

NOUS41 KWBC 212030 CCA
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 00-110...CORRECTED
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
330 PM EST TUE NOV 21 2000

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: PAUL STOKOLS...ACTING CHIEF
FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION AND TESTING OF THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE AT THE
CHARLESTON WV FORECAST OFFICE...EFFECTIVE JANUARY 3 2001

...CORRECTED TO CHANGE YEAR IN EFFECTIVE DATE IN SUBJECT LINE...

EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3 2001 AT 8 A.M. EASTERN STANDARD TIME
/EST/...1300 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/...THE WEATHER FORECAST
OFFICE IN CHARLESTON WEST VIRGINIA WILL BEGIN INCLUDING THE VALID TIME
EVENT CODE /VTEC/ IN WINTER WEATHER /WSW/ AND NON-PRECIPITATION WEATHER
/NPW/ MESSAGES...AS WELL AS SEVERE THUNDERSTORM /SVR/ AND TORNADO /TOR/
WARNINGS /SEE TABLE 1/.

TABLE 1: MESSAGES FROM THE CHARLESTON WV OFFICE WHICH WILL CONTAIN THE
VTEC CODE.../W/W/A STANDS FOR WATCHES...WARNINGS OR ADVISORIES/

MESSAGE TYPE	AWIPS ID	WMO HEADING
NON-PRECIPITATION W/W/A	NPWCRW	WWUS71 KRLX
WINTER WEATHER W/W/A	WSWCRW	WWUS41 KRLX
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING	SVRCRW	WUUS51 KRLX
TORNADO WARNING	TORCRW	WFUS51 KRLX

THIS TEST WILL BE CONTINUOUSLY EVALUATED...WITHOUT A PLANNED ENDING DATE.
IF ANY SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ARISE...THE TEST WILL BE DISCONTINUED AT AN
ANNOUNCED DATE/TIME. THE TEST WILL ALLOW THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TO
ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAMS WHICH CREATE THE VTEC RUN CORRECTLY AND ALSO
ALLOW EXTERNAL CUSTOMERS TO DETERMINE WAYS TO UTILIZE THE VTEC IN THEIR
DISSEMINATION AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS.

THE VTEC SPECIFIES THE CONTENT OF EACH MESSAGE SO THAT CUSTOMERS CAN USE
AUTOMATED PROGRAMS TO READ...PROCESS...AND REDISTRIBUTE MESSAGES /OR
PORTIONS OF MESSAGES/ WITHOUT HUMAN INTERVENTION. A VTEC STRING WILL BE
LOCATED DIRECTLY BELOW THE UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHIC CODE /UGC/ LINE/S/ IN EACH
WSW...NPW...SVR...AND TOR PRODUCT FROM THE CHARLESTON WV OFFICE...WITH THE
EXCEPTION OF MESSAGES ISSUED ON BEHALF OF CHARLESTON BY SURROUNDING
OFFICES ACTING IN A BACKUP CAPACITY.

SEE TABLE 2 FOR A KEY OF THE VTEC ELEMENTS. FOR A DESCRIPTION OF THE CODE
AND ALL ELEMENTS...SEVERAL PRODUCT EXAMPLES...AND IMPLEMENTATION
PLANS...PLEASE SEE THE INTERNET SITE /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/VTEC/VTEC.PDF](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/vtec/vtec.pdf)

ALL CUSTOMERS SHOULD TEST THEIR DISSEMINATION SYSTEM/S/ TO ENSURE THE TEST VTEC LINE/S/ DOES NOT ADVERSELY IMPACT THEIR SYSTEM BY JANUARY 3 2001.

VTEC FORMAT:

HERE IS THE GENERIC FORMAT OF ONE VTEC STRING TO DESCRIBE A SINGLE EVENT /EACH WATCH...WARNING...OR ADVISORY IS ACCOMPANIED BY A VTEC STRING...SO TWO WARNINGS IN ONE SEGMENT WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY TWO VTEC STRINGS/.

/AAA.CCCC.PP.S.####.DBHHMM-DEHHMM/

AAA.CCCC.PP.S.#### DESCRIBES EACH WEATHER EVENT AND DBHHMM-DEHHMM DESCRIBES THE VALID BEGINNING AND ENDING TIME OF THE EVENT.

TABLE 2. KEY TO VTEC ELEMENTS

AAA - ACTION CODE /I.E. NEW FOR NEW ISSUANCE/
CCCC - OFFICE ID /I.E. KRLX FOR THE CHARLESTON WV OFFICE/
PP - PHENOMENA CODE /I.E. BZ FOR BLIZZARD/
S - SIGNIFICANCE CODE /I.E. W FOR WARNING/
- EVENT TRACKING NUMBER /I.E. 0005 FOR THE FIFTH ISSUANCE OF A SPECIFIC WATCH...WARNING OR ADVISORY/
DBHHMM - EVENT BEGINNING DATE/TIME GROUP IN UTC
DEHHMM - EVENT ENDING DATE/TIME GROUP IN UTC

VTEC DELIMITERS:

/ - BEGINS AND ENDS EACH VTEC STRING
. - SEPARATES VTEC ELEMENTS

EXAMPLE SHOWING THE UCG AND VTEC FOR ONE WSW EVENT:

WWUS41 KRLX 050400 WSWCRW

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHARLESTON WV
1100 PM EST FRI FEB 4 2000

...DISCUSSION... WVZ024>026-033-034-050400-
/CAN.KRLX.BZ.W.0001.000000-050400/
BOONE WV-LOGAN WV-MCDOWELL WV-MINGO WV-WYOMING WV-

...REST OF MESSAGE...

INTERPRETATION: THE CHARLESTON WV OFFICE /KRLX/ ISSUED A WSW CANCELING /CAN IN THE CODE/ A BLIZZARD /BZ/ WARNING /W/...EFFECTIVE AT 0400 UTC ON THE FIFTH. IT WAS THE FIRST BLIZZARD WARNING /0001/ FROM THIS OFFICE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR. SINCE THE BLIZZARD WARNING WAS VALID BEFORE THIS MESSAGE WAS ISSUED...THE BEGINNING DATE/TIME IS LISTED AS 000000.

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

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NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

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

END
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