



Weather Briefing Mixed Winter Storm Event February 26 - 27 , 2013

Prepared 1200 PM EST – Tuesday, February 26th, 2013

Joe Miketta

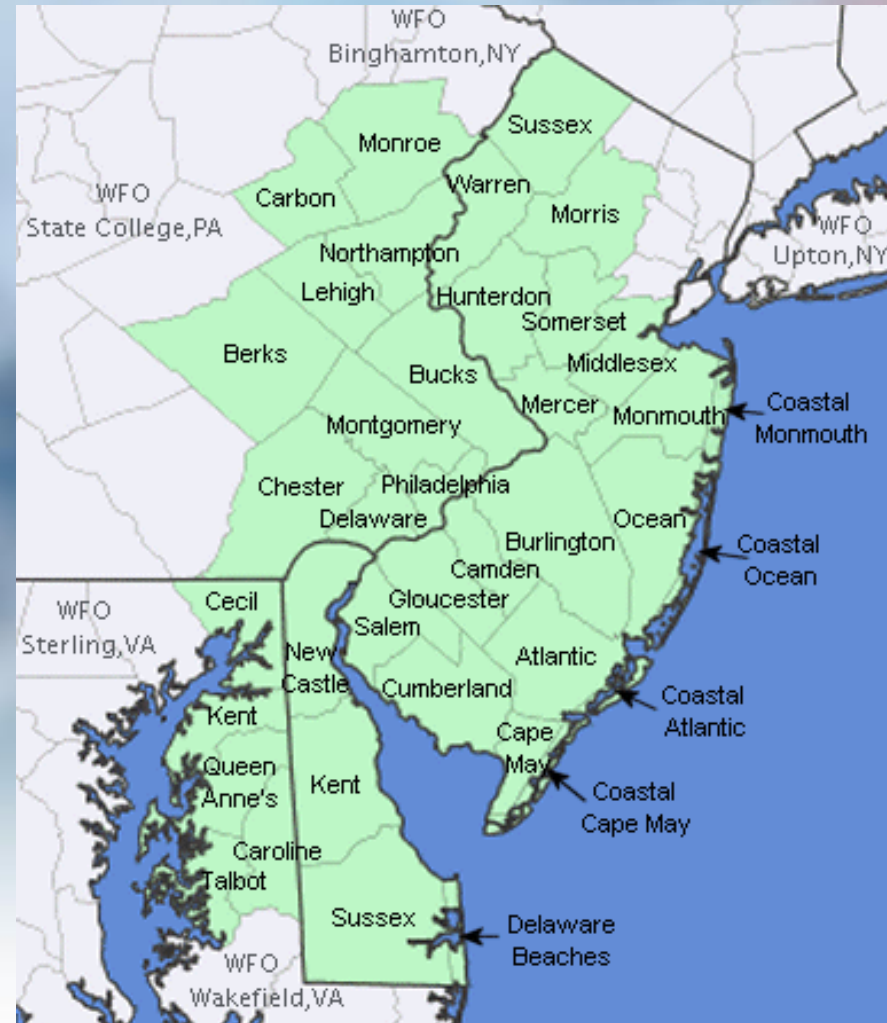
NOAA's National Weather Service
Philadelphia/Mt. Holly NJ Forecast Office

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/>



Purpose of Briefing

- Briefing #2 (and final briefing) for this event.
- Promote situational awareness for emergency management community & partners
- Provide guidance for planning efforts
- Briefing applies to Mount Holly service area – shaded in green on map



