

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TALLAHASSEE FL
1207 PM EDT TUE SEP 27 2016

To: Emergency management officials, news media, and other users.

Effective Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at 1 pm EDT (1700 UTC) the National Weather Service in Tallahassee will change the vertical datum used for river forecast and data points within the Suwannee River Water Management District's (SRWMD) area of responsibility. This includes the following rivers in the NWS Tallahassee area of responsibility:

Aucilla River
Econfina River
Steinhatchee River
Suwannee River
Withlacoochee River

Currently, river observations at the data and forecast points on these rivers are reported in height above sea level in the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29). The SRWMD recently completed a survey for each of these locations in the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88). Use of this new datum is more accurate than the NGVD29 datum and also allows easier reference to established flood maps and base flood elevations, which are depicted in the NAVD88 datum.

Flood stages will be converted at most forecast and observation points to height above sea level in NAVD88 and then rounded to the nearest whole number, or nearest half foot, when the station is affected by tides.

Flood stages for the Suwannee River at Dowling Park, Suwannee River at Luraville, Suwannee River at Ellaville, and Suwannee River at Branford, will be further modified based on recently completed inundation mapping modelling for these locations.

These updates are a direct result of survey work completed by the SRWMD, coordination between emergency management officials across North Florida, The Florida Division of Emergency Management and the United States Geological Survey in Florida.

The following river forecast points are included in this service change:

Aucilla River near Lamont (LAMF1)
Econfina River near Perry (ECOF1)
Steinhatchee River near Cross City (STEF1)
Suwannee River near Ellaville (ELLF1)*
Suwannee River near Dowling Park (DOUF1)*
Suwannee River near Luraville (LURF1)*
Suwannee River near Branford (BFDF1)*
Suwannee River near Wilcox (WCXF1)
Suwannee River at Manatee Springs (MTSF1)
Suwannee River at Fowlers Bluff (FWBF1)
Withlacoochee River near Pinetta (PINF1)

*additional flood stage modifications based on inundation mapping

The following river observation points are included in this service change:

Aucilla River at Sneads Smokehouse Lake (ASHF1)

Suwannee River near Rock Bluff (RCKF1)
Suwannee River at Gopher River (SUWF1)
Withlacoochee River near Madison (WTMF1)
Withlacoochee River near Lee (WTHF1)

Documentation on these changes can be found at the following website:

Aucilla River:

<http://www.weather.gov/media/tae/hydro/Aucilla.pdf>

Suwannee River:

<http://www.weather.gov/media/tae/hydro/Suwannee.pdf>

Withlacoochee River:

<http://www.weather.gov/media/tae/hydro/Withlacoochee.pdf>

Steinhatchee and Econfina Rivers:

<http://www.weather.gov/media/tae/hydro/TaylorCounty.pdf>

The data for these forecast and observation points are provided through our partners, the United States Geological Survey and the Suwannee River Water Management District. Without these observations, forecasts and warnings within the Suwannee River Basin would not be possible. You can learn more about stream gauges in Florida by visiting:

<http://fl.water.usgs.gov>

<http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us>

To get the latest information on these and other river points in the Tallahassee area of responsibility, please visit our website at:

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=tae>

River forecast and warning services for these forecast points are supported by the National Weather Service in Tallahassee. You can learn more about this office by visiting our website at:

<http://www.weather.gov/tae>

For further information regarding this change, please contact:

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