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Public Information Statement, Comment Request
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1155 AM EDT Mon Aug 11 2014

To: Subscribers:
-Family of Services
-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPort
Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Mark Tew
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Subject: Comments Solicited from August 19, 2014 through November 30, 2014 on Experimental Tropical Cyclone Threat Grids Added to the National Digital Forecast Database

Effective August 19, 2014, NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) will begin providing, on an experimental basis, four Tropical Cyclone Threat grids in the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD).

The following four Tropical Cyclone (TC) Threat grids will be added to the NDFD experimentally; wind, storm surge, flooding rain and tornado.

There are five levels to describe each TC Threat grid: None, Low, Moderate, High and 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 as well as San Juan, PR, whenever tropical cyclone watches and warnings are in effect for their area of responsibility (AOR).

The grids are valid for the duration of the event because they do not convey specific timing. The WFOs will provide updates at least every six hours shortly after the National Hurricane Center's advisory and will cease sending updates when tropical cyclone watches and warnings are no longer in effect for a WFO's AOR.

More details regarding these grids are available in the Product Description Document in the online catalog of Experimental NWS products and services available at:

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

With this implementation, the TC Threat grids will be available from NDFD in the following standard methods:

- Gridded Binary Version Two (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

Graphics and XML services for the TC Threat grids will become available within 30 days of the experimental release of GRIB2 files into the NDFD.

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 to access these new elements. The GRIB2 files are available online at:

CONUS Sector:
http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/

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

Puerto Rico Sector:
http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.puertori/VP.001-003/

ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/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.tcfrt.bin
Tornado: ds.tctt.bin

For customers 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

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

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

Comments and feedback on these experimental TC Threat elements, are welcome through November 30, 2014, at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=TCTEND

GRIB2 users:
http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=ndfd-grids

Users OF XML SOAP service:
http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=xmlsoap

NDFD online graphics:
http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=wxmap

These new elements will remain experimental until NWS assesses feedback and completes a Technical Analysis. At that time, the NWS will determine whether to move these experimental elements to operational status, discontinue them, or revise and extend the experimental feedback period.

If August 19, 2014, is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation date will be postponed. Users will be notified of that decision via another Public Information Statement and a new implementation date will be established.

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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For general questions regarding NDFD data, please email:

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For technical questions regarding NDFD data, please contact:

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NDFD Public Information Statements are online at:

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

National Public Information Statements are online at:

https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive

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