

NOUS41 KWBC 021505 AAA
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 12-10 Amended
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1105 AM EDT Tue May 2 2012

To: Subscribers:
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 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
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From: Mark Tew
 Chief, Marine and Coastal Services Branch

Subject: Amended: Test of Beach Hazards Statement with new Valid Time
Event Code (VTEC) in Coastal Hazard Message at Select Weather Forecast
Offices (WFOs): Effective May 15, 2012

Amended to do the following:

- Add links to examples of the new product.
- Change the headline wording in the product.
- Clarify wording in one paragraph.

Effective Tuesday May 15, 2012, at 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC),
six NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) will use a new VTEC event code for
beach hazards in their Coastal Hazard Messages (CFW).

Table 1: Communication Identifiers for the CFWs Issued by the Six WFOs
that will Use the New VTEC for Beach Hazards (BH.S), Effective May 15,
2012:

Issuing WFO	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
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Grand Rapids, MI	WHUS43 KGRR	CFWGRR
San Francisco Bay Area, CA	WHUS46 KMTR	CFWMTR
Newport/Morehead City, NC	WHUS42 KMHX	CFWMHX
New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA	WHUS44 KLIX	CFWLIX
Seattle, WA	WHUS56 KSEW	CFWSEW
Tampa Bay Area/Ruskin, FL	WHUS52 KTBW	CFWTBW

For the offices participating in this test, the new VTEC code BH.S will
replace the following VTEC codes:

CF.S - Coastal Flood Statement
LS.S - Lakeshore Flood Statement (used in the Great Lakes)
RP.S - Rip Current Statement

Coastal NWS offices not participating in this test will not use the BH.S
VTEC code and continue to use the CF.S, LS.S, and RP.S codes (in offices
where the RP.S code is used).

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

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

The headline "Hazardous Beach Conditions" has been changed to "Beach Hazards Statement" in the following paragraph.

The Beach Hazards Statement, with the headline of "Beach Hazards Statement in effect for [timeframe]" will inform beachgoers and local authorities of a multitude of hazards including, but not limited to:

- Rip currents or other dangerous currents in the surf zone.
- Unusually cold water temperatures.
- Potential for lightning along the beach/shoreline high heat indices which do not meet advisory criteria.
- Unusual surf/wave conditions not meeting advisory criteria.

In coordination with other agencies, as needed, the product may also inform users of various types of environmental hazards, e.g., chemical spills, harmful algal blooms, high bacteria levels in the water, or potentially hazardous marine wildlife which may be impacting the area.

The following paragraph has been reworded for clarification: The Beach Hazards Statement is intended to provide information for these types of hazards in a single product. The types of hazards listed above will not necessarily apply to all NWS coastal offices participating in this test. Each office has unique criteria for their area of responsibility and will tailor the contents as appropriate.

Below are links to examples of the Beach Hazards Statement.

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/resources/bhs1.pdf>
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/resources/bhs2.pdf>
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/resources/bhs3.pdf>
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/resources/bhs4.pdf>

The BH.S will be operational, i.e., the VTEC line will carry the (O) identifier. The Beach Hazard information issued by these offices will be highlighted in turquoise, same color as rip current statement, on the NWS Watch, Warning Advisory map at:

<https://www.weather.gov>

Users are encouraged to provide feedback by using the brief survey and comment form online at:

www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=CHMBHS

For information on beach hazards safety and awareness, please refer to the new Beach Hazards Safety and Awareness page, currently under construction:

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/beachhazards>

General background information on VTEC can be found online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/vtec/>

If you have questions or comments, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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