

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT

Proposed Changes to Hurricane/Typhoon Local Statement

Approved:
Andrew Stern
Director, Analyze, Forecast and Support Office

Date:

Hurricane/Typhoon Local Statement Proposed Changes for 2017

Part I - Mission Connection

Service Description – The Hurricane/Typhoon Local Statement (HLS) is issued by Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) when their area is threatened by a tropical or subtropical cyclone. The HLS contains specific details for a WFO’s county warning area on tropical cyclone wind watches/warnings in effect, meteorological hazard and impact information, meteorological conditions, and precautions necessary to protect life and property.

The following changes to the HLS were implemented for the 2015 hurricane season (for the Atlantic Hurricane basin only):

- 1) HLS is a non-segmented product - No Universal Geographical Code (UGC).
- 2) HLS contains no Valid Time Event Codes (VTEC).
- 3) HLS covers land areas only.

In Pacific Region, WFO Honolulu will adopt these changes to their HLS for the 2017 tropical cyclone season.

There will be no change in the format to the HLS for Western Region and for other WFOs in Pacific Region. Tropical cyclone watches and warnings for marine zones are issued in the Marine Weather Warning Product (MWW).

Purpose – The HLS is an event-driven product and is updated as necessary, but at a minimum every 6 hours, to alert the public, media, and local decision makers of potential or actual storm effects due to tropical or subtropical cyclones. The product is intended to provide information to assist in the preparation and implementation of necessary precautions for the protection of life and property, as well as to minimize the economic losses as a result of tropical cyclones.

Audience – The target audience for this product are the federal, state and local emergency management agencies, the general public, and the media.

Presentation Format – text.

Feedback Method – Feedback may be provided via electronic survey at:
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=HNLHLS>

Comments may also be sent to the Tropical Program Lead:

Jessica Schauer
National Weather Service
Tropical Program Leader, Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch
National Hurricane Center
11691 SW 17th Street

Miami, FL 33165
Telephone: 305-229-4476
Email: Jessica.Schauer@noaa.gov

Questions on this enhancement to the operational HLS may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Wayne Presnell
Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13178
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3280
wayne.presnell@noaa.gov
301-427-9390

Part II - Technical Description

Format & Science Basis - The product type line options are Hurricane (Name) Local Statement, Typhoon (Name) Local Statement, Tropical Storm (Name) Statement, Tropical Depression (Number) Statement, Subtropical Storm (Name) Local Statement. The HLS contains watch/warning information, hazard and impact information, and meteorological information in text format.

The HLS is issued in the following format:

- 1) Southern and Eastern Region (**operational in 2015**) – Non-segmented with no VTEC. Product contains sections on; new information, situational overview and potential impacts.
- 2) Western and Pacific Region – WFO Honolulu will issue HLSs in the same format as Southern and Eastern Region. For Western Region and WFO Guam, the first portion will contain an Overview Block with one or more section headers. The Overview Block is followed by segments providing VTEC. The phenomena codes associated with the HLS are: HU – hurricane, TY – typhoon and TR – tropical storm.
- 3) America Samoa and Samoa – When tropical cyclones threaten the Samoas, the two local offices will coordinate with Regional Specialized Meteorological Center Nadi, the Central Pacific Hurricane Center, and with each other to determine the best integrated and internally consistent forecast of conditions expected in the area. In particular case the HLS will be a free formatted text product as the capabilities for a segmented VTEC product do not exist for those offices.

b. Product Availability - When tropical cyclone watches or warnings are in effect the HLS is

disseminated at a minimum of every six hours though they can be issued more frequently depending upon the situation. Typically, the HLS becomes more frequent as the storm nears the coast. The product is made available via various means, such as: the Internet, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Port (NOAAPort), NOAA Weather Radio all Hazards, and the NOAA Weather Wire.

c. Additional Information

A full description of other NWS Tropical Cyclone Program products is provided in NWS Instruction 10-601, which is available on the Internet at:

