

NOUS41 KWBC 201953  
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 01-15  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
300 PM EST TUE MAR 20 2001

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

FROM: JAMES E. LEE  
CHIEF...FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION AND TESTING OF THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE  
AT THE ABERDEEN SD FORECAST OFFICE...EFFECTIVE  
MAY 22 2001

EFFECTIVE TUESDAY MAY 22 2001 AT 7 A.M. CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME  
/CDT/...1300 UNIVERSAL COORDINATED TIME /UTC/... THE WEATHER  
FORECAST OFFICE IN ABERDEEN SOUTH DAKOTA 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 ABERDEEN SD OFFICE WHICH WILL CONTAIN  
THE VTEC CODE.../W/W/A STANDS FOR WATCHES..WARNINGS...OR  
ADVISORIES/

MESSAGE TYPE	WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID
NON-PRECIPITATION W/W/A	WWUS73 KABR	NPWABR
WINTER WEATHER W/W/A	WWUS43 KABR	WSWABR
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING	WUUS53 KABR	SVRABR
TORNADO WARNING	WFUS53 KABR	TORABR

/END OF TABLE 1/

THIS TEST WILL BE CONTINUOUSLY EVALUATED...WITHOUT A PLANNED  
ENDING DATE. IF ANY SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ARISE...THE TEST WILL  
BE DISCONTINUED. 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 ABERDEEN SD  
OFFICE...WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MESSAGES ISSUED ON BEHALF OF  
ABERDEEN 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>

ALL CUSTOMERS SHOULD TEST THEIR DISSEMINATION SYSTEM/S/ TO ENSURE THE TEST VTEC LINE/S/ DOES NOT ADVERSELY IMPACT THE SYSTEMS/ BY MAY 22 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 /E.G. NEW FOR NEW ISSUANCE/

CCCC - OFFICE ID /I.E. KABR FOR THE ABERDEEN SD OFFICE/

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

S - SIGNIFICANCE CODE /E.G. 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 UGC AND VTEC FOR ONE WSW EVENT:

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WWUS43 KABR 050400

WSWABR

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ABERDEEN SD  
1100 PM EST FRI FEB 4 2000

...DISCUSSION...

SDZ007-011-019-020-022-050400-

/CAN.KABR.BZ.W.0001.000000-050400/

CLARK-CODINGTON-DAY-HAMLIN-MARSHALL-

INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...WEBSTER...WATERTOWN...BRITTON...

CLARK...HAYTI

...REST OF MESSAGE...

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INTERPRETATION: THE ABERDEEN SD OFFICE /KABR/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

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THIS NOTICE AND OTHER SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES CAN BE FOUND ON THE  
INTERNET AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

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

END  
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