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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 14-29
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington, DC
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-NOAA Weather Wire Service
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From: Mark Tew
Chief, Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch

Subject: Four Additional Weather Forecast Offices in the Great
Lakes Will Begin Issuing the Experimental Beach Hazards
Statement Effective on or about May 19, 2014.

Effective on Monday, May 19, 2014, or later if cool weather and ice on lakes continue, NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) in Detroit, MI; Milwaukee and Green Bay, WI, and Duluth, MN, will begin testing the Experimental Beach Hazards Statement. With the additional offices, a total of 20 WFOs will be testing the Experimental Beach Hazards Statement this year (Table 1). The comment period was recently extended to December 31, 2014. See the following Public Information Statement for details.

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/pns14beach_hazards.htm

Participating offices will use one of the two options described below:

Option 1: Use Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) BH.S instead of CF.S (Coastal Flood Statement), LS.S (Lakeshore Flood Statement) and RP.S (Rip Current Statement) VTEC codes.

Option 2: Use VTEC RP.S for rip currents, CF.S for minor coastal flooding and VTEC BH.S for other beach and surf zone hazards.

There are no new VTEC codes for the test. Users do not need to make any adjustments to their systems. See Tables 2 and 3 for a listing of WFOs and the option they will be testing this season.

Table 1: Communication identifiers for NWS offices testing Beach Hazard Statements, effective May 19, 2014:

Issuing WFO	WMO Header	AWIPS Id
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Newport/Morehead City, NC	WHUS42 KMHX	CFWMHX
Wakefield, VA	WHUS41 KAKQ	CFWAKQ

New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA	WHUS44 KLIX	CFWLIX
Tampa Bay Area, FL	WHUS42 KTBW	CFWTBW
Miami, FL	WHUS42 KMFL	CFWMFL
Key West, FL	WHUS42 KKEY	CFWKEY
Corpus Christi, TX	WHUS44 KCRP	CFWCRP
Grand Rapids, MI	WHUS43 KGRR	CFWGRR
Marquette, MI	WHUS43 KMQT	CFWMQT
Gaylord, MI	WHUS43 KAPX	CFWAPX
Northern Indiana, IN	WHUS43 KIWX	CFWIWX
Chicago, IL	WHUS43 KLOT	CFWLOT
Seattle, WA	WHUS56 KSEW	CFWSEW
San Francisco Bay Area, CA	WHUS46 KMTR	CFWMTR
Los Angeles/Oxnard, CA	WHUS46 KLOX	CFWLOX
San Diego, CA	WHUS46 KSGX	CFWSGX
Detroit, MI	WHUS43 KDTX	CFWDTX
Duluth, MN	WHUS43 KDLH	CFWDLH
Green Bay, WI	WHUS43 KGRB	CFWGRB
Milwaukee, WI	WHUS43 KMKX	CFWMKX

Table 2: WFOs testing Option 1 this season:

Issuing WFO:

Grand Rapids, MI
Marquette, MI
Gaylord, MI
Northern Indiana, IN
Chicago, IL
Seattle, WA
San Francisco Bay Area, CA
Los Angeles/Oxnard, CA
San Diego, CA
Newport/Morehead City, NC*
Wakefield, VA*
Detroit, MI
Duluth, MN
Green Bay, WI
Milwaukee, WI

*WFOs Newport/Morehead City, NC, and Wakefield, VA, will use the Coastal Flood Statement (VTEC CF.S) for minor flooding and the Beach Hazards Statement (VTEC BH.S) for all other beach and surf zone related hazards, including rip currents. They will not use the Rip Current Statement (VTEC RP.S).

Table 3: WFOs testing Option 2 this season:

Issuing WFO:

New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA
Tampa Bay Area, FL
Miami, FL
Key West, FL

Corpus Christi, TX

Other coastal NWS offices will continue using the CF.S, LS.S, and RP.S codes. This test of the Experimental Beach Hazards Statement will continue until December 31, 2014 unless significant negative feedback is received.

The Experimental Beach Hazard Statement provides beachgoers and local authorities with significant information related to hazards, actual or potential, which currently do not have NWS watch, warning or advisory products. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Dangerous currents in the surf zone
- Unusual surf/wave/tide conditions not meeting advisory criteria

Rip Current Statements inform beachgoers of the potential and risk level for rip currents.

Coastal Flood Statements inform beachgoers about minor flooding along the coast that does not meet advisory criteria.

Two NWS offices (Table 4) have collaborated with other agencies to include specific ecological hazards in the Experimental Beach Hazards Statement this season.

Table 4. WFOs including information on specific ecological hazards in the BHS this season:

Issuing WFO	Ecological Hazards in BHS
San Francisco Bay Area, CA	Bacteria in water (issued only for dangerous bacteria levels)
Tampa Bay Area, FL	Harmful Algal Bloom (Issued only when there is a high risk of respiratory impacts)

Two additional WFOs, Miami and Key West, FL, are planning to begin including high respiratory impacts from a Harmful Algal Bloom later in 2014. A new Service Change Notice will be issued to announce that change once that implementation is scheduled. Below are links to examples of the BHS issued during the test last season.

Dangerous Swimming Conditions

www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/mc/dangerous_swimming.pdf

Rip Currents and High Water Levels

www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/mc/rip_currents_hwl.pdf

Minor Coastal Flooding and Rip Currents

www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/mc/minor_coast_flood_rip.pdf

Minor Tidal Overflow

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/mc/minor_tidal.pdf

High Waves and Shoreline Currents

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/mc/high_waves.pdf

Florida Red Tide

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/mc/redtide.pdf>

On the NWS Watch, Warning, Advisory map (<http://www.weather.gov>), the Experimental Beach Hazards Statement and Rip Current Statement are highlighted in turquoise and the Coastal Flood Statement is highlighted in olive drab.

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 Beach Hazards and Safety website at:

<http://www.weather.gov/beachhazards>

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.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm>

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