

Starting on 01 June 2011, the Joint Typhoon Warning Center will change its classification of tropical disturbances listed in the Significant Tropical Weather Advisories from “Poor”, “Fair”, or “Good” to “Low,” “Medium,” or “High” based on the formation potential of a tropical disturbance to develop into a significant tropical cyclone within the next 24 hours.

This change allows the Joint Typhoon Warning Center to describe the formation potential in more understandable terms. The formal definitions are:

- (1) “Low” formation potential describes an area that is being monitored for development, but is unlikely to develop within the next 24 hours.
- (2) “Medium” formation potential describes an area that is being monitored for development and has an elevated potential to develop, but development will likely occur beyond 24 hours.
- (3) “High” formation potential describes an area that is being monitored for development and is either expected to develop within 24 hours or development has already started, but warning criteria have not yet been met. Like areas previously assessed as “Good”, all areas designated as “High” will be accompanied by a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert.

This change reflects feedback from many of our customers indicating that the previous terminology was both confusing and was not consistent with the descriptors used by the U. S. National Weather Service.