

NOUS41 KWBC 141859
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 14-56
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
300 PM EDT Mon Oct 28 2014

To: Subscribers:
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From: Michael J. Szkil
Chief, NWS Awareness Branch

Subject: Primary Valid Time Event Code becomes operational
for several products at NWS Weather Forecast Office Guam
effective January 13, 2015

On Tuesday January 13, 2015, at 11:00 AM Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), 0100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) at Tiyan, Guam (GUM) will implement the operational Primary Valid Time Event Code (P-VTEC) for several weather products.

P-VTEC is used in conjunction with, and provides supplemental information to, the Universal Geographic Code (UGC) to further aid in the automated delivery of NWS text products to users. VTEC provides information on the event; the UGC describes the affected geographic area.

The implementation of the operational P-VTEC coding means current use of the letter X, denoting experimental P-VTEC, will change to the letter O, denoting operational P-VTEC, in WFO GUM products.

For example, current experimental P-VTEC in a Coastal Hazard Message:

/X.CON.PGUM.SU.Y.0023.000000T0000Z-141026T0600Z/

Will become:

/O.CON.PGUM.SU.Y.0023.000000T0000Z-141026T0600Z/

The following WFO text product categories will transition to operational P-VTEC:

Product	AWIPS Identifier	WMO Header
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Coastal Hazard Message	CFWMY	WHMY40 PGUM

Flood Watch	FFAMY	WGMY60 PGUM
Non-Precipitation Weather Message	NPWMY	WWMY70 PGUM
Fire Weather Message	RFWMY	WWMY80 PGUM

These are the final WFO GUM products using experimental P-VTEC that will transition to operational P-VTEC.

Users who parse NWS text watches and warnings must make changes to their communications systems by January 13, 2015, to correctly process each of the above products. If January 13, 2015 is declared a Critical Weather Day or significant weather is occurring at, or forecast for WFO GUM, implementation of this change will occur on the next weekday not declared a Critical Weather Day and when no significant weather is occurring at, or forecast for WFO GUM.

More detailed information on VTEC can be found in NWSI 10-1703, Valid Time Event Code, online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01017003curr.pdf>

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm>

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