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Operations and Services
Tropical Cyclone Weather Services Program, NWSPD 10-6

TROPICAL CYCLONE COORDINATION AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWS Instruction 10-602, dated June 1, 2006. The following revisions were made to this manual:

Section 1.1.1 Details added referencing Central Pacific Hurricane Center responsibilities to provide the Ocean Prediction Center with tropical cyclone positions.

Signed by Dennis H. McCarthy May 14, 2007

Dennis H. McCarthy
Director, Office of Climate,
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Date

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. Transfer Coordination.....3
 - 1.1 Tropical Cyclone Forecasts and Advisories3
 - 1.2 Other Advisories4
 - 1.3 Flooding4
 - 1.4 Tornado4
 - 1.5 Military Services4
 - 1.6 Requesting GFDL Model Guidance4

- 2. Transfer of Responsibility for Issuing Advisories5

- 3. Emergency Operating Instructions5
 - 3.1 Emergency Warnings Exercises6
 - 3.2 Emergency Action when Warning not Received or Considered Inadequate.....6

1. Coordination. The Hurricane Coordination Hotline (HCH), Atlantic basin only, and telephone are the primary means of coordination. HCH calls will be initiated and conducted by NHC at 0200, 0800, 1400, 2000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) for all 0300, 0900, 1500, and 2100 UTC issued Atlantic basin advisories. Other HCH calls can be initiated by any HCH member at any time.

Since forecast positions, intensity, wind radii, forecast reasoning, watches and warnings, etc., are discussed approximately one hour before official products are issued, no outside users or the public, are permitted to listen to the call. NWS staff members will not provide tropical cyclone related information discussed or coordinated via the HCH to any user or the public prior to the official release of this information by NHC. This provides for the issuance of information to all users at the same time on an equal basis. State and local emergency management officials can be briefed prior to the release of the official products regarding watches and warnings so these officials will be prepared to answer inquiries when the package is officially issued.

1.1 Tropical Cyclone Forecasts and Advisories.

1.1.1 Atlantic and U.S. Mainland West Coast. National Hurricane Center (NHC), Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) and Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (HPC) will exchange forecast positions for tropical cyclones. HPC will prepare and coordinate forecast positions four times each day (0200, 0800, 1400, 2000 Coordinated Universal Time [UTC]) for all tropical cyclones with an initial position west of 60°W. OPC will do the same for all tropical cyclones north of 20°N and east of 60°W unless otherwise agreed to by the OPC lead forecaster and the NHC duty hurricane specialist. HPC and NHC will also conduct discussions each day at noon (EDT and EST) to coordinate tropical cyclone positions for days 6 and 7. NHC will provide HPC and OPC with regular 3 hourly map-time positions for use in HPC and OPC surface analysis (0000, 0300, 0600 UTC, etc.). The Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) will provide OPC with positions of tropical cyclones in the north central, northwest and south Pacific for the area covered by the unified surface analysis.

HPC and OPC will place on its prognostic surface charts NHC's and Central Pacific Hurricane Center's (CPHC) tropical cyclone forecast position out to 120 hours. Unnamed systems forecast to attain tropical storm or hurricane/typhoon strength during the forecast period will have their prognostic positions labeled as a tropical cyclone. For day 3 through 7 charts, HPC will use appropriate tropical cyclone symbols on charts for days 3-5, and depict the cyclone as a low using the symbol "L" for days 6 through 7. OPC will also depict the cyclone with the appropriate tropical cyclone symbol on their 96-hour surface chart.

NHC, HPC, and WFOs will coordinate the issuance and discontinuance of watches and warnings, storm surge, and other storm parameters. Include HPC's National Precipitation Prediction Unit (NPPU) in coordination calls whenever NHC plans to include quantitative precipitations forecast amounts (usually 24-hour forecasts or less) for the United States mainland in tropical cyclone advisories. Make final coordination calls 1 hour before advisory time. NHC will involve all impacted regional offices, Weather Forecast Offices (WFO), and marine offshore

and high seas forecast offices (OPC, Tropical Analysis Forecast Branch [TAFB]) in the coordination call with HPC. NHC will make every effort to coordinate with these offices prior to the conference call, resources permitting, if issuing or canceling watches or warnings.

1.1.2 Pacific. NHC and CPHC will coordinate whenever a tropical cyclone is between 137° and approaching 140° west longitude. In addition, NHC will coordinate with CPHC prior to issuing a forecast/advisory when a system to the east of 140° west is expected to influence/impact Hawaii within the 120 hour forecast period. In the event of a disagreement, the Center issuing the next advisory will make the final decision.

1.2 Other Advisories. NHC and HPC will coordinate on downgrading tropical and subtropical cyclones moving inland. HPC will also coordinate with NHC if there is a reasonable possibility advisories may again be needed. This coordination will take place no later than 90 minutes before HPC's public advisory release time. HPC will coordinate with appropriate River Forecast Centers (RFC) and critical flood support office(s) regarding inland flooding threats.

