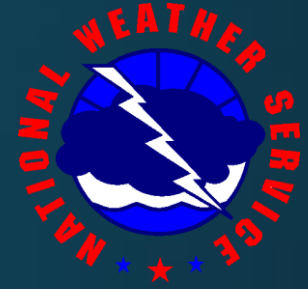




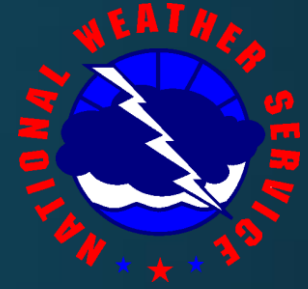
# NWS Flood Products Overview

# Flooding Basics



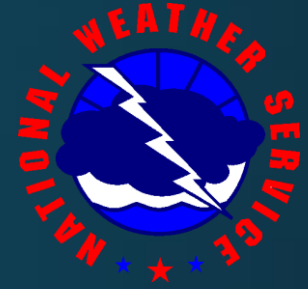
- Why it floods?
  - Too much water too quickly OR for too long
- Every flood is different and depends on multiple factors
- Flash flooding vs. river flooding...there is a big difference BUT you can have both simultaneously!

# Flash Flood vs. Flood



- Flash Flood
  - Rapid inundation of water onto normally dry land
  - Short term event...typically lasts 6 hrs. or less
    - Can last longer depending on duration of heavy rainfall event
  - Likely caused by heavy/excessive rainfall OR dam/levee failure
  - General guidelines:
    - **≥ 3 feet of standing water (less if threatening to life/property)**
    - **≥ 6 inches of fast-flowing water**
- Flood
  - Overflow of water onto normally dry land
  - Longer term event...lasts days (or even weeks)
  - Likely caused by rising water along a river, poor drainage, etc.

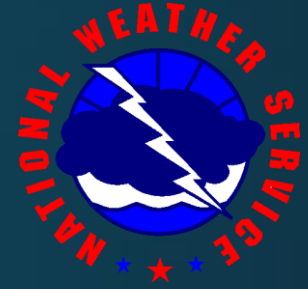
# NWS River Flood Products



- River Flood Warning (FLW)
  - Issued to show when/where flooding is expected/ongoing along a river reach near specific forecast point locations
  - Flood stage categories (w/corresponding impact statements)
    - Minor
    - Moderate
    - Major
  - Reservoir releases are coordinated and included in the river forecasts



# NWS Flash Flood Products

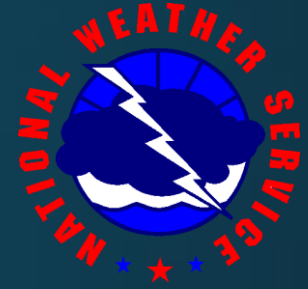


- Excessive Rainfall Outlook (ERO)
  - Issued by WPC up to 5 days before event
  - <https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/#page=ero>
- Flood Watch
  - Typically issued ~ 24-48 hrs. prior to heavy rain event onset
- Flash Flood Watch
  - Issued for areas immediately downstream of a dam when dam failure is possible



Hydro Hazard  
Simplification  
(since Nov 2021)

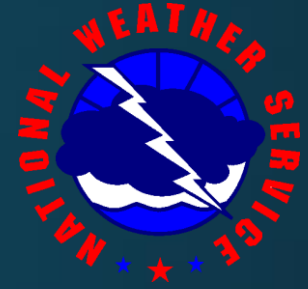
# NWS Flash Flood Products (cont.)



- Flood Advisory
  - Issued to alert the public about possible imminent/ongoing “nuisance” flooding
- Flash Flood Warning (FFW)
  - Issued to alert the public about expected/ongoing flash flooding
  - Can be issued specifically for areas downstream of an imminent dam failure as well (not just flooding from heavy rain)



# Flash Flood Warnings w/IBW tags



- For potentially life-threatening flash flooding, flash flood warnings can now have impact-based warning (IBW) tags attached to them
- IBW tags automatically activate Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to enabled cell phones
  - NOTE: FFWs w/o an IBW tag do NOT activate WEA
- FFW IBW Tag Categories
  - Considerable
  - Catastrophic

# Flash Flood Warnings w/IBW tags



Flash Flood Warnings will trigger Wireless Emergency Alerts only in significant instances.

Previously all Flash Flood Warnings triggered a WEA alert.

Threat level will be at the bottom of the warning for the higher impact warnings that trigger WEA:

FLASH FLOOD... OBSERVED  
FLASH FLOOD DAMAGE THREAT... CONSIDERABLE



Wireless  
Emergency  
Alert (WEA)

No longer WEA for base level warnings

Flash Flood Warning



Flash Flood Warning  
"CONSIDERABLE"



Flash Flood Warning  
"CATASTROPHIC"

Flash Flood Severity

Lowest

Highest

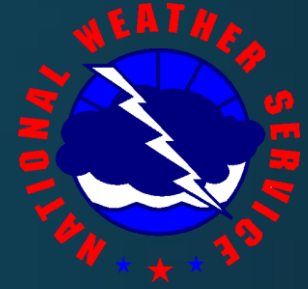




# Questions?

- For additional information...

<http://water.weather.gov/>



NOTE: This website will change soon (but the rollout of the new site has been delayed to 2024...details will be emailed as the come available)