



NOAA, National Weather Service  
Middle Atlantic  
River Forecast Center  
Briefing

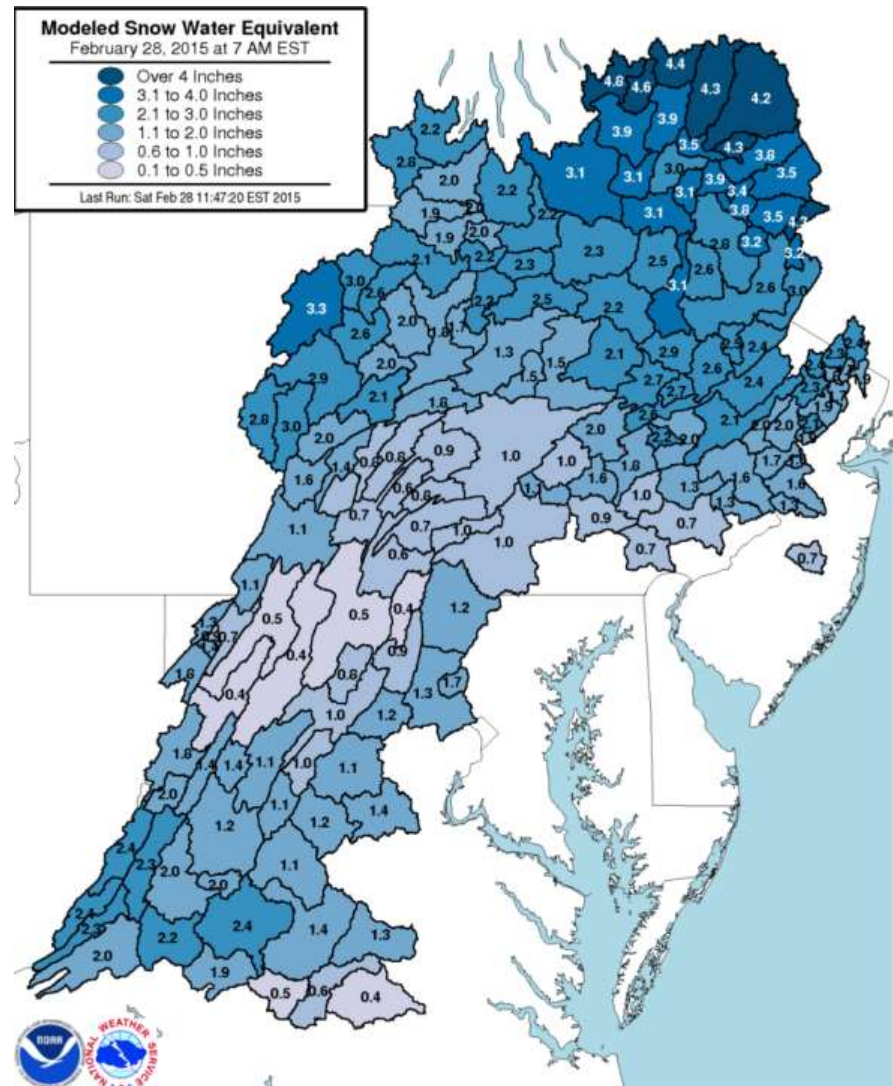
**4:15pm Feb 28, 2015**

# Key Message

- A period of moderate to heavy rain possible between Tuesday afternoon March 3 and Wednesday evening March 4.
- In northern areas the precipitation will start as snow or freezing rain before changing to rain.
- Temperatures in many areas are expected to rise well above freezing Wednesday resulting in snowmelt
- Significant rises may occur on rivers and streams with flooding possible at some locations
- Many rivers are ice covered. As river flow increases existing ice may break-up and begin moving downstream, raising the potential for ice jams.
- Main Threat areas: West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, southeast and south-central Pennsylvania, New Jersey.
- Forecast confidence: Low. There is still considerable uncertainty in the amount of rainfall that will occur and where the heaviest rain will fall. Therefore which rivers and streams will experience flooding cannot be specified. Nor can the severity of any flooding be predicted at this time.
- MARFC will be monitoring the situation and providing briefing updates as more information becomes available.

