U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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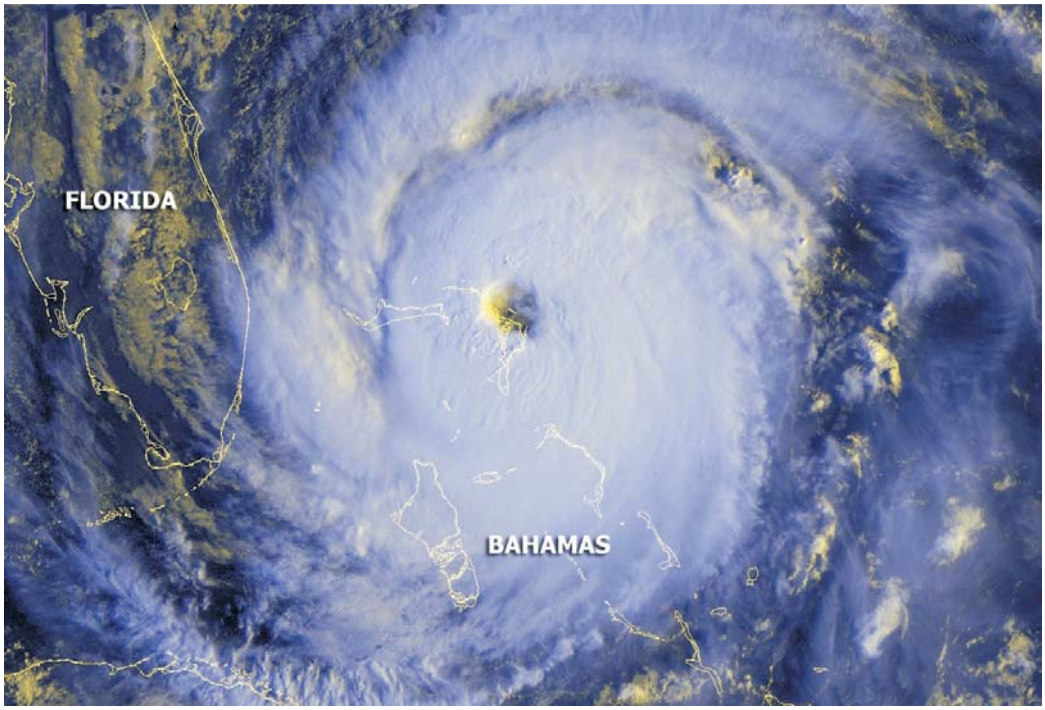
# National Hurricane Operations Plan

FCM-P12-2005




*Hurricane Jeanne - 25 September 2004*

Washington, DC
May 2005

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# NATIONAL HURRICANE OPERATIONS PLAN

FCM-P12-2005

Washington, D.C.
May 2005

## CHANGE AND REVIEW LOG

Use this page to record changes and notices of reviews.

| Change Number | Page Numbers | Date Posted | Initial |
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| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
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## FOREWORD

The Interdepartmental Hurricane Conference (IHC) is sponsored annually by the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) to provide a forum for the responsible Federal agencies, together with representatives from the user communities like emergency management, to review the Nation's hurricane forecast and warning program and to make recommendations on how to improve the program in the future. The major objective is to plan and prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. The 59th IHC was held in Jacksonville, Florida, March 7-11, 2005, and the new procedures, procedural changes, and agreements reached at the conference were incorporated into this publication—the 43rd edition of the *National Hurricane Operations Plan* (NHOP).

At the 59th IHC, the Working Group for Hurricane and Winter Storms Operations and Research (WG/HWSOR) addressed 13 action items. Of the 13, 6 will be closed through incorporation into the NHOP as approved recommendations and/or changes. Two of the items were informational in nature, and one was withdrawn. The action items will be published on the OFCM web site at www.ofcm.gov.

This edition includes a number of minor revisions and changes to Chapter 3, *General Operations and Procedures of the National Weather Service Hurricane Centers*, and Chapter 5, *Aircraft Reconnaissance*. Chapter 6, *Satellite Reconnaissance*, and Appendix A, *Local National Weather Service (NWS) Office Products*, were substantially updated, and the breakpoints for California were added to Appendix B.