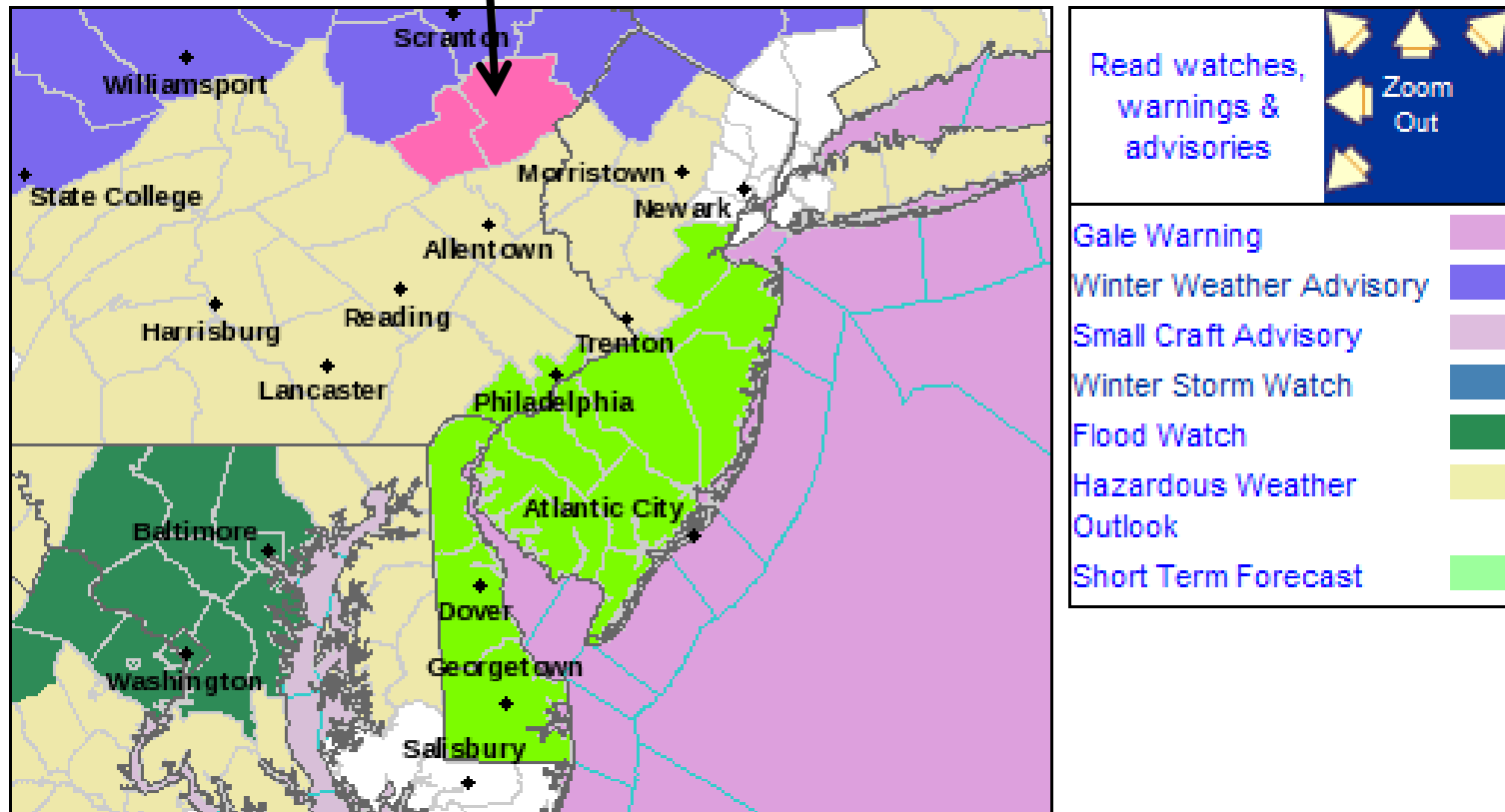
Executive Summary

- Precipitation is expected to move in from the southwest during the afternoon commute. Mostly rain is expected everywhere into the early evening hours (perhaps some snow mixing in far north), with a changeover to frozen precipitation occurring well north and west of the Philadelphia metro area generally after the evening commute. Specifically :
 - All rain is expected south and east of I-95
 - A mixture of rain...freezing rain...and sleet is possible in the Lehigh Valley and central NJ (away from the coast) during the late evening or overnight hours, with no significant accumulation
 - A prolonged period of freezing rain...sleet and snow is possible north of the I-78 corridor Tuesday night. Between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ inch of **ice** accumulation is possible in the highest elevations in this area. In addition, a general 1 to 2 inch coating of snow / ice is expected...with around 4 inches in the highest elevations. Winter Storm Warnings and Advisories have been issued . See maps on following pages. With this said, most of the afternoon commute should be ok.
- 1 to 1.5 inches of rain is expected in some areas. No widespread flooding is expected...but some urban and small stream flooding is a possibility if heavier rain happens to fall.
- Southeast winds will increase late this afternoon and evening to the 15 to 20 mph range, with gusts up to 35 or 40 MPH in eastern PA, eastern MD. Gusts up to 45 MPH are possible in DE and NJ, closer to the coast. These winds will continue through most of the Tuesday overnight hours.
- With an onshore flow and full moon, **minor** tidal flooding appears likely for the Atlantic coastal areas, with expected peak water levels just a little higher in northern NJ closer to the storm (but still minor). Minor tidal flooding is also expected along the shores of the Delaware Bay and tidal Delaware River. Coastal Flood Advisories have been issued. There is a lower probability of minor tidal flooding along the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay, so a Coastal Flood Advisory was NOT issued for that area.
- This is the final briefing package for this event.
- For the latest forecast & warning information, monitor our website at:

