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PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 08-51  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
308 PM EDT TUE AUG 12 2008

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:  
-FAMILY OF SERVICES  
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE  
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK  
-NOAAPORT  
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: THERESE Z. PIERCE  
CHIEF...MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THREE VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ PHENOMENA  
CODES. PHASE-IN BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 29 AND ENDS ON NOVEMBER 4 2008.

BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 29 2008...NWS WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFOS/  
SERVING THE COASTAL AND GREAT LAKES MARINE AREAS WILL CHANGE THREE  
OF THE OPERATIONAL VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ PHENOMENA /PP/ CODES  
IN THE MARINE WEATHER MESSAGE /MWW/ PRODUCT.

TABLE 1 SHOWS THE CURRENT PHENOMENA NAME...THE CURRENT PHENOMENA  
CODE AND THE NEW PHENOMENA CODE FOR THE THREE OPERATIONAL VTEC  
PHENOMENA IN THE MWW PRODUCT.

TABLE 1.

PHENOMENA NAME	CURRENT VTEC CODE	NEW VTEC CODE
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DENSE FOG	FG	MF
DENSE SMOKE	SM	MS
ASHFALL	AF	MH

THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES TO ANY OF THE OTHER PHENOMENA /PP/ IN THE  
MARINE WEATHER MESSAGE /MWW/ AT THIS TIME. THE MWW IS THE ONLY  
PRODUCT AFFECTED BY THESE VTEC PHENOMENA CODE CHANGES.

THE DEPLOYMENT OF THIS SOFTWARE CHANGE WILL GRADUALLY OCCUR ACROSS  
ALL OF THE GREAT LAKES WFOS AND ALL COASTAL WFOS EXCEPT THE THREE  
ALASKA REGION WFOS. A TOTAL OF 44 WFOS ARE AFFECTED BY THIS  
SOFTWARE CHANGE. SOME OFFICES MAY INITIATE THIS CHANGE AS EARLY AS  
SEPTEMBER 29 2008. WE EXPECT THIS CHANGE TO BE COMPLETE ACROSS THE  
44 OFFICES BY NOVEMBER 4 2008. BECAUSE OF SOFTWARE TESTING AND  
OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS...IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ALL 44 OFFICES TO  
IMPLEMENT THIS SOFTWARE CHANGE ON THE SAME DATE.

CUSTOMERS RECEIVING THE MWW PRODUCT SHOULD REPROGRAM THEIR SOFTWARE  
TO RECEIVE THESE NEW VTEC CODES LISTED IN TABLE 1. THERE WILL BE A  
SHORT PERIOD WHEN SOME WFOS WILL ISSUE THE MWW PRODUCTS WITH THE  
CURRENT VTEC CODE AND OTHERS WITH THE NEW VTEC CODE.

THIS CHANGE IS DRIVEN BY CRITICAL OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FIELD FORECASTERS WHICH TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER REQUIRED ADVANCE LEAD TIME.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE VTEC CODE IS ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/VTEC/](http://www.weather.gov/os/vtec/)

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

RICHARD MAY  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH  
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND  
PHONE: 301-713-1677 EXT. 127

NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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