

NOUS41 KWBC 311655
PNSWSH

Technical Implementation Notice 15-16
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1255 PM EDT Tue Mar 31 2015

To: Subscribers:
-Family of Services
-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPORT
Other NWS users and employees

From: Mark Tew
Chief, Marine and Coastal Services Branch

Subject: Tropical Cyclone Threat Grids in the National Digital
Forecast Database will Transition to Operational
Effective June 1, 2015

Effective June 1, 2015, the Tropical Cyclone Threat Grids in the
National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) will transition from
experimental to operational.

The Tropical Cyclone (TC) Threat grids consist of four elements:

- Wind
- Storm surge
- Flooding rain
- Tornado

There are five levels to describe each TC Threat grid:

- Little to None (changed to add Little)
- Elevated (changed from Low)
- Moderate
- High
- Extreme

The TC Threat elements provide the reasonable worst case
scenario, taking into account the forecast magnitude of the
hazard, along with the associated uncertainty of the forecast.

The elements are produced only by coastal WFOs along the Atlantic
and Gulf coasts and by San Juan, PR, whenever tropical cyclone
watches and warnings are in effect for their area of
responsibility (AOR).

Because the grids do not convey specific timing, they are valid
for the duration of the event. Updates will be provided at least
every 6 hours shortly after the National Hurricane Center's
advisory, and will cease when tropical cyclone watches and
warnings are no longer in effect for a WFOs AOR.

Additional details regarding these grids are available in the
Product Description Document at:

<https://products.weather.gov/PDD/TCThreatGridsNDFD.pdf>

The TC Threat grids will be available from NDFD in the following standard methods:

- Gridded Binary Version 2 (GRIB2) files via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
- Extensible Markup Language (XML) via Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP)
- Graphics via web browser

Users who pull NDFD elements in GRIB2 format, either via the Internet or via the Family of Services (FOS) server, may need to update their procedures and scripts in order to access these new elements. The GRIB2 files are available online at:

CONUS Sector

<http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/>

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/>

Puerto Rico Sector

<http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.puertori/VP.001-003/>

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.puertori/VP.001-003/>

with the following file names used:

Wind	ds.tcwt.bin
Storm Surge	ds.tcsst.bin
Flooding Rain	ds.tcftrt.bin
Tornado	ds.tctt.bin

For Users who key on the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) super heading to access NDFD elements, the super headings are:

Geographical Area Threat Element WMO Header

CONUS	Wind	ZWUZ98 KWBN
CONUS	Storm Surge	ZSUZ98 KWBN
CONUS	Flooding Rain	ZFUZ98 KWBN
CONUS	Tornado	ZYUZ98 KWBN
Puerto Rico	Wind	ZWAZ98 KWBN
Puerto Rico	Storm Surge	ZSAZ98 KWBN
Puerto Rico	Flooding Rain	ZFAZ98 KWBN
Puerto Rico	Tornado	ZYAZ98 KWBN

Graphics for the threat grids will be available at:

<http://digital.weather.gov/>

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

<http://ndfd.weather.gov/technical.htm>

For general questions regarding NDFD data, please email:

NWS.NDFD@noaa.gov

For technical questions regarding NDFD data, please contact:

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Technical Implementation Notices specifically related to NDFD are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/tins.htm>

National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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