

SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT

Proposed Changes to Hurricane/Typhoon Local Statement

Approved:

Cindy Woods

Chief, Operations and Requirements Division, OS1

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Proposed Changes to Hurricane/Typhoon Local Statement

Part I - Mission Connection

- a. Service Description – The Hurricane/Typhoon Local Statement (HLS) is issued by Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) when their area is threatened by a tropical or subtropical cyclone. The HLS contains specific details for a WFO's county warning area on tropical cyclone wind watches/warnings in effect, meteorological hazard and impact information, meteorological conditions, and precautions necessary to protect life and property.

The following changes to the HLS, using input from social scientists, are being proposed for the 2015 hurricane season for the Atlantic Hurricane basin:

- 1) **HLS contain no Valid Time Event Codes (VTEC).**
- 2) **HLS covers land areas only.**

The Hurricane Local Watch/Warning Product and the Marine Weather Warning (MWW) products would become the mechanism for issuing tropical watches/warnings at the WFO level in the Atlantic Hurricane basin.

There will be no change in the format to the HLS for Western and Pacific Region WFOs, except tropical cyclone watches and warnings for marine zones would move to the MWW. Plans for expanding the revamped HLS to Western and Pacific Region offices are being developed with implementation TBD.

- b. Purpose – The HLS is an event-driven product and is updated as necessary, but at a minimum every 6 hours, to alert the public, media, and local decision makers of potential or actual storm effects due to tropical or subtropical cyclones. The product is intended to provide information to assist in the preparation and implementation of necessary precautions for the protection of life and property, as well as to minimize the economic losses as a result of tropical cyclones.
- c. Audience – The target audience for this product are the federal, state and local emergency management agencies, the general public, and the media.
- d. Presentation Format – Text.
- e. Feedback Method – Feedback may be provided at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=HLSPCHNG>

Questions on this experimental service may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: John F. Kuhn
Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13124
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3280
john.f.kuhn@noaa.gov
301-713-1677, x121

Part II - Technical Description

- a. Format & Science Basis – The product type line options are Hurricane (Name) Local Statement, Typhoon (Name) Local Statement, Tropical Storm (Name) Statement, Tropical Depression (Number) Statement, Subtropical Storm (Name) Local Statement. The HLS contains watch/warning information, hazard and impact information, and meteorological information in text format.

The HLS is issued in the following format:

- 1) Southern and Eastern Region (**proposed for 2015**) – Non-segmented with no VTEC. Product contains sections on; new information, situational overview and potential impacts.
 - 2) Western and Pacific Region– The first portion will contain an Overview Block with one or more section headers. The Overview Block is followed by segments providing VTEC. The phenomena codes associated with the HLS are: HU – hurricane, TY – typhoon and TR – tropical storm.
 - 3) America Samoa and Samoa – When tropical cyclones threaten the Samoas, the two local offices will coordinate with Regional Specialized Meteorological Center Nadi, the Central Pacific Hurricane Center, and with each other to determine the best integrated and internally consistent forecast of conditions expected in the area. In this particular case, the HLS will be a free formatted text product as the capabilities for a segmented VTEC product do not exist for those offices.
- b. Product Availability - When tropical cyclone watches or warnings are in effect the HLS is disseminated at a minimum of every six hours though they can be issued more frequently depending upon the situation. Typically, HLSs become more frequent as the storm nears the coast. The product is made available via various means, such as: the Internet, NOAAPort, NOAA Weather Radio all Hazards, and the NOAA Weather Wire.
- c. Additional Information
A full description of other NWS Tropical Cyclone Program products is provided in NWS Instruction 10-601, which is available on the Internet at:
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01006001curr.pdf>

Example of Proposed Changes to the HLS for 2015 for the Atlantic Hurricane Basin

WTUS82 KMFL 230930
HLSMFL
FLZ063-066>075-168-172>174-231600-

HURRICANE WILMA LOCAL STATEMENT ADVISORY NUMBER 32
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MIAMI FL AL242005
530 AM EDT SUN OCT 23 2005

THIS PRODUCT COVERS MAINLAND SOUTH FLORIDA

****EXTENSIVE TO DEVASTATING DAMAGE AND LIFE-THREATENING CONDITIONS EXPECTED AS HURRICANE WILMA MOVES NORTHEAST ACROSS SOUTH FLORIDA****

NEW INFORMATION

* CHANGES TO WATCHES AND WARNINGS:

- A HURRICANE WATCH HAS BEEN UPGRADED TO A HURRICANE WARNING FOR: MIAMI-DADE...BROWARD...PALM BEACH...COLLIER...HENDRY...GLADES AND MAINLAND MONROE COUNTIES

* CURRENT WATCHES AND WARNINGS:

- A HURRICANE WARNING IS IN EFFECT FOR: MIAMI-DADE...BROWARD...PALM BEACH...COLLIER...HENDRY...GLADES AND MAINLAND MONROE COUNTIES

* STORM INFORMATION:

