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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 18-46  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
841 AM EDT Fri Apr 27 2018

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

Subject: Use of Above Ground Level in the Coastal Hazard Message:  
Effective On or Around May 31, 2018

Effective on or around May 31, 2018, coastal Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs), except in the Alaska Region, will reference water levels for coastal flooding to ground level (inundation) in the Coastal Hazard Message (CFW) when issuing coastal flood hazards. If a coastal WFO issues a CFW for coastal flooding and tropical cyclone watches/warnings are in effect, a range of water levels above ground will be used to convey the inherent uncertainty in the forecast.

This change will enable coastal WFOs to provide a consistent message for referencing water levels for coastal flooding due to any meteorological cause. WFOs may additionally use other vertical datum references (e.g., Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW), etc.), but this information will follow any references to water levels above ground and be enclosed in parenthesis (e.g., 8 feet above ground (10 feet MLLW)).

An example of the language that may be used when coastal flood hazards are issued in the CFW is provided below:

\*COASTAL FLOODING...2 to 3 feet of water above ground can be expected through Wednesday morning then 3 to 4 feet through early Thursday afternoon along low-lying areas along the coast, especially around the time of high tide Wednesday and Thursday.

The affected CFW hazards and their VTEC are:

Hazard	VTEC
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Coastal Flood Statement	CF.S
Coastal Flood Advisory	CF.Y
Coastal Flood Watch	CF.A
Coastal Flood Warning	CF.W

There will be no changes to Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) IDs or World Meteorological Organization (WMO) headers.

The NWS policy and procedures regarding this change in the CFW can be found in NWS Instructions 10-320, Surf Zone Forecast and Coastal/Lakeshore Hazard Services and 10-601, Weather Forecast Office Tropical Cyclone Products. The Instructions can be found at:

<https://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/010.php>

If you have questions or comments, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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