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/>

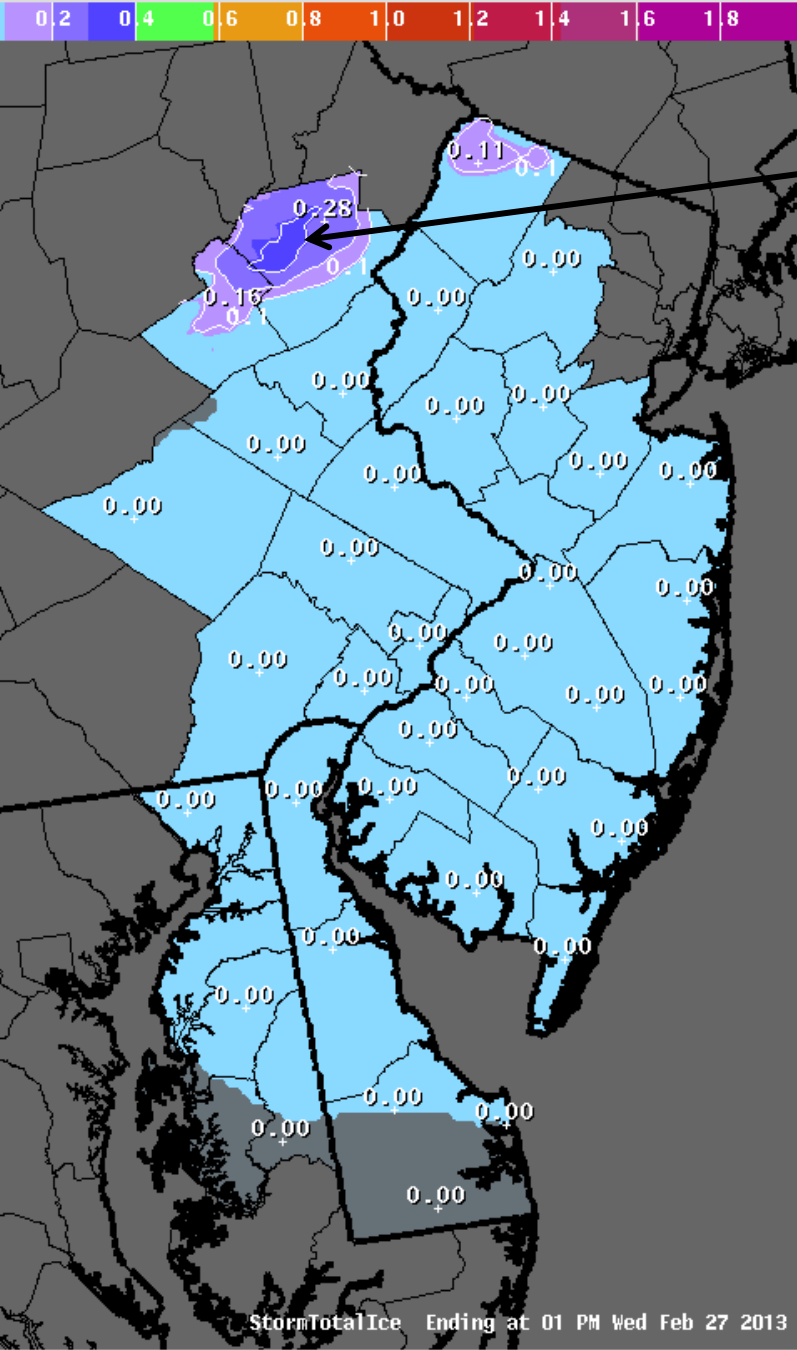


Winter Storm Warning (pink counties) and Winter Weather Advisory (purple counties) for