# Snow Water Equivalent

- Snow water equivalent of 2-4 across upstate NY an Mountains of Pennsylvania.
- Snow water equivalent of 1-2 inches across New Jersey, Southeast Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia
- Melting of snow on Wednesday across West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, southeast Pennsylvania, and New Jersey will add to the river rises caused by the rain.



# Timing of rain & flooding

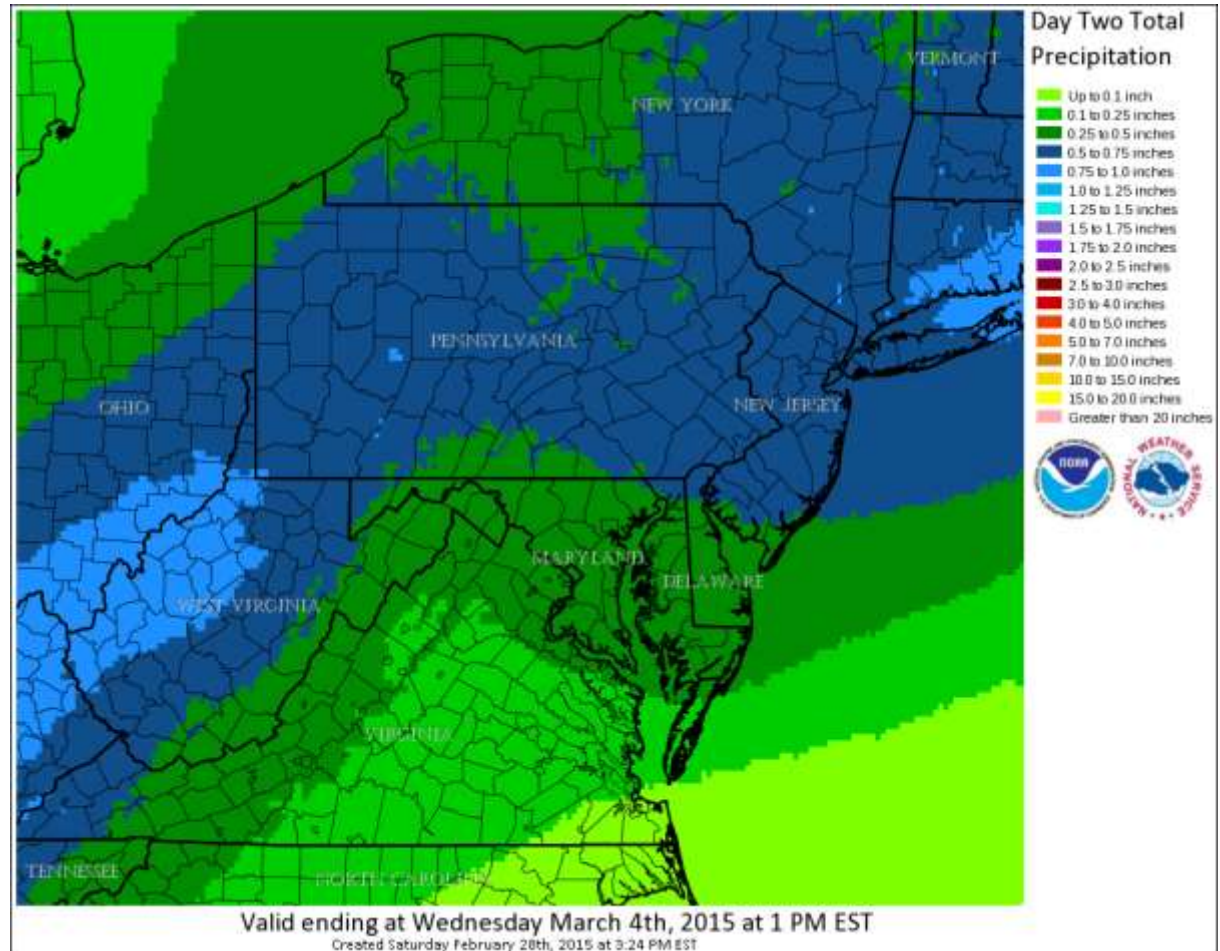
- Rain will overspread the region from west to east during the day on Tuesday. Will likely start out as snow or freezing rain in some areas.
- Rain may be heavy for a period of time on Tuesday or Wednesