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PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
145 PM EDT TUE SEP 7 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](#):
[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/
PERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION /OTE/ STARTED AUGUST 30 2004 AND IS
SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE UNTIL OCTOBER 15 2004.

ON SEPTEMBER 7 2004...NWS OFFICES LISTED IN TABLE 1 AND TABLE 2 OF THE
AUGUST 26 2004 VTEC AND WBC OTE UPDATE PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT WILL
BEGIN ISSUING MORE TEST PRODUCTS ON AN INTERMITTENT BASIS UNTIL THE
SCHEDULED END OF THE OTE ON OCTOBER 15 2004. NWS OFFICES MAY ISSUE LOCAL
PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS ON DAYS THEY EXPECT TO ISSUE TEST PRODUCTS.
DURING THIS TEST OF SOFTWARE AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES...EACH TEST
PRODUCT SHOULD BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED BY:

- THE /T/ FIXED IDENTIFIER CODE AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH P-VTEC STRING.
- THE WORD TEST IN THE MASS NEWS DISSEMINATOR PRODUCT TYPE LINE.
- THE WORD TEST AND SOMETIMES WORDS INDICATING THAT NO SEVERE WEATHER IS OCCURRING IN THE MENTIONED AREA IN THE PRODUCT TEXT AND ANY HEADLINE.

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. IN ADDITION...ALL OFFICES PARTICIPATING IN
THE VTEC OTE WILL USE A SEGMENTED FORMAT FOR FLOOD WATCHES /FFA/...FLOOD
WARNINGS /FLW/ AND FLOOD STATEMENTS /FLS/ /THIS INCLUDES FLOOD
ADVISORIES/. NOTE THAT FLASH FLOOD WARNINGS /FFW/ AND FOLLOWUP STATEMENTS
/FFS/ WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED /NON-SEGMENTED/ THROUGH THE OTE.

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:

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

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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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