

Heavy Rainfall & River Ice Jam Flooding Risk January 11th & 12th, 2014

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NOAA's National Weather Service

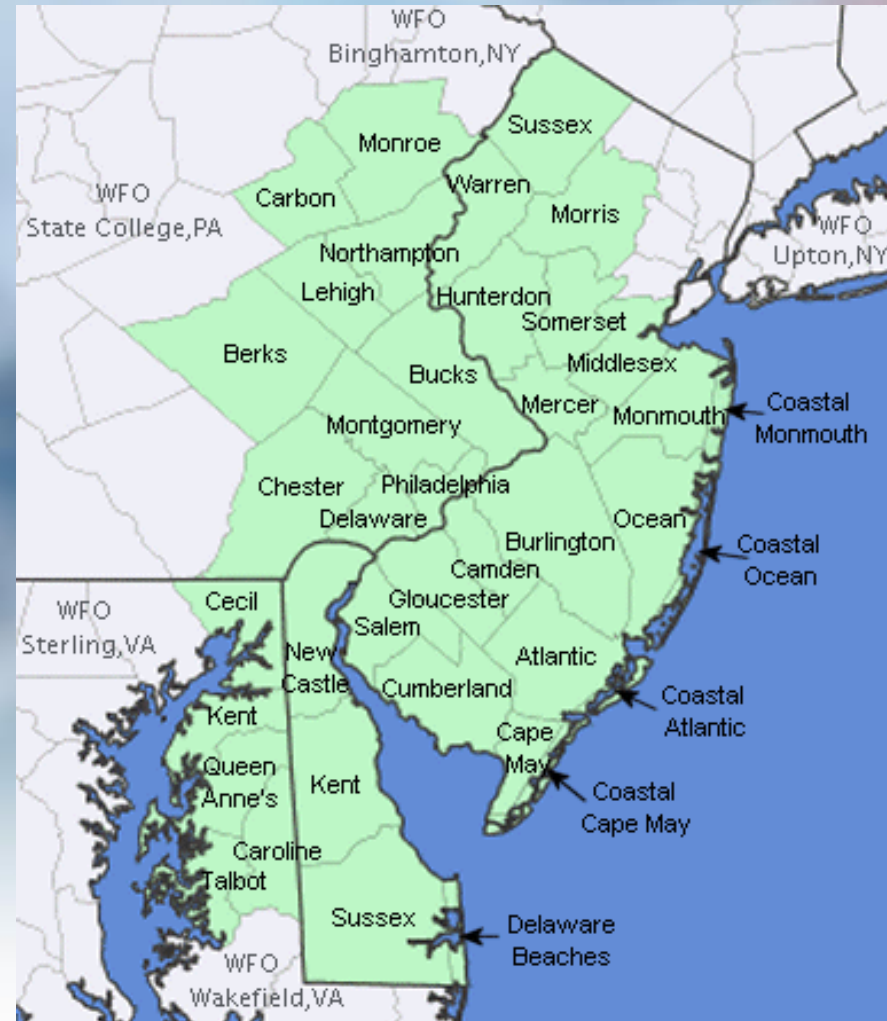
Philadelphia/Mt. Holly NJ Forecast office

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



Purpose of Briefing

- Briefing #1 (and only) for 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



