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Service Change Notice 15-24
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Eli Jacks
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Subject: Change to the Issuance of the Tropical Cyclone Public Advisory:
Effective May 15, 2015

Effective May 15, 2015, the NWS will make a change to the issuance of the Tropical Cyclone Public Advisory (TCP) produced by the National Hurricane Center, Central Pacific Hurricane Center and WFO Guam.

Current NWS policy states the TCP will be issued at 2-hourly intervals whenever coastal tropical cyclone watches/warnings are in effect and coastal radars are able to provide reliable center position estimates. In addition, when TCPs are issued on a 2-hourly cycle, a Tropical Cyclone Update (TCU) is issued in between each TCP to provide a continuous hourly flow of information about the tropical cyclone's location, motion and intensity. The TCU may also contain other information as needed.

When the center of a tropical cyclone cannot be easily tracked with land-based radar, TCPs are issued every three hours rather than every two. The uncertain nature of the TCP schedule sometimes creates confusion for users.

Effective May 15, the TCP will remain on a consistent 3-hourly cycle whenever watches/warnings are in effect or a tropical cyclone is over land at tropical storm strength or greater. Elimination of the 2-hourly TCP cycle will ensure the TCP is issued at standard times during a tropical event.

The hourly flow of storm information will not be disrupted; TCUs will continue to be issued hourly in between the 3-hourly TCPs whenever coastal watches/warning are in effect and the center can be easily tracked with land-based radar. Because TCUs can be prepared and disseminated more quickly than TCPs, the change will alleviate workflow issues when the new track and intensity forecast is being prepared, while preserving the ability to quickly convey storm updates to users.

This change will not limit or restrict the issuance or discontinuation of watches and warnings; warnings for the United States can only be issued on full or special advisory packages, while U.S. warnings can be lowered on

either an intermediate advisory or a TCU.

For NHC and CPHC, an example of an advisory cycle for storms meeting the watch/warning and center-tracking requirements is given below. Times for Guam times will be 1 hour later.

0900 UTC: Full advisory package including the TCP
1000 UTC: TCU (providing an hourly position update, summary block of key storm information, and other key observations)
1100 UTC: TCU
1200 UTC: Intermediate Public Advisory
1300 UTC: TCU
1400 UTC: TCU
1500 UTC: Next full advisory package

For questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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