

Q&A from Tropical Outreach Webinars

- Is the plan for the cone size to remain fixed based on past 5 year errors, or is there a plan to increase that to 10, 15, 20 years, etc years to account for outlier storms?
 - There is no immediate plan to change how the cone is constructed. It is still fixed using the 67th percentile of the past 5 years of track errors.
 - Increasing the numbers of years used wouldn't actually account for outlier storms. To do that, we'd have to expand past the 67th percentile.
 - There's been talk of moving to a dynamic cone that is more representative of the expected errors for a given scenario, but there hasn't been much work done on that yet.
- For invests (tropical disturbances), is microwave satellite data on the chopping block? Is that official or yet TBD?
 - It is yet to be determined as higher officials are working on an extension. As of right now, the extension of the DMSP is through July 31st. However, keep in mind, there are other microwave satellite data that do not come from DoD, which the NHC are still using.
- For the earliest and reasonable wind timing graphics, are any of those NBM based or strictly hurricane models?
 - No, the earliest and most likely time of arrival graphics for tropical storm force & hurricane winds do not use the NBM. Those graphics use the NHC official forecast and a technique that accounts for typical track, intensity, and size forecast uncertainty. NHC forecasters use a variety of weather models to compose its track, intensity, and size predictions.
- Given all the focus and energy on upgrading/updating wind products, any emphasis on improving the rain graphic suite?
 - The Weather Prediction Center is currently working with social scientists to evaluate a variety of rainfall-related products, but that work is not yet completed. However, comments or suggestions for improvement are always welcome and would be considered. Emergency managers could directly contact Alex Lamers and Owen Shieh at alex.lamers@noaa.gov owen.shieh@noaa.gov
 - If it's going into a news article, send the suggestions to the WPC public webmaster account, which is contacted [via this form on our website](#).

- How can media and EM partners find out when Invests/Tropical Distributions will be launched?
 - The opening of Invests is really an internal thing, just so that the NHC can get microwave data and have the ability to run model guidance on potentially developing systems.
 - The preference would be for our partners to follow the Tropical Weather Outlook (TWO) probabilities for development potential. One giveaway that the NHC opened an invest is that NHC included the designator (e.g., AL90) in the next issuance of the TWO
- Any plans on creating wind timing graphics for winter type coastal storms or just tropical for now?
 - At this time, there are no plans to create wind timing graphics for a winter type coastal storm.
 - However, locally through the DESI software, we can produce a timing graphic for our partners. Example below. This was created for western region locations, but can be generated locally for sites in MA/RI/CT.

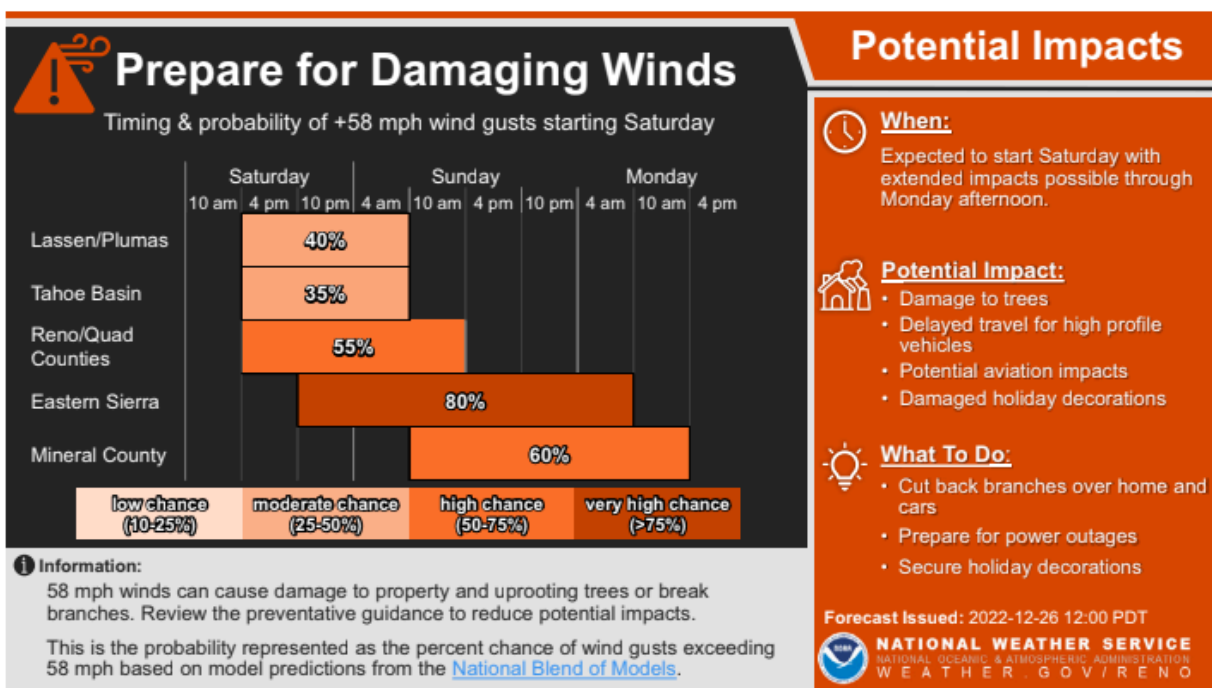


Fig. 5. Example using a table to communicate timing and probability of damaging winds.