

NOUS41 KWBC 252001
PNSWSH

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

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:
- FAMILY OF SERVICES
- NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE
- EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK
- OTHER NWS PARTNERS AND USERS
- NWS 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 UNIVERSAL
COORDINATED TIME /UTC/...9 AM HAWAII STANDARD TIME...
11 AM ALASKA DAYLIGHT TIME... 3 PM EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME
ON...NWS WEST COAST/ALASKA TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER /WC/ATWC/
IN PALMER ALASKA /AK/ AND NWS PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING
CENTER /PTWC/ IN EWA BEACH HAWAII /HI/ 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 CODE 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 UGC CODES.

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
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 LOWERCASE/:

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

MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON VTEC CAN BE FOUND AT THE VTEC WEB SITE AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

[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 LOWERCASE/:

WC/ATWC PRODUCTS

[HTTP://WCATWC.ARH.NOAA.GOV/EXAMPLES](http://wcatwc.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
LOWERCASE/:

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

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