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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
300 PM EDT TUE SEP 21 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: DEIRDRE R. JONES  
DIRECTOR...SYSTEMS ENGINEERING CENTER  
NWS OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT: VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ AND WATCH BY COUNTY /WBC/  
OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION /OTE/ UPDATE

REFERENCE: PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS...SAME SUBJECT...TRANSMITTED  
[AUGUST 20 2004](#) AND [AUGUST 26 2004](#) AND [SEPTEMBER 7 2004](#)  
[SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-40](#)  
[SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-45](#)  
[SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-51](#)

THE COMBINED VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ AND WATCH BY COUNTY /WBC/  
OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION /OTE/ STARTED AUGUST 30 2004 AND IS  
SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE UNTIL OCTOBER 15 2004.

THIS MEANS OPERATIONAL AND TEST PRODUCTS CONTAINING EXPERIMENTAL OR TEST  
VTEC STRINGS WILL BE ISSUED BY NWS WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFOS/ AND THE  
STORM PREDICTION CENTER /SPC/ THROUGH OCTOBER 15 2004 AS NOTED IN PREVIOUS  
PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS.

BECAUSE OF ONGOING CONVECTIVE AND/OR TROPICAL WEATHER...SOME WFOS HAVE  
TEMPORARILY DISABLED THE VTEC STRINGS IN SOME OR ALL OF THEIR PRODUCTS.  
TO MAINTAIN A PROPER SAMPLE OF TEST AND OPERATIONAL VTEC MESSAGES DURING  
THE OTE...WFO SAN ANTONIO TEXAS AND WFO CORPUS CHRISTI TEXAS WILL BEGIN  
INCLUDING EXPERIMENTAL VTEC STRINGS IN OPERATIONAL AND TEST PRODUCTS  
BEGINNING ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 28 2004. THE COMPLETE LIST OF NWS OFFICES  
NOW TAKING PART IN THE VTEC OTE IS IN TABLE 1 BELOW.

NWS OFFICES LISTED IN TABLE 2 ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE WBC OTE.

TABLE 1. LIST OF VTEC OTE OFFICES:

NWS ALASKA REGION HEADQUARTERS AK /WILL ONLY ISSUE TEST PRODUCTS AND USE  
WFO ANCHORAGE COMMUNICATIONS ID/  
WFO FLAGSTAFF AZ  
WFO PHOENIX AZ  
WFO SAN DIEGO CA  
WFO JACKSONVILLE FL

WFO MELBOURNE FL  
WFO TALLAHASSEE FL  
WFO TAMPA BAY AREA FL  
NWS PACIFIC REGION HEADQUARTERS HI /WILL ONLY ISSUE TEST PRODUCTS AND USE  
WFO HONOLULU COMMUNICATIONS ID/  
WFO DES MOINES IA  
WFO BOISE ID  
WFO DETROIT MI  
WFO PHILADELPHIA PA/MOUNT HOLLY NJ  
WFO LAS VEGAS NV  
WFO CHARLESTON SC  
WFO AUSTIN/SAN ANTONIO TX  
WFO CORPUS CHRISTI TX  
WFO CHEYENNE WY  
WFO RIVERTON WY

TABLE 2. LIST OF WBC OTE OFFICES:

WFO BOISE ID  
WFO WICHITA KS  
WFO LAKE CHARLES LA  
WFO KANSAS CITY/PLEASANT HILL MO  
WFO ST. LOUIS MO  
WFO SPRINGFIELD MO  
WFO BILLINGS MT  
WFO GLASGOW MT  
WFO GREAT FALLS MT  
WFO NEWPORT/MOREHEAD CITY NC  
WFO RALEIGH NC  
WFO WILMINGTON NC  
WFO NORMAN OK  
SPC NORMAN OK  
WFO CHARLESTON SC  
WFO COLUMBIA SC  
WFO FORT WORTH TX  
WFO HOUSTON/GALVESTON TX

VTEC IS DESCRIBED IN FURTHER DETAIL IN NWS INSTRUCTION 10-1703...AVAILABLE ON THE NWS DIRECTIVES WEBSITE AND THROUGH A LINK ON THE VTEC WEBSITE. MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON VTEC...WBC AND VTEC/WBC OTE CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT THESE WEBSITES /USE LOWER CASE/:

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON VTEC-WBC OTE OR THE NWS IMPLEMENTATION OF VTEC...PLEASE CONTACT:

DEIRDRE JONES...DIRECTOR  
NWS SYSTEMS ENGINEERING CENTER MANAGER  
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND  
PHONE: 301-713-0629 EXT. 105  
E-MAIL: [DEIRDRE.R.JONES@NOAA.GOV](mailto:DEIRDRE.R.JONES@NOAA.GOV)

HERB WHITE  
DISSEMINATION SERVICES  
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND  
301-713-0090 EXT. 146  
[HERBERT.WHITE@NOAA.GOV](mailto:HERBERT.WHITE@NOAA.GOV)

IF YOU HAVE WBC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS...PLEASE CONTACT:

RICHARD OKULSKI  
NWS SEVERE WEATHER PROGRAM LEADER  
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND  
PHONE: 301-713-1867 EXT. 114  
E-MAIL: [RICHARD.OKULSKI@NOAA.GOV](mailto:RICHARD.OKULSKI@NOAA.GOV)

THIS AND OTHER VTEC UPDATE NOTICES ARE POSTED ON THE VTEC WEBPAGE SHOWN ABOVE.

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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