

NOUS41 KWBC 021847
PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-45
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
240 PM EDT MON AUG 2 2004

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

FROM: ROBERT J. MCLEOD
CHIEF...AWARENESS BRANCH
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER...AND WEATHER SERVICES

SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VALID TIME EVENT
CODE /VTEC/ IN MOST NWS EVENT-DRIVEN PRODUCTS
EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 8 2005

ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 8 2005 AT 1800 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME
/UTC/...ALL WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFO/ WILL OPERATIONALLY
IMPLEMENT THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ IN MOST EVENT-DRIVEN
OR NON-ROUTINE PRODUCTS. VTEC WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED IN THE
NATIONAL WATCH OUTLINE UPDATE MESSAGE /WOU/ ISSUED BY THE STORM
PREDICTION CENTER. IF FEBRUARY 8 2005 IS DECLARED A NATIONAL
CRITICAL WEATHER DAY...IMPLEMENTATION WILL OCCUR ON THE NEXT
WEEKDAY NOT DECLARED A CRITICAL WEATHER DAY.

THE VTEC ALWAYS IS USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH...AND PROVIDES
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION TO THE UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHIC CODE
/UGC/ TO FURTHER AID IN THE AUTOMATED DELIVERY OF NWS TEXT
PRODUCTS TO USERS. THE VTEC PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE EVENT.
THE UGC DESCRIBES THE AFFECTED GEOGRAPHIC AREA.

THERE ARE TWO FORMS OF VTEC...THE PRIMARY OR P-VTEC AND... IN
CERTAIN HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS... A SUPPLEMENTARY HYDROLOGIC OR H-
VTEC ALWAYS USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH AND OCCURS ON THE LINE
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE P-VTEC STRING/S/.

THE P-VTEC STRING/S/ AND ANY H-VTEC STRING/S/ OCCUR IMMEDIATELY
AFTER THE UGC STRING AND...DEPENDING ON WHETHER THE PRODUCT IS
SEGMENTED OR NOT...WILL OCCUR IN DIFFERENT PLACES IN THE PRODUCT.

BEGINNING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE...THE FOLLOWING NWS WFO TEXT
PRODUCT CATEGORIES WILL CONTAIN OPERATIONAL VTEC:

PUBLIC PRODUCTS

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING | SVR |
| TORNADO WARNING | TOR |

| | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENT | SVS | |
| WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION | WCN | |
| WINTER STORM WATCH/WARNING/ADVISORY | | WSW |
| NON-PRECIPITATION WATCH/WARNING/ADVISORY | | NPW |

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| FLASH FLOOD WARNING | FFW |
| FLOOD WARNING | FLW |
| FLOOD WATCH | FFA |
| FLASH FLOOD STATEMENT | FFS |
| FLOOD STATEMENT | FLS |

COASTAL AND MARINE PRODUCTS

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| SPECIAL MARINE WARNING | SMW | |
| COASTAL FLOOD WATCH/WARNING/STATEMENT | | CFW |
| LAKESHORE FLOOD WATCH/WARNING/STATEMENT | | CFW |
| HIGH SURF ADVISORY | CFW | |
| MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT /ONLY THOSE WHICH FOLLOW UP AN SMW PRODUCT/ | | MWS |

FIRE WEATHER PRODUCTS

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| RED FLAG WARNING | RFW |
| FIRE WEATHER WATCH | RFW |

BEGINNING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE...THE FOLLOWING NWS NATIONAL TEXT PRODUCT CATEGORY WILL CONTAIN OPERATIONAL VTEC:

STORM PREDICTION CENTER PRODUCT

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| WATCH OUTLINE UPDATE | WOU |
|----------------------|-----|

ADDITIONAL NWS TROPICAL WEATHER AND ROUTINE MARINE TEXT PRODUCTS ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN INCLUDING VTEC AT A LATER DATE. THE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR THOSE PRODUCTS WILL BE LISTED IN FUTURE SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES.

BEFORE THE OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION...THERE WILL BE A COMBINED VTEC AND WATCH BY COUNTY OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION (OTE) TO GIVE NWS FORECASTERS...CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHECK SOFTWARE ENCODING AND DECODING SYSTEMS BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION.

VTEC WILL BE TURNED ON AT SELECTED NWS OFFICES ON AUGUST 26 2004... WITH THE OTE SCHEDULED TO RUN FROM AUGUST 30 2004 TO OCTOBER 8 2004. DURING THE OTE... THE SELECTED NWS OFFICES WILL ISSUE OPERATIONAL AND TEST PRODUCTS CONTAINING VTEC STRINGS. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE OTE... INCLUDING A LIST OF SELECTED OFFICES... WILL BE CONTAINED IN A PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED IN EARLY AUGUST.

AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE OTE... THERE WILL BE A JOINT NWS/NWS

PARTNER ASSESSMENT OF VTEC. A PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT WITH THE FINAL IMPLEMENTATION DECISION FOR VTEC WILL BE ISSUED BY NOVEMBER 9 2004.

VTEC IS DESCRIBED IN FURTHER DETAIL IN NWS INSTRUCTION 10-1703... WHICH IS AVAILABLE ON THE NWS DIRECTIVES WEB SITE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/DIRECTIVES](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives)

MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON VTEC CAN BE FOUND AT THE VTEC WEB SITE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

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

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

HERB WHITE
DISSEMINATION SERVICES MANAGER
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND
PHONE: 301-713-0090 X 146
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THIS AND OTHER NWS SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE POSTED ON /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

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

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