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Service Change Notice 19-18
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Allison Allen, Chief
 Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Addition of Tropical Cyclone Storm Surge Watches and Warnings for Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands: Effective on or around June 1, 2019

Reference: Service Change Notice 17-16 posted February 17, 2017: Addition of Tropical Cyclone Storm Surge Watches and Warnings for the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of the Contiguous United States: Effective on or around June 1, 2017 posted at:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn17-16trop_storm_surgeaaa.pdf

Effective on or around June 1, 2019, the NWS will implement Storm Surge Watches and Warnings in association with potential and ongoing Atlantic basin tropical cyclones (i.e., hurricanes, tropical storms and tropical depressions), subtropical cyclones or post-tropical cyclones affecting Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This is an expansion of the current capability to issue Storm Surge Watches and Warnings for the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of the Contiguous U.S. (CONUS).

Definitions for Storm Surge Watch and Warning are provided below:

Storm Surge Watch: The possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 48 hours, in association with an ongoing or potential tropical cyclone, a subtropical cyclone, or a post-tropical cyclone. The watch may be issued earlier when other conditions, such as the onset of tropical-storm-force winds, are expected to limit the time available to take protective actions for surge (e.g., evacuations). The watch may also be issued for locations not expected to receive life-threatening inundation, but which could potentially be isolated by inundation in adjacent areas.

Storm Surge Warning: The danger of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 36 hours, in association with an ongoing or potential tropical cyclone, a subtropical cyclone or a post-tropical cyclone. The warning may be issued earlier when other conditions, such

as the onset of tropical-storm-force winds, are expected to limit the time available to take protective actions for surge (e.g., evacuations). The warning may also be issued for locations not expected to receive life-threatening inundation, but which could potentially be isolated by inundation in adjacent areas.

Storm surge watch and warning information for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands will be provided in the following text products from Weather Forecast Office (WFO) San Juan, Puerto Rico:

Product Name -----	AWIPS PIL/WMO ID -----
Hurricane Local Statement	HLSSJU/WTCA82
Tropical Cyclone Local Watch/Warning	TCVSJU/WTCA82

Just as it does for storm surge watches and warnings issued for other U.S. areas in the Atlantic, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) Tropical Cyclone Public Advisory (TCP) products will list storm surge watches and warnings for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as applicable, under the "WATCHES AND WARNINGS" section and more detailed information about the storm surge hazard will be provided in the "HAZARDS AFFECTING LAND" section. Storm Surge Watches and Warnings will be listed in the "SUMMARY OF WATCHES AND WARNINGS IN EFFECT" section of the NHC Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisory (TCM) product.

In addition, storm surge watches and warnings issued for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands will also be included in the Storm Surge Watch/Warning Graphic available on www.hurricanes.gov.

Please refer to [Service Change Notice 17-16](#), posted February 17, 2017, for more details on the provision of storm surge watches and warning in NWS products and through various dissemination systems including NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, Emergency Alert System (EAS), etc.

For more information, please contact:

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

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