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SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 09-15
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
310 PM EST TUE FEB 24 2009

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS...NOAA
WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS...EMERGENCY
MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/
SUBSCRIBERS...NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS...OTHER NATIONAL
WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS...
AND NWS EMPLOYEES

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

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO STORM SURGE INFORMATION IN TROPICAL
CYCLONE PUBLIC ADVISORIES FROM THE NATIONAL
HURRICANE CENTER: EFFECTIVE MAY 15 2009

REFERENCE: SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 09-14 ISSUED FEB 24 2009

STARTING IN 2009...IN AN EFFORT TO ENSURE STORM SURGE FORECASTS
ARE FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE WIDEST POSSIBLE AUDIENCE...THE
NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER /NHC/ WILL CHANGE THE WORDING IN THE
PUBLIC ADVISORY TEXT PRODUCTS TO REFERENCE STORM SURGE OR STORM
TIDE IN TERMS OF HEIGHT ABOVE GROUND LEVEL.

STORM SURGE REFERS TO THE ABNORMAL RISE IN SEA LEVEL
ACCOMPANYING A HURRICANE...THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE OBSERVED
LEVEL OF THE SEA SURFACE AND THE LEVEL THAT WOULD HAVE OCCURRED
IN THE ABSENCE OF THE CYCLONE.

STORM TIDE IS THE ACTUAL LEVEL OF SEA WATER RESULTING FROM THE
ASTRONOMIC TIDE COMBINED WITH THE STORM SURGE. STORM TIDE IS OF
PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN THE NORTHERN LATITUDES...WHERE
THERE IS A GREATER DIFFERENCE IN HEIGHTS BETWEEN HIGH AND LOW
TIDE LEVELS...AND WHEN A STORM IS EXPECTED TO LANDFALL NEAR THE
TIMES OF ASTRONOMICAL HIGH TIDE.

BEGINNING IN 2009...NHC PUBLIC ADVISORY PRODUCTS /TCP/S WILL
PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING POSSIBLE STATEMENTS ON COASTAL FLOODING
ASSOCIATED WITH TROPICAL CYCLONES:

EXAMPLE 1

STORM SURGE WILL RAISE WATER LEVELS BY AS MUCH AS NN /FOR
EXAMPLE 15/ FEET ABOVE GROUND LEVEL ALONG THE COAST...WITH LARGE
AND DANGEROUS BATTERING WAVES...NEAR AND TO THE ZZZZ /DIRECTION
FOR EXAMPLE EAST/ OF WHERE THE CENTER MAKES LANDFALL. THE SURGE
COULD PENETRATE AS FAR INLAND AS ABOUT NN /FOR EXAMPLE 30/ MILES
FROM THE SHORE WITH DEPTH GENERALLY DECREASING AS THE WATER
MOVES INLAND.

EXAMPLE 2

STORM TIDE WILL RAISE WATER LEVELS BY AS MUCH AS NN /FOR EXAMPLE 18/ FEET ABOVE GROUND LEVEL ALONG THE COAST...WITH LARGE AND DANGEROUS BATTERING WAVES...NEAR AND TO THE ZZZZ /DIRECTION FOR EXAMPLE EAST/ OF WHERE THE CENTER MAKES LANDFALL. STORM TIDE COULD PENETRATE AS FAR INLAND AS ABOUT NN /FOR EXAMPLE 30/ MILES FROM THE SHORE WITH DEPTH GENERALLY DECREASING AS THE WATER MOVES INLAND.

PLEASE SEE SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 09-14...ISSUED ON FEB 24 2009...FOR FORMAT CHANGES TO TROPICAL CYCLONE PUBLIC ADVISORY PRODUCTS FOR THE ATLANTIC...EAST PACIFIC...AND CENTRAL PACIFIC HURRICANE BASINS: EFFECTIVE MAY 15 2009.

AN EXAMPLE OF THE TCP PRODUCT FOR 2009 IS PROVIDED ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

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

THE NHC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL METEOROLOGICAL DECISIONS CONCERNING FORECASTING OF TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL SYSTEMS FOR THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN...NORTH OF THE EQUATOR AND EAST OF 140 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

TIMOTHY SCHOTT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH
1325 EAST WEST HWY ROOM 13124
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THIS AND OTHER SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIF/HTM](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif/htm)

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