Tuesday Afternoon into Wednesday Morning



Last map update: Tue, Feb. 26, 2013 at 11:19:25 am EST



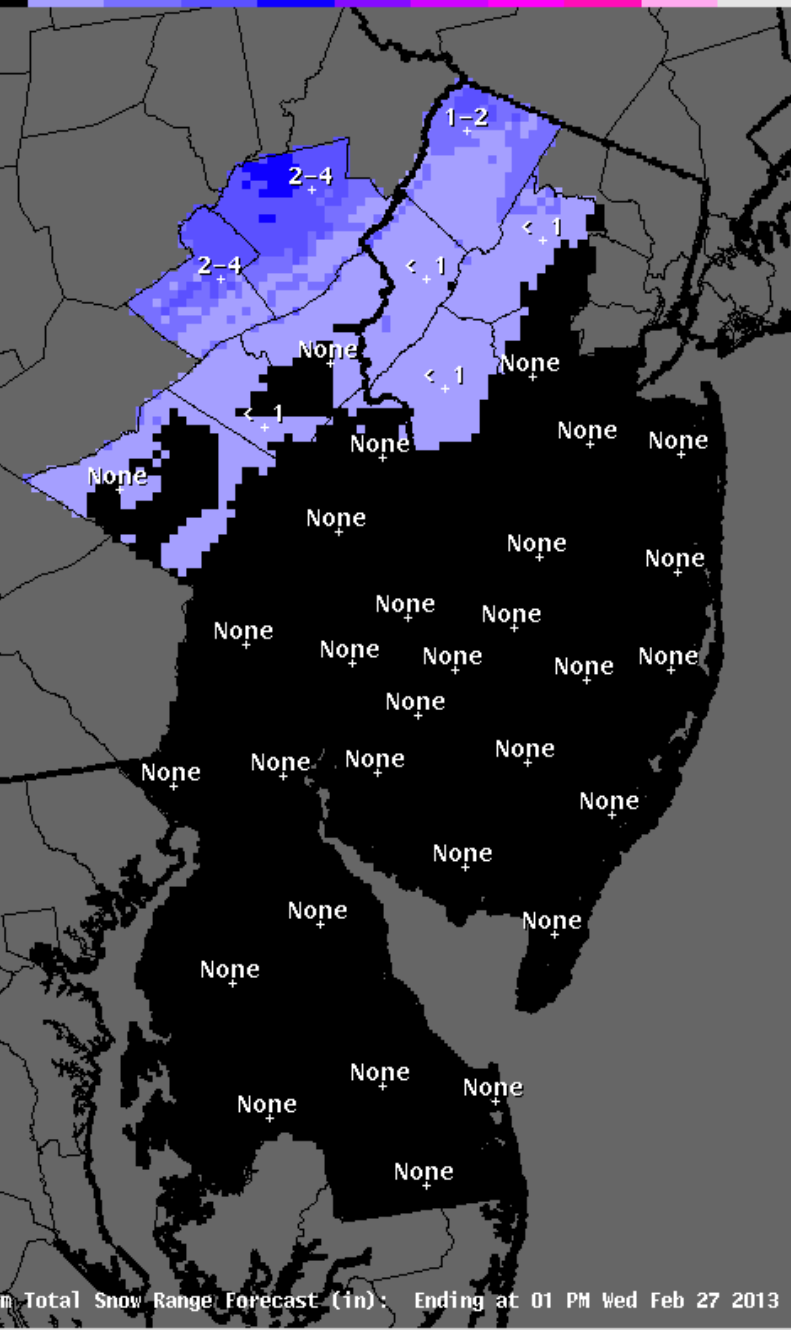


1/4 to 1/3 inch
(Dark blue area).

