



PRODUCT CHANGES FOR THE 2011 HURRICANE SEASON

Effective May 15, the National Hurricane Center will implement the following changes to its text and graphical products.

Changes:

- 1) Product headers will now indicate the correct status of a system on its final advisory. NHC stops writing advisories on tropical cyclones when they lose tropical characteristics or when they dissipate. In the past, product headers on final advisories have caused confusion – for example, when the header reads “TROPICAL STORM FRAN ADVISORY...”, but the body of the advisory indicates that the system is no longer a tropical cyclone. Beginning this year, when NHC writes the final advisory on a system, the product headers will now indicate the actual status of the system (e.g., REMNANTS OF FRAN ADVISORY...). The complete list of cyclone types that may appear in the header block is:

Tropical Depression
Tropical Storm
Hurricane
Subtropical Depression
Subtropical Storm
Post-Tropical Cyclone
Remnants of

An example and complete list of affected products is found at:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/2011_types.shtml

- 2) The Tropical Cyclone Discussion (TCD) will include forecast intensity in miles-per-hour (mph). The TCD that is issued with each advisory package contains a table that includes the forecast valid times, forecast cyclone locations and intensities. Previously, the table displayed forecast intensity in knots (KT). Beginning May 15, the table will also include the intensity forecast in miles-per-hour (MPH). See the example below:

FORECAST POSITIONS AND MAX WINDS

INIT	28/0900Z	15.7N	50.1W	50 KT	60 MPH
12H	28/1800Z	16.0N	52.7W	60 KT	70 MPH
24H	29/0600Z	16.5N	55.7W	65 KT	75 MPH
36H	29/1800Z	17.2N	58.3W	75 KT	85 MPH
48H	30/0600Z	18.2N	60.5W	85 KT	100 MPH
72H	31/0600Z	20.8N	64.2W	100 KT	115 MPH
96H	01/0600Z	24.5N	67.5W	110 KT	125 MPH
120H	02/0600Z	29.5N	69.5W	100 KT	115 MPH

- 3) The pronunciation guide for storm names as been updated to include phonetic pronunciations of all Atlantic and Eastern North Pacific storm names. The list of names and pronunciation guide is found on the NHC website at:

Atlantic:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/aboutnames_pronounce_atlc.pdf

Eastern North Pacific:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/aboutnames_pronounce_epac.pdf

- 4) The abbreviation for kilometers per hour in the NHC products will change from KM/HR to KM/H.
- 5) Storm Surge Exceedance products will become operational in 2011. The exceedance graphics show the storm surge height, in feet above normal tide level, which has a specific probability of being exceeded in the next 3 days. The available probability thresholds range from 10 to 90 percent, at 10 percent intervals. The products are available on the NHC website when a hurricane watch or warning is in effect for the United States.

Information on NHC Storm Surge products is found at:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/ssurge/ssurge_products.shtml

Other information items of interest for 2011:

- 1) A reminder that the lead times of tropical cyclone watches and warnings were increased in 2010. The definitions of tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings are as follows:

Tropical Storm Watch: An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are *possible* within the specified coastal area within 48 hours.

Tropical Storm Warning: An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are *expected* within the specified coastal area within 36 hours.

Hurricane Watch: An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are *possible* somewhere within the specified coastal area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

Hurricane Warning: An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are *expected* somewhere within the specified coastal area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

- 2) The size of the tropical cyclone forecast cone will be adjusted. The cone represents the probable track of the center of a tropical cyclone, and is formed by enclosing the area swept out by a set of imaginary circles placed along the forecast track (at 12, 24, 36 hours, etc.). The size of each circle is set so that two-thirds of historical official forecast errors over the previous five years fall within the circle. The circle radii defining the cones in 2011 for the Atlantic and eastern North Pacific basins are given in the table below:

Forecast Period (hours)	Circle radius Atlantic Basin (nautical miles)	Circle radius Eastern North Pacific Basin (nautical miles)
12	36	33
24	59	59
36	79	79
48	98	98
72	144	134
96	190	187
120	239	230

- 3) The National Hurricane Center now has a Facebook page. The “NOAA NWS National Hurricane Center” page will provide updates about the NHC outreach and education campaign and other items that might be of interest to the public throughout the year. During the hurricane season, the site will contain links to

the NHC web site (hurricanes.gov) highlighting active tropical weather. The NHC Facebook page is found at:

<http://www.facebook.com/US.NOAA.NationalHurricaneCenter.gov>

Experimental Products: (Note that the timeliness and accuracy of these products cannot be guaranteed)

- 1) Audio podcast RSS/XML feed for top-of-the-hour briefings when the media pool is activated:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/audio/index.shtml>

(The media pool is typically activated when a hurricane watch is issued for any portion of the U.S. contiguous coastline.)

- 2) Live video/audio feed of top-of-the-hour hurricane briefings when the media pool is activated:

<http://www.emergency.info/nhc/>

- 3) Various GIS products:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gis/>

On the Web:

National Hurricane Center

<http://www.hurricanes.gov>

National Hurricane Center Product Description Document-A User's Guide to Hurricane Products:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/NHC_Product_Description.pdf

Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnhcgraphics.shtml#GTWO>

Saffir Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsshs.shtml>

Definition of NHC Track Forecast Cone:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutcone.shtml>

National Hurricane Center Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/US.NOAA.NationalHurricaneCenter.gov>

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