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PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 08-56 AMENDED  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
1045 AM EST WED DEC 10 2008

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

FROM: AHSHA N. TRIBBLE  
CHIEF...CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION  
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES

SUBJECT: AMENDED: NEW EL NINO SOUTHERN OSCILLATION /ENSO/ ALERTS  
...AS NEEDED...IN THE ENSO DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION...POSTPONED  
UNTIL THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5 2009

REFER TO: [SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 08-56 SENT ON SEPTEMBER 24 2008](#).

AMENDED TO POSTPONE EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THIS CHANGE FROM DECEMBER  
11 2008 TO FEBRUARY 5 2009 FOR TECHNICAL REASONS.

ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5 2009...THE NWS/S CLIMATE PREDICTION  
CENTER /CPC/ WILL BEGIN INCLUDING AN ENSO ALERT FOR AN EL NIÑO  
OR LA NIÑA...AS NEEDED...IN THE BEGINNING SECTION OF THE MONTHLY  
ENSO DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION. AN ENSO ALERT WILL BE A WATCH...  
ADVISORY...OR FINAL ADVISORY /I.E. END OF AN EL NIÑO OR LA  
NIÑA/.

THE ENSO DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION HAS ALWAYS INDICATED THE EXPECTED  
OCCURRENCE /OR LACK OF OCCURRENCE/ OF EL NIÑO OR LA NIÑA FOR THE  
NEXT THREE MONTHS. WITH SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS IN VARIOUS AREAS OF  
THE U.S. OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH CLIMATE VARIABILITY PATTERNS  
RELATED TO EL NIÑO AND LA NIÑA...CPC WILL NOW USE AN ALERT  
SYSTEM TO HIGHLIGHT WHEN EL NIÑO OR LA NIÑA IS EXPECTED TO  
DEVELOP...CONTINUE OR HAS ENDED.

1. AN ENSO WATCH WILL BE ISSUED WHEN A TRANSITION TO EL NIÑO OR  
LA NIÑA CONDITIONS IS ANTICIPATED WITHIN THE NEXT 3 MONTHS.

2. AN ENSO ADVISORY WILL BE ISSUED WHEN EL NIÑO OR LA NIÑA  
CONDITIONS ARE ALREADY OBSERVED AND EXPECTED TO CONTINUE.

3. AN ENSO FINAL ADVISORY WILL BE ISSUED WHEN EITHER EL NIÑO OR LA NIÑA CONDITIONS HAVE ENDED.

CPC DEFINES EL NIÑO /OR LA NIÑA/ CONDITIONS AS EXISTING WHEN:

A ONE-MONTH POSITIVE (NEGATIVE) SST ANOMALY IN THE NIÑO 3.4 REGION OF 0.5C /-0.5C/ OR GREATER /LESS/ IS OBSERVED AND IS EXPECTED TO PERSIST FOR AT LEAST THREE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS...AND

AN ATMOSPHERIC RESPONSE TYPICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH EL NIÑO /LA NIÑA/ IS OBSERVED OVER THE EQUATORIAL PACIFIC REGION AS PER EL NIÑO/LA NIÑA DOCUMENTATION ON THE FOLLOWING CPC WEB PAGE:

[HTTP://WWW.CPC.NCEP.NOAA.GOV/PRODUCTS/ANALYSIS\\_MONITORING/ENSOCYCLE/ENSO\\_CYCLE.SHTML](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensocycle/ensocycle.shtml) /LOWER CASE/

CPC USUALLY ISSUES THE MONTHLY ENSO DIAGNOSTICS DISCUSSION ON THE THURSDAY FROM THE 5TH TO THE 11TH...AT AROUND 9:00 A.M. EASTERN LOCAL TIME. IF NECESSARY...THE ISSUANCE DATE MAY BE CHANGED WITH ADVANCE NOTICE /E.G. DUE TO HOLIDAYS/. IT IS ISSUED UNDER THE FOLLOWING:

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/ HEADING - FXUS24 KWNC  
ADVANCED WEATHER INTERACTIVE PROCESSING SYSTEM /AWIPS/ ID -  
PMDENS

ON THE INTERNET /LOWER CASE/ AT:

[HTTP://WWW.CPC.NOAA.GOV/PRODUCTS/ANALYSIS\\_MONITORING/ENSO\\_ADVISO  
RY/](http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/)

THE WARNING TERM WILL NOT BE USED IN THE ENSO ALERT SYSTEM SINCE WARNINGS ALMOST ALWAYS HAVE A NET NEGATIVE CONNOTATION FOR IMPACTS FROM SHORT-TERM WEATHER EVENTS. SINCE ENSO EVENTS HAVE A MORE NEUTRAL NET EFFECT THROUGH BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS FROM ENSO RELATED CLIMATE VARIABILITY PATTERNS...AN ADVISORY IS MORE APPROPRIATE FOR AN ENSO ALERT.

ALL OTHER INFORMATION IN THE ENSO DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION WILL CONTINUE TO BE ISSUED. CPC WILL CONTINUE TO ADDRESS CURRENT OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS IN THE PACIFIC AND RELATED CLIMATE VARIABILITY PATTERNS. THIS INCLUDES ANALYSIS OF CURRENT AND RECENT PATTERNS IN SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE WATER TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES IN THE TROPICAL PACIFIC; RELATED ANALYSES SUCH AS RAINFALL...OUTGOING LONG WAVE RADIATION...ETC.; INFLUENCING FACTORS SUCH AS MADDEN-JULIAN OSCILLATIONS...KELVIN WAVES...ETC; AND STATISTICAL AND COUPLED MODEL PREDICTIONS.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ENSO ALERT POLICY AND THE ENSO  
DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION...CONTACT:

MICHAEL S. HALPERT  
NWS CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER - W/NP5  
CAMP SPRINGS MARYLAND  
PH: 301-763-8000 EXT. 7535

NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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