Ice Accumulation
Forecast through
Wednesday morning.
Problem areas will
generally be the higher
elevations in Carbon /
Monroe / Sussex
Counties

StormTotalIce Ending at 01 PM Wed Feb 27 2013



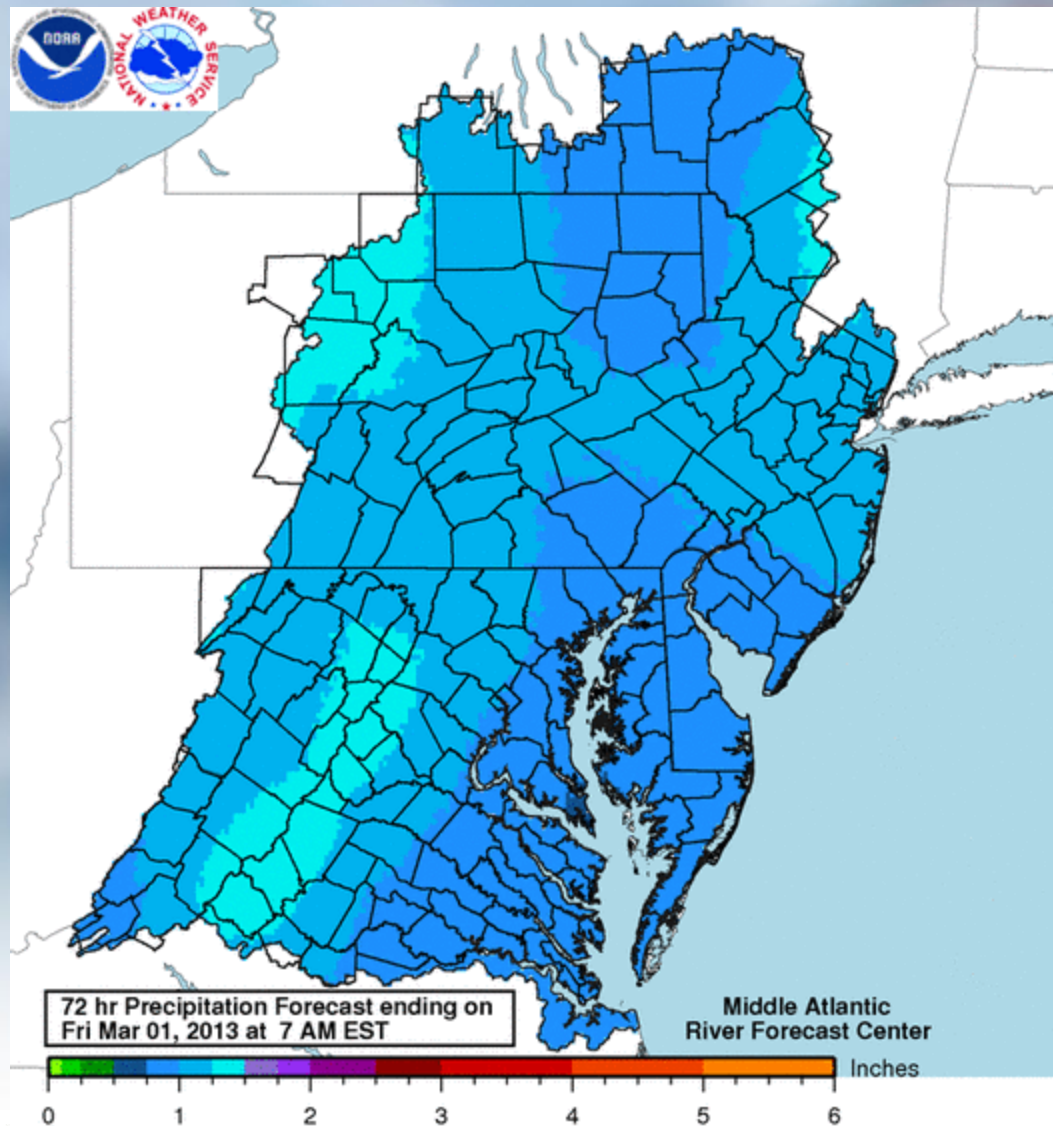


Snow forecast –
through Wednesday
morning.

