

NOUS41 KWBC 151100
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 11-15
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington, DC
700 AM EDT Tue Mar 15 2011

To: Subscribers:
-Family of Services
-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPort
Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Therese Z. Pierce
Chief, Marine and Coastal Services Branch

Subject: Test of Operational Rip Current Valid Time Event Code
(VTEC) in Coastal Hazard Message at Select Weather
Forecast Offices (WFOs) Effective May 12, 2011

Effective Thursday May 12, 2011, at 1200 Coordinated Universal
Time (UTC) 10 additional WFOs will use a new VTEC event code for
rip currents in their Coastal Hazard Messages (CFW).

These WFOs will begin using the new VTEC event code RP.S within
the CFW, instead of CF.S or LS.S, when specifically targeting an
increased Rip Current Risk. The RP.S will be operational (i.e.,
the VTEC line will carry the (O) identifier). The Rip Current
information issued by these offices will be highlighted in
turquoise on the NWS Watch, Warning Advisory map at

<http://www.weather.gov>

Table 1: Communication identifiers for the CFWs issued by the
10 WFOs which will use the new VTEC for Rip Currents (RP.S)
effective May 12, 2011

Issuing WFO	WMO Header	AWIPS Id
Melbourne, FL	WHUS42 KMLB	CFWMLB
Miami, FL	WHUS42 KMFL	CFWMFL
Brownsville, TX	WHUS44 KBRO	CFWBRO
Corpus Christi, TX	WHUS44 KCRP	CFWCRP
Mobile, AL	WHUS44 KMOB	CFWMOB
Wakefield, VA	WHUS41 KAKQ	CFWAKQ
Philadelphia, PA	WHUS41 KPHI	CFWPHI
New York, NY	WHUS41 KOKX	CFWOKX
Boston, MA	WHUS41 KBOX	CFWBOX
Cleveland, OH	WHUS41 KCLE	CFWCLE

Customers must make the appropriate changes to their systems in
order to process the new VTEC RP.S.

Table 2: Communication identifiers for the CFWs issued by the seven WFOs which began using the VTEC RP.S in 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

The remainder of NWS coastal and Great Lakes offices will continue using the VTEC event codes CF.S or LS.S in their Coastal/Lakeshore Flood Statements (CFW) when a Rip Current threat exists. No actions are necessary to continue processing the CF.S and LS.S VTEC event codes.

This test of the new VTEC event code (RP.S) within the CFW by the WFOs specified in Table 1 will continue until further notice, unless significant negative feedback is received.

Users are encouraged to provide feedback by using the brief survey and comment form on the Internet at, replace [ampersand] with the symbol for ampersand to use the link. This symbol is illegal in a notice:

[http://www.weather.gov/survey/report.php?type=nws\[ampersand\]amp;code=rcvtecchm](http://www.weather.gov/survey/report.php?type=nws[ampersand]amp;code=rcvtecchm)

General background information on VTEC can be found online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/vtec>

If you have questions or comments please contact:

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NWS Service Change Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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