# NHC Text Product Descriptions

## Tropical Cyclone Public Advisory - How to Read

**World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and AWIPS (in parenthesis) headers:**
**WTNT31-35 KNHC (MIATCPAT1-5) – Atlantic**
**WTPZ31-35 KNHC (MIATCPEP1-5) – E. Pacific**

The Tropical Cyclone Public Advisory contains a list of all current watches and warnings on a tropical or subtropical cyclone. It also gives the cyclone position in terms of latitude and longitude coordinates and distance from a selected land point or island, as well as the current motion. The advisory includes the maximum sustained winds in miles per hour and the estimated or measured minimum central pressure in millibars and inches. The advisory may also include information on potential storm tides, rainfall or tornadoes associated with the cyclone, as well as any pertinent weather observations.

Public advisories are issued for all Atlantic tropical or subtropical cyclones, and for eastern Pacific tropical or subtropical cyclones that are threatening land. Public advisories are normally issued every six hours. They may be issued every two or three hours when coastal watches or warnings are in effect. Special public advisories may be issued at any time due to significant changes in warnings or in the cyclone.

The numbers 1-5 in the headers are assigned on a rotating basis by cyclone number, i.e., advisories on the first, sixth, or eleventh cyclones of the Atlantic season would be sent under the WMO header WTNT31 KNHC; advisories on the second, seventh, or twelfth cyclones of the Atlantic season would be sent under the WMO header WTNT32 KNHC, and so on.

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## Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisory - How to Read

**World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and AWIPS (in parenthesis) headers:**
**WTNT21-25 KNHC (MIATCMAT1-5) – Atlantic**
**WTPZ21-25 KNHC (MIATCMEP1-5) – E. Pacific**

The Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisory contains a list of all current watches and warnings on a tropical or subtropical cyclone, as well as the current latitude and longitude coordinates, intensity, and system motion. The advisory contains forecasts of the cyclone positions, intensities, and wind fields for 12, 24, 36, 48, and 72 hours from the current synoptic time. The advisory may also include information on any pertinent storm tides associated with the cyclone. All wind speeds in the forecast advisory in given in knots (nautical miles per hour).

Forecast/Advisories are issued on all Atlantic and eastern Pacific tropical and subtropical cyclones every six hours. Special Forecast/Advisories may be issued at any time due to significant changes in warnings or in the cyclone.

The numbers 1-5 in the headers are assigned by cyclone number, i.e., advisories on the first, sixth, or eleventh cyclones of the Atlantic season would be sent under the WMO header WTNT21 KNHC; advisories on the second, seventh, or twelfth cyclones of the Atlantic season would be sent under the WMO header WTNT22 KNHC, and so on.

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## Tropical Cyclone Discussion

**World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and AWIPS (in parenthesis) headers:**
**WTNT41-45 KNHC (MIATCDAT1-5) – Atlantic**
**WTPZ41-45 KNHC (MIATCDEP1-5) – E. Pacific**

The Tropical Cyclone Discussion explains the reasoning for the analysis and forecast of a tropical or subtropical cyclone. It includes a table of the forecast track and intensity.

Tropical Cyclone Discussions are issued on all Atlantic and eastern Pacific tropical and subtropical cyclones every six hours. Special tropical cyclone discussions may be issued at any time due to significant changes in warnings or in the cyclone.

The numbers 1-5 in the headers are assigned by cyclone number, i.e., discussions on the first, sixth, or eleventh cyclones of the Atlantic season would be sent under the WMO header WTNT41 KNHC; discussions on the second, seventh, or twelfth cyclones of the Atlantic season would be sent under the WMO header WTNT42 KNHC, and so on.

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## Tropical Cyclone Surface Wind Speed Probabilities

**World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and AWIPS (in parenthesis) headers:**
**FONT11-15 KNHC (MIAPWSAT1-5) – Atlantic**
**FOPZ11-15 KNHC (MIAPWSEP1-5) – Eastern Pacific**
**FOPA11-15 PHFO (HNLPWSCP1-5) – Central Pacific (issued by CPHC)**

The Tropical Cyclone Surface Wind Speed Probabilities text product provides probabilities, in percent, of sustained wind speeds equal to or exceeding 34-, 50-, and 64-knot wind speed thresholds. These wind speed probabilities are based on the track, intensity, and wind structure forecasts and uncertainties from the National Hurricane Center and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center and are computed for coastal and inland cities as well as offshore locations (e.g., buoys).

These text products are intended to be made available by the issuance deadlines for routine advisories (03, 09, 15, and 21 Coordinated Universal Time - UTC) and to be included with special advisories for all tropical and/or subtropical cyclones.

The numbers 1-5 in the header are assigned on a rotating basis by cyclone number, i.e., probabilities on the first, sixth, or eleventh cyclones of the Atlantic season would be sent under the WMO header FONT11 KNHC; probabilities on the second, seventh, or twelfth cyclones of the Atlantic season would be sent under the WMO header FONT12 KNHC, and so on.

