

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Official Product
DATE: April 24, 2003***

TROPICAL CYCLONE ADVISORY MESSAGE

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Tropical Cyclone Advisory message (TCA) is an abbreviated alphanumeric text product which the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) issue. The TCA contains information on specific tropical cyclones including the cyclone name, advisory number, position, movement, maximum sustained winds, forecast positions 12-, 18-, and 24-hours, and the date and time of the next message.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The TCA provides aviation interests with concise, formatted information on specific tropical cyclones.

3. Audience:

The target audience of the TCA is primarily the national and international civil aviation community.

4. Presentation Format:

The TCA is a formatted, alphanumeric answer rtext product utilizing International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) approved abbreviations.

5. Feedback Method:

The National Weather Service (NWS) is constantly seeking to improve its products based on user feedback. Customers 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 manager in the Aviation Weather Services Branch, National Weather Service Headquarters (NWSH). NHC, CPHC, and NWSH also obtain feedback through meetings with the national and international aviation community and through customer surveys.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the Tropical Cyclone Advisory message may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Richard Stone W/OS23
Aviation Weather Services Program Manager
1325 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
or e-mail questions and comments to: Richard.Stone@noaa.gov

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The TCA is an alphanumeric text product with format and abbreviations governed by the ICAO. NHC and CPHC base the information contained within the TCA on latest available data from all sources with special reliance on aircraft reconnaissance and satellite data.

2. **Availability:**

NHC and CPHC issue TCAs for each tropical cyclone in conjunction with regularly scheduled tropical cyclone forecasts at 0300, 0900, 1500, and 2100 UTC. Unscheduled updates or amendments can be issued as needed. Customers can receive the product via the Internet, NOAAPORT, EMWIN, and NOAA Weather Wire. Additional information on Aviation product dissemination is available at:

<http://weather.gov/om/aviation/home.htm>.

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

<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/cphc>.

3. **Additional Information:**

A description of TCA policy, area of responsibility, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, and means of product dissemination is located in NWS Instruction 10-811 which is available via the Internet at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation_services.htm.

Additional guidance comes from ICAO Annex 3 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.