

Public Information Statement  
National Weather Service Burlington VT  
900 AM EDT Tue Aug 1 2023

To:       Subscribers:  
          -Family of Services  
          -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
          -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
          Other NWS partners, users and employees

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Subj:     Changes in gage reporting and flood categories for stream  
          gages on Lake Champlain at:

          -Rouses Point, NY  
          -Burlington, VT  
          -Port Henry, NY  
          -Whitehall, NY

Effective at approximately 0900 UTC Coordinated Universal Time on October 16, 2023, the NWS in Burlington will change the Gage Datum for stream gages on Lake Champlain at Rouses Point, NY, Burlington, VT, Port Henry, NY and Whitehall, NY. The new datums will reference elevations above the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88), replacing prior references to elevations above National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29).

Because of this change, starting on Monday, October 16, 2023, stages on affected gages will read lower than they would have been under the old NGVD 29 system. This change is being made as a part of a U.S Geological Survey initiative to modernize vertical datums associated with stream gaging equipment. It is important to note that to ensure consistency in NWS flood forecast and warning services, this change also requires a CHANGE TO FLOOD CATEGORY ELEVATIONS with this update which will be valid for ALL AFFECTED GAGES. Those with recreational and/or property interests along the lake should make note of these changes and understand that impacts from high lake levels will occur at slightly lower levels than in the past, before the change. The new flood category elevations and offsets from the old NGVD 29 datum system are shown below for the affected gages for reference.

GAGE OFFSETS FROM NGVD 29 ON THE UPDATED NAVD 88 DATUM SYSTEM

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Rouses Point, NY:     -0.43 feet  
Burlington, VT:       -0.60 feet  
Port Henry, NY:       -0.60 feet

Whitehall, NY: -0.53 feet

NEW FLOOD CATEGORY LEVELS FOR LAKE CHAMPLAIN (VALID FOR ALL GAGES)

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FLOOD LEVEL	WAS	NEW FLOOD LEVEL
ACTION STAGE	99.5 FEET	99.0 FEET
MINOR FLOOD	100.0 FEET	99.5 FEET
MODERATE FLOOD	101.0 FEET	100.5 FEET
MAJOR FLOOD	101.5 FEET	101.0 FEET

For example, a gage level reading of 100.0 feet at the Rouses Point, NY gage under the old NGVD 29 datum system will read as 99.57 feet within the new NAVD 88 datum system using the offset of -0.43 feet.

The National Weather Service welcomes public feedback. If you have any questions or comments concerning this change, please contact:

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