

NOUS41 KWBC 051940  
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 01-03  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
240 PM EST FRI JAN 5 2001

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

FROM: JAMES E. LEE  
CHIEF...FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION AND TESTING OF THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE AT THE  
MORRISTOWN TENNESSEE FORECAST OFFICE...EFFECTIVE MARCH 6 2001

EFFECTIVE TUESDAY MARCH 6 2001 AT 8 A.M. EASTERN STANDARD TIME  
/EST/...1300 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/...THE WEATHER FORECAST  
OFFICE IN MORRISTOWN TN 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 MORRISTOWN TN OFFICE WHICH WILL CONTAIN  
VTEC.../W/W/A STANDS FOR WATCHES...WARNINGS OR ADVISORIES/

MESSAGE TYPE	AWIPS ID	WMO ID
NON-PRECIPITATION W/W/A	NPWMRX	WWUS74 KMRX
WINTER WEATHER W/W/A	WSWMRX	WWUS44 KMRX
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING	SVRMRX	WUUS54 KMRX
TORNADO WARNING	TORMRX	WFUS54 KMRX

/END OF TABLE 1/

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 MORRISTOWN TN OFFICE...WITH THE  
EXCEPTION OF MESSAGES ISSUED ON BEHALF OF MORRISTOWN 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 THE SYSTEM/S/ BY MARCH 6 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. KMRX FOR THE MORRISTOWN TN 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 UGC AND VTEC FOR ONE WSW EVENT:

WWUS44 KMRX 050400  
WSWMRX

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MORRISTOWN TN  
1100 PM EST FRI FEB 4 2000

...DISCUSSION... TNZ081>086-098-101-050400-  
/CAN.KMRX.BZ.W.0001.000000-050400/  
BLEDSOE-BRADLEY-HAMILTON-MARION-MCMINN-MEIGS-NW MONROE-RHEA- SEQUATCHEE-  
WEST POLK-  
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...ATHENS...BENTON...CHATTANOOGA...  
CLEVELAND...DAYTON...DECATUR...DUNLAP...JASPER...MADISONVILLE... PIKEVILLE  
...REST OF MESSAGE...

INTERPRETATION: THE MORRISTOWN TN OFFICE /KMRX/ 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/:

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

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