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

Example of a Test HLS from WFO Honolulu

WTHW80 PHFO 031716
HLSHFO
HIZ001>028-040130-

HURRICANE TEST Local Statement Advisory Number 35
National Weather Service Honolulu HI EP132016
716 AM HST Thu Nov 3 2016

This product covers the Hawaiian Islands

|* **test test test** *|

New Information

* Changes to Watches and Warnings:

- None

* Current Watches and Warnings:

- A Hurricane Watch remains in effect for Oahu South Shore...Waianae Coast...Oahu North Shore...Oahu Koolau...Olomana...Central Oahu...Waianae Mountains...Molokai Windward...Molokai Leeward...Lanai Makai...Lanai Mauka...Kahoolawe...Maui Windward West...Maui Leeward West...Maui Central Valley...Windward Haleakala...Leeward Haleakala...Haleakala Summit...Kona...South Big Island...Big Island North...East...Kohala and Big Island Interior and Big Island Summits

* Storm Information:

- About 710 miles east of Honolulu
- 19.1N 147.2W
- Storm Intensity 115 MPH
- Movement west-northwest OR 285 DEGREES AT 14 MPH

Situation Overview

|* Succinctly describe the expected evolution of the event for the cwa; which hazards are of greater (or lesser) concern, forecast focus, etc. *|

Potential Impacts

* Wind:

Little to no |* additional *| impacts are anticipated at this time across the Hawaiian islands.

* Surge:

Little to no |* additional *| impacts are anticipated at this time across the Hawaiian islands.

* Flooding Rain:

Prepare for locally hazardous rainfall flooding having possible limited impacts across |* ENTER AREA DESCRIPTION *|. Potential impacts include:

- Localized rainfall flooding may prompt a few evacuations.
- Rivers and tributaries may quickly rise with swifter currents. Small streams, creeks, canals, arroyos, and ditches may become swollen and overflow in spots.
- Flood waters can enter a few structures, especially in usually vulnerable spots. A few places where rapid ponding of water occurs at underpasses, low-lying spots, and poor drainage areas. Several storm drains and retention ponds become near-full and begin to overflow. Some brief road and bridge closures.

Elsewhere across the Hawaiian islands, little to no impact is anticipated.

* Tornadoes:

Little to no |* additional *| impacts are anticipated at this time across the Hawaiian islands.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS

* Evacuations:

WATCH/WARNING PHASE - For those under evacuation orders, leave as soon as practical with a destination in mind. Gas up your vehicle well ahead of time. Be sure that you take all essential materials from your emergency supplies kit. Let others know where you are going

and when you intend to arrive.

WATCH/WARNING PHASE - If evacuating the area, stick to prescribed evacuation routes. Look for additional traffic information on roadway smart signs and listen to select radio channels for further travel instructions. Drivers should not use cell phones while operating vehicles.

WATCH/WARNING PHASE - For those not under evacuation orders, understand that there are inherent risks to evacuation (such as traffic congestion, accidents, and driving in bad weather), so evacuate only if necessary. Help keep roadways open for those that are under evacuation orders.

WATCH/WARNING PHASE - If you are exceptionally vulnerable to wind or water hazards from tropical systems, consider voluntary evacuation, especially if being officially recommended. Relocate to a predetermined shelter or safe destination.

WATCH/WARNING PHASE - If evacuating away from the area or relocating to a nearby shelter, leave early before weather conditions become hazardous.

IMMINENT/ONGOING PHASE - Do not return to evacuated areas until hazardous winds diminish and flood waters abate.

RECOVERY PHASE - Do not return to evacuated areas until it is safe. Listen for the all-clear signal from local authorities.

* Other Preparedness Information:

Now is the time to check your emergency plan and take necessary actions to secure your home or business. Deliberate efforts should be underway to protect life and property. Ensure that your Emergency Supplies Kit is stocked and ready.

When making safety and preparedness decisions, do not focus on the exact forecast track as there are inherent forecast uncertainties which must be taken into account.