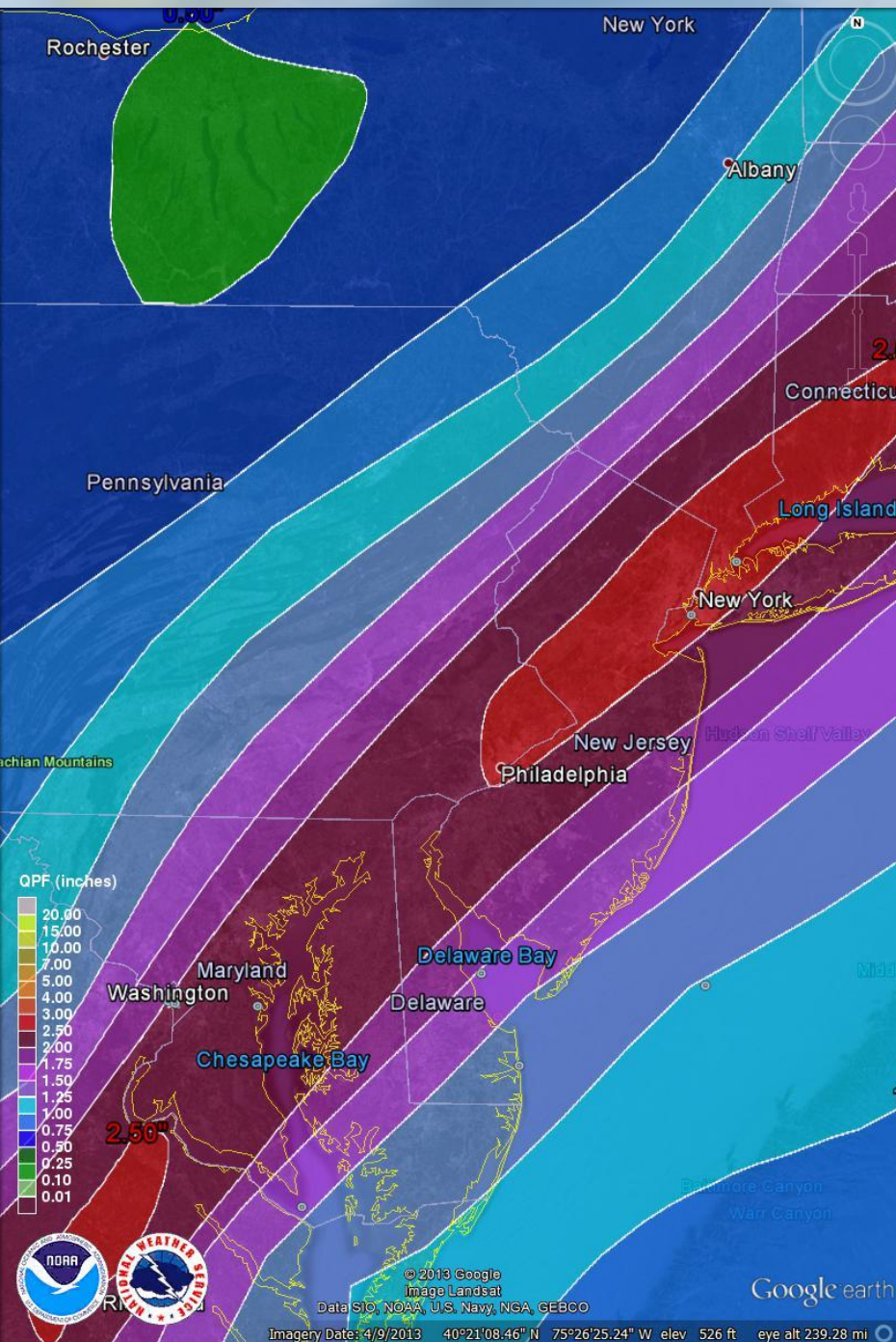
Executive Summary

- A storm system forecast to affect the area this weekend will bring warmer temperatures, heavy rainfall, and the potential for **significant river flooding due to the combination of heavy rainfall and ice clogged rivers**. Strong damaging wind gusts are also a risk.
- Rainfall amounts over 2 inches are possible with this storm system. Local flooding due to heavy rainfall and frozen ground conditions is likely.
- Significant river flooding is likely due to the combination of runoff from the heavy rainfall on frozen ground and the ice clogged conditions of most rivers. **Moderate to major river flooding is possible where ice jams form, but it is impossible to predict in advance where these may occur.**
- Residents along all rivers and streams are encouraged to monitor river forecasts closely & be prepared to react quickly if ice jam flooding should develop.
- Some of the storms this weekend may bring strong damaging winds gusts to southern portions of the area, as well as a rumble or two of thunder.
- Unless there is a major change in the threat, no additional briefing packages are scheduled for this event.
- You need to be monitoring our website this weekend for the latest information.
 - <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/>

