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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...COMMENT REQUEST CORRECTED  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
235 PM EDT MON MAY 18 2009

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:  
-FAMILY OF SERVICES  
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE  
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK  
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: THERESE Z. PIERCE  
CHIEF...MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: SOLICITING COMMENTS FOR EXPERIMENTAL SAFFIR-  
SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE REVISION THROUGH  
NOVEMBER 30 2009

CORRECTED TO CLARIFY SAFFIR-SIMPSON CATEGORIES AND MOVE  
TROPICAL CYCLONE PUBLIC ADVISORY UNDER LIST OF NHC/CPHC  
PRODUCTS OFFERING STORM SURGE REFERENCES

BEGINNING JUNE 1 2009 AND CONTINUING THROUGH NOVEMBER 30  
2009... NWS IS SEEKING USER FEEDBACK ON EXPERIMENTALLY  
REMOVING STORM SURGE AND FLOODING REFERENCES FROM THE  
SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE. THE CHANGE WOULD APPLY TO  
STORMS IN THE ATLANTIC AND EASTERN NORTH AND CENTRAL  
PACIFIC BASINS. NWS PROPOSES TO RENAME THE SCALE THE  
SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE.

THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE /DEFINITIONS AND  
EFFECTS/ IN ITS CURRENT FORM INCLUDES STORM SURGE RANGES  
AND FLOODING REFERENCES. STORM SURGE RANGES SHOWN IN THE  
EXISTING SCALE ARE FREQUENTLY INCORRECT FOR THE INDICATED  
CATEGORY AS DETERMINED SOLELY BY WIND SPEED AND POTENTIALLY  
MISLEADING IN PREPAREDNESS DECISIONS SINCE THE ACTUAL  
FLOODING DEPENDS ON SEVERAL OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS STORM  
SIZE AND LANDFALL LOCATION.

THEREFORE...ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS FOR THE 2009 TROPICAL  
CYCLONE SEASON...THESE STORM SURGE RANGES AND FLOODING  
REFERENCES WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE DEFINITION/EFFECTS FOR  
ALL CATEGORIES...CATEGORIES ONE THROUGH FIVE. THE REVISED  
CONTENT WILL BE INCLUDED EXPERIMENTALLY THIS YEAR IN A  
SCALE CALLED THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE.

EXPECTED STORM SURGE AND COASTAL FLOODING FOR INDIVIDUAL  
STORMS ARE CONTAINED IN OTHER NWS PRODUCTS:

THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER /NHC/ AND CENTRAL PACIFIC  
HURRICANE CENTER /CPHC/:

-TROPICAL CYCLONE DISCUSSION  
-TROPICAL CYCLONE PUBLIC ADVISORY

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER ONLY:  
-GRAPHICAL TROPICAL CYCLONE STORM SURGE PROBABILITIES

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES:  
-HURRICANE LOCAL STATEMENT  
-AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION  
-SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT  
-COASTAL HAZARD MESSAGE

MORE INFORMATION IS ONLINE AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

[HTTP://WEATHER.GOV/INFOSERVICECHANGES/SSHWS.PDF](http://weather.gov/info-service-changes/sshws.pdf)

THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE DEFINITIONS AND EFFECTS CAN BE VIEWED AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

FOR NHC: [HTTP://WWW.NHC.NOAA.GOV/ABOUTSSH.SHTML](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutssh.html)

FOR CPHC: [HTTP://WEATHER.GOV/CPHC/PAGES/ABOUTSSH.PHP](http://weather.gov/cphc/pages/aboutssh.php)

USERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THIS EXPERIMENTAL CHANGE TO NHCWEBMASTER@NOAA.GOV FOR NHC AND W-HFO.WEBMASTER@NOAA.GOV FOR CPHC.

A LINK TO ALL NHC EXPERIMENTAL PRODUCTS IS ALSO PROVIDED AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NHC.NOAA.GOV/ABOUTEXPERIMENTAL.SHTML](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutexperimental.shtml)

IF YOU HAVE COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

TIMOTHY SCHOTT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH  
1325 EAST WEST HWY ROOM 13126  
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND 20910  
TIMOTHY.SCHOTT@NOAA.GOV  
301-713-1677 x122

NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/NOTIF.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm)

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