

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
**PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)**  
**TYPE: Official Product**  
**DATE: June 04, 2003**

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TROPICAL CYCLONE STRIKE PROBABILITIES

**Part 1 - Mission Connection**

**1. Product/Service Description:**

The Tropical Cyclone Strike Probabilities (SPF) is a text product prepared by the National Weather Services (NWS) National Hurricane Center (NHC) for ongoing tropical cyclones (TC) in the Atlantic basin.

**2. Purpose/Intended Use:**

The SPF conveys information about the risk of a TC passing near or over various geographical locations along the coastline or over water.

**3. Audience:**

The general public is the primary target audience for the product. However, this product is widely used by other Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs); federal, state, and local government agencies; state and local emergency managers, nations in the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico, the media, and maritime interests.

**4. Presentation Format:**

This is a text product, in tabular form.

The SPF is provided at: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>.

**5. Feedback Method:**

Continuous feedback is available via an Internet page e-mail link to the program mangers in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the SPF may be addressed to:

National Weather Service  
Attn: Scott Kiser, W/OS21  
Tropical Cyclone Program Manager  
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13126  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

or e-mail questions and comments to: [Scott.Kiser@noaa.gov](mailto:Scott.Kiser@noaa.gov)

## Part 2 - Technical

### 1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The SPF product contains a table of probabilities, in percent, of a TC passing within 65 nautical miles of a list of geographical locations (cities, islands, or latitude/longitude points) over the first 24 hours of the forecast (column A), 24-36 hours of the forecast (column B), 36-48 hours of the forecast (column C), 48-72 hours of the forecast (column D), and over the entire 72 hours of the forecast (column E). These probabilities are based on past TC track forecasts made at the NHC.

### 2. **Availability:**

This product is part of the routine TC package for the Atlantic basin, and is issued at 0300, 0900, 1500, and 2100 UTC for ongoing TC. Occasionally, the SPF will not be issued, usually for a dissipating system (last advisory).

### 3. **Additional Information:**

A full description of this and other NWS Tropical Cyclone Weather Services Program Products is provided in NWSI 10-601, which is available on the Internet at:

[http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation\\_services.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation_services.htm).