

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-6
SEPTEMBER 29, 2009***

Operations and Services

TROPICAL CYCLONE WEATHER SERVICES PROGRAM

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Type of Issuance: Routine

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:

This directive supersedes NWSPD 10-6 dated June 7, 2002 to update the performance measures in Section 4 as the 48-hour intensity error and the 48-hour track error. It also updates the definition for tropical cyclone in the Appendix.

1. This policy directive establishes the framework for the tropical cyclone weather services program. Tropical cyclones have a profound socioeconomic impact on the United States, its territories and other nations. As the nation's coastal population grows, timely and accurate tropical cyclone forecasts and warnings are increasingly critical to decision makers and the coastal population. The National Weather Service (NWS) provides tropical cyclone products to meet the needs of a diverse user and partner base.

2. The NWS will provide authoritative, timely and credible tropical cyclone information. These products will exploit technology to the fullest to meet user and partner needs, promote public safety and enhance the national economy.

3. This policy directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:

3.1 The Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services (OCWWS) is responsible for establishing national policy and procedural directives, and overseeing national performance and effectiveness measures for the tropical cyclone program. OCWWS is also responsible for outreach efforts to promote the tropical cyclone weather services program with national users and partners.

3.2 NWS Regional Headquarters offices are responsible for ensuring the Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) within their region are organized, trained, equipped, and ready to fulfill the tropical cyclone services program obligations within their region. Regional headquarters are responsible for ensuring WFO compliance with established policies and procedures; coordinating with OCWWS on tropical cyclone program policy and requirements; developing Supplements to Procedural Directives and coordinating them with OCWWS; ensuring

Supplements are compatible across regional boundaries; and evaluating performance and effectiveness indicators of the tropical cyclone services program within their region.

3.3 The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will support the tropical cyclone services program consistent with OCWWS procedure directives.

3.4 The following tropical cyclone centers and WFO Tiyan, Guam, have tropical cyclone forecast responsibilities.

3.4.1 The National Hurricane Center (NHC) is the unit within NCEP's Tropical Prediction Center (TPC) responsible for operational hurricane forecasts. NHC is responsible for all meteorological decisions concerning forecasting of tropical and subtropical systems for the Atlantic Ocean and the eastern Pacific Ocean north of the equator and east of 140° West longitude.

3.4.2 The Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC), under the Director, Pacific Region, is responsible for all meteorological decisions concerning forecasting of tropical and subtropical systems for the Pacific Ocean north of the equator from 140° West to 180° West longitude. CPHC will also provide guidance to Weather Service Offices in Pago Pago, American Samoa.

3.4.3 WFO Tiyan, Guam, under the Director, Pacific Region, will provide tropical cyclone watches and warnings for the Territory of Guam, Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands using the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) forecast information as guidance.

3.5 WFOs will issue tropical cyclone products designed to inform media, local decision makers, and the public on present and anticipated tropical cyclone conditions in their area of responsibility. Each WFO will ensure products are consistent with the latest products issued by their respective tropical prediction center.

4. The NWS will measure the effectiveness of the tropical cyclone weather services policy using the mission-critical performance measures of reducing the annual average 48-hour track and annual average 48-hour intensity forecast errors. The goal of this policy is to improve the operational effectiveness of tropical cyclone weather services to the nation.

5. This policy directive is supported by the references listed in the Appendix.

Signed by John L. Hayes
John L. Hayes
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services

September 29, 2009
Date

Appendix

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Procedural Directives

- Instruction 10-601 *Tropical Cyclone Products*
Instruction 10-602 *Tropical Cyclone Coordination and Emergency Operations*
Instruction 10-603 *National Hurricane Center Hurricane Liaison Team*
Instruction 10-604 *Tropical Cyclone Definitions*
Instruction 10-605 *Tropical Cyclone Official Defining Points and Geographic Defining Points*
Instruction 10-606 *Tropical Cyclone Names and Pronunciation Guides*

Additional Supporting Documentation

National Hurricane Operations Plan, Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research

Terms

Tropical Cyclone - For the purposes of this Policy Directive and the associated Instructions, the generic term “tropical cyclone” shall be understood to include tropical depressions, tropical storms, hurricanes, typhoons, subtropical depressions, and subtropical storms. Specific definitions for each of these weather systems are provided in NWSI 10-604, Tropical Cyclone Definitions.