Highest amounts (2 to
4 inches of snow / ice
mixture) expected in
the higher elevations.

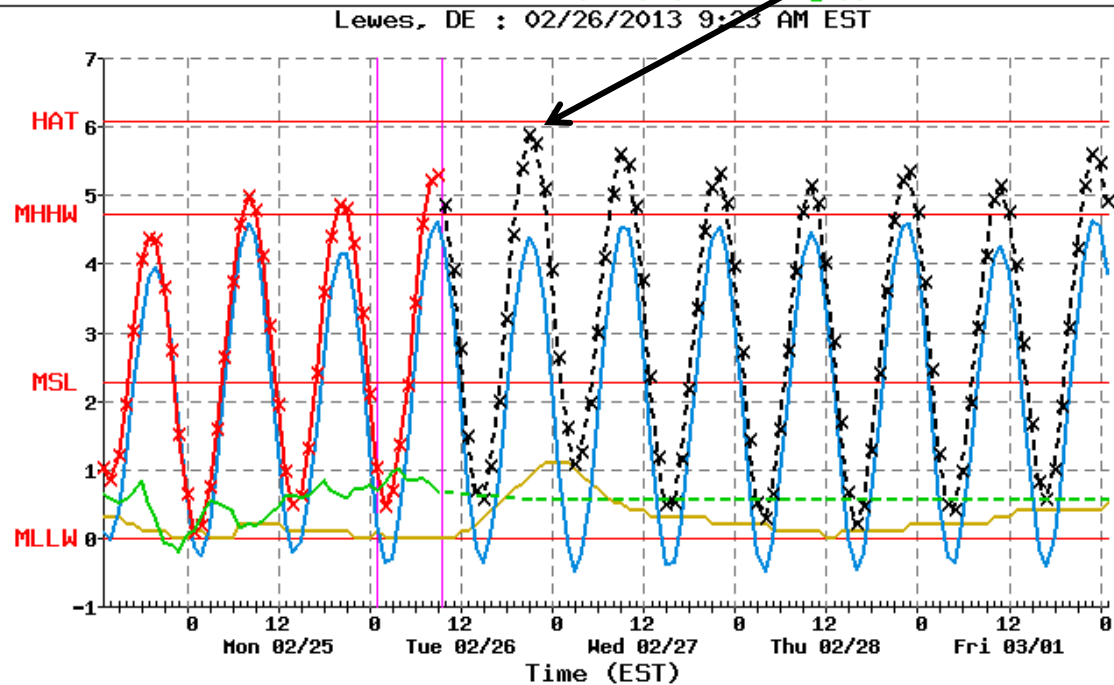
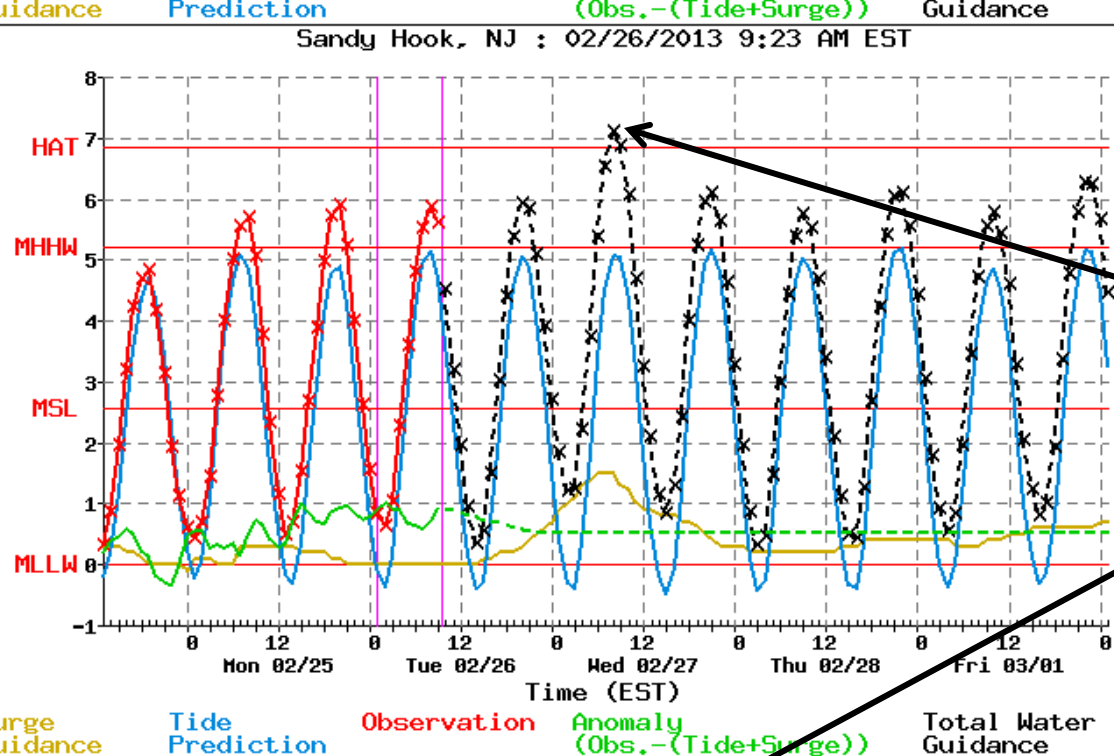


