



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: June 29, 2017

In reply refer to: M-17-10 through -16

Dr. Louis W. Uccellini
Director
National Weather Service
1325 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

On June 20, 2017, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) adopted its safety recommendation report *Tropical Cyclone Information for Mariners*, related to the October 1, 2015, sinking of cargo vessel *El Faro*. Additional information about this accident and the resulting recommendations may be found in the safety recommendation report, which can be accessed at our website, www.nts.gov, under report number NTSB/MSR-17/02.

As a result of this investigation, we issued two recommendations to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, one recommendation to the US Coast Guard, and the following seven recommendations to the National Weather Service:

M-17-10

Work with international partners to develop and implement a plan to ensure immediate dissemination to mariners, via Inmarsat-C SafetyNET (and appropriate future technology), of the Intermediate Public Advisories and Tropical Cyclone Updates issued by the National Weather Service, in a manner similar to the current process of disseminating the Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisory.

M-17-11

Modify your directives to ensure, for all tropical cyclones of tropical storm strength or greater within your jurisdiction, that your facilities issue, at the 3-hour interval between regularly scheduled Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisories, an Intermediate Public Advisory, a Tropical Cyclone Update, or another product available (or expected to be available) to mariners via Inmarsat-C SafetyNET (and appropriate future technology), and that the product include coordinates of current storm center position, maximum sustained surface winds, current movement, and minimum central pressure.

M-17-12

Modify your directives to ensure that the “next advisory” time in a Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisory clearly indicates when to expect the next update of “current” or forecast information for that particular tropical cyclone.

M-17-13

Quantitatively define “significant change” in terms of both the track and intensity of a tropical cyclone to guide the issuance of Special Advisory packages.

M-17-14

Ensure that tropical cyclone graphic products issued by entities such as the National Hurricane Center, the Central Pacific Hurricane Center, the Guam Weather Forecast Office, the Joint Typhoon Warning Center, and Fleet Weather Center–Norfolk are made available in near-real time via the FTPmail service.

M-17-15

Allow users to schedule recurring, automated receipt of specific National Weather Service products through an enhanced FTPmail service (and appropriate future technology).

M-17-16

Develop and implement a plan for soliciting feedback from the marine user community, particularly ship masters, about the accuracy, timeliness, and usability of weather services to mariners.

Acting Chairman SUMWALT and Members HART, WEENER, and DINH-ZARR concurred in these recommendations.

The NTSB is vitally interested in these recommendations because they are designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement them. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendations by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to correspondence@ntsb.gov.

[Original Signed]

By: Robert L. Sumwalt, III
Acting Chairman