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Public Information Statement 23-18  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
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To:           Subscribers:  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
              -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
              -NOAAPort  
              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

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

Subject: Soliciting Comments on Proposed Changes to NWS Coastal/Lakeshore  
Flood and Storm Surge Products and Services through June 8, 2023

The NWS wants your feedback through June 8, 2023, on proposed changes for  
how areas of risk are described for storm surge and coastal/lakeshore  
(Great Lakes) flooding.

The NWS is proposing to consolidate all coastal and lakeshore flood and  
storm surge information issued by Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) through  
one text product, the Coastal Hazard Message (CFW). If implemented, the  
CFW text product will contain all watch/warning/advisory messages  
(tropical or non-tropical) and severity information (life-threatening to  
nuisance flooding). High surf, rip current, and beach hazard information  
currently in the CFW would be transitioned out of the CFW and into a yet  
to be determined product.

The Local Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning (TCV), which currently provides  
storm surge hazard information, with Valid Time Event Code (VTEC)  
information, would be converted into a wind-only product, focusing on the  
delivery of tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings only. The  
comprehensive information for all tropical hazards would continue to be  
provided in the Hurricane Local Statement (HLS) text product. The CFW  
content would change to include more detailed geographic information about  
the flooding hazards, their potential impacts and how to prepare for them.

The NWS is proposing that polygon hazard areas be provided for future WFO-  
issued coastal/lakeshore flood watches/warnings/ advisories and storm  
surge watches/warnings. By providing polygon data with the issuance of  
storm surge and coastal/lakeshore flood hazards, the NWS can be more  
specific when designating the locations in danger of coastal flooding.  
This change would require users to navigate to a separate web page to view  
detailed hazard polygon vertices information in the form of  
latitude/longitude pairs (as they would be too lengthy to provide in the  
text message directly). This webpage, as well as a second link that  
points to a web-based map of the hazard polygon, would be provided at the  
bottom of each segment of the future CFW product. Among the benefits,  
alerting products, such as specific warnings that activate Wireless  
Emergency Alerts (WEA), would have the capacity to be geographically

focused or refined to alert those most at risk from potential life-threatening coastal flooding during a tropical cyclone event.

More information about these proposed changes, including sample products for lakeshore flooding, coastal flooding, and storm surge hazards, can be found on this website:

<https://www.weather.gov/marine/CFW>

Please provide your feedback through this website by June 8, 2023:

<https://ocean.weather.gov/survey-cfw/>

Alternatively, you can email your feedback and direct your questions to:

Jessica Schauer and Wayne Presnell  
National Weather Service  
Analyze, Forecast, and Support Office  
Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services Branch  
Email: [tropical.program@noaa.gov](mailto:tropical.program@noaa.gov)

The NWS will evaluate all comments on the proposed changes to coastal/lakeshore flood and storm surge products and services and determine whether to proceed. If public feedback supports this proposal, a Service Change Notice will be sent before any change goes into effect.

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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