Liquid – Equivalent Precipitation Expected through 7 AM Friday

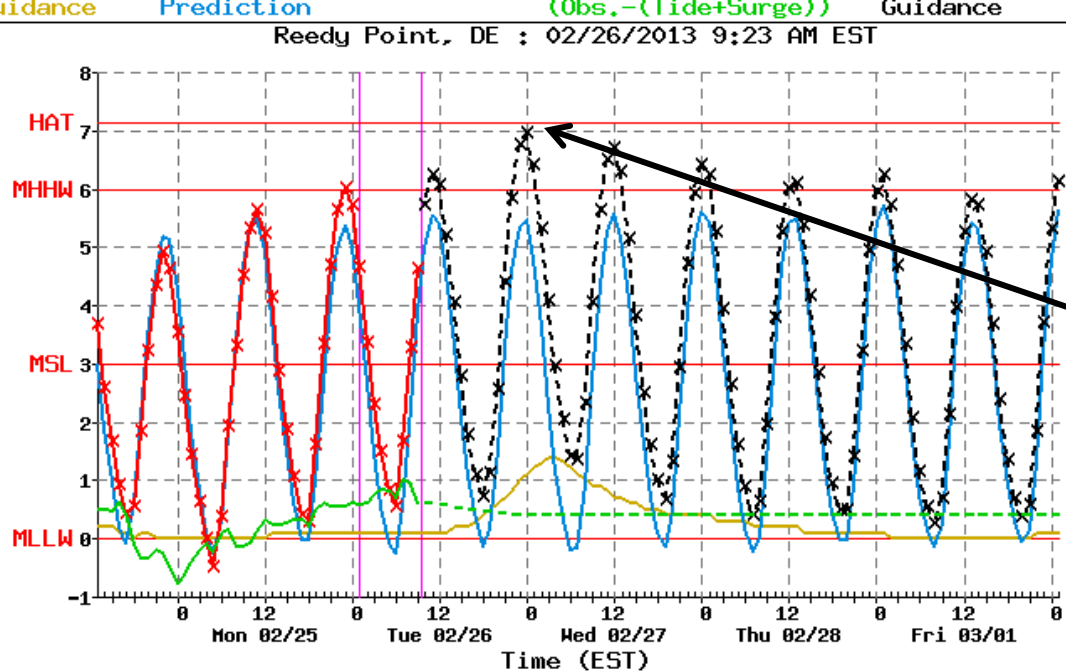


1 to 1.5 inches of rain will bring significant rises to many small streams in the area, some near bankfull. Based on this information, no inland flood watch has been issued, but it will be close. Emergency managers should be aware that if more rain happens to fall, minor flooding is possible.

