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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 17-49
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From: Allison Allen
 Chief, Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Changes to the Appearance of the Graphics Accompanying Tropical Cyclone Advisory Packages: Effective on or about May 15, 2017

Effective on or about May 15, 2017, the appearance of the graphics accompanying tropical cyclone advisory packages issued by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) will change. These changes are required for the NHC and CPHC to begin issuing forecasts and watches/warnings for potential tropical cyclones.

A potential tropical cyclone is a disturbance that is not yet a tropical cyclone but one for which the NWS has begun issuing tropical cyclone watches or warnings because it poses the threat of bringing tropical storm or hurricane conditions to land areas within 48 hours.

In addition, three new Keyhole Markup Language (KML) files will be available and the wind speed probability Geographic Information System (GIS) files will be available at higher resolution. This resolution change will make the data smoother when plotted, but it will neither change how it is plotted nor will affect a user's ability to display the data.

Summary of changes:

All tropical cyclone graphics will use a common map background and color scheme.

The estimated extent of tropical-storm-force and hurricane-force winds at advisory time will be depicted on the 5-day and 3-day track forecast/uncertainty graphic with the following colors:

--Orange: estimated extent of tropical-storm-force winds
--Brown: estimated extent of hurricane-force winds

Users will have the option to toggle the initial wind extents overlay on and off.

The estimated extent of 34-kt, 50-kt, and 64-kt winds at advisory time, as well as the forecast extent of 34-kt, 50-kt, and 64-kt winds, will now be available in shapefile and KML format. In addition, the estimated cumulative wind swath of hurricane-force and tropical-storm-force winds will be available in KML format. Previously, these files were only available in shapefile format.

The 5-day probability of 34-kt, 50-kt and 64-kt winds in KML and shapefile format will be available on a 5 km grid. Previously, these files used 10 km grid spacing. The resolution of the model used to generate the input data did not change.

The static Uniform Resource Locators (URL) of the latest-available graphics from NHC for a given tropical cyclone will change. A complete list of URL changes for NHC products is provided on the NHC website at:

<http://www.hurricanes.gov/new-tc-graphics>

CPHC provides products on dynamic URLs that change for each tropical cyclone. These products can be found for active tropical cyclones in the central North Pacific on the CPHC webpage:

<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/cphc/>

Examples of the graphics that will accompany CPHC tropical cyclone advisory packages in 2017 can be found at:

<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/cphc/pages/new2017/>

The Public Information Statement (PNS) issued on April 9, 2017 to collect comments on this proposed change is online at:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/pns17-10tc_graphics.pdf

No negative comments were received, so implementation of these changes will be effective on or about May 15, 2017.

The effective date of this change is slightly sooner than specified by NWS Policy (NWS Instruction 10-1805). The reduction of the lead-time was approved to ensure this change is made before the tropical season begins.

If you have questions, please contact:

Jessica Schauer
NWS Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch
National Hurricane Center
Miami, FL
Telephone: 305-229-4476
Email: jessica.schauer@noaa.gov

or

Wayne Presnell
NWS Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch
Silver Spring, MD
Telephone: 301-427-9390
Email: wayne.presnell@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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