

Spanish Hurricane Local Statement Formatter

Part 1: Mission Connection

1. Product Description:

The Spanish language Hurricane Local Statement (Spanish HLS) will provide the same critical information for the protection of life and property as its English counterpart. Information will be provided on wind and storm surge magnitude and impact, inland flooding and tornado potential and recommendations of protective actions. The product will reduce the potential ambiguity of translation by directly reaching a substantial population in the County Warning Area that speaks English as a second language, or not at all. Members of the Spanish speaking community are among the poorest and most socioeconomically vulnerable in the CWA, and stand to suffer the greatest loss of life and property from a tropical cyclone impact. The formatter's output has been quality controlled by Spanish-proficient members of the WFO team and is designed to require very little post-editing, similar to the current English language formatter. The formatter's methodology and thresholds are identical to the English version.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

Generating the product in Spanish in parallel with the English version saves tremendous workload and time as opposed to manually translating a product from English to Spanish. This preserves the office's limited Spanish language resources for critical DSS or media interviews. By directly reaching out to members of the English as a Second Language, or non-English speaking population, we believe a larger portion of that audience will receive high quality information directly from NWS, rather than relying on potentially inaccurate translation from elsewhere.

3. Audience:

The Spanish Hurricane Local Statement Formatter's output can be used by the public, emergency managers and related staff, media partners, and the private sector.

4. Presentation Format

Presentation will be in a legacy format identical to the English HLS version, without VTEC.

5. Feedback Method:

Comments will be compiled and evaluated through an interactive link on the WFO Brownsville website. Comments will be solicited during the 2014 Hurricane Season. During this feedback period, a proactive effort will address all issues regarding the formatter and its output.

Part 2 – Technical:

1. Format and Science Basis:

The formatter was developed using a copy of the national baseline HLS formatter. The underlying code was then altered to match the output of the existing English formatter after local overrides. Output of the formatter was then changed to Spanish. Very minimal code changes were made to the syntax of the Spanish language without changing, the meaning of the message. Wind speeds and surge heights that trigger varying degrees of severity in the output wording are identical to the English version. Bilingual team members at WFO Brownsville thoroughly reviewed and compared multiple parallel

English/Spanish outputs on identical forecast information to ensure consistency between both languages. The GUI for the formatter runs in English, allowing for non-Spanish speaking meteorologists to generate the product and prepare a working draft for final review. The preparation time for the statement is identical to the English statement, and should require very minimal post-editing. The statements can also be prepared at one workstation or at multiple workstations simultaneously.

Rather than a post-production translation from English into Spanish, the Spanish HLS is generated in Spanish directly from GFE forecast data, speeding up the process and reducing workload.

2. Availability

The product will be issued at the same time and based on the same thresholds as the legacy English HLS.

3. Additional Information:

A new AWIPS Product Identifier designation may be necessary for this product.

Example Output (Wind):

...VIENTOS...

COMO HURACAN TEST SE ACERCA...SE ESPERAN VIENTOS SOSTENIDOS DE TORMENTA TROPICAL QUE EMPIEZEN EN LA NOCHE DE EL MIERCOLES Y VIENTOS HURACANADOS JUEVES LA MANANA. SE PRONOSTICA VIENTOS DE HURACAN PARA MUCHAS HORAS. SE PRONOSTICA VIENTOS MAXIMOS ENTRE 105 A 125 MPH CON RAFAGAS HASTA 145 MPH. |* DANOS DEVASTADORES SE ESPERAN. CASI TODOS LOS HOGARES MOVILES SERAN DESTRUIDOS. MAS VIVIENDAS SUFRIRAN DANOS GRAVES... INCLUYENDO EL COLAPSO PARCIAL O COMPLETO DE TECHOS Y PAREDES. UN NUMERO DE CASAS PROBABLEMENTE SERAN DESTRUIDAS POR COMPLETO. MUCHOS EDIFICIOS COMERCIALES Y ESCUELAS SERAN SEVERAMENTE DANADAS O DESTRUIDAS CON TECHOS Y PAREDES COLAPSADOS POR EL VIENTO. ESCOMBROS EN EL AIRE PUEDEN CAUSAR DANOS ADICIONALES. LA MAYORIA DE LOS ARBOLES Y LINEAS ELECTRICIAS ESTARAN DERRIBADAS. FMUCHAS COMUNIDADES SERAN IRRECONOCIBLES CON ESCOMBROS BLOQUEANDO LA ENTRADA Y SALIDA DE LAS RESIDENCIAS POR DIAS O SEMANAS. CARRETERAS SERAN BLOQUEADAS POR ESCOMBROS DE LA TORMENTA.

Additional Information may be obtained by contacting the NWS Brownsville TX office:

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