

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

TROPICAL CYCLONE UPDATE

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Tropical Cyclone Update (TCU) is a brief alphanumeric text product which the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) issue to inform customers of unexpected or sudden changes in a tropical cyclone or to post or cancel watches and warnings. NHC and CPHC issue TCUs on an event-driven basis in lieu of or preceding special advisories.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The TCU is an event-driven which provides customers with timely, succinct information on significant changes to tropical cyclone conditions.

3. Audience:

The target audience of the TCU includes national, state, and local emergency managers, military and civilian government agencies, media, and the general public.

4. Presentation Format:

The TCU is a brief alphanumeric narrative document in a block paragraph format.

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 Marine and Coastal Weather Service Branch, National Weather Service Headquarters (NWSH). NHC, CPHC, and NWSH also obtain feedback through meetings with emergency managers and media personnel, outreach activities, and through customer surveys.

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

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

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

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The TCU is a brief alphanumeric text product using a block paragraph format. CPHC and NHC base the information contained within the TCU on latest available data from all sources with special reliance on aircraft reconnaissance and satellite data.

2. **Availability:**

The TCU is an event-driven product which CPHC and NHC issue in lieu of or preceding special advisories. Customers can receive the product via the Internet, NOAAPORT, EMWIN, and NOAA Weather Wire. Additional information on Tropical Cyclone product dissemination is available at:

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

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

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

3. **Additional Information:**

A description of policy governing the TCU is located in NWS Instruction 10-601. A copy of this policy is available via the Internet at:

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