

Item 14-18: Maintaining 3-hourly Intermediate Public Advisory Cycle

DISCUSSION: The current NWS operational guidelines state that NHC and CPHC will issue public advisories (TCPs) at 2-hourly intervals whenever coastal tropical cyclone watches / warnings are in effect and coastal radars are able to provide reliable hourly center position estimates. When NHC and CPHC is issuing TCPs on 2-hourly cycles, hourly position estimates are issued (on the hour between TCP issuance) in the Tropical Cyclone Update (TCU; prior to 2013, the Tropical Cyclone Position Estimate was issued in these cases) to provide a continuous flow of information regarding the center location of a tropical cyclone when the center can be easily track with land-based radar. Although NHC typically mentions in the Tropical Cyclone Discussion and indicates in the TCP when 2- versus 3-hourly advisories will be issued, the less frequently used 2-hourly advisory cycle sometimes creates confusion among our core partners.

This agenda item proposes that NHC and CPHC always remain on a 3-hourly TCP cycle whenever watches / warnings are in effect or a tropical cyclone is over land at tropical storm strength or greater. The elimination of the 2-hourly TCP cycle would preserve the issuance of public advisories at standard times during an event whenever watches or warnings are in effect. This change would also keep the issuance of public advisories out of the interval when NHC and CPHC forecasters are preparing the next forecast (e.g., the 9 a.m. intermediate advisory “B” must be prepared and sent while the 11 a.m. forecast is being developed). Maintaining public advisories on a 3-hour cycle will alleviate workflow issues while the new track and intensity forecast is being prepared and wind and surge watches / warnings are being collaborated.

This change would not affect the hourly flow of key storm information from NHC and CPHC, as they would continue to issue TCUs at hourly intervals whenever coastal watches / warnings are in effect and the center can be easily tracked with land-based radar. TCUs contain all the key storm parameters, and allow the inclusion of additional statements of interest, as appropriate, but are easier to prepare and disseminate than an intermediate TCP.

This change is expected to have little or no change on how warnings could be issued or discontinued. International watches and warnings could be updated through any Public Advisory or TCU. U.S. watches and warnings could be discontinued through a Public Advisory or TCU. U.S. watches and warnings must still be issued with a full advisory package or a Special Advisory.

The proposed advisory cycle for storms meeting the watch / warning and center-tracking requirement would be:

5:00 AM EDT (0900 UTC)	Full advisory package including Public Advisory
6:00 AM EDT (1000 UTC)	TCU (providing an hourly position update, summary block of key storm information, and other key observations)

deemed appropriate)
7:00 AM EDT (1100 UTC) TCU
8:00 AM EDT (1200 UTC) Intermediate Public Advisory
9:00 AM EDT (1300 UTC) TCU
10:00 AM EDT (1400 UTC) TCU
11:00 AM EDT (1500 UTC) Next full advisory package

RECOMMENDATIONS: Eliminate 2-hourly intermediate advisories. Maintain 3-hourly public advisory cycle whenever coastal watches or warnings are in effect or a tropical cyclone is over land at tropical storm strength or greater. When coastal watches or warnings are in effect and the center can be easily tracked with land-based radar, NHC and CPHC would issue hourly TCUs in between 3-hourly Public Advisories to provide a continuous flow of information regarding the center location of a tropical cyclone. These TCUs would contain a summary block of key storm information, and other key observations as deemed appropriate.

Provide appropriate public notices.