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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 18-07
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From: Allison Allen
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Subject: Changes to Section E of the Post Tropical Cyclone
 Report (PSH) Noted in the 2018 Version of NWSI 10-601
 Will Be Delayed Until Further Notice

Until further notice, software implementation delays will prevent National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) from having the capability to issue Section E of the PSH product using the format and content described in the 2018 version of NWSI 10-601: Weather Forecast Office Tropical Cyclone Products.

The PSH is the primary WFO tropical cyclone product issued to the public to report and document local tropical cyclone impacts. For the foreseeable future, Section E of the PSH will continue to provide maximum storm surge and storm tide information, and the following guidelines will apply:

"Section e - Maximum storm surge and storm tide: The preferred reference levels for reporting storm tide (total water level) are the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD-88) vertical datum and Above Ground Level (AGL). For NOS tide stations or other tide reporting systems, Mean Higher High Water (MHHW) should be used to approximate inundation along the immediate coast. For USGS high water marks (HWMs), AGL measurements are typically provided, and no conversion is required. For U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) pressure sensors and HWMs, report only NAVD-88 if AGL values are missing. Do not include HMWs based on debris lines found on the ground in a PSH, as debris lines are often influenced by waves and may not accurately represent the surge. As such, they may not accurately represent the surge. Report storm surge in feet above the normal predicted (astronomical) tide level. Identify location and date / time (UTC) of peak occurrence where possible. Report storm surge / tide greater than 1 foot, with tides of less than 1 foot reported as needed or as requested. Report extent of beach erosion as appropriate.

The NOS Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and

Services (NOS CO-OPS) will provide a final report of storm surge and storm tide information from NOS tide gauges to NWS Regional offices within 4 days following the issuance of the final HLS. The PSH will reflect the data and appropriate reference datums provided in the NOS report."

The following is an example of the PSH product that will be valid for the foreseeable future:

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/productexamples/PSH_example.txt

The changes reflected in the 2018 version of NWSI 10-601, but not yet implemented, will be made to standardize how maximum water level is reported by including only one peak overall height for each location during the event. Peak surge will be removed because it only represents the departure from normal tide levels and often 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.

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

An example of the upcoming change to PSH Section E can be found at:

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/productexamples/PSH_example2.txt

A Service Change Notice will be issued within 30 days of the expected implementation of the changes to the PSH Section E described above.

For more information, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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