

NOUS41 KWBC 181345
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 17-51
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
945 AM EDT Tue Apr 18 2017

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Allison Allen
 Chief, Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Impact-Based Warnings for Special Marine Warnings (SMW) and
Marine Weather Statements (MWS) for WFOs Honolulu and Guam Will Become
Operational May 18, 2017

Effective Thursday, May 18, 2017, Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) Honolulu and Guam will transition to the Impact-Based Warning (IBW) format for Special Marine Warnings, SMW and MWS that follow the SMW. Weather Service Office (WSO) Pago Pago will transition at a later, to be determined date. These products will convey information about associated impacts, specific hazards expected, and recommended actions both within bullet statements and as part of the tag line codes.

This is the first step for WFO Guam and WFO Honolulu in a transition to IBW for all short-fused hazards products. This format change will help improve the communication of crucial decision support and risk assessment information to partners and users within the guidelines of governing policy and the existing operational environment.

The NWS has been evaluating the IBW format since 2013 at conterminous United States (CONUS) WFOs. Successes with this format along with comments received from the public, partners and social scientists have all been positive.

In the new version of these products, hazard, source and impact will be identified.

For example:

<Begin example>

HAZARD...WATERSPOUTS and WIND GUSTS 34 KNOTS OR GREATER.

SOURCE...RADAR INDICATED.

IMPACT...WATERSPOUTS CAN QUICKLY FORM AND CAPSIZE BOATS...DAMAGE VESSELS AND CREATE SUDDENLY HIGHER WAVES. MAKE SURE ALL ON BOARD ARE IN A SECURE LOCATION AND WEARING LIFE JACKETS. EXPECT WIND GUSTS IN EXCESS OF 34 KNOTS...SUDDENLY HIGHER WAVES...FREQUENT LIGHTNING AND HEAVY DOWNPOURS.
<End example>

WFO Honolulu and WFO Guam will also include tags at the end of the SMWs and MWSs that follow-up SMWs, which designates the threat expected: Waterspout, Wind or Hail.

This change will include the experimental addition of a forecast tag labeled "WATERSPOUT" at the bottom of SMWs and MWSs noting that follow-up SMWs will transition to operational for WFO Honolulu and WFO Guam. The transition to operational will occur for WSO Pago Pago at a later date. A Service Change Notice will be issued at that time.

The permanent addition of Waterspout, Hail and Wind adds plain text lines below the product after the dollar sign, dollar sign and the LAT...LON information.

For example:

[dollar sign, dollar sign]

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LAT...LON 4298 8242 4261 8252 4261 8253 4276 8248 4294 8245  
TIME...MOT...LOC 1400Z 263DEG 40KT 4284 8289 4244 8291
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WATERSPOUT...POSSIBLE  
HAIL...[greater than].75IN  
WIND...40KTS
```

[dollar sign, dollar sign]
NAME

The additional information is also found elsewhere within the product, simply summarized on the lines below. If a waterspout threat does not exist, the waterspout tag line is omitted.

For details on this product enhancement, please see:

<http://products.weather.gov/PDD/PDDSMWWaterspoutTags2017.pdf>

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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