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## Tropical Cyclone Update

**World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and AWIPS (in parenthesis) headers:**
**WTNT61-65 KNHC (MIATCUAT) – Atlantic**
**WTPZ61-65 KNHC (MIATCUEP) – E. Pacific**

Tropical Cyclone Updates are brief statements issued in lieu of or preceding special advisories to inform of significant changes in a tropical cyclone or to post or cancel watches or warnings.

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## Tropical Cyclone Position Estimate

**World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and AWIPS (in parenthesis) headers:**
**WTNT51-55 KNHC (MIATCEAT) – Atlantic**
**WTPZ51-55 KNHC (MIATCEEP) – E. Pacific (rarely issued)**

Tropical Cyclone Position Estimates are issued between 2-hourly intermdiate advisories whenever a tropical cyclone with a well-defined radar center is within 200 nautical miles of land-based radar in the United States. These estimates give the center location in map coordinates and distance and direction from a well-known point.

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## Tropical Weather Outlook

**World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and AWIPS (in parenthesis) headers:**
**ABNT20 KNHC (MIATWOAT) – Atlantic**
**ABPZ20 KNHC (MIATWOEP) – E. Pacific**

The Tropical Weather Outlook is a discussion of significant areas of disturbed weather and their potential for development out to 48 hours. It includes (when possible) a nontechnical explanation of the meteorology behind the outlook.

Tropical Weather Outlooks also include a brief descriptions of any tropical or subtropical cyclones in the region. It also includes the WMO and AFOS headers of where to find more information on an active cyclone during the first 24 hours of existence.

Tropical Weather Outlooks are issued four times a day during the hurricane season. Atlantic outlooks are transmitted under WMO header ABNT20 KNHC and AFOS header MIATWOAT. Eastern Pacific outlooks are transmitted under WMO header ABPZ20 KNHC and AFOS header MIATWOEP.

The most current Tropical Weather Outlook is found on the NHC home page.

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## Special Tropical Disturbance Statement

**World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and AWIPS (in parenthesis) headers:**
**WONT41 KNHC (MIADSAAT) – Atlantic**
**W0PZ41 KNHC (MIADSAEP) – E. Pacific**

Special Tropical Disturbance Statements are used to furnish information on strong formative, nondepression systems. These are usually issued for systems strong enough to produce heavy rains and strong winds that do not yet meet the criteria of tropical or subtropical cyclones. These products are transmitted only as needed.

Atlantic Special Tropical Disturbance Statements are issued under WMO header WONT41 KNHC and AFOS header MIADSAAT. Eastern Pacific Special Tropical Disturbance Statements are issued under WMO header WOPZ41 and AFOS header MIADSAEP.

The most current Special Tropical Disturbance Statement is found on the NHC/TPC home page.

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## Experimental Tropical Cyclone Valid Time Event Code (VTEC)

**World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and AWIPS (in parenthesis) headers:**
**WTNT81-85 KNHC (MIATCVAT1-5) – Atlantic issuance only**

The Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning text product (TCV) is based upon the Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) and is an experimental product with a call for public feedback summarizing all new, continued, and cancelled tropical cyclone watches and warnings issued by the Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center (TPC/NHC) for the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf coasts, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands. Once watches and/or warnings are in effect for the areas mentioned, updates will be issued by the TPC/NHC at a minimum of every six hours around 0300, 0900, 1500, and 2100 UTC. TCVs for special advisories will be issued for the same circumstances that apply for a standard advisory.

When active, the most current Tropical Cyclone Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) product can be found on the NHC/TPC home page.

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## Monthly Tropical Weather Summary

**World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and AWIPS (in parenthesis) headers:**
**ABNT30 KNHC (MIATWSAT) – Atlantic**
**ABPZ30 KNHC (MIATWSEP) – E. Pacific**

The Monthly Tropical Weather Summary is issued on the first of every month during the hurricane season. It describes the previous month's tropical cyclone actvity and gives details on the cyclones as known at that time. The last Tropical Weather Summary of the season gives an brief account of the whole season.

Atlantic Tropical Weather Summaries are issued under WMO and AFOS header ABNT30 KNHC and MIATWSAT. Eastern Pacific Tropical Weather Summaries are issued under WMO header ABPZ30 KNHC and AFOS header MIATWSEP.

The most current Monthly Tropical Weather Summary is found on the NHC home page.

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## Hurricane Season Tropical Cyclone Reports

**These reports are available in the archives section of the NHC/TPC website**

The National Hurricane Center's Tropical Cyclone Reports (formerly called Preliminary Reports) contain comprehensive information on each storm, including synoptic history, meteorological statistics, casualties and damages, and the post-analysis best track (six-hourly positions and intensities). Tropical cyclones include depressions, storms and hurricanes. Tropical depressions listed in the table of contents are those that did not reach tropical storm strength.