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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
230 PM EDT FRI MAY 28 2004

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS
EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/
SUBSCRIBERS
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: JACK HAYES
DIRECTOR...NWS OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT: VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ AND WATCH BY COUNTY /WBC/ UPDATE:
5/28/04

THIS MESSAGE IS PART OF A SERIES OF UPDATE MESSAGES TO INFORM NWS PARTNERS
AND CUSTOMERS OF NEW INFORMATION REGARDING THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE
/VTEC/ PLANNING...TESTING AND IMPLEMENTATION. VTEC INFORMATION IS POSTED
ON THE NWS WEBSITE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OS/VTEC/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/vtec/)

THE VTEC INITIAL OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION /IOTE/ WAS CONDUCTED AT
THE NWS HEADQUARTERS FROM MID-APRIL TO MID-MAY 2004. THE IOTE RESULTED IN
IDENTIFICATION OF SEVERAL DEFICIENCIES THAT NEED TO BE CORRECTED BEFORE
THE OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION /OTE/ BEGINS. WE ANTICIPATE
CORRECTING THE SOFTWARE AND POSITIONING THE FIELD SITES TO PARTICIPATE IN
OTE OF BOTH VTEC AND WATCH BY COUNTY LATER THIS SUMMER. THESE DELAYS WILL
SLIGHTLY DELAY THE DECEMBER 1 2004 INITIAL OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF
VTEC UNTIL EARLY 2005. THERE ARE NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE WATCH BY
COUNTY OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION DATE.

A NEW SCHEDULE FOR VTEC AND WBC OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION /OTE/ AND
OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION IS BEING DEVELOPED. SPECIFIC DATES WILL BE
RELEASED IN EARLY JUNE 2004.

THE VTEC WEBSITE HAS BEEN REVISED AND UPDATED TO INCLUDE THE SIGNED
VERSION OF THE NWS INSTRUCTION /NWSI/ 10-1703 DESCRIBING VTEC. AN
OVERVIEW OF THE CHANGES MADE FROM THE APRIL 1 2004 DRAFT IS ALSO ON THE
VTEC WEBSITE. CHANGES MADE IN THE APRIL 1 2004 DRAFT ARE BASED LARGELY ON
REVIEWERS' COMMENTS. WE APPRECIATE THE MANY COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM
INTERNAL NWS HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL OFFICES AND FROM EXTERNAL CUSTOMERS
AND PARTNERS.

FUTURE UPDATES TO THE VTEC WEBSITE WILL INCLUDE THE VTEC OTE PLAN AND TEXT
VERSIONS OF SAMPLE PRODUCT ISSUANCES WITH VTEC STRINGS.

BACKGROUND:

VTEC WILL ENABLE WEATHER PROVIDERS AND VENDORS TO AUTOMATE AND TAILOR THE PRODUCT STREAM DELIVERED TO THEIR CLIENTS. VTEC WILL ALLOW CUSTOMERS TO SELECT THE SPECIFIC MESSAGE TYPES THEY WANT TO RECEIVE. VTEC WILL IMPROVE AUTOMATED DISSEMINATION OF WEATHER INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH A MYRIAD OF METHODS...SUCH AS PAGING SYSTEMS AND TELEVISION MESSAGE CRAWL SYSTEMS...USED TO RELAY URGENT SEVERE WEATHER AND FLASH FLOOD INFORMATION. MOST EVENT-DRIVEN PRODUCTS WITH THE UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHIC CODE /UGC/ WILL INCLUDE VTEC.

PLEASE SEND COMMENTS ON VTEC AND THE UPCOMING VTEC IMPLEMENTATION VIA E-MAIL TO /USE LOWER CASE/:

NWS.VTEC@NOAA.GOV

THIS AND OTHER VTEC UPDATE NOTICES ARE ALSO POSTED ON THE VTEC WEBPAGE SHOWN AT THE TOP OF THIS MESSAGE. THE NEXT VTEC UPDATE MESSAGE IS PLANNED FOR EARLY JUNE 2004.

NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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