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PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 03-31
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1215 PM EDT THU JUN 19 2003

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: GLENN AUSTIN
CHIEF...FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION AND TESTING OF THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE AT THE
YAKUTAT ALASKA WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE: EFFECTIVE AUGUST 19 2003

EFFECTIVE TUESDAY AUGUST 19 2003 AT 800 AM ALASKA DAYLIGHT TIME
/ADT/...1600 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/...THE NATIONAL WEATHER
SERVICE OFFICE /NWS/ IN YAKUTAT ALASKA WILL BEGIN INCLUDING THE VALID TIME
EVENT CODE /VTEC/ IN WINTER WEATHER /WSW/ AND NON-PRECIPIATION WEATHER
/NPW/ WATCH/WARNING ADVISORY PRODUCTS...SEE TABLE 1. THE PURPOSE IS TO
TEST VTEC USAGE.

THE TEST WILL ALLOW THE NWS TO ENSURE 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. THIS
TEST WILL BE CONTINUOUSLY EVALUATED...WITHOUT A PLANNED ENDING DATE. IF
ANY SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ARISE...THE TEST WILL BE DISCONTINUED.

THE VTEC SPECIFIES THE CONTENT OF EACH MESSAGE SO CUSTOMERS CAN USE
AUTOMATED PROGRAMS TO READ...PROCESS AND FURTHER DISTRIBUTE 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 AND NPW PRODUCT FROM THE YAKUTAT OFFICE.

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

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

ALL CUSTOMERS SHOULD TEST THEIR DISSEMINATION SYSTEM/S/ TO ENSURE THE TEST
VTEC LINE/S/ DOES NOT ADVERSELY IMPACT THE SYSTEM/S/ BY AUGUST 19 2003.

TABLE 1: MESSAGES FROM THE YAKUTAT ALASKA OFFICE WHICH WILL CONTAIN THE VTEC CODE. W/W/A REFERS TO WATCH...WARNING...OR ADVISORY.

MESSAGE TYPE	WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID
NON-PRECIPIATION W/W/A	WWAK77 PAYA	NPWYAK
WINTER WEATHER W/W/A	WWAK47 PAYA	WSWYAK

VTEC FORMAT: THE FOLLOWING IS A 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.####.YYMMD1D1THHNNZ-YYMMD2D2THHNNZ/

AAA.CCCC.PP.S.#### DESCRIBES EACH WEATHER EVENT AND YYMMD1D1THHNNZ-YYMMD2D2THHNNZ DESCRIBES THE BEGINNING AND ENDING VALID TIME OF THE EVENT.

TABLE 2: KEY TO VTEC ELEMENTS

AAA - ACTION CODE /E.G...NEW FOR NEW ISSUANCE/
CCCC - OFFICE ID /I.E...PAYA FOR THE YAKUTAT OFFICE/
PP - PHENOMENA CODE /E.G...HS FOR HEAVY SNOW/
S - SIGNIFICANCE CODE /E.G...W FOR WARNING/
- EVENT TRACKING NUMBER /I.E...0005 FOR THE FIFTH ISSUANCE OF A SPECIFIC WATCH...WARNING...OR ADVISORY/
YYMMD1D1THHNNZ - EVENT BEGINNING YEAR/DATE/TIME GROUP IN COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/
YYMMD2D2THHNNZ - EVENT ENDING YEAR/DATE/TIME GROUP IN UTC

VTEC DELIMITERS:

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

FOR AN EXAMPLE SHOWING THE UGC AND VTEC FOR ONE WSW EVENT...SEE TABLE 3.

TABLE 3: PARTIAL WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE EXAMPLE USING VTEC STRING

WWAK47 PAYA 050400
WSWYAK

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE YAKUTAT AK
1100 PM AST FRI FEB 7 2003

...DISCUSSION...

AKZ022-050400-
/NEW.PAYA.HS.W.0001.030205T1200Z-030206T0000Z/
CAPE FAIRWEATHER TO CAPE SUCKLING COASTAL AREA- INCLUDING...YAKUTAT

/REMAINDER OF MESSAGE/ END OF EXAMPLE

INTERPRETATION OF THE ABOVE EXAMPLE:

THE YAKUTAT ALASKA OFFICE /PAYA/ ISSUED A WSW PRODUCT FOR A NEW /NEW IN THE CODE/ HEAVY SNOW /HS/ WARNING /W/...EFFECTIVE AT 1200 UTC ON FEBRUARY 5 2003. IT WAS THE FIRST HEAVY SNOW WARNING /0001/ FROM THIS OFFICE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR. THE HEAVY SNOW WARNING IS VALID UNTIL 0000 UTC ON FEBRUARY 6 2003.

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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