If you live in a place that is particularly vulnerable to high wind, such as a mobile home, an upper floor of a high rise building, or on a boat, plan to move to safe shelter. Take enough supplies for you and your family for several days.

If you live in a place particularly vulnerable to flooding, such as near the ocean or a large inland lake, in a low lying or poor

drainage area, in a valley or canyon, or near an already swollen river, plan to move to safe shelter on higher ground.

Always heed the advice of local officials and comply with any orders that are issued. Do not needlessly jeopardize your life or the lives of others.

When securing your property, outside preparations should be conducted as soon as possible before conditions deteriorate. The onset of strong gusty winds and heavy rain can cause certain preparedness activities to become unsafe.

Be sure to let friends and other family members know of your intentions and whereabouts for surviving the storm. For emergency purposes, have someone located away from the threatened area serve as your point of contact. Share vital contact information with others. Keep cell phones handy and well charged.

Be a Good Samaritan and check on those who may not be fully aware of the situation or who are unable to make personal preparations.

Visitors to the area should become familiar with nearby surroundings. If you are a visitor, know the name of the county or parish in which you are located and where it is relative to current watches and warnings. If staying at a hotel, ask the management staff about their onsite disaster plan. Listen for evacuation orders, especially pertaining to area visitors.

Closely monitor NOAA Weather Radio or other local news outlets for official storm information. Listen for possible changes to the forecast.

* Additional Sources of Information:

- For information on appropriate preparations see ready.gov.
- For information on creating an emergency plan see getagameplan.org.
- For additional disaster preparedness information see redcross.org.

Next Update

The next local statement will be issued by the National Weather Service in Honolulu HI around noon HST, or sooner if conditions warrant.

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Example of New HLS Format for 2016 for the Atlantic Hurricane Basin

WTUS82 KMFL 230930
HLSMFL
FLZ063-066>075-168-172>174-231600-

Hurricane Wilma Local Statement Advisory Number 32
National Weather Service Miami FL AL242005
530 AM EDT Sun Oct 23 2005

This product covers mainland south Florida

****Extensive To Devastating Damage and Life-Threatening Conditions Expected As
Hurricane Wilma Moves Northeast Across South Florida****

New Information

* Changes to watches and warnings:

- A hurricane watch has been upgraded to a hurricane warning for Miami-Dade...Broward...Palm Beach...Collier...Hendry...Glades and mainland Monroe counties

* Current Watches and Warnings:

- A Hurricane Warning Is In Effect For:
Miami-Dade...Broward...Palm Beach...Collier...Hendry...Glades and Mainland Monroe Counties

* Storm Information:

- About 405 mi SW of Naples FL
- 22.1N 86.6W
- Storm Intensity 100 MPH with higher gusts
- Moving Northeast at 3 MPH

Situation Overview

Extremely dangerous hurricane Wilma is expected to impact south Florida beginning this evening. The main concern is for life-threatening inundation in surge-prone areas of collier/mainland Monroe counties where there is a substantial risk of devastating impacts sometime between early Monday morning and Monday afternoon. Additionally, there is a risk for extensive damage from wind across mainland south Florida particularly between sunrise and Monday afternoon as Wilma crosses the peninsula.

There are also concerns with significant impacts from flooding rains as the hurricane moves across the area late tonight and Monday.

Isolated to scattered tornadoes capable of inflicting limited to locally

significant damage are also possible starting this afternoon as outer rain bands begin to impact south Florida. As you work outside completing your preparations today, stay tuned to the latest information in case tornado watches and/or warnings become necessary.

Several counties have mandatory evacuation orders in place. Check with your local county officials for orders which may affect you.

