLE 2. KEY TO VTEC ELEMENTS

AAA - ACTION CODE /I.E. NEW FOR NEW ISSUANCE/

CCCC - OFFICE ID /I.E. KRLX FOR THE CHARLESTON WV OFFICE/

PP - PHENOMENA CODE /I.E. BZ FOR BLIZZARD/

S - SIGNIFICANCE CODE /I.E. W FOR WARNING/

#### - EVENT TRACKING NUMBER /I.E. 0005 FOR THE FIFTH ISSUANCE OF A SPECIFIC WATCH...WARNING...OR ADVISORY/

DBHHMM - EVENT BEGINNING DATE/TIME GROUP IN UTC

DEHHMM - EVENT ENDING DATE/TIME GROUP IN UTC

VTEC DELIMITERS:

/ - BEGINS AND ENDS EACH VTEC STRING

. - SEPARATES VTEC ELEMENTS

EXAMPLE SHOWING THE UCG AND VTEC FOR ONE WSW EVENT:

---

WWUS41 KRLX 050400  
WSWCRW

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHARLESTON WV  
1100 PM EST FRI FEB 4 2000

...DISCUSSION...

WVZ024>026-033-034-050400-  
/CAN.KRLX.BZ.W.0001.000000-050400/

BOONE WV-LOGAN WV-MCDOWELL WV-MINGO WV-WYOMING WV-

...REST OF MESSAGE...

---

INTERPRETATION: THE CHARLESTON WV OFFICE /KRLX/ ISSUED A WSW  
CANCELING /CAN IN THE CODE/ A BLIZZARD /BZ/ WARNING /W/  
..EFFECTIVE AT 0400 UTC ON THE FIFTH. IT WAS THE FIRST BLIZZARD  
WARNING /0001/ FROM THIS OFFICE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR. SINCE THE  
BLIZZARD WARNING WAS VALID BEFORE THIS MESSAGE WAS ISSUED...THE  
BEGINNING DATE/TIME IS LISTED AS 000000.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS... PLEASE CONTACT

ALAN REZEK  
METEOROLOGIST IN CHARGE - CHARLESTON WV  
PHONE: 304-746-0180 EXT.222  
E-MAIL: ALAN.REZEK@NOAA.GOV

...NOTE TO INTERNET USERS...

THIS AND ALL OTHER NWS SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE POSTED AT  
/USE LOWER CASE/

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIF.HTM](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm)

END  
NNNN