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Public Information Statement 20-36 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
200 PM EDT Thu Sep 1 2022

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From: Greg Schoor, Chief
 Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Soliciting Public Comments through November 30, 2022 on an Experimental Graphic that Depicts the Peak Storm Surge Forecast from the Tropical Cyclone Public Advisory Product when Storm Surge Watch/Warnings are in Effect

Updated to include the solicitation of comments on the Keyhole Markup Language (KML) version of the Experimental Peak Storm Surge Forecast Graphic.

The National Weather Service (NWS) is soliciting public comments through November 30, 2022 on an experimental Peak Storm Surge Forecast Graphic provided by the National Hurricane Center (NHC). The NWS has been providing this experimental graphic since May 2020 and is extending the comment period through the 2022 hurricane season. The graphic has been modified since the 2021 season to include an updated disclaimer and color-coding for peak storm surge forecast at the coast as follows:

Blue = Up to 3 feet above ground level
Yellow = Up to 6 feet above ground level
Orange = Up to 9 feet above ground level
Red = Up to 12 feet above ground level
Purple = 12 feet or greater above ground level

The graphic depicts the peak storm surge forecast provided in the Tropical Cyclone Public Advisory product for U.S. locations when a storm surge watch or warning is in effect. Storm surge watches and warnings are currently issued only for locations in the Atlantic basin on the U.S. East and Gulf Coasts and in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The graphic will be made available approximately 15 minutes after the release of the scheduled advisory time. Scheduled advisory times are at 0300, 0900, 1500, and 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). When storm surge watches or warnings are active, the graphic can be found in the relevant active storm table on the NHC website:

<https://hurricanes.gov>

The forecast peak storm surge values are found in the STORM SURGE portion of the HAZARDS AFFECTING LAND section of the Tropical Cyclone Public Advisory. An example of an NHC Public Advisory Product that provides forecast storm surge values for a tropical cyclone with active storm surge watches and warnings can be found here:

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/archive/2020/a109/a1092020.public.027.shtml>

An example of the experimental graphic that NHC will issue during the 2022 hurricane season to depict the forecast storm surge values provided in their Public Advisory Product can be found here:

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/productexamples/PeakStormSurgeForecast.shtml>

This experimental graphic is available in Keyhole Markup Language (KML) format. During an ongoing tropical cyclone event where the Experimental Peak Storm Surge Forecast Graphic is provided, the KML version of the active graphic can be found using the link below. Also, there is a sample KML product provided with the "Experimental Peak Storm Surge" entry on this webpage:

<https://hurricanes.gov/gis>

Please note that the KML format files will not be archived during this experimental period.

In the future, this graphic may be provided for other locations when affected by significant tropical cyclone storm surge. If you have feedback to share on these potential future changes or on the sample graphic, please fill out the electronic survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ForecastPeakStormSurgeGraphic>

Additional comments may be sent to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification>

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