

NOUS41 KWBC 121457
PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 10-18
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
957 AM EST FRI MAR 12 2010

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

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

SUBJECT: TEST OF OPERATIONAL VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ FOR
RIP CURRENTS IN COASTAL HAZARD MESSAGE /CFW/ IN SELECT
WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFOS/: EFFECTIVE MAY 12 2010

EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY MAY 12 2010 AT 1200 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL
TIME /UTC/ 7 SELECT NWS WFOS WILL BEGIN USING A NEW VTEC CODE
FOR RIP CURRENTS IN THEIR COASTAL HAZARD MESSAGES /CFW/.

THESE WFOS WILL BEGIN USING THE NEW VTEC CODE /RP.S/ IN THE CFW.
THIS CFW WILL CONTAIN A RIP CURRENT VTEC CODE TO MORE
SPECIFICALLY TARGET RIP CURRENT THREAT. THIS VTEC WILL BE
CONSIDERED OPERATIONAL AND WILL HAVE THE /O/ IDENTIFIER.

TABLE 1: COMMUNICATION IDENTIFIERS FOR CFWS ISSUED BY 7 WFOS
THAT WILL USE THE NEW VTEC RP.S CODE EFFECTIVE MAY 12 2010.

ISSUING WFO	WMO HEADER	AWIPS ID
CHARLESTON SC	WHUS42 KCHS	CFWCHS
NEWPORT/MOREHEAD CITY NC	WHUS42 KMHX	CFWMHX
WILMINGTON NC	WHUS42 KILM	CFWILM
JACKSONVILLE FL	WHUS42 KJAX	CFWJAX
TALLAHASSEE FL	WHUS42 KTAE	CFWTAE
CHICAGO IL	WHUS43 KLOT	CFWLOT
NORTHERN INDIANA IN	WHUS43 KIWX	CFWIWX

CUSTOMERS MUST CHANGE THEIR SYSTEMS TO PROCESS THE RP.S CODE
CARRIED IN CFW MESSAGES ISSUED BY THE WFOS LISTED IN TABLE 1.

THE REMAINING NWS COASTAL OFFICES WILL CONTINUE TO USE THE
/CF.S/ OR /LS.S/ VTEC CODE FOR COASTAL/LAKESHORE FLOOD STATEMENT
FOR THE RIP CURRENT THREAT.

THIS TEST OF THE NEW RP.S CODE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE...UNLESS NWS RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE FEEDBACK.

USERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THIS MARINE ZONE RECONFIGURATION BY USING THE BRIEF SURVEY AND COMMENT FORM AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWERCASE EXCEPT /RCVTEC//:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/SURVEY/NWS-SURVEY.PHP?CODE=RCVTECCHM](http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=RCVTECCHM)

GENERAL INFORMATION ON VTEC CAN BE FOUND AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

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

THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS CHANGE IS SOONER THAN SPECIFIED BY NWS INSTRUCTION 10-1805. THE REDUCTION OF THE NORMAL ADVANCE LEAD TIME WAS APPROVED BECAUSE OF THE CRITICAL NEED TO PROVIDE ENHANCED RIP CURRENT INFORMATION BY THE START OF THIS YEAR'S SWIMMING SEASON.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PLEASE CONTACT:

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NWS 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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