

Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Albany, NY
800 AM EDT Thu Mar 19 2015

The National Weather Service (NWS) Albany, NY has declared March 16 through March 20 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Each day during the awareness week will feature information about a different flood related topic.

Flash Flooding: Flash floods are exactly what the name suggests: floods that happen in a flash! Causes of flash flooding include heavy rain, ice or debris jams, and levee or dam failure. These floods exhibit a rapid rise of water over low-lying areas. There are many reasons that flash floods occur, but one of the most common is the result of copious amounts of rainfall from thunderstorms that cause flash flooding. These sudden downpours can rapidly change the water levels in a stream or creek and turn small waterways into violent, raging rivers. Urban areas are especially prone to flash floods due to the large amounts of concrete and asphalt surfaces that do not allow water to penetrate into the soil easily. It's important to avoid low lying areas and storm drains when heavy rain is in the area. Remember, Turn Around, Don't Drown!

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