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Technical Implementation Notice 13-23  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
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From: Timothy McClung  
Science Plans Branch Chief  
Office of Science and Technology

Subject: Temporary Change to Preemption of HIRESW:  
Effective August 13, 2013

Effective on or about Tuesday, August 13, 2013, beginning with the 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) run, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will modify the preemption of the High-Resolution Window Forecast System (HIRESW).

Due to resource limitations, NWS has had to cancel select HIRESW runs during hurricane season depending on the number of hurricane models running during that cycle. Currently, the HIRESW runs are preempted when there are 3 or more tropical storms being run.

Because of the increased size and power of the new WCOSS supercomputers, beginning August 13, the HIRESW runs will not be preempted until 4 or more tropical storms are being run. This rule will apply for the remainder of the 2013 hurricane season only. Once the HIRESW suite is upgraded late this year or early next year, the preemption limit likely will return to a smaller number of storms. With a subsequent upgrade to either the Hurricane Weather and Research Forecast (HWRF) or the HIRESW, the preemption could begin with just 1 storm. A new Technical Implementation Notice would alert users to such a change.

Long term, the HIRESW functionality will be covered by the High Resolution Rapid Refresh ENSEMBLE (HRRRE), which will provide 18-24 hour guidance updated hourly, and by the Short Range Ensemble Forecast (SREF), which will provide longer range ensemble guidance by extending the HRRRE members to 48-60 hours, 4 times per day. This configuration (roughly 2018) will alleviate the need for any preemption.

For questions regarding these model changes, please contact:

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