- ABOUT 405 MI SW OF NAPLES FL
- 22.1N 86.6W
- STORM INTENSITY 100 MPH WITH HIGHER GUSTS
- MOVING NORTHEAST AT 3 MPH

SITUATION OVERVIEW

EXTREMELY DANGEROUS HURRICANE WILMA IS EXPECTED TO IMPACT SOUTH FLORIDA BEGINNING THIS EVENING. THE MAIN CONCERN IS FOR LIFE-THREATENING INUNDATION IN SURGE-PRONE AREAS OF COLLIER/MAINLAND MONROE COUNTIES WHERE THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF DEVASTATING IMPACTS SOMETIME BETWEEN EARLY MONDAY MORNING AND MONDAY AFTERNOON. ADDITIONALLY, THERE IS A RISK FOR EXTENSIVE DAMAGE FROM WIND ACROSS MAINLAND SOUTH FLORIDA PARTICULARLY BETWEEN SUNRISE AND MONDAY AFTERNOON AS WILMA CROSSES THE PENINSULA.

THERE ARE ALSO CONCERNS WITH SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS FROM FLOODING RAINS AS THE HURRICANE MOVES ACROSS THE AREA LATE TONIGHT AND MONDAY.

ISOLATED TO SCATTERED TORNADOES CAPABLE OF INFLICTING LIMITED TO LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE ARE ALSO POSSIBLE STARTING THIS AFTERNOON AS OUTER RAIN BANDS BEGIN TO IMPACT SOUTH FLORIDA. AS YOU WORK OUTSIDE COMPLETING YOUR PREPARATIONS TODAY, STAY TUNED TO THE LATEST INFORMATION IN CASE TORNADO WATCHES AND/OR WARNINGS BECOME NECESSARY.

SEVERAL COUNTIES HAVE MANDATORY EVACUATION ORDERS IN PLACE. CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL COUNTY OFFICIALS FOR ORDERS WHICH MAY AFFECT YOU.

SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL IMPACTS

* SURGE:

PREPARE FOR LIFE-THREATENING STORM SURGE OF UP TO 6-10 FT ABOVE GROUND AND DEVASTATING DAMAGE IN SURGE PRONE AREAS OF COLLIER AND MAINLAND MONROE COUNTIES. IN THESE AREAS, POTENTIAL IMPACTS INCLUDE:

- WIDESPREAD DEEP INUNDATION WITHIN COASTAL FLOOD ZONES FROM NEARBY SEA, POSSIBLY REACHING AREAS WELL AWAY FROM THE SHORELINE. POWERFUL STORM SURGE FLOODING CAPABLE OF CAUSING STRUCTURAL DAMAGE TO BUILDINGS, WITH MANY WASHING AWAY. DAMAGE GREATLY COMPOUNDED FROM CONSIDERABLE FLOATING DEBRIS. HARDEST HIT LOCATIONS MAY BE UNINHABITABLE FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD.
- NEAR-SHORE ESCAPE ROUTES AND SECONDARY ROADS WASHED OUT OR SEVERELY FLOODED. FLOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS AND BARRIERS MAY BECOME STRESSED.
- EXTREME BEACH EROSION. NEW INLAND CUTS POSSIBLE ALONG WITH LOCAL RESHAPING OF THE SHORELINE.
- VAST AND SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO MARINAS, DOCKS, AND PIERS. NUMEROUS SMALL CRAFT BROKEN AWAY FROM MOORINGS WITH MANY LIFTED ONSHORE AND STRANDED.

PREPARATIONS SHOULD ALSO BE MADE FOR SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS FROM STORM SURGE COASTAL FLOODING OF UP TO 3-5 FEET ABOVE GROUND ALONG PORTIONS OF FAR SOUTH MIAMI DADE ADJACENT TO FLORIDA BAY.

ELSEWHERE, PREPARE FOR THE POTENTIAL OF LIMITED DAMAGE FROM LOCALIZED STORM SURGE FLOODING OF 2 FEET ABOVE GROUND OR LESS ACROSS PORTIONS OF THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA COAST FROM MIAMI DADE TO PALM BEACH COUNTIES.

* WIND:

PREPARE FOR EXTENSIVE DAMAGE ACROSS ALL OF SOUTH FLORIDA. POTENTIAL IMPACTS INCLUDE:

- CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO ROOFING AND SIDING MATERIALS OF STURDY BUILDINGS, WITH SOME HAVING WINDOW, DOOR, AND GARAGE DOOR FAILURES LEADING TO STRUCTURAL DAMAGE. MOBILE HOMES SEVERELY DAMAGED, WITH SOME DESTROYED. HARDEST HIT LOCATIONS MAY BE UNINHABITABLE FOR WEEKS.
- MANY LARGE TREES SNAPPED OR UPROOTED ALONG WITH FENCES AND ROADWAY SIGNS BLOWN OVER. SOME ROADS IMPASSABLE FROM LARGE DEBRIS, AND MORE WITHIN HEAVILY WOODED PLACES.
- SEVERAL BRIDGES, CAUSEWAYS, AND ACCESS ROUTES CONNECTING BARRIER ISLANDS IMPASSIBLE.
- POWER OUTAGES ACROSS LARGE AREAS, WITH SEVERAL PLACES SUFFERING EXTENDED OUTAGES.

