

NOUS41 KWBC 181835
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...COMMENT REQUEST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
235 PM EDT MON MAY 18 2009

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:
-FAMILY OF SERVICES
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK
-NOAAPORT
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: THERESE Z. PIERCE
CHIEF...MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: SOLICITING COMMENTS FOR EXPERIMENTAL SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE
SCALE REVISION THROUGH NOVEMBER 30 2009

BEGINNING JUNE 1 2009 AND CONTINUING THROUGH NOVEMBER 30 2009...NWS IS
SEEKING USER FEEDBACK ON EXPERIMENTALLY REMOVING STORM SURGE AND FLOODING
REFERENCES FROM THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE. THE CHANGE WOULD
APPLY TO STORMS IN THE ATLANTIC AND EASTERN NORTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC
BASINS. NWS PROPOSES TO RENAME THE SCALE THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE
WIND SCALE.

THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE /DEFINITIONS AND EFFECTS/ IN ITS
CURRENT FORM INCLUDES STORM SURGE RANGES AND FLOODING REFERENCES. STORM
SURGE RANGES SHOWN IN THE EXISTING SCALE ARE FREQUENTLY INCORRECT FOR THE
INDICATED CATEGORY AS DETERMINED SOLELY BY WIND SPEED AND POTENTIALLY
MISLEADING IN PREPAREDNESS DECISIONS SINCE THE ACTUAL FLOODING DEPENDS ON
SEVERAL OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS STORM SIZE AND LANDFALL LOCATION.

THEREFORE...ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS FOR THE 2009 TROPICAL CYCLONE
SEASON...THESE STORM SURGE RANGES AND FLOODING REFERENCES WILL BE REMOVED
FROM THE DEFINITION/EFFECTS FOR ALL CATEGORIES...CATEGORIES ONE THROUGH
FIVE. THE REVISED CONTENT WILL BE INCLUDED EXPERIMENTALLY THIS YEAR IN A
SCALE CALLED THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE.

EXPECTED STORM SURGE AND COASTAL FLOODING FOR INDIVIDUAL STORMS ARE
CONTAINED IN OTHER NWS PRODUCTS:

THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER /NHC/ AND CENTRAL PACIFIC HURRICANE CENTER
/CPHC/:

- TROPICAL CYCLONE DISCUSSION
- TROPICAL CYCLONE PUBLIC ADVISORY

NHC ONLY:

- GRAPHICAL TROPICAL CYCLONE STORM SURGE PROBABILITIES

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFOS/:

- HURRICANE LOCAL STATEMENT

- AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION
- SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT
- COASTAL HAZARD MESSAGE

MORE INFORMATION IS ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WEATHER.GOV/INFO-SERVICE-CHANGES/SSHWS.PDF](http://weather.gov/info-service-changes/sshws.pdf)

THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE DEFINITIONS AND EFFECTS CAN BE VIEWED AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

FOR NHC: [HTTP://WWW.NHC.NOAA.GOV/ABOUTSSH.SHTML](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutssh.html)

FOR CPHC: [HTTP://WEATHER.GOV/CPHC/PAGES/ABOUTSSH.PHP](http://weather.gov/cphc/pages/aboutssh.php)

USERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THIS EXPERIMENTAL CHANGE TO NHCWEBMASTER@NOAA.GOV FOR NHC AND W-HFO.WEBMASTER@NOAA.GOV FOR CPHC.

A LINK TO ALL NHC EXPERIMENTAL PRODUCTS IS ALSO PROVIDED AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NHC.NOAA.GOV/ABOUTEXPERIMENTAL.SHTML](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutexperimental.shtml)

IF YOU HAVE COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

TIMOTHY SCHOTT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND
E-MAIL: TIMOTHY.SCHOTT@NOAA.GOV
PHONE: 301-713-1677 X 122

NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

\$\$
NNNN