

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT

Experimental Tropical Cyclone Hazards Graphics

**Approved by: //SIGNED//
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Experimental Tropical Cyclone Hazards Graphics

Part I - Mission Connection

- a. Product Description - The Tropical Cyclone Hazards Graphics is an experimental, internet-based, product suite consisting of four hazard graphics: wind, tornado, coastal flood, and inland flood. These WFO-generated graphics provide qualitative forecasts for the primary tropical cyclone hazards based on the track, intensity, and uncertainties in the official forecasts from the National Hurricane Center (NHC), Storm Prediction Center, and Hydrometeorological Prediction Center. In a new era marked by digital and probabilistic forecasts, the hazards graphics provide users with local products tailored by the wide-ranging knowledge and experience of the local WFO for their area of responsibility.
- b. Purpose – Customers have requested additional tropical cyclone graphics to supplement the text products provided by WFOs. In addition, the hazards graphics will help to emphasize the wide-ranging impacts of tropical cyclones, particularly for areas away from the immediate coastline. Through the experimental period from June 1, 2010 – November 30, 2010, the intent is to receive input from users to determine the benefit and usefulness of the product and the product formats.
- c. Audience - The general public is the primary target audience. However, we expect the product will be widely used by federal, state, and local government agencies; state and local emergency managers; and media.
- d. Presentation Format – Graphical products will be displayed at <http://www.weather.gov/ghls> for all coastal WFO's in Eastern and Southern Regions. Data can also be downloaded in the form of netCDF.
- e. Feedback Method - Continuous feedback is available via the following web page:
<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=tcig>

Technical and policy questions may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: John F. Kuhn
W/OS21
1325 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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Part II – Technical Description

- a. Format & Science Basis - The products are based on the official forecasts provided by WFOs, in association with official forecasts and model guidance provided by the National Centers for Environmental Prediction. The graphics will generally provide a

resolution down to the county level. The suite of graphics provides an “at-a-glance summary” for the forecast, cumulative impacts for each hazard. The Impacts scale ranges from None-Very Low-Low-Moderate-High-Extreme.

- b. Product Availability - These products will be provided by the coastal WFOs when tropical cyclone watches and or warnings are in effect for their respective County Warning Area, as issued by the National Hurricane Center. That is, the product will generally commence and cease when the WFO’s Hurricane Local Statements commence and cease.

Static examples are provided online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/ghls>

- c. Additional Information

A full description of other NWS Tropical Cyclone Weather Services Program Products is provided in NWSI 10-601, which is available online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01006001curr.pdf>