

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-6

May 4, 2017

Operations and Services

TROPICAL CYCLONE WEATHER SERVICES PROGRAM

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes National Weather Service Policy Directive (NWSPD) 10-6, *Tropical Cyclone Weather Services Program*, dated June 11, 2013, for minor grammatical changes, and changes made to reflect the NWS Headquarters reorganization effective April 1, 2015. In addition, section 3.2 was added to include Office of Science and Technology responsibilities and 3.5.4 was added as Weather Service Office (WSO) Pago Pago also issues tropical cyclone forecasts.

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 Analyze, Forecast and Support Office (AFSO) is responsible for establishing national policy and procedural directives, and overseeing national performance and effectiveness measures for the tropical cyclone program. AFSO is also responsible for outreach efforts to promote the tropical cyclone weather services program with national users and partners.

3.2 The Office of Science and Technology Integration (STI) will plan, develop, demonstrate, and integrate scientific techniques and system capabilities for Tropical Cyclone Weather Services. In addition, STI will oversee collaborative and applied research and development activities in coordination with other NWS units and NOAA line offices, as well as the research community including NOAA's Hurricane Forecast Improvement Project and the U.S. Weather Research Program.

3.3 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 AFSO on tropical cyclone program policy and requirements; developing supplements to procedural directives and coordinating them with AFSO; ensuring supplements are compatible across regional boundaries; and evaluating performance and effectiveness indicators of the tropical cyclone services program within their region.

3.4 The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will support the tropical cyclone services program consistent with AFSO procedural directives.

3.5 The following tropical cyclone centers and WFO Guam have tropical cyclone forecast responsibilities.

3.5.1 The National Hurricane Center (NHC) is the NCEP unit 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.

3.5.2 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 the Weather Service Office (WSO) in Pago Pago, American Samoa.

3.5.3 WFO Guam, under the Director, Pacific Region, will provide tropical cyclone watches and warnings for the Territory of Guam, the 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.

3.5.4 WSO Pago Pago, under the Director, Pacific Region, will provide tropical cyclone watches and warnings for the Territory of American Samoa using the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) forecast information as guidance.

3.6 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 and glossary of terms listed in Attachment 1.

Signed

4/20/2017

Louis W. Uccellini
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services

Date

Attachment 1

REFERENCES AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Procedural Directives

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

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” includes 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*](#).