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Public Information Statement 23-19
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 Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning Text Products Issued By Local Weather Forecast Offices through June 8, 2023

The NWS wants your feedback through June 8, 2023 on proposed changes to the delivery of local tropical storm and hurricane information.

Based on requests from our partners, the NWS is striving to issue tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings and their associated Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) from Local NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) at the same time that National Hurricane Center or Central Pacific Hurricane Center tropical cyclone advisories are released. These advisories are released at 0300, 0900, 1500, and 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). To streamline the timeliness of the issuance of these potentially life-saving watches and warnings, the NWS is proposing to focus the information in the Local Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning (TCV) text product on only tropical wind (tropical storm and hurricane) hazards.

At the recommendation of social science studies, the NWS is proposing to include explicit probabilistic wind forecast information in the TCV to account for the uncertainty in the forecast, giving the user a heads up on the potential "worst case scenario" for wind in their area. The NWS is also proposing to change the text format of the Local TCV product to align with the "What, Where, When" format seen in most other NWS products.

More information about this proposed change, including comparisons of the current Local TCV and the proposed wind-only future product, can be found on this website:

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

Currently, the Local TCV product is used to issue storm surge watches and warnings and their associated VTEC. The NWS is proposing to move storm surge watches/warnings to the Coastal Hazard Message (CFW) product so that all coastal flood and storm surge hazards can be provided in a single product. In addition, more geographical specificity can be provided in their depiction by providing supplemental polygon-based hazard areas. See

the following webpage for more details, including examples of the proposed future Coastal Hazard Message:

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

The current Local TCV product also includes information on flooding rain and tornado conditions. The inclusion of this information, all of which is routinely available in NWS products regardless of whether they are associated with a tropical cyclone or not, slows down the issuance of potentially life-saving tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings. Flooding rain and tornadoes are not unique to tropical cyclone events. Information on these hazards, including flooding and severe hazard VTEC that is not provided in the Local TCV, is always available through the routine suite of rainfall, flooding, and severe weather NWS products and services.

The Hurricane Local Statement (HLS) will continue to be a comprehensive overview of hazard information during a tropical cyclone event. The proposed future Local TCV would include a link to the local WFO Tropical webpage where the HLS and hazard-specific information for the local area can be found.

Please provide your feedback on this proposal through this website:

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

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

Jessica Schauer
National Weather Service Tropical Services Program Manager
Miami, FL
Email: tropical.program@noaa.gov

The NWS will evaluate all comments on the proposed changes to the Local TCV and determine whether to proceed. If public feedback supports this proposal, a Service Change Notice will be sent in advance of any implemented changes.

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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