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Public Information Statement 18-27
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
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From: Allison Allen
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Subject: Alerting partners to the potential for non-sequential
 Tropical Cyclone (TC) storm numbering in the Atlantic
 Basin effective immediately

This Public Information Statement is intended to alert users of
NWS TC products that non-sequential numbering of TCs in the
Atlantic basin may be necessary effective immediately.

NWSI 10-601: "Tropical Cyclone Forecast Center Products" details
storm numbering and naming conventions in Section 3, which
explains that all systems requiring advisory packages (i.e.,
TCs or potential TCs, whether tropical or subtropical) will be
sequentially numbered within their basin of origin. NWSI
10-607: "Tropical Cyclone Advisory Products" is online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01006007curr.pdf>

TC advisory products from the National Hurricane Center include:

PRODUCT	AWIPS PIL*	WMO HEADER
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TC Public Advisory	TCPAT/1-5/	WTNT/31-35/ KNHC
TC Wind Speed Probabilities	PWSAT/1-5/	FONT/11-15/ KNHC
TC Forecast / Advisory	TCMAT/1-5/	WTNT/21-25/ KNHC
TC Discussion	TCDAT/1-5/	WTNT/41-45/ KNHC
National TC VTEC Product	TCVAT/1-5/	WTNT/81-85/ KNHC
TC Update	TCUAT/1-5/	WTNT/61-65/ KNHC
Aviation TC Advisory Message	TCANT/1-5/	FKNT/21-25/ KNHC

* AWIPS PIL - AWIPS Product Identifier Label

These products use five distinct bins (i.e., AWIPS PILs and WMO
Headers that vary only by the last digit, a numerical value from
1-5). The bins are used in sequential order such that the first
system requiring advisory packages in the Atlantic basin is
storm number AL01 and has products with AWIPS PILs and WMO
headers ending in 1 (i.e., bin 1), the second system (AL02) has
products ending in 2, etc. The sixth system of the year (AL06)
in a particular basin will have products that end in 1, cycling

back to the beginning of the bin numbers as all of the bin numbers up to that point (i.e., 1-5) have recently been used.

There is a complication, however, in the 2018 hurricane season. Hurricane Florence has the storm number AL06 and is using AWIPS PILs and WMO headers ending with 1. Currently, advisories are being written for systems ending with 3, 4, and 5 for Helene (AL08), Isaac (AL09) and Joyce (AL10), respectively. The next system in the Atlantic would normally be AL11, which would usually correspond to AWIPS PILs and WMO headers ending with 1; however, products for Hurricane Florence are already using these AWIPS PILs and WMO headers.

If another TC, potential TC, or subtropical cyclone forms in the Atlantic basin before advisory packages are discontinued for Florence, it will have AWIPS PILs and WMO headers ending with 2 and will be numbered AL12.

The AWIPS TC software used by the NWS Weather Forecast Offices assumes a strict relationship between the storm ID and the bin number. If the storm number AL11 was used while advisories are still being written on Hurricane Florence, advisory products for AL11 would be assumed by this software to use the exact same AWIPS PILs and WMO headers as Florence. Given this assumption and possible NWS user software dependencies on the expected relationship between storm number and the AWIPS PIL/WMO header, storm number AL11 will need to be skipped to ensure no conflict with Hurricane Florence advisory products.

If this occurs, NHC will provide an explanation of the issue in the Tropical Cyclone Discussion product for the new storm.

Questions should be directed to:

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<https://www.weather.gov/notification>

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