1.3 Flooding. Tropical Cyclone Centers (NHC and CPHC) will include flood information in their advisories and initiate coordination calls. RFCs and local NWS forecast offices will provide input to their tropical cyclone center regarding flood potential. NPPU products will be consistent with advisory issuing offices. The National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Satellite Analysis Branch will provide satellite estimates of rainfall to NWS offices and the NHC.

1.4 Tornadoes. Storm Prediction Center (SPC) will, for CONUS areas, be the single coordinated voice of the NWS regarding tornado threats and will issue tornado watches as required for areas affected by tropical and subtropical cyclones. SPC should coordinate with NHC and WFOs before issuing a tornado watch. To assist NHC, this coordination should be done about 2 hours before the next scheduled tropical cyclone advisory issuance time if possible. Hurricane Local Statements (HLS) will convey the level of tornadic threat forecast by SPC based upon SPC products. Tropical Cyclone Centers will include appropriate information about tornadoes in their advisories.

1.5 Military Services. The NWS is the basic source of tropical cyclone forecasts for all Department of Defense (DOD) interests in the North Pacific east of 180° and for the North Atlantic as provided by interdepartmental agreements in the National Hurricane Operations Plan (NHOP). If the DOD wishes to discuss special problems concerning warnings and forecasts for the Atlantic area, they should contact the NHC Director or the NHC hurricane specialist on duty by telephone. In the Pacific, the NHC Director or the CPHC Director will provide similar services to the military. WFO Guam generally bases its tropical cyclone products on the tropical cyclone bulletins of the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC).

1.6 Requesting Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) Model Guidance. NHC will make the decision to run the GFDL hurricane model for any tropical or subtropical storm in the Atlantic or eastern Pacific Ocean. NHC will forward its requests to the NCEP Central Operations Senior Duty Meteorologist (SDM), and the SDM executes the job run. CPHC makes

requests for running the GFDL hurricane model in coordination with NHC.

2. Transfer of Responsibility for Issuing Advisories. When a tropical or subtropical cyclone approaches the line of division between centers responsible for issuing advisories, the forecaster who is currently handling the storm will:

- a. Contact the center into whose area the storm is moving to plan for transferring responsibility after the issuance of the next advisory. When a tropical cyclone is approaching 180° longitude, CPHC will coordinate with both Regional Specialized Meteorological Center (RSMC) Tokyo (the World Meteorological Organization [WMO] designated tropical cyclone center) and JTWC (the U.S. designated center for U.S. Department of Defense interests in the western Pacific) for transferring responsibilities, and
- b. Add a statement to the final advisory as follows:

“THE NEXT ADVISORY ON (storm name) WILL BE ISSUED BY THE (appropriate Tropical Cyclone Center) AT (time in [UTC]).” For CPHC when a tropical cyclone is moving east to west across the International Dateline, THIS IS THE LAST BULLETIN ISSUED BY THE CENTRAL PACIFIC HURRICANE CENTER. THE NEXT BULLETIN WILL BE ISSUED BY THE RSMC TOKYO. FOR U.S. INTERESTS, SEE THE PUBLIC ADVISORIES ISSUED BY THE U.S. NWS FORECAST OFFICE GUAM AND DOD WARNINGS ISSUED BY THE JOINT TYPHOON WARNING CENTER

Include proper communication and WMO message headers used by the gaining Center in the final advisory. HPC will issue storm summaries on a subtropical cyclone or named tropical cyclone which has moved inland when advisories are no longer required. NHC will add to the last advisory an appropriate statement indicating when HPC will begin issuing summaries. NHC will coordinate with HPC to determine the time of issuance of the first storm summary.

3. Emergency Operating Instructions. National Centers and WFOs with primary and backup warning and forecast responsibilities for areas within 300 miles of the Gulf and Atlantic coasts and east or south of the Appalachian ridges, in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, on the California coast from Point Conception southward, and American Samoa in the South Pacific will prepare and keep an up-to date local Tropical Cyclone Emergency Operations Plan. The Plan should specify actions to be taken. This includes:

- a. What to do before each tropical cyclone season;
- b. What to do when a tropical cyclone constitutes a possible threat to its county warning area (CWA);

- c. What to do when a tropical storm, hurricane or typhoon watch, or inland tropical storm/hurricane wind watch is issued for its CWA;
- d. What to do when a tropical storm, hurricane or typhoon warning, or inland tropical storm/hurricane warning is issued for its CWA; and
- e. What to do immediately after the tropical cyclone has passed.

3.1 Emergency Warnings Exercises. Conduct practice exercises before the tropical cyclone season each year. Include the word “EXERCISE” at the beginning and end of each community exercise. Also conduct office backup and other appropriate drills.

3.2 Emergency Action When Warning Not Received or Considered Inadequate. When warnings are not received by WFOs or are inadequate to cover current or imminent conditions, coastal WFOs and their backup WFOs should issue HLSs or warnings as needed. Whenever possible, the WFO should contact the appropriate tropical cyclone center and its clearance obtained before such action is taken. However, take immediate action if communications failure prevents clearance or if in the discretion of the forecaster or the forecast office the delay would jeopardize life or property. Notify the appropriate tropical cyclone center as soon as possible.