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.

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 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

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
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND
PHONE: 301-713-1677 EXTENSION 122

NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/: 

HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE

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