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PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES 08-45
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
155 PM EDT THU MAY 22 2008

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: CHANGE IN FORMAT OF THE AUTOMATED TROPICAL CYCLONE FORECAST
/ATCF/ DATABASE AT THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER /NHC/: EFFECTIVE WHEN THE
FIRST TROPICAL CYCLONE FORMS IN 2008

A COMPREHENSIVE DATABASE EXISTS WITHIN NHC/S/ FORECAST COMPUTER
SYSTEM...THE ATCF. AMONG THE COMPONENTS OF THE ATCF DATABASE ARE THE A
DECKS...B DECKS AND F DECKS WHICH CONTAIN THE FORECASTS...BEST TRACKS AND
FIXES RESPECTIVELY. THIS NOTICE ADVISES USERS OF THESE DATA OF CONTENT
CHANGES TO THE B DECKS.

BY CONVENTION...THE BEST TRACK DATA IN THE B DECK FILES HAVE BEEN
RESTRICTED TO THE SYNOPTIC TIMES OF 00...06...12...AND 18 COORDINATED
UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/. NHC IS LIFTING THIS RESTRICTION SO STAFF CAN ENTER
EVENTS OF INTEREST OCCURRING AT NON-SYNOPTIC TIMES...ROUNDED TO THE
NEAREST HOUR. SUCH EVENTS COULD INCLUDE PRESSURE MINIMA OR WIND MAXIMA
THAT OCCUR AT OFF-SYNOPTIC TIMES...OR SIGNIFICANT LANDFALLS.

NHC WILL ALSO BE GOING BACK THROUGH EXISTING NON-DIGITAL RECORDS...THE
TROPICAL CYCLONE PRELIMINARY REPORTS...AND AMENDING THE HISTORICAL B DECKS
FOR KNOWN OCCURRENCES OF NON-SYNOPTIC INTENSITY MAXIMA INFORMATION AS WELL
AS SELECTED LANDFALLS.

DATA WILL BE STORED IN THIS NEW FORMAT WHEN THE FIRST TROPICAL CYCLONE
FORMS IN 2008.

SOFTWARE USED TO READ THESE FILES SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR THIS CHANGE. A
SAMPLE ATCF FILE IS AVAILABLE TO TEST SOFTWARE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[FTP://FTP.NHC.NOAA.GOV/ATCF](ftp://ftp.nhc.noaa.gov/atcf)

THIS DIRECTORY ALSO CONTAINS A README FILE WITH LINKS TO FILE FORMATS AND
A NOTICE FILE DOCUMENTING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE DATABASE.

THIS NOTICE IS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF NWS DIRECTIVE 10-1805 AND IS SENT AS A
COURTESY.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED A SAMPLE FILE...PLEASE CONTACT:

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NATIONAL TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

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

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