Significant potential impacts

* Surge:

Prepare for life-threatening storm surge of up to 6-10 ft above ground and devastating damage in surge prone areas of Collier and mainland Monroe counties. In these areas, potential impacts include:

- Widespread deep inundation within coastal flood zones from nearby sea, possibly reaching areas well away from the shoreline. powerful storm surge flooding capable of causing structural damage to buildings, with many washing away. Damage greatly compounded from considerable floating debris. Hardest hit locations may be uninhabitable for an extended period.
- Near-shore escape routes and secondary roads washed out or severely flooded. Flood control systems and barriers may become stressed.
- Extreme beach erosion. New inland cuts possible along with local reshaping of the shoreline.
- Vast and substantial damage to marinas, docks, and piers. numerous small craft broken away from moorings with many lifted onshore and stranded.

Preparations should also be made for significant impacts from storm surge coastal flooding of up to 3-5 feet above ground along portions of far south Miami Dade adjacent to Florida bay.

Elsewhere, prepare for the potential of limited damage from localized storm surge flooding of 2 feet above ground or less across portions of the southeast Florida coast from Miami Dade to Palm Beach counties.

* Wind:

Prepare for extensive damage across all of south Florida. Potential impacts include:

- Considerable damage to roofing and siding materials of sturdy buildings, with some having window, door, and garage door failures leading to structural damage. Mobile homes severely damaged, with some destroyed. hardest hit locations may be uninhabitable for weeks.
- Many large trees snapped or uprooted along with fences and roadway signs

blown over. Some roads impassable from large debris, and more within heavily wooded places.

- Several bridges, causeways, and access routes connecting barrier islands impassible.
- Power outages across large areas, with several places suffering extended outages.

* Flooding rain:

Prepare for significant flooding across much of mainland south Florida. In these areas, potential impacts include:

- The occurrence of moderate rainfall flooding can hinder emergency preparedness or response actions associated with other tropical event hazards. Attention and emergency resources may need to be partially diverted to meet an immediate flooding threat.
- Canals and ditches overflow.
- Flood waters can enter some structures or weaken foundations. Several places experience expanded areas of rapid inundation at underpasses, low-lying spots, and poor drainage areas. Some streets and parking lots take on moving water as storm drains and retention ponds overflow. Driving conditions become hazardous along with some road and bridge closures.
- Flood waters may prompt several evacuations and rescues.

As the threat evolves, stay tuned for potential flood watches and/or warnings.

* Tornadoes:

Prepare for significant damage from tornadoes in rain bands particularly across portions of Broward and Palm Beach counties with concerns beginning as early as this afternoon. In these areas, potential impacts include:

- The occurrence of scattered tornadoes that can hinder emergency preparedness or response actions associated with other tropical event hazards.
- Several places may experience tornado damage with a few spots of considerable damage, power loss, and communications failures.
- Hardest hit locations can realize roofs torn off frame houses, mobile homes demolished, boxcars overturned, large trees snapped or uprooted, vehicles lifted off the ground, and small boats tossed about. Dangerous projectiles add to the toll.

Prepare for isolated tornadoes and limited damage from tornadoes elsewhere across mainland south Florida.

Stay tuned in case tornado watches and/or warnings become necessary.

* Other coastal hazards:

There is a high risk for rip currents as well as the potential for significant beach erosion across all beaches of south Florida.

Precautionary/preparedness actions

* Evacuations:

Several counties have issued mandatory evacuation orders. Go to www.Floridadisaster.org for the latest evacuation information.

For those not under evacuation orders, understand that there are inherent risks to evacuation such as traffic accidents, congestion, and getting caught on the road during bad weather, so evacuate only if you must. This helps keep roadways open for those under evacuation orders.

* Other preparedness information:

Now is the time to rush to completion preparations for the protection of life and property.

Closely monitor NOAA weather radio or other local news outlets for official storm information. Listen for possible changes to the forecast.

* Additional sources of information:

For information on appropriate preparations see ready.gov/hurricanes.

For information on local evacuation shelters see

www.Floridadisaster.org/shelters

For information on creating an emergency plan see getagameplan.org.

For additional disaster preparedness information see redcross.org.

Next update

The next local statement will be issued by the national weather service in Miami around 1130 am EDT, or sooner if conditions warrant.