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Service Change Notice 13-11 Amended
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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To: Subscribers:
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Subject: Amended: Change in Issuance Criteria for Beach Hazards Statements
for Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Issued by WFO Tampa Bay Area: Effective
Immediately

Refer to: [Service Change Notice \(SCN\) 13-11](#), issued January 31, 2013.

This notice is amended to:

- Change the issuance criteria for Beach Hazards Statements issued by Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Tampa Bay Area for HAB. Specifically, the third criteria listed below has changed: Beach Hazards Statements for HAB will now be issued by WFO Tampa Bay only when National Ocean Service's (NOS') HAB-OFS team forecasts high respiratory impacts are possible in the WFO Tampa Bay Area's area of responsibility. Previously, the criteria included moderate respiratory impacts as well as high respiratory impacts.
- Correct the e-mail address for the point of contact.
- Update associated information online, including a new example based on the new criteria, posted to:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/resources/bhs-tbw.pdf>

Effective immediately, harmful algal bloom information provided by NOAA's National Ocean Service's HAB-Operational Forecast System (HAB-OFS), which meets the criteria shown below, will be included in the Beach Hazards Statement being tested by WFO Tampa Bay Area. NOAA's HAB-OFS provides information on the location, extent, and the potential for development or movement of harmful algal blooms in the Gulf of Mexico.

A NWS Beach Hazards Statement will be issued by WFO Tampa Bay Area for its area of responsibility for a HAB of *Karenia brevis* (commonly known as Florida Red Tide) if all of the following criteria apply:

- NOS HAB-OFS team has issued a HAB-OFS public conditions report or update.
- *Karenia brevis* concentrations which correlate to respiratory impacts (between low b and high (>50,000 cells/L)) have been confirmed by in-situ cell counts in WFO Tampa Bay Area's area of responsibility.
- NOS HAB-OFS team forecasts high respiratory impacts are possible in the WFO Tampa Bay Area's area of responsibility.

If the level of forecasted respiratory impacts decreases, WFO Tampa Bay Area will cancel the Beach Hazards Statement for HAB.

An updated example of the Tampa Bay Area Beach Hazards Statement containing harmful algal bloom information, based on the new criteria, and a graphic showing WFO Tampa Bay Area's area of responsibility is online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/resources/bhs-tbw.pdf>

Routine HAB bulletins prepared by NOS HAB-OFS are issued to coastal managers once a week, at a minimum, or twice a week during an active bloom. For more information about HAB-OFS and the services they provide, refer to:

<https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/>

The Beach Hazards Statement is issued under the NWS Coastal Hazard Message (CFW) with a Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) of BH.S. The Beach Hazards Statement is being tested by six WFOs, but only the Beach Hazards Statement issued by WFO Tampa Bay Area will incorporate HAB content, when criteria are met, at this time.

Table 1: Communication Identifier for the CFW Issued by the WFO Tampa Bay Area for Beach Hazards (BH.S):

Issuing WFO	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
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Tampa Bay Area, FL	WHUS42 KTBW	CFWTBW

In addition to HAB impacts, the Beach Hazards Statement issued by WFO Tampa Bay Area, with the headline of "Beach Hazards Statement in effect for [timeframe]" will also inform beachgoers and local authorities of a multitude of hazards including, but not limited to:

- Rip currents or other dangerous currents in the surf zone.
- Unusually cold water temperatures.
- Potential for lightning along the beach/shoreline.
- High heat indices that do not meet advisory criteria.
- Unusual surf/wave conditions not meeting advisory criteria.

WFO Tampa Bay Area will coordinate with NOS' HAB analysts in the HAB-OFS program concerning harmful algal blooms and potential health impacts on coastal areas. The HAB analysts will provide necessary information to include in the Beach Hazards Statement issued by WFO Tampa Bay Area for its area of responsibility.

The HAB information will originate from operational HAB forecast bulletins generated by NOS' HAB-OFS analysts in the NOS' Center for Operational Oceanographic and Products and Services (CO- OPS). A NOS HAB-OFS point of contact for additional information will be included in all Beach Hazards Statements with HAB information.

The Beach Hazards Statement is intended to provide information for the hazards listed above in a single product. Those hazards will not necessarily be included in the Beach Hazards Statements issued by all NWS coastal offices taking part in this test. Each office has unique criteria for its area of responsibility and will tailor the contents of the Beach Hazards Statement as appropriate. For example, only WFO Tampa Bay Area is testing the inclusion of HAB information in its Beach Hazards Statement.

The BH.S VTEC code is operational, i.e., the VTEC line carries the (O) identifier. When in effect, the Beach Hazard information issued by WFO Tampa Bay Area and the other five test offices is highlighted in turquoise on the NWS Watch, Warning, Advisory map:

<https://www.weather.gov>

Users interested in the Beach Hazards Statement, who have not already installed the code, may need to make the appropriate changes to their systems to process the BH.S VTEC code if they have not done so already. No additional changes are necessary.

The test of the new VTEC event code (BH.S) began on May 15, 2012, and will continue until further notice. For information about the other five offices taking part in the BHS test, refer to the amended SCN, issued May 2, 2012:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn12-10beach_hazards_aaa.pdf

Users are encouraged to provide feedback by using the brief survey and comment form:

<http://weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=CHMBHS>

General background information on VTEC can be found online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/vtec/>

If you have questions or comments, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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