

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT

Tropical Cyclone Track and Watch/Warning Graphic – Experimental Alternatives

APPROVED

signed by LeRoy Spayd for

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Tropical Cyclone Track and Watch/Warning Graphic – Experimental Alternatives

Part I - Mission Connection

- a. Product Description - The Tropical Cyclone Track and Watch/Warning graphic is an operational product prepared by the National Weather Service's (NWS) National Hurricane Center (NHC) for tropical cyclones in the Atlantic and eastern North Pacific Ocean. The product contains the current location of the storm center, coastal tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings, and track uncertainty. The product is also issued for subtropical storms. More details on the operational product are available at <http://products.weather.gov>
- b. Purpose for Experimental Alternatives - NWS received comments over the 2004 Hurricane Season recommending some modification to the operational Track and Watch/Warning graphic. These comments indicated the operational graphic might overly focus the user on an exact forecast track (the line) and not on the larger potential track area. Therefore, we are seeking customer feedback for proposed, alternative track and watch/warning graphics. Based on user comments, one of the alternatives may be implemented to operationally replace the current version of the product beginning with the 2005 Hurricane Season.
- c. 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.
- d. Presentation Format - This is a graphical product.

Experimental alternative products and detailed descriptions are provided at:
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/graphicsprototypes.shtml>

- e. Feedback Method – NOAA seeks comments on these tropical cyclone track and watch/warning graphics. We would like to know which graphic is the most effective for use in the upcoming hurricane season. We are interested in receiving any comments or recommendations you may have concerning our tropical cyclone track and watch/warning graphics.

Comments will be accepted through January 18, 2005.

Electronic submission of comments is encouraged. The e-mail address for providing feedback is:

trackchart@noaa.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:
National Weather Service
Tropical Cyclone Program Manager

1325 East-West Highway, Room 13126
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

Comments may also be faxed to Mr. Scott Kiser: 301/713-1520

For more detailed information contact: Scott Kiser, 301/713-1677 ext. 121

Part II - Technical Description

- a. Format & Science Basis – This graphical product includes information provided in other routinely issued NHC text products. The product also provides a graphical depiction of the Day 1-5 potential track area based on historical averages.
- b. Product Availability - The operational 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 product is issued for all tropical and subtropical cyclones. The graphic is also produced for tropical cyclone special advisories.
- c. 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