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Service Change Notice 23-16  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
1200 PM EST Wed Feb 22 2023

To:           Subscribers:  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
              -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
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              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

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

Subject: Operational Implementation of the Peak Storm Surge Forecast  
Graphic from the National Hurricane Center on or about May 15, 2023

On or about May 15, 2023, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) will operationally implement the Peak Storm Surge Forecast Graphic. NHC has been providing this graphic experimentally since May 2020 and has incorporated recommendations received during the comment period. The graphic has been modified since the original experimental issuance to include an updated disclaimer and color-coding for the peak storm surge forecast at the coast as follows:

Blue = Up to 3 feet above ground level  
Yellow = Up to 6 feet above ground level  
Orange = Up to 9 feet above ground level  
Red = Up to 12 feet above ground level  
Purple = 12 feet or greater above ground level

The graphic depicts the peak storm surge forecast provided in the Tropical Cyclone Public Advisory product for U.S. locations when a storm surge watch or warning is in effect. Storm surge watches and warnings are currently issued only for locations in the Atlantic basin on the U.S. East and Gulf Coasts and in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The graphic will be made available approximately 15 minutes after the release of the scheduled advisory issuance time. Scheduled advisory issuance times are at 0300, 0900, 1500 and 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). When storm surge watches or warnings are active, the graphic can be found in the relevant active storm table on the NHC website:

<https://hurricanes.gov>

The forecast peak storm surge values are found in the STORM SURGE portion of the HAZARDS AFFECTING LAND section of the Tropical Cyclone Public Advisory. An example of an NHC Public Advisory Product that provides forecast storm surge values for a tropical cyclone with active storm surge watches and warnings can be found here:

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/archive/2020/a109/a1092020.public.027.shtml>

An example of the graphic that NHC will issue to depict the forecast storm surge values provided in their Public Advisory Product can be found here:

[https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/productexamples/Peak\\_Storm\\_Surge\\_Forecast.shtml](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/productexamples/Peak_Storm_Surge_Forecast.shtml)

This graphic will be available in Keyhole Markup Language (KML) format. During an ongoing tropical cyclone event where the Peak Storm Surge Forecast Graphic is provided, the KML version of the active graphic can be found using the link below. Also, there is a sample KML product provided with the "Peak Storm Surge" entry on this webpage:

<https://hurricanes.gov/gis>

In addition, the Geographic Information System service depicting the product will be available at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/cloudgiswebservices>

In the future, this graphic may be provided for other locations affected by significant tropical cyclone storm surge.

Please direct any questions regarding this notice to:

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Miami, FL  
Email: [tropical.program@noaa.gov](mailto:tropical.program@noaa.gov)

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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