

File formats for HPC's guidance

All of HPC's guidance is located on our anonymous ftp server and can be accessed via the following link <ftp://ftp.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/buan/> At this page, you will see directories for each day from September 21-23. Each directory contains the forecasts issued at 00Z, 06Z, 12Z and 18Z on the given day. The 06Z and 18Z issuances are the preliminary forecasts (only available for Days 1-2) for the 12Z and 00Z issuances, respectively.

Specific formats

6-Hour QPFs

Generic Format – “fill_9xewbg_yyyymmddcc.gif” where
 x – character denoting the forecast projection
 yyymmddcc – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle.

Example: **fill_92ewbg_2010092100.gif**.

This is the 6-hour forecast issued at 00Z September 21, 2010, and valid from 00Z September 21 through 06Z September 21 (the first valid forecast period of this issuance). The following table describes the character code associated with each forecast projection:

Product	Associated Forecast Day	Valid time
92e	Day 1/1 st 6-hour period	0-6 hours from issuance time
93e	Day 1/2 nd 6-hour period	6-12 hours from issuance time
9ee	Day 1/3 rd 6-hour period	12-18 hours from issuance time
9fe	Day 1/4 th 6-hour period	18-24 hours from issuance time
9ge	Day 2/1 st 6-hour period	24-30 hours from issuance time
9he	Day 2/2 nd 6-hour period	30-36 hours from issuance time
9ie	Day 2/3 rd 6-hour period	36-42 hours from issuance time
9je	Day 2/4 th 6-hour period	42-48 hours from issuance time
9ke	Day 3/1 st 6-hour period	48-54 hours from issuance time
9le	Day 3/2 nd 6-hour period	54-60 hours from issuance time
9oe	Day 3/3 rd 6-hour period	60-66 hours from issuance time
9ne	Day 3/4 th 6-hour period	66-72 hours from issuance time

12-hour QPFs

Generic Format – “hpcqpf_YYYYMMDDCC_12hr_f0hh.gif” where
 YYYYMMDDCC – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle.
 hh – forecast hour projection from the initial time

Example: **hpcqpf_2010092112_12hr_f036.gif.**

This is the 12-hour QPF issued at 12Z September 21, 2010 and valid from 24-36 hours after issuance time (in this case, it would be valid from 12Z September 22, 2010 through 00Z September 23, 2010).

24-hour QPFs

Generic Format – “fill_9xqwbg_YYYYMMDDCC.gif” where
 x – character denoting the forecast projection
 YYYYMMDDCC – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle.

Example: **fill_94qwbg_2010092100.gif.**

This is the Day 1 24-hour forecast issued at 00Z September 21, 2010, and valid from 00Z September 21 through 00Z September 22. The following table describes the character code associated with each forecast projection:

Product	Associated Forecast Day	Valid time
94q	Day 1	0-24 hours from issuance time
98q	Day 2	24-48 hours from issuance time
99q	Day 3	48-72 hours from issuance time

48, 72, and 120-hour QPFs

Day 1-2 48-hour QPF format – “**d12ddcc_yyyymmddcc.gif**” where
ddcc- the initial day and cycle of the forecast
yyymmddcc – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle.

Example: d122112_2010092112.gif.

This is the Day 1-2 48-hour QPF issued at 12Z September 21, 2010 and valid for the period 12Z September 21 through 12Z September 23.

Day 1-3 72-hour QPF format – “**d13ddcc_yyyymmddcc.gif**” where
ddcc- the initial day and cycle of the forecast
yyymmddcc – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle.

Example:

d132112_2010092112.gif. This is the Day 1-3 72-hour QPF issued at 12Z September 21, 2010 and valid for the period 12Z September 21 through 12Z September 24, 2010.

Day 4-5 48-hour QPF format – “**95ep48i_yyyymmddcc.gif**” where
yyymmddcc – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle.

Example:

95ep48i_2010092112.gif. The Day 4-5 48-hour QPF issued at 12Z September 21, 2010 and valid for the period 12Z September 24-12Z September 26, 2010.

Day 1-5 120-hour QPF format – “**p120i_yyyymmddcc_fill.gif**” where
yyymmddcc – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle.

Example:

p120i_2010092112_fill.gif. This is the Day 1-5 120-hour QPF issued at 12Z September 21, 2010 and valid for the period 12Z September 21 through 12Z September 26, 2010.