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Public Information Statement 23-18
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
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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

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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