

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-943**

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2017**

**Operations and Services**

**Hydrologic Services Program, NWSPD 10-9**

**REPORTING FORMATS FOR REAL-TIME DATA**

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**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>

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**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:** This directive supersedes NWS Instruction 10-943, “*Reporting Formats for Real-Time Data*,” dated December 17, 2012. Changes made to reflect the NWS Headquarters reorganization effective April 1, 2015. The following revisions were made to this instruction:

- 1) Removes responsibility of software development support for Standard Hydrometeorological Exchange Format from Office of Hydrologic Development as this is an AWIPS baseline application.

Signed

8/29/2017

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Andrew D. Stern

Date

Director,

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1. Introduction. This directive establishes a standard format for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service (NWS) offices to use in the exchange of observed and forecast point data used in hydrologic operations.
2. Standard Format. Standard Hydrometeorological Exchange Format (SHEF) will be the standard format used for exchanging observed and forecast point data between NWS offices for all hydrologic operations. The three general formats and supporting parameter codes currently available for encoding SHEF data messages are described in the NWS *Standard Hydrometeorological Exchange Format (SHEF) Code Manual*. This manual is posted on-line on a website managed by the Field Support and Infrastructure Team within the Office of Central Processing (OCP).

This instruction does not apply to raw data reported by data collection platforms (DCP) or other automated observing sensors. It also does not apply to gridded data sets or graphics produced or used by various software and remote sensing systems.

3. Support Responsibilities. The NWS Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) Program is responsible for maintaining the AWIPS baseline version of the SHEF decoder software and software documentation.

Field offices may request changes and additions in SHEF coding and associated software through the branch or division at regional headquarters managing the regional hydrology program, which will then forward the requirements to the Water Resources Services Branch in the Analyze, Forecast and Support Office's Forecast Services Division. Management of the SHEF standards and required changes will be the role of the Water Resources Services Branch.

Instructions and rules for encoding data in SHEF are provided in the NWS SHEF Code Manual.