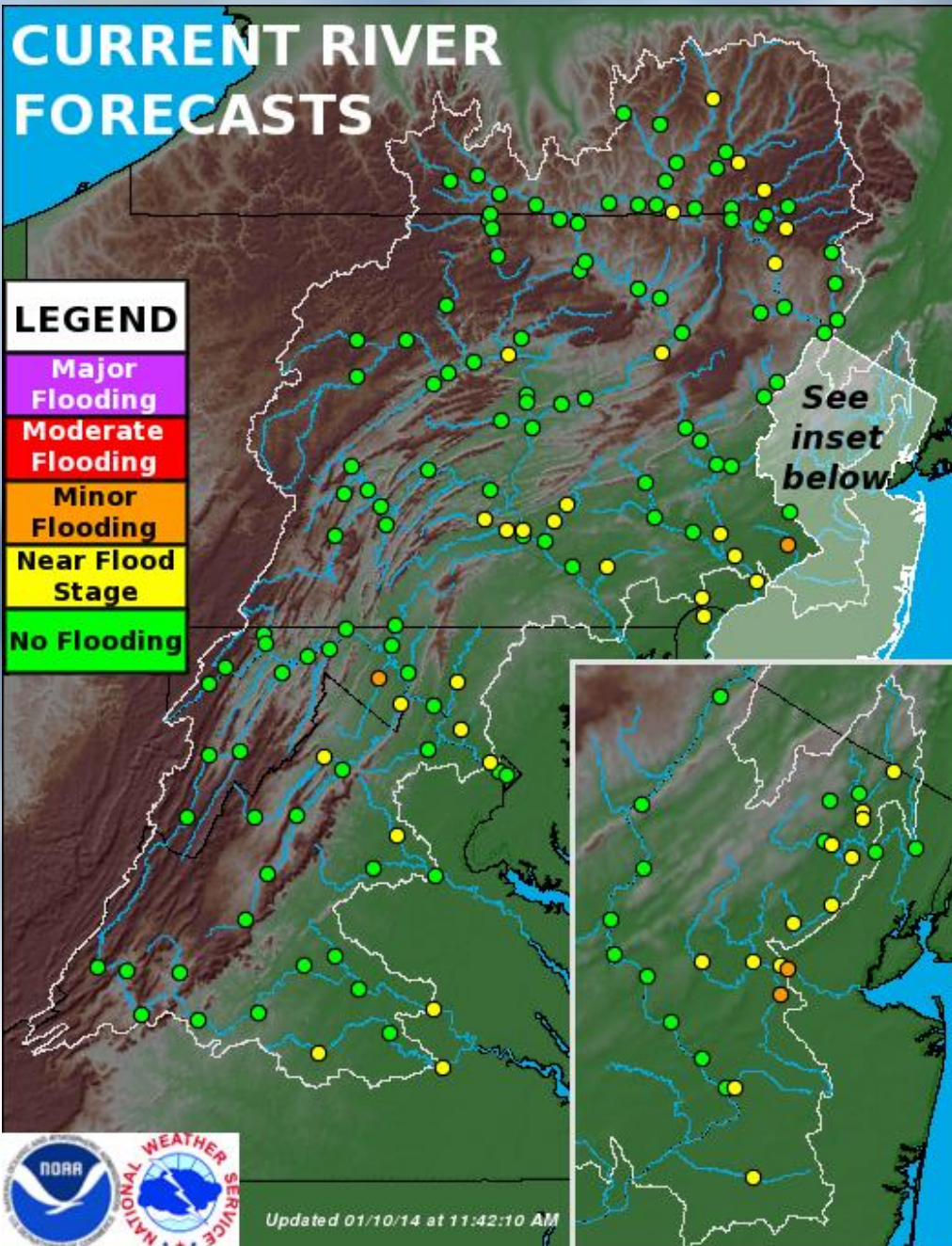


Rainfall forecast

- Current rainfall forecast has a broad area expecting 2+ inches of rainfall.
- **The heaviest rainfall will occur Saturday afternoon & evening.** Heavy rainfall over a short period of time will result in localized flooding problems, particularly where the ground will still be frozen and water will be unable to soak into the ground.



Current River Forecasts



- Here is a summary graphic showing the maximum forecast river stage for various points in the area.
- Orange is minor flooding
- Yellow means approaching flood stage.
- This only takes into account the expected rise from forecast rainfall.
- **This graphic does NOT take into account the Ice Jam flooding threat**

If you only read one slide – **READ THIS ONE!**

- Because rivers are ice-clogged, ice jam flooding is a high risk.
- **Rivers could rapidly rise to moderate or major flooding levels behind an ice jam with little or no warning.**
- **Flooding is also possible downstream from ice jams if they break suddenly.**
- **We cannot forecast the location or timing of ice jam development.**
- If you live near any of the rivers in the region (Passaic, Raritan, Delaware, Schuylkill, Lehigh), you need to be prepared for the possibility of serious ice jam flooding.



How to monitor river levels

- For the latest observed and forecast river levels:
 - <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=phi>
- For the latest weather forecast and warning information from NWS Mount Holly
 - <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/>



Other risks

- Some of the storms on Saturday will be strong and a few could approach severe levels. The main threat is strong damaging winds. The higher risk is as you go south in our area.



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 @NWS_MountHolly
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