

# **PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT**

## **Experimental Tropical Cyclone Hazards Graphics**

**Approved by:**  
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**Date:**

**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. The Tropical Cyclone Hazard Graphics comment period is being extended for the 2011 Hurricane season for the following reasons:
  - 1) The lack of land falling tropical storms and hurricanes in 2010 has resulted in limited product production which in turn has resulted in limited feedback from users.
  - 2) The 2010 NOAA Hurricane Conference recommended the product remain experimental for the 2011 Hurricane Season.
  - 3) The addition of 2 WFOs.
- 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 WFOs in Eastern and Southern Regions and WFOs San Diego and Los Angeles in Western Region. Additional sites may be added in the future. Data can also be downloaded in netCDF and kml format.
- e. Feedback Method – The comment period will extend from June 15, 2011 – November 30, 2011. The intent is to receive input from users to determine the benefit and usefulness of the product and the product formats.

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

or e-mail to: [john.f.kuhn@noaa.gov](mailto:john.f.kuhn@noaa.gov)

## **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. The products are also available in netCDF format for download.
- b. Product Availability - These products will be provided by the coastal WFOs when tropical cyclone watches and 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>