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Service Change Notice 11-07
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Therese Z. Pierce
 Chief, Marine and Coastal Services Branch

Subject: Changes to the Hurricane Local Statement Format Issued by Weather Forecast Offices for Tropical Cyclones in the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific Hurricane Basins: Effective May 15, 2011

Reference: [Service Change Notice \(SCN\) 11-08 Issued February 3, 2011: Changes to Watches and Warnings Issued by Weather Forecast Offices for Tropical Cyclones in the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific Hurricane Basins: Effective May 15, 2011](#)

The overall format of the HLS initially adopted in 2009, with an Overview block followed by Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) segments, remains the same for 2011; however, in response to feedback received in 2010 to increase product consistency and decrease length, the following changes will be made to the Hurricane Local Statement (HLS) products issued by NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs):

The Overview block of the HLS becomes mandatory.

Following the HLS product headline(s), the Overview block will begin with a mandatory NEW INFORMATION section header. All other section headers in the Overview block become mandatory and will be placed in the same order within the product. Optional sections will not be included in the Overview block.

The possible watches and warnings in the VTEC segments (and associated VTEC event names and phenomena codes) of the HLS will change effective May 15, 2011. For additional information, please see [SCN 11-08](#).

Associated VTEC Event Tracking Numbers (ETNs) will be unified for all tropical cyclone watches and warnings for inland (public), coastal (public) and marine zones for a given event. In short, if the National Hurricane Center (NHC) issues a Tropical Cyclone Valid Time Event Code (TCV) product, the ETN in the product will be the same in all tropical cyclone watches and warnings issued by the WFO in the HLS products.

If the NHC issues a Tropical Cyclone Public Advisory (TCP) product, not a TCV, and the WFO issues tropical cyclone watches and warnings for marine

zones only, the ETN is assigned from the cyclone number in the coded string at the end of the Issuing Office Line in the National Center's TCP. An example of the Issuing Office Line with a coded string follows:

NWS NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL AL072011

In this example, the cyclone number is 07.

The NEW INFORMATION section header in the VTEC segments changes from mandatory to optional. Other section headers remain optional.

There are no changes to HLS product issuance criteria, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) headers, or Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) identifiers.

Examples of the new HLS format for the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific hurricane basins, to include a typical HLS example, and also an abbreviated HLS issuance (used by WFOs for the issuance of new tropical cyclone watches and/or warnings for one or more public or marine zones), are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/images/hls2011.doc>

The changes detailed in this SCN are not applicable to WFOs Honolulu, Hawaii; Tiyan, Guam; and Pago Pago, American Samoa. The HLS format for 2011 for each of these WFOs remains unchanged from the format used in 2010.

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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