For the state of Florida, the 2004 Atlantic tropical cyclone season was a season to remember. Two major hurricanes (Charley and Jeanne) hit Florida for the first time since 1950, with a third hurricane (Frances) making landfall in Florida and a fourth (Ivan) in Alabama, just west of the northern Panhandle. Hurricane Frances prompted the largest evacuation in Florida history, and Frances and Ivan each produced over 100 tornadoes in the U.S. Of the season's 15 tropical or subtropical storms, 9 became hurricanes, and 6 became major hurricanes. A record eight tropical storms formed during the month of August. Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Gaston, Ivan, and Jeanne made landfall in the U.S.—the most hurricane landfalls since 1985. The death toll for the season was over 3100, primarily due to the effects of Jeanne in Haiti; there were 60 direct deaths in the U.S. The unadjusted property damage in the U.S. is estimated to be near $45 billion—the costliest hurricane season on record for the U.S. The bottom line, however, is that forecast track errors were at record lows, and our multiagency tropical cyclone warning support system superbly responded to a very challenging season—a tribute to the professionalism, dedication, and cooperation of the civilian and military agencies involved.

Samuel P. Williamson
Federal Coordinator for Meteorological
Services and Supporting Research

**NATIONAL HURRICANE OPERATIONS PLAN**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**


**Page**

**CHANGE AND REVIEW LOG** ..... ii

**FOREWORD** ..... iii

**TABLE OF CONTENTS** ..... v

**CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION** ..... 1-1
1.1. General ..... 1-1
1.2. Scope ..... 1-1

**CHAPTER 2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF COOPERATING FEDERAL AGENCIES** ..... 2-1
2.1. General ..... 2-1
2.2. DOC Responsibilities ..... 2-1
2.3. DOD Responsibilities ..... 2-4
2.4. DOT/DHS Responsibilities ..... 2-5
2.5. Annual Liaison with Other Nations ..... 2-5
2.6. Air Traffic Control/Flight Operations Coordination ..... 2-6

**CHAPTER 3 GENERAL OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HURRICANE CENTERS** ..... 3-1
3.1. General ..... 3-1
3.2. Products ..... 3-1
3.3. Designation of Tropical and Subtropical Cyclones ..... 3-6
3.4. Transfer of Warning Responsibility ..... 3-8
3.5. Alternate Warning Responsibilities ..... 3-8
3.6. Abbreviated Communications Headings ..... 3-13
3.7. Hurricane Liaison Team (HLT) ..... 3-14

**CHAPTER 4 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PRODUCTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE** ..... 4-1
4.1. General ..... 4-1
4.2. Observations ..... 4-1
4.3. Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisories ..... 4-1

**CHAPTER 5 AIRCRAFT RECONNAISSANCE** ..... 5-1
5.1. General ..... 5-1
5.2. Responsibilities ..... 5-1
5.3. Control of Aircraft ..... 5-3
5.4. Reconnaissance Requirements ..... 5-3
5.5. Reconnaissance Planning and Flight Notification ..... 5-6
5.6. Reconnaissance Effectiveness Criteria ..... 5-18

5.7. Aerial Reconnaissance Weather Encoding, Reporting, and Coordination ..... 5-19
5.8. Operational Flight Patterns ..... 5-22
5.9. Aircraft Reconnaissance Communications ..... 5-25

**CHAPTER 6 SATELLITE SURVEILLANCE OF TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL CYCLONES** ..... 6-1
6.1. Satellites ..... 6-1
6.2. National Weather Service (NWS) Support ..... 6-5
6.3. NESDIS Satellite Analysis Branch (SAB) ..... 6-5
6.4. Air Force Support and the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) ..... 6-6
6.5. Satellites and Satellite Data Availability for the Current Hurricane Season ..... 6-9
6.6. Current Intensity and Tropical Classification Number ..... 6-13

**CHAPTER 7 SURFACE RADAR REPORTING** ..... 7-1
7.1. General ..... 7-1
7.2. The WSR-88D ..... 7-1
7.3. Procedures ..... 7-1

**CHAPTER 8 NATIONAL DATA BUOY CAPABILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS** ..... 8-1
8.1. General ..... 8-1
8.2. Requests for Drifting Buoy Deployment ..... 8-2
8.3. Communications ..... 8-2

**CHAPTER 9 MARINE WEATHER BROADCASTS** ..... 9-1
9.1. General ..... 9-1
9.2. Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) ..... 9-1
9.3. Coastal Maritime Safety Broadcasts ..... 9-2
9.4. High Seas Broadcasts ..... 9-2
9.5. Additional Information ..... 9-3

**CHAPTER 10 PUBLICITY** ..... 10-1
10.1. News Media Releases ..... 10-1
10.2. Distribution ..... 10-1

**APPENDIX A LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (NWS) OFFICE PRODUCTS** ..... A-1

**APPENDIX B DEFINING POINTS FOR TROPICAL CYCLONE WATCHS/ WARNINGS** ..... B-1

**APPENDIX C JOINT TYPHOON WARNING CENTER (JTWC) BULLETINS** ..... C-1

**APPENDIX D FORMAT FOR NHOP/NWSOP FLIGHT INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC NOTAM ISSUANCE** ..... D-1

