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

TO: SUSCRIBERS:
-FAMILY OF SERVICES
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK
-NOAAPORT
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND 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](#).

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.

BEGINNNING 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](#) 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/:

[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
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MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH
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NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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