

NOUS41 KWBC 121457
PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 10-18
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
957 AM EST FRI MAR 12 2010

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

FROM: THERESE Z. PIERCE
CHIEF...MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: TEST OF OPERATIONAL VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ FOR RIP CURRENTS
IN COASTAL HAZARD MESSAGE /CFW/ IN SELECT WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFOS/:
EFFECTIVE MAY 12 2010

EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY MAY 12 2010 AT 1200 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME
/UTC/...SEVEN SELECT NWS WFOS WILL BEGIN USING A NEW VTEC CODE FOR RIP
CURRENTS IN THEIR COASTAL HAZARD MESSAGES /CFW/.

THESE WFOS WILL BEGIN USING THE NEW VTEC CODE /RP.S/ IN THE CFW. THIS CFW
WILL CONTAIN A RIP CURRENT VTEC CODE TO MORE SPECIFICALLY TARGET RIP
CURRENT THREAT. THIS VTEC WILL BE CONSIDERED OPERATIONAL AND WILL HAVE
THE /O/ IDENTIFIER.

TABLE 1: COMMUNICATION IDENTIFIERS FOR CFWS ISSUED BY SEVEN WFOS THAT WILL
USE THE NEW VTEC RP.S CODE EFFECTIVE MAY 12 2010.

| ISSUING WFO | WMO HEADER | AWIPS ID |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| CHARLESTON SC | WHUS42 KCHS | CFWCHS |
| NEWPORT/MOREHEAD CITY NC | WHUS42 KMHX | CFWMHX |
| WILMINGTON NC | WHUS42 KILM | CFWILM |
| JACKSONVILLE FL | WHUS42 KJAX | CFWJAX |
| TALLAHASSEE FL | WHUS42 KTAE | CFWTAE |
| CHICAGO IL | WHUS43 KLOT | CFWLOT |
| NORTHERN INDIANA | WHUS43 KIWX | CFWIWX |

CUSTOMERS MUST CHANGE THEIR SYSTEMS TO PROCESS THE RP.S CODE CARRIED IN
CFW MESSAGES ISSUED BY THE WFOS LISTED IN TABLE 1.

THE REMAINING NWS COASTAL OFFICES WILL CONTINUE TO USE THE /CF.S/ OR
/LS.S/ VTEC CODE FOR COASTAL/LAKESHORE FLOOD STATEMENT FOR THE RIP CURRENT
THREAT.

THIS TEST OF THE NEW RP.S CODE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE...UNLESS
NWS RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE FEEDBACK.

USERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THIS MARINE ZONE RECONFIGURATION BY USING THE BRIEF SURVEY AND COMMENT FORM AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWERCASE EXCEPT /RCVTEC//:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/SURVEY/NWS-SURVEY.PHP?CODE=RCVTECCHM](http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=rcvtecchm)

GENERAL INFORMATION ON VTEC CAN BE FOUND AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

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

THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS CHANGE IS SOONER THAN SPECIFIED BY NWS INSTRUCTION 10-1805. THE REDUCTION OF THE NORMAL ADVANCE LEAD TIME WAS APPROVED BECAUSE OF THE CRITICAL NEED TO PROVIDE ENHANCED RIP CURRENT INFORMATION BY THE START OF THIS YEAR'S SWIMMING SEASON.

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

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NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

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

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