

Abstract

The WSR-88D Tropical Cyclone Operations Plan – A Living Document

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The WSR-88D Tropical Cyclone Operations Plan (TCOP) provides guidance on the use of the WSR-88D during tropical cyclone events. It was originally developed in 1994 as a collaborative effort between the Tropical Prediction Center (TPC) and the Melbourne, Florida, Weather Service Forecast Office (WFO). The plan's use grew as WFOs in locations prone to tropical cyclones sought guidance for the optimal use of their radars and radar products. Successful use of the TCOP led to incorporation in the National Hurricane Operations Plan (NHOP) in recent years. Due to numerous changes in WSR-88D software and hardware, most of the updates have been driven more by how operators need to enter commands than by meteorological considerations. Therefore, the responsibility for maintaining the TCOP shifted to the Radar Operations Center.

This presentation is an overview of the contents of the TCOP, emphasizing the operational considerations of the WSR-88D, and also including the meteorological guidance and end-user experience from both the TPC and the Melbourne WFO. A review of the 2004 and 2005 TCOPs will be given, describing the updates that were needed while each season was in progress. There will be a brief summary of how field offices are notified of TCOP updates. Finally, there will be a preview of proposed changes in the 2006 TCOP.