

# **PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT**

## **Experimental Tropical Cyclone Impacts Graphics**

**Approved by:**  
**Cindy Woods**  
**Chief, Operations and Requirements Division, OS1**

**Date:**

## Experimental Tropical Cyclone Hazards Graphics

### Part I - Mission Connection

- a. Product Description - The Tropical Cyclone Impact Graphics are an internet-based product suite consisting of at least four graphics: wind, tornado, coastal flood, and inland flood. Each graphic is based on the most recent threat assessment as centered on a particular geographic area of interest, and is presented in terms of potential impact while using associated descriptions unique to that area. The graphics take into account the forecast magnitude of the hazard, along with the associated uncertainty of the forecast. Depictions combine the expertise of the local WFO with that of the [National Hurricane Center](#), the [Storm Prediction Center](#), and the [Weather Prediction Center](#). The graphics provide an "at-a-glance" summary of potential impacts that have the reasonable chance to occur.
- b. Purpose – Customers have requested additional tropical cyclone graphics to supplement the text products provided by WFOs. In addition, the graphics will help to emphasize the wide-ranging impacts of tropical cyclones. Through the experimental period from June 1, 2013 – November 30, 2013, the intent is to receive input from users to determine the benefit and usefulness of the product and the product formats.
- c. Audience - The general public is the primary target audience. However, we expect the product will be widely used by federal, state, and local government agencies; state and local emergency managers; and media.
- d. Presentation Format – Graphical products will be displayed at <http://www.weather.gov/tcig> for all coastal WFOs in Eastern and Southern Regions. The default graphic will use a KML format displayed on an interactive Google Earth background map. A .png file will also be available. The data can also be downloaded in netCDF and KML format.
- e. Feedback Method - Continuous feedback is available via the following web page:  
<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=tcig>

Technical and policy questions may be addressed to:

National Weather Service  
Attn: John F. Kuhn  
W/OS21  
1325 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

or e-mail to: [john.f.kuhn@noaa.gov](mailto:john.f.kuhn@noaa.gov)

### Part II – Technical Description

- a. Format & Science Basis - The products are based on the official forecasts provided by WFOs, in association with official forecasts and model guidance provided by the National

Centers for Environmental Prediction. The graphics will generally provide a resolution down to the county level. The suite of graphics provides an “at-a-glance summary” for the forecast, cumulative impacts for each hazard. The Impacts scale ranges from None-Low-Moderate-High-Extreme. The products are also available in netCDF and KML format for download.

- b. Product Availability - These products will be provided by the coastal WFOs when tropical cyclone watches and warnings are in effect for their respective County Warning Area, as issued by the National Hurricane Center. The valid period is for the duration of the event, as the graphics do not convey specific timing. Updates will be provided at least every six hours, and will cease when watches and/or warnings are no longer in effect within the specified area.

Static examples are provided online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/tcig>

- c. Additional Information  
A full description of other NWS Tropical Cyclone Weather Services Program Products is provided in NWSI 10-601, which is available online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01006001curr.pdf>