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PNSWSH

Technical Implementation Notice 15-16 Updated  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
725 AM EDT Mon Mar 20 2017

To:           Subscribers:  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
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              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

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

Subject: Updated: Tropical Cyclone Threat Grids in the National Digital  
Forecast Database will Transition to Operational: Effective June 1, 2017

Updated to add Tropical Cyclone (Hurricane) Threat Grids from Weather  
Forecast Office (WFO) Honolulu to the National Digital Forecast Database  
(NDFD) beginning on or around June 1, 2017.

Effective on or around June 1, 2017, the Tropical Cyclone Threat Grids  
available on the NWS NDFD will add threat grids issued by WFO Honolulu.  
Since their initial implementation, the Tropical Cyclone Threat Grids have  
been renamed the Hurricane Threat Grids.

The Hurricane Threat grids consist of four elements:

Wind  
Storm surge  
Flooding rain  
Tornado

There are five levels to describe each Hurricane Threat grid. Some minor  
modifications were made to the names of these threat levels since their  
initial implementation based on input from social scientists:

Little to None (changed to add Little)  
Elevated (changed from Low)  
Moderate  
High  
Extreme

The Hurricane Threat elements provide the reasonable worst-case scenario,  
taking into account the forecast magnitude of the hazard, along with the  
associated uncertainty of the forecast. The elements are currently  
produced by coastal WFOs along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, including San  
Juan, PR, whenever tropical cyclone watches and warnings are in effect for  
their area of responsibility (AOR). WFO Honolulu will begin issuing  
Hurricane Threat Grids on or around June 1, 2017, whenever tropical  
cyclone watches and warnings are in effect for its AOR.

Because the grids do not convey specific timing, they are valid for the duration of the event. NWS will provide updates at least every six hours shortly after the Central Pacific Hurricane Center's advisory package is released, and will cease when tropical cyclone watches and warnings are no longer in effect for WFO Honolulu's AOR.

Additional details regarding these grids are available in the Product Description Document at:

<https://products.weather.gov/PDD/TCThreatGridsNDFD.pdf>

The Hurricane Threat Grids from WFO Honolulu will be available from the NDFD in the following standard methods:

Gridded Binary Version Two (GRIB2) files via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP)  
Extensible Markup Language (XML) via Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP)  
Graphics via web browser

Users who pull NDFD elements in GRIB2 format may need to update their procedures and scripts in order to access these new elements. The GRIB2 files are available online at:

Hawaii Sector:

<http://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.hawaii/VP.001-003/>

CONUS Sector:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/>

Puerto Rico Sector:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.puertori/VP.001-003/>

with the following file names used:

Wind	ds.tcwt.bin
Storm Surge	ds.tcsst.bin
Flooding Rain	ds.tcfrrt.bin
Tornado	ds.tctt.bin

For users who key on the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) super heading to access NDFD elements, the super headings are:

Geographical Area	Threat Element	WMO Header
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Hawaii	Wind	ZWSZ98 KWBN
Hawaii	Storm Surge	ZSSZ98 KWBN
Hawaii	Flooding Rain	ZFSZ98 KWBN
Hawaii	Tornado	ZYSZ98 KWBN
Contiguous U.S. (CONUS)	Wind	ZWUZ98 KWBN

CONUS	Storm Surge	ZSUZ98 KWBN
CONUS	Flooding Rain	ZFUZ98 KWBN
CONUS	Tornado	ZYUZ98 KWBN
Puerto Rico	Wind	ZWAZ98 KWBN
Puerto Rico	Storm Surge	ZSAZ98 KWBN
Puerto Rico	Flooding Rain	ZFAZ98 KWBN
Puerto Rico	Tornado	ZYAZ98 KWBN

Graphics for the threat grids will be available in the Tropical grid group at:

<http://digital.weather.gov/>

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

<http://ndfd.weather.gov/technical.htm>

For general questions regarding NDFD data, please email:

[nws.ndfd@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.ndfd@noaa.gov)

For technical questions regarding NDFD data, please contact:

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Public notifications specifically related to NDFD are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/tins.htm>

National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

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

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