

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT

Tropical Cyclone Cumulative Wind Distribution Graphic

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Part I - Mission Connection

- a. Product Description - The Tropical Cyclone Cumulative Wind Distribution (CWD) graphic is a product issued by the National Hurricane Center (NHC). It summarizes how the size of a storm has changed, and the areas potentially affected by sustained winds of tropical storm force (in orange) and hurricane force (in red) for tropical cyclones in the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific basins. This product is also issued for subtropical storms.
- b. Purpose - National Weather Service (NWS) customer feedback indicates a desire for products in a graphical format.
- c. Audience - The product is used by the general public, other NWS National Centers and Weather Forecast Offices, other federal, state, and local government agencies; federal, state, and local emergency managers; maritime interests; and the media.
- d. Presentation Format - This is a graphical product in Graphics Interchange Format (GIF).
- e. Feedback Method - We will solicit feedback through an existing NWS Feedback form and/or e-mail to the webmaster:

Technical and policy questions and comments for the CWD may be directed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Scott Kiser, W/OS21
Tropical Cyclone Program Manager
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13126
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3285

or e-mail questions and comments to: Scott.Kiser@noaa.gov

Part II - Technical Description

a. Format & Science Basis - The CWD is a graphical product produced by hurricane forecasters for each tropical system displaying the distribution over time of the tropical storm and hurricane force winds. Users are reminded the wind radii represent the maximum possible extent of a given wind speed within particular quadrants around the tropical cyclone. As a result, not all locations falling within the orange or red swaths will have experienced sustained tropical storm or hurricane force winds, respectively.

b. Product Availability - The product is disseminated at 0300, 0900, 1500, and 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) with valid position times corresponding to the advisory time. Since this product is produced only when there are tropical cyclones, an example is available at www.nhc.noaa.gov/graphics_astorm1.shtml. During times of tropical cyclones, the product is available via the Internet at www.nhc.noaa.gov under "Active Tropical Systems" link.