

NOUS41 KWBC 121908
PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 08-51
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
308 PM EDT TUE AUG 12 2008

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:
-FAMILY OF SERVICES
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: THERESE Z. PIERCE
CHIEF...MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THREE VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/
PHENOMENA CODES. PHASE-IN BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 29
AND ENDS ON NOVEMBER 4 2008

BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 29 2008...NWS WEATHER FORECAST
OFFICES /WFOS/ SERVING THE COASTAL AND GREAT LAKES MARINE
AREAS WILL CHANGE THREE OF THE OPERATIONAL VALID TIME EVENT
CODE /VTEC/ PHENOMENA /PP/ CODES IN THE MARINE WEATHER
MESSAGE /MWW/ PRODUCT.

TABLE 1 SHOWS THE CURRENT PHENOMENA NAME...THE CURRENT
PHENOMENA CODE AND THE NEW PHENOMENA CODE FOR THE THREE
OPERATIONAL VTEC PHENOMENA IN THE MWW PRODUCT.

TABLE 1.

PHENOMENA NAME	CURRENT VTEC CODE	NEW VTEC CODE
DENSE FOG	FG	MF
DENSE SMOKE	SM	MS
ASHFALL	AF	MH

THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES TO ANY OF THE OTHER PHENOMENA /PP/
IN THE MARINE WEATHER MESSAGE /MWW/ AT THIS TIME. THE MWW
IS THE ONLY PRODUCT AFFECTED BY THESE VTEC PHENOMENA CODE
CHANGES.

THE DEPLOYMENT OF THIS SOFTWARE CHANGE WILL GRADUALLY OCCUR
ACROSS ALL OF THE GREAT LAKES WFOS AND ALL COASTAL WFOS
EXCEPT THE THREE ALASKA REGION WFOS. A TOTAL OF 44 WFOS ARE
AFFECTED BY THIS SOFTWARE CHANGE. SOME OFFICES MAY INITIATE
THIS CHANGE AS EARLY AS SEPTEMBER 29 2008. WE EXPECT THIS
CHANGE TO BE COMPLETE ACROSS THE 44 OFFICES BY NOVEMBER 4
2008. BECAUSE OF SOFTWARE TESTING AND OPERATIONAL
REQUIREMENTS...IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ALL 44 OFFICES TO
IMPLEMENT THIS SOFTWARE CHANGE ON THE SAME DATE.

CUSTOMERS RECEIVING THE MWW PRODUCT SHOULD REPROGRAM THEIR SOFTWARE TO RECEIVE THESE NEW VTEC CODES LISTED IN TABLE 1. THERE WILL BE A SHORT PERIOD WHEN SOME WFOS WILL ISSUE THE MWW PRODUCTS WITH THE CURRENT VTEC CODE AND OTHERS WITH THE NEW VTEC CODE.

THIS CHANGE IS DRIVEN BY CRITICAL OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FIELD FORECASTERS WHICH TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER REQUIRED ADVANCED LEAD TIME.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE VTEC CODE IS ONLINE AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/VTEC/](http://www.weather.gov/os/vtec/)

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

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MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH
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NWS SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/NOTIF.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm)

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