**APPENDIX E SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE** ..... E-1

**APPENDIX F OFFICIAL INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS** ..... F-1

**APPENDIX G RECCO, HDOB, MINOB, AND TEMP DROP CODES, TABLES, AND REGULATIONS** ..... G-1

**APPENDIX H WSR-88D OPERATIONS PLAN FOR TROPICAL CYCLONE EVENTS** ..... H-1

**APPENDIX I TELEPHONE AND TELETYPE LISTING** ..... I-1

**APPENDIX J PHONETIC PRONUNCIATION LISTING** ..... J-1

**APPENDIX K ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS** ..... K-1

**APPENDIX L GLOSSARY** ..... L-1

**APPENDIX M DISTRIBUTION** ..... M-1

## LIST OF FIGURES


**Figure** **Page**

1-1. Tropical cyclone forecast centers' areas of responsibility ..... 1-2
2-1. Typhoon Songda, August 31, 2004 ..... 2-3
3-1. HPC Public Advisory Product Format ..... 3-4
3-2. Aviation Tropical Cyclone Advisory Format ..... 3-5
4-1. Tropical cyclone forecast/advisory format ..... 4-3
4-2. Tropical cyclone public advisory format ..... 4-4
5-1. WC-130 Weather Reconnaissance Aircraft ..... 5-2
5-2. G-IV Weather Surveillance Aircraft ..... 5-2
5-3. NOAA P-3 Weather Surveillance Aircraft ..... 5-3
5-4. Vortex data message worksheet ..... 5-7
5-5. Supplementary vortex data message ..... 5-8
5-6. Example Vortex Data Messages (VDM) and Supplementary Vortex Data Messages (SVDM) for the WC-130H and WC-130J ..... 5-12
5-7. NHOP coordinated request for aircraft reconnaissance ..... 5-13
5-8. Tropical cyclone plan of the day format ..... 5-14
5-9. Mission evaluation form ..... 5-20
5-10. Flight pattern ALPHA ..... 5-22
5-11. Suggested patterns for investigative missions ..... 5-23
5-12. Schematic of aircraft-to-satellite data link for NOAA P-3 aircraft ..... 5-26
5-13. Schematic of aircraft-to-satellite data link for AFRC WC-130 aircraft ..... 5-27
6-1. The GOES satellite system ..... 6-3
6-2. Center fix data form and message format (satellite) ..... 6-8
8-1. Example Buoy and Float Deployment Pattern ..... 8-5
A-1. Hurricane Local Statement Format ..... A-7
A-2. Inland Wind NPW Product Format ..... A-10
A-3. Post-Tropical Cyclone Report Format ..... A-13
B-1. Tropical Cyclone Break Points for the Northeast ..... B-3
B-2. Tropical Cyclone Break Points for the Southeast ..... B-4
B-3. Tropical Cyclone Break Points for the Gulf of Mexico ..... B-4
G-1. Reconnaissance code recording form ..... G-2
G-2. HDOB Description and Sample Messages ..... G-6
G-3. MinOb Description and Sample Message ..... G-8
G-4. Example TEMP DROP Message for Tropical Cyclones ..... G-15

## LIST OF TABLES


**Table** **Page**

3-1. Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Names ..... 3-9
3-2. Eastern Pacific Tropical Cyclone Names ..... 3-10
3-3. Central Pacific Tropical Cyclone Names ..... 3-11
3-4. International Tropical Cyclone Names for the Western Pacific and South China Sea ..... 3-12
5-1. Requirement for aircraft reconnaissance data ..... 5-5
5-2. Vortex data message entry explanation ..... 5-9
6-1. Communications headings for satellite tropical weather discussion summaries ..... 6-7
6-2. Satellite and satellite data availability for the current hurricane season ..... 6-9
6-3. The empirical relationship between the C.I. number and the maximum wind speed and the relationship between the T-number and the minimum sea-level pressure ..... 6-13
7-1. Participating radar stations ..... 7-2
8-1. Moored buoy locations and configurations ..... 8-3
8-2. C-MAN sites ..... 8-4
8-3. Code forms for moored data buoys, C-MAN stations, and drifting buoys ..... 8-6
G-l. Reconnaissance code tables ..... G-3
G-2. Reconnaissance code regulations ..... G-5
G-3. HDOB Message Format ..... G-7
G-4. NOAA MinOb Message Format ..... G-9
G-5. TEMP DROP code ..... G-10