



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
1325 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283
June 9, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: NWS Regions

FROM: Ken Graham <signed>
Chief, Meteorological Services Division

SUBJECT: Implementation of Experimental Hazard Grids

In response to user requirements, the NWS plans to transition the developmental NDFD Hazard grids to experimental status. To commence this experimental period, all CONUS WFOs, and WFOs in Alaska, Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands, Hawaii, and Guam will begin routinely uploading experimental hazard grids to the NDFD no later than **July 8, 2008**. The experimental period for hazard grids will last for six months, during which time the NWS will collect user feedback and comments. Afterward, the NWS will evaluate these comments and conduct an internal technical assessment to determine the future of the NDFD Hazard grids. Local WFO hazard grids will be excluded and not disseminated to NDFD.

The NDFD Hazard grid definition is defined as, **“a weather or hydrologic hazardous event issued for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy.”**

The hazard grids only apply to long duration hazards issued in AWIPS Gridded Forecast Editor (GFE). Hazards issued in WarnGen (e.g., Tornado Warning, Severe Thunderstorm Warning, Extreme Wind Warning, Flash Flood Warning, and Special Marine Warning) and RiverPro (i.e., Flood Watch and Flood Warning for forecast points) are not being created in gridded format and will not be included in the experimental Hazard grids available through NDFD.

Initially, the hazard grids will not include Gale Warnings, Storm Warnings, Hurricane Force Wind Warnings, and Heavy Freezing Spray Warnings issued in the Offshore and High Seas forecast by OPC and TAFB. In addition, Alaska Region WFOs will not provide marine hazard grids.

GRID CREATION METHODOLOGY

The hazard grids will be populated each hour in the local database when there are active long duration watch, warning and advisory hazards. The hazard grids will contain all active long duration watch, warning and advisory hazards at the spatial resolution of the NDFD database.

All CONUS WFOs, and WFOs in Alaska, Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands, Hawaii, and Guam are already producing hazard grids, but until now, have not been available through NDFD to users.. The implementation of experimental hazard grids will greatly benefit our diverse user community and help us further the mission of the NWS. Please share any comments you have on this new national grid with your local and regional management.

A detailed listing of all hazards is included in Appendix A of the Product Description Document (PDD) entitled “Experimental Hazard Grids in the National Digital Forecast Database. The PDD is posted on the NWS Catalog of New or Enhanced Products in experimental status at: <http://products.weather.gov/PDD/HazardGrid0608.pdf>.