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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1000 AM EST WED FEB 17 2010

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:
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OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

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

SUBJECT: NEW SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE IS IMPLEMENTED FOR THE
2010 HURRICANE SEASON

THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER /NHC/...THE CENTRAL PACIFIC HURRICANE CENTER
/CPHC/...AND NWS WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFOS/ WILL BEGIN USING A NEW
SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE /SSHWS/ THIS HURRICANE SEASON. THE
NEW SCALE WILL NOT PROVIDE PRE-ESTABLISHED STORM SURGE AND FLOODING
IMPACTS TO CATEGORIZE HURRICANES AS WERE PROVIDED IN THE ORIGINAL SAFFIR-
SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE FROM 1975.

STORM SURGE VALUES ARE DEPENDENT ON A UNIQUE COMBINATION OF A STORM/S
SIZE...INTENSITY...MOTION...BAROMETRIC PRESSURE...THE DEPTH OF NEARSHORE
WATERS AND LOCAL TOPOGRAPHY. TO HELP REDUCE CONFUSION ABOUT THE IMPACTS
ASSOCIATED WITH THE HURRICANE CATEGORIES...THE STORM SURGE
RANGES...CENTRAL PRESSURE RANGES AND FLOODING IMPACT STATEMENTS WILL NOT
BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW SCALE. WHEN APPROPRIATE...DIRECT ESTIMATES OF
INUNDATION ARE COMMUNICATED IN EACH NATIONAL CENTER/S TROPICAL CYCLONE
PUBLIC ADVISORY PRODUCTS AND IN WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE HURRICANE LOCAL
STATEMENTS.

THE NEW SSHWS CONTAINS THE SAME WIND SPEED RANGES FOR EACH OF THE FIVE
CATEGORIES OF HURRICANES IN THE ORIGINAL SCALE. THE NEW SCALE PROVIDES
UPDATED DEFINITIONS OF DAMAGE AND IMPACTS DEVELOPED IN ASSOCIATION WITH
HIGHLY RESPECTED WIND SCIENTISTS FROM ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY...AND INCLUDES
HISTORICAL EXAMPLES.

FOR THE ATLANTIC AND EASTERN PACIFIC HURRICANE BASINS...THE NEW SSHWS IS
PROVIDED ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

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

THE DAMAGE AND IMPACT STATEMENTS ARE APPLICABLE TO THE CONTINENTAL UNITED
STATES /CONUS/. THE NHC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL METEOROLOGICAL DECISIONS
CONCERNING FORECASTING OF TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL SYSTEMS FOR THE
ATLANTIC OCEAN AND THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN...NORTH OF THE EQUATOR FROM
140 DEGREES WEST TO 180 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE.

FOR THE CENTRAL PACIFIC HURRICANE BASIN...THE NEW SSHWS IS PROVIDED ONLINE
AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.PRH.NOAA.GOV/CPHC/PAGES/ABOUTSSHWS.PHP](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/cphc/pages/aboutsshws.php)

THE DAMAGE AND IMPACT STATEMENTS ARE APPLICABLE TO LAND AREAS IN THE
CENTRAL PACIFIC. THE CPHC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL METEOROLOGICAL DECISIONS
CONCERNING FORECASTING OF TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL SYSTEMS FOR THE PACIFIC
OCEAN NORTH OF THE EQUATOR FROM 140 DEGREES WEST TO 180 DEGREES WEST
LONGITUDE.

THE EASTERN PACIFIC HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS ON MAY 15. THE ATLANTIC AND
CENTRAL PACIFIC HURRICANE SEASONS BEGIN ON JUNE 1.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

DR. CHRISTOPHER LANDSEA
SCIENCE AND OPERATIONS OFFICER
NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER
MIAMI FLORIDA
305-229-4446
CHRIS.LANDSEA@NOAA.GOV

DR. RICHARD KNABB
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
CENTRAL PACIFIC HURRICANE CENTER
HONOLULU HAWAII
808-973-5273
RICHARD.KNABB@NOAA.GOV

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