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FROM:  Allison Allen
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SUBJECT: Changes to the Post Tropical Cyclone text product
         issued by WFOs following tropical cyclones effective on
         or around June 1, 2019

The format of the Post Tropical Cyclone Report (PSH) text
product NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) will change
effective on or around June 1, 2019.

The overall structure of the PSH text product will remain the
same, but the format of Section E will be updated including
modifications to the section title. The section header will
changed from:

E. MAXIMUM STORM SURGE AND STORM TIDE

to:
E. MAXIMUM OBSERVED WATER LEVEL (WL)

The phrase OFFICIAL TIDE GAUGES NOTED WITH LEADING G will be
removed.

The first line of each observation will now include the NWS
station identifier (ID) code, the location of the observation
(city/town or station name) and the county/parish and state,
followed by the peak measured water level in feet to two decimal
places, the reference level (datum) of the observed value, the
date and time (UTC) of the observation, and the source of the
water level measurement.

The second line of each observation will include the latitude
and longitude of the observed value in decimal degrees to four
decimal places.

Section E will no longer contain the peak storm surge value and
information pertaining to beach erosion. Beach erosion
information may be included in Section G. STORM IMPACTS BY
COUNTY if necessary. There will also no longer be individual
remarks below each observation. Overall remarks (if necessary)
may still be included at the end of the section.
These changes were made to standardize how maximum water level is reported by including only one peak overall height for each location during the event. Peak surge was removed because it only represents the departure from normal tide levels and often times does not coincide with maximum overall water level (when surge related inundation is greatest). Furthermore, the inclusion of the data source and reference datum removes ambiguity in the peak water level measurements, allowing for easier comparison of water levels collected by different agencies and across different WFOs.

These changes will ensure consistency of information provided across all WFOs required to issue the PSH product following tropical cyclones.

An example of the change can be found at: 
https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/productexamples/PSH_example2.txt

While the NWS continues to evaluate the format of the remaining sections of the PSH, no further changes are planned at this time.

Please send comments or requests for more information to:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:
https://www.weather.gov/notification/

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