



Changes to tropical cyclone information on the Unified Surface Analysis (USA)

The National Hurricane Center/Tropical Analysis Forecast Branch (TAFB) will change the depiction of tropical cyclone information on the Unified Surface Analysis (USA) effective Monday, July 15, 2013 at 1800 UTC (2 p.m. EDT).

NHC/TAFB along with NOAA's Ocean Prediction Center and the National Weather Service forecast office in Honolulu will simplify the tropical cyclone text boxes to indicate the name of the cyclone, the maximum sustained winds and gusts valid at the synoptic time. If an intermediate advisory has been issued, the intensity from that advisory will be used.

Forecast 24-hour positions from the previous advisory will remain plotted on the analysis with the appropriate tropical cyclone (tropical storm or hurricane) symbol indicated. The forecast XX (unknown value) for central pressure will no longer be included.

This change is being made to improve services to our users and to address an outstanding issue of overly large tropical cyclone text box information.

The benefits of the change include:

- Enhance safety by encouraging users to seek more detailed information found within the tropical cyclone advisories
- Tropical cyclone information is valid at synoptic time and consistent in terms of intensity and location at the synoptic time.
- Smaller text boxes reduce potential for clutter and obscuration of other synoptic features and key observations.
- Unified Surface Analysis available earlier and reduced instances of late transmission due to not having to include the H + 3:00 tropical cyclone advisory information on the map.

Additional detailed information is contained in the policy change document found at http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/news/20130628_tafb_usaTCchanges.pdf

Contact: NHC Public Affairs, nhc.public.affairs@noaa.gov