* FLOODING RAIN:

PREPARE FOR SIGNIFICANT FLOODING ACROSS MUCH OF MAINLAND SOUTH FLORIDA. IN THESE AREAS, POTENTIAL IMPACTS INCLUDE:

- THE OCCURRENCE OF MODERATE RAINFALL FLOODING CAN HINDER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OR RESPONSE ACTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH OTHER TROPICAL EVENT HAZARDS. ATTENTIONS AND EMERGENCY RESOURCES MAY NEED TO BE PARTIALLY DIVERTED TO MEET AN IMMEDIATE FLOODING THREAT.
- CANALS AND DITCHES OVERFLOW.
- FLOOD WATERS CAN ENTER SOME STRUCTURES OR WEAKEN FOUNDATIONS. SEVERAL PLACES EXPERIENCE EXPANDED AREAS OF RAPID INUNDATION AT UNDERPASSES, LOW-LYING SPOTS, AND POOR DRAINAGE AREAS. SOME STREETS AND PARKING LOTS TAKE ON MOVING WATER AS STORM DRAINS AND RETENTION PONDS OVERFLOW. DRIVING CONDITIONS BECOME HAZARDOUS ALONG WITH SOME ROAD AND BRIDGE CLOSURES.
- FLOOD WATERS MAY PROMPT SEVERAL EVACUATIONS AND RESCUES.

AS THE THREAT EVOLVES, STAY TUNED FOR POTENTIAL FLOOD WATCHES AND/OR WARNINGS.

* TORNADOES:

PREPARE FOR SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE FROM TORNADOES IN RAIN BANDS PARTICULARLY ACROSS PORTIONS OF BROWARD AND PALM BEACH COUNTIES WITH CONCERNS BEGINNING AS EARLY AS THIS AFTERNOON. IN THESE AREAS, POTENTIAL IMPACTS INCLUDE:

- THE OCCURRENCE OF SCATTERED TORNADOES THAT CAN HINDER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OR RESPONSE ACTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH OTHER TROPICAL EVENT HAZARDS.

- SEVERAL PLACES MAY EXPERIENCE TORNADO DAMAGE WITH A FEW SPOTS OF CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE, POWER LOSS, AND COMMUNICATIONS FAILURES.
- HARDEST HIT LOCATIONS CAN REALIZE ROOFS TORN OFF FRAME HOUSES, MOBILE HOMES DEMOLISHED, BOXCARS OVERTURNED, LARGE TREES SNAPPED OR UPROOTED, VEHICLES LIFTED OFF THE GROUND, AND SMALL BOATS TOSSED ABOUT. DANGEROUS PROJECTILES ADD TO THE TOLL.

PREPARE FOR ISOLATED TORNADOES AND LIMITED DAMAGE FROM TORNADOES ELSEWHERE ACROSS MAINLAND SOUTH FLORIDA.

STAY TUNED IN CASE TORNADOES WATCHES AND/OR WARNINGS BECOME NECESSARY.

* OTHER COASTAL HAZARDS:

THERE IS A HIGH RISK FOR RIP CURRENTS AS WELL AS THE POTENTIAL FOR SIGNIFICANT BEACH EROSION ACROSS ALL BEACHES OF SOUTH FLORIDA.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS

* EVACUATIONS:

SEVERAL COUNTIES HAVE ISSUED MANDATORY EVACUATION ORDERS. GO TO WWW.FLORIDADISASTER.ORG FOR THE LATEST EVACUATION INFORMATION.

FOR THOSE NOT UNDER EVACUATION ORDERS, UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE INHERENT RISKS TO EVACUATION SUCH AS TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, CONGESTION, AND GETTING CAUGHT ON THE ROAD DURING BAD WEATHER, SO EVACUATE ONLY IF YOU MUST. THIS HELPS KEEP ROADWAYS OPEN FOR THOSE UNDER EVACUATION ORDERS.

* OTHER PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION:

NOW IS THE TIME TO RUSH TO COMPLETION PREPARATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.

CLOSELY MONITOR NOAA WEATHER RADIO OR OTHER LOCAL NEWS OUTLETS FOR OFFICIAL STORM INFORMATION. LISTEN FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE FORECAST.

* ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

FOR INFORMATION ON APPROPRIATE PREPARATIONS SEE READY.GOV/HURRICANES
FOR INFORMATION ON LOCAL EVACUATION SHELTERS SEE
WWW.FLORIDADISASTER.ORG/SHELTERS
FOR INFORMATION ON CREATING AN EMERGENCY PLAN SEE GETAGAMEPLAN.ORG
FOR ADDITIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION SEE REDCROSS.ORG

NEXT UPDATE

THE NEXT LOCAL STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN MIAMI AROUND 1130 AM EDT, OR SOONER IF CONDITIONS WARRANT.