

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

TROPICAL CYCLONE TRACK AND WATCH/WARNING GRAPHICS

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Tropical Cyclone track and watch/warning graphic is prepared by the National Weather Services (NWS) National Hurricane Center (NHC) for tropical cyclones in the Atlantic and eastern North Pacific Ocean. It contains the storms forecast track, a cone along the track based upon the average area of uncertainty for the position of the center, and coastal tropical storm and hurricane watches/warnings. This product is also issued for subtropical storms.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

This product is a graphical representation of text messages issued by NHC. It provides critical information on the forecast path of the tropical cyclone, forecast track uncertainty, and watches and warnings issued by NHC.

3. Audience:

The general public is the primary target audience. However, this product is widely used by; federal, state, and local government agencies; state and local emergency managers; nations in the Americas and Caribbean, media and maritime interests.

4. Presentation Format:

This is a graphical product.

Graphics for active tropical cyclones in the Atlantic and East Pacific basins are provided at: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>.

5. Feedback Method:

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

Technical and policy questions, and comments 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

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The map is produced from text products written by hurricane forecasters. The coastal watches and warnings display shows an approximate representation of coastal areas under a hurricane warning (red), hurricane watch (pink), tropical storm warning (blue) and tropical storm watch (yellow). The orange circle indicates the current position of the center of the tropical cyclone. The black line and dots show the NHC forecast track of the center at the times indicated. The NHC forecast tracks of the center can be in error, and the white areas indicate the increasing average area of uncertainty for the position of the center as a function of time.

2. **Availability:**

The product is available on the Internet shortly after the release of the text advisories scheduled for issuance at 0300, 0900, 1500, and 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). The graphic is also produced for special advisories.

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.