

NOUS41 KWBC 221755
PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES 08-45
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
155 PM EDT THU MAY 22 2008

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:
-FAMILY OF SERVICES
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: THERESE Z. PIERCE
CHIEF...MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: CHANGE IN FORMAT OF THE AUTOMATED TROPICAL
CYCLONE FORECAST /ATCF/ DATABASE AT THE NATIONAL
HURRICANE CENTER /NHC/: EFFECTIVE WHEN THE FIRST
TROPICAL CYCLONE FORMS IN 2008

A COMPREHENSIVE DATABASE EXISTS WITHIN NHC/S/ FORECAST COMPUTER
SYSTEM...THE ATCF. AMONG THE COMPONENTS OF THE ATCF DATABASE ARE
THE A DECK...B DECK...AND F DECK WHICH CONTAIN THE FORECASTS
...BEST TRACKS...AND FIXES RESPECTIVELY. THIS NOTICE ADVISES
USERS OF THESE DATA OF CONTENT CHANGES TO THE B DECKS.

BY CONVENTION THE BEST TRACK DATA IN THE B DECK FILES HAVE BEEN
RESTRICTED TO THE SYNOPTIC TIMES OF 00...06...12...AND 18
COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/. NHC IS LIFTING THIS
RESTRICTION SO STAFF CAN ENTER EVENTS OF INTEREST OCCURRING AT
NON-SYNOPTIC TIMES...ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST HOUR. SUCH EVENTS
COULD INCLUDE PRESSURE MINIMA OR WIND MAXIMA THAT OCCUR AT
OFF-SYNOPTIC TIMES...OR SIGNIFICANT LANDFALLS.

NHC WILL ALSO BE GOING BACK THROUGH EXISTING NON-DIGITAL
RECORDS...THE TROPICAL CYCLONE PRELIMINARY REPORTS...AND
AMENDING THE HISTORICAL B DECKS FOR KNOWN OCCURRENCES OF
NON-SYNOPTIC INTENSITY MAXIMA INFORMATION AS WELL AS SELECTED
LANDFALLS.

DATA WILL BE STORED IN THIS NEW FORMAT WHEN THE FIRST TROPICAL
CYCLONE FORMS IN 2008.

SOFTWARE USED TO READ THESE FILES SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR THIS
CHANGE. A SAMPLE ATCF FILE IS AVAILABLE TO TEST SOFTWARE AT
/USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

FTP://FTP.NHC.NOAA.GOV/ATCF

THIS DIRECTORY ALSO CONTAINS A README FILE WITH LINKS TO FILE
FORMATS AND A NOTICE FILE DOCUMENTING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE
DATABASE.

THIS NOTICE IS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF NWS DIRECTIVE 10-1805 AND IS
SENT AS A COURTESY. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED A SAMPLE
FILE...PLEASE CONTACT:

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NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER
11691 SW 17TH STREET
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TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OS/NOTIF.HTM](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notif.htm)

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