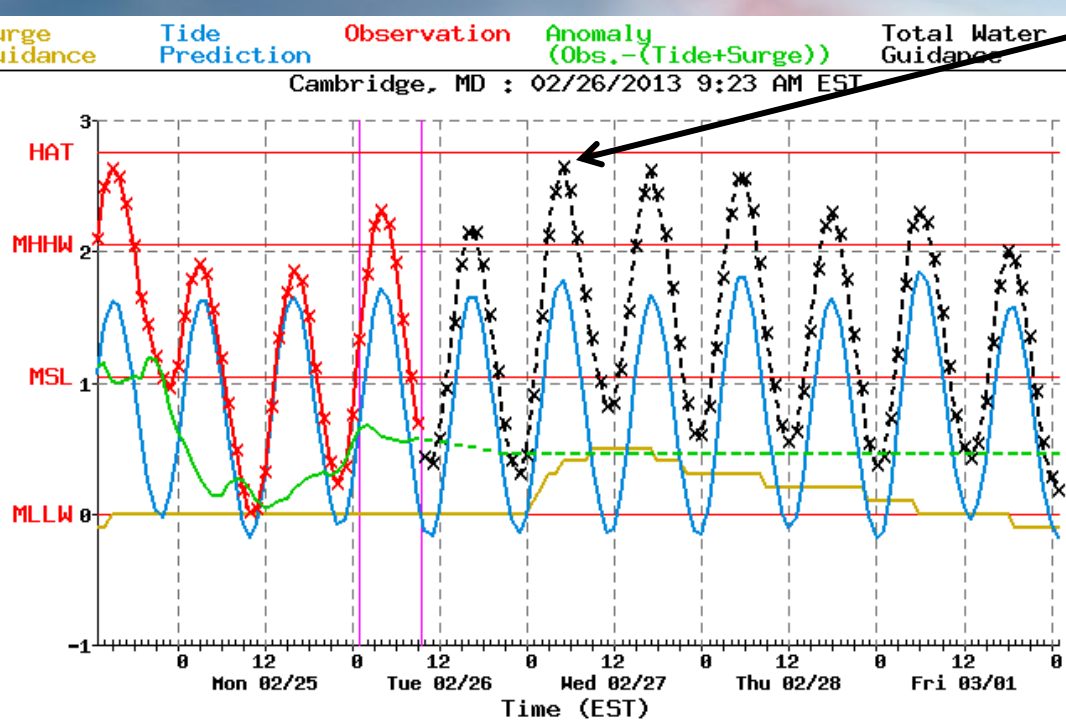
With all this said, NO flooding is expected on the Lehigh, Schuylkill, and Delaware Rivers.



Tidal flooding along the coast is expected to be in the minor category based on current information, with the likelihood of minor flooding greatest in the northern half of NJ, closest to the exiting storm. The top graph is for Sandy Hook NJ, which shows a peak water level of just over 7 ft MLLW with the Wed morning high tide (minor flooding begins at 6.7 ft MLLW). The bottom graph is for Lewes DE, which indicates a peak water level of just under 6 ft MLLW (minor flooding begins at 6 feet MLLW). A coastal flood advisory has been issued for the entire NJ and DE coast.



Water levels could approach minor flood levels at Reedy Point Tuesday night (minor flooding begins at 7.2 ft MLLW). A coastal flood advisory has been issued.



With an easterly wind, water levels are not expected to increase as much on the Chesapeake Bay. Here water levels are predicted to peak about one foot below the minor flood level, which is 3.5 ft MLLW at Cambridge.

Questions?

- For the latest information, visit our website at <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/>
- Our latest briefing package is available from our website at:
http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/briefing/packages/current_briefing.pdf
- If you wish to be notified when a briefing package is issued, you can follow us on social media where we post the notice.
- You can 'friend' us on Facebook at: US National Weather Service Philadelphia/Mount Holly
- You can follow us on Twitter at: @NWS_MountHolly
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