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PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 08-56 AMENDED
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1045 AM EST WED DEC 10 2008

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:
-FAMILY OF SERVICES
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK
-NOAAPORT
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: AHSHA N. TRIBBLE
CHIEF...CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES

SUBJECT: AMENDED: NEW EL NIÑO SOUTHERN OSCILLATION /ENSO/ ALERTS...AS
NEEDED...IN THE ENSO DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION...POSTPONED UNTIL THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 5 2009

REFER TO: [SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 08-56 SENT ON SEPTEMBER 24 2008](#).

AMENDED TO POSTPONE EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THIS CHANGE FROM DECEMBER 11 2008
TO FEBRUARY 5 2009 FOR TECHNICAL REASONS.

ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5 2009...THE NWS/S CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER /CPC/
WILL BEGIN INCLUDING AN ENSO ALERT FOR AN EL NIÑO OR LA NIÑA...AS
NEEDED...IN THE BEGINNING SECTION OF THE MONTHLY ENSO DIAGNOSTIC
DISCUSSION. AN ENSO ALERT WILL BE A WATCH...ADVISORY OR FINAL ADVISORY
/I.E. END OF AN EL NIÑO OR LA NIÑA/.

THE ENSO DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION HAS ALWAYS INDICATED THE EXPECTED
OCCURRENCE /OR LACK OF OCCURRENCE/ OF EL NIÑO OR LA NIÑA FOR THE NEXT
THREE MONTHS. WITH SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS IN VARIOUS AREAS OF THE U.S. OFTEN
ASSOCIATED WITH CLIMATE VARIABILITY PATTERNS RELATED TO EL NIÑO AND LA
NIÑA...CPC WILL NOW USE AN ALERT SYSTEM TO HIGHLIGHT WHEN EL NIÑO OR LA
NIÑA IS EXPECTED TO DEVELOP...CONTINUE OR HAS ENDED.

1. AN ENSO WATCH WILL BE ISSUED WHEN A TRANSITION TO EL NIÑO OR LA NIÑA
CONDITIONS IS ANTICIPATED WITHIN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS.
2. AN ENSO ADVISORY WILL BE ISSUED WHEN EL NIÑO OR LA NIÑA CONDITIONS ARE
ALREADY OBSERVED AND EXPECTED TO CONTINUE.
3. AN ENSO FINAL ADVISORY WILL BE ISSUED WHEN EITHER EL NIÑO OR LA NIÑA
CONDITIONS HAVE ENDED.

CPC DEFINES EL NIÑO /OR LA NIÑA/ CONDITIONS AS EXISTING WHEN:

A ONE-MONTH POSITIVE (NEGATIVE) SST ANOMALY IN THE NIÑO 3.4 REGION OF 0.5C
/-0.5C/ OR GREATER /LESS/ IS OBSERVED AND IS EXPECTED TO PERSIST FOR AT
LEAST THREE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS...AND

AN ATMOSPHERIC RESPONSE TYPICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH EL NIÑO /LA NIÑA/ IS OBSERVED OVER THE EQUATORIAL PACIFIC REGION AS PER EL NIÑO/LA NIÑA DOCUMENTATION ON THE FOLLOWING CPC WEBPAGE /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.CPC.NCEP.NOAA.GOV/PRODUCTS/ANALYSIS_MONITORING/ENSOCYCLE/ENSO_CYCLE.SHTML](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensocycle/enso_cycle.shtml)

CPC USUALLY ISSUES THE MONTHLY ENSO DIAGNOSTICS DISCUSSION ON THE THURSDAY FROM THE 5TH TO THE 11TH...AT AROUND 9:00 A.M. EASTERN LOCAL TIME. IF NECESSARY...THE ISSUANCE DATE MAY BE CHANGED WITH ADVANCE NOTICE /E.G...DUE TO HOLIDAYS/. IT IS ISSUED UNDER THE FOLLOWING:

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/ HEADING - FXUS24 KWNC
ADVANCED WEATHER INTERACTIVE PROCESSING SYSTEM /AWIPS/ ID - PMDENS

ON THE INTERNET AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.CPC.NOAA.GOV/PRODUCTS/ANALYSIS_MONITORING/ENSO_ADVISORY/](http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/)

THE WARNING TERM WILL NOT BE USED IN THE ENSO ALERT SYSTEM SINCE WARNINGS ALMOST ALWAYS HAVE A NET NEGATIVE CONNOTATION FOR IMPACTS FROM SHORT-TERM WEATHER EVENTS. SINCE ENSO EVENTS HAVE A MORE NEUTRAL NET EFFECT THROUGH BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS FROM ENSO-RELATED CLIMATE VARIABILITY PATTERNS...AN ADVISORY IS MORE APPROPRIATE FOR AN ENSO ALERT.

ALL OTHER INFORMATION IN THE ENSO DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION WILL CONTINUE TO BE ISSUED. CPC WILL CONTINUE TO ADDRESS CURRENT OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS IN THE PACIFIC AND RELATED CLIMATE VARIABILITY PATTERNS. THIS INCLUDES ANALYSIS OF CURRENT AND RECENT PATTERNS IN SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE WATER TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES IN THE TROPICAL PACIFIC; RELATED ANALYSES SUCH AS RAINFALL...OUTGOING LONG WAVE RADIATION...ETC...INFLUENCING FACTORS SUCH AS MADDEN-JULIAN OSCILLATIONS...KELVIN WAVES...ETC AND STATISTICAL AND COUPLED MODEL PREDICTIONS.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ENSO ALERT POLICY AND THE ENSO DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION...CONTACT:

MICHAEL S. HALPERT
NWS CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER
CAMP SPRINGS MARYLAND
PHONE: 301-763-8000 EXT. 7535

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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