

NOUS41 KWBC 252000
PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 09-16
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
300 PM EST WED FEB 25 2009

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

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

SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ IN
NWS TSUNAMI /TSU/ PRODUCTS: EFFECTIVE TUESDAY JUNE 30 2009

EFFECTIVE TUESDAY...JUNE 30 2009 AT 1900 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME
/UTC/...9 AM HAWAII STANDARD TIME...11 AM ALASKA DAYLIGHT TIME...3 PM
EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME...THE NWS WEST COAST/ALASKA TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER
/WC/ATWC/ IN PALMER ALASKA AND NWS PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER /PTWC/
IN EWA BEACH HAWAII WILL OPERATIONALLY IMPLEMENT THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE
/VTEC/ FOR SEVERAL DOMESTIC TSUNAMI /TSU/ PRODUCTS. IF JUNE 30 2009 IS
DECLARED A NATIONAL CRITICAL WEATHER DAY...IMPLEMENTATION WILL OCCUR ON
THE NEXT WEEKDAY NOT DECLARED A CRITICAL WEATHER DAY.

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 UGC DESCRIBES THE
AFFECTED GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND INCLUDES A PRODUCT EXPIRATION TIME. THE VTEC
CODE PROVIDES FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE EVENT SUCH AS THE HAZARD...ITS
STATUS...EVENT TRACKING NUMBER AND STARTING/ENDING TIMES OF THE HAZARD.
THE VTEC LINE OCCURS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE UGC LINE.

TABLE 1 DESCRIBES THE NWS TSUNAMI /TSU/ PRODUCTS THAT WILL CONTAIN THE
VTEC LINE. UGC AND VTEC CODES ARE PROVIDED FOR UNITED STATES AND
TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES ONLY. THE WEPA41 AND WEXX20 TSUNAMI
/TSU/ PRODUCTS INCLUDE CANADA...ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO ASSOCIATED UGCS.
TABLE 2 DESCRIBES THE VTEC EVENT CODES THAT WILL BE USED IN THE PRODUCTS
LISTED IN TABLE 1.

TABLE 1: NWS TSUNAMI /TSU/ PRODUCTS THAT WILL CONTAIN THE VTEC LINE
EFFECTIVE JUNE 30 2009.

PRODUCT NAME	WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID	ISSUING CENTER
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TSUNAMI MESSAGE	WEHW40 PHEB	TSUHWX	PTWC
TSUNAMI MESSAGE	WEPA41 PAAQ	TSUWCA	WC/ATWC
TSUNAMI MESSAGE	WEXX20 PAAQ	TSUAT1	WC/ATWC

TABLE 2. VTEC EVENT CODES THAT WILL BE USED IN THE PRODUCTS LISTED IN TABLE 1.

PHENOMENA NAME/CODE -----	EVENT NAME/CODE -----
TSUNAMI/TS	TSUNAMI WATCH/TS.A
TSUNAMI/TS	TSUNAMI WARNING/TS.W
TSUNAMI/TS	TSUNAMI ADVISORY/TS.Y

VTEC IS DESCRIBED IN FURTHER DETAIL IN NWS INSTRUCTION 10-1703...ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/DIRECTIVES/SYM/PD01017003CURR.PDF](https://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01017003curr.pdf)

MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON VTEC CAN BE FOUND AT THE VTEC WEBSITE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

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

VTEC IN TSUNAMI PRODUCTS WILL FOLLOW THE RULES IN THE DOCUMENTS MENTIONED ABOVE EXCEPT FOR THE EVENT TRACKING NUMBER /ETN/ ELEMENT. ETNS WILL INCREMENT GLOBALLY AT EACH CENTER BY TSUNAMI EVENT /WHETHER WARNING...WATCH OR ADVISORY/...WITH THE ETNS FOR ANY LEVEL OF HAZARD BEING THE SAME FOR THAT EVENT. THE TWO TSUNAMI WARNING CENTERS WILL HAVE SEPARATE ETNS.

VTEC EXAMPLES IN TSUNAMI PRODUCTS ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

WC/ATWC PRODUCTS:

[HTTP://WCATWC.ARH.NOAA.GOV/EXAMPLES](http://wcawc.arh.noaa.gov/examples)

PTWC PRODUCTS:

[HTTP://WWW.PRH.NOAA.GOV/PTWC/ABOUT MESSAGES.PHP?REGION=1](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc/about_messages.php?region=1)

CUSTOMERS RECEIVING THE PRODUCTS IN TABLE 1 SHOULD REPROGRAM THEIR SOFTWARE TO EFFECTIVELY USE NEW VTEC CODES LISTED IN TABLE 2.

ANY REQUIRED OPERATIONAL TESTING OF VTEC WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER JUNE 30 2009 AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE TESTING.

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

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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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