

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)  
TYPE: Official Product  
DATE: June 19, 2003***

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TROPICAL CYCLONE POSITION ESTIMATES

**Part 1 - Mission Connection**

**1. Product/Service Description:**

The Tropical Cyclone Position Estimate (TCE) is an event-driven (non-routinely issued) alphanumeric product comprised of information concerning the location of the center of a tropical cyclone as determined by land-based radar fixes. The National Hurricane Center (NHC), the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC), and the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Guam prepare TCEs on an event-driven basis for tropical cyclone activity within the effective range of land base radars. NHC issues TCEs for tropical cyclone activity in the Atlantic and eastern north Pacific (north of the equator and east of 140 degrees west longitude) basins. CPHC issues TCEs for tropical cyclone activity in the central North Pacific (north of the equator between 140W and 180W longitude) basin and WFO Guam for the northwest Pacific (U.S. territories or the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of the Marshall Islands north of the equator and from 130W - 180W longitude).

**2. Purpose/Intended Use:**

This product ensures a continuous flow of information regarding the location of a tropical cyclone when it nears the coast and thus provides up to date location information to emergency managers and other public officials. The information also provides exact center locations helping the tropical cyclone center forecasters issue timely and accurate products.

**3. Audience:**

The target audience for the product includes: National Weather Service WFOs and centers, national, state, and local emergency managers; military and government agencies; and the media.

**4. Presentation Format:**

NHC, CPHC, and WFO Guam provide the product in alphanumeric format and prepares them in a consistent manner.

**5. Feedback Method:**

Users of the TCE can provide continuous feedback through e-mail links to the local program managers via the offices Internet web sites and via e-mail links to the program managers in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch, National Weather Service (NWS) Headquarters. CPHC, Guam, NHC, and NWS Headquarters also receive feedback from users through direct contact at various meetings and via comments passed along from local WFOs.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the TCE 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 21910-3285  
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 TCE is an event-driven (non-routinely issued) alphanumeric product. The product contains information derived from WSR-88D radar data about tropical cyclone position in latitude/longitude coordinates, distance, and direction from a well known point. The offices write the product in a standard and concise format with all required elements.

### 2. **Availability:**

CPHC, NHC, and WFO Guam prepare the TCE (event-driven, non-routine) product and issue it between 2-hourly intermediate tropical cyclone public advisories whenever sufficient reliable radar center fix information is available. The Centers/Office disseminate the product via Family of Services, EMWIN, Internet, and the NOAA Weather Wire. Additional information on tropical product dissemination is available at:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>.

The following Internet site is one location to access the TCE product:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/data/TRO/TCE/>.

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

A description of the Tropical Cyclone Weather Services program, policy, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, and means of product dissemination are described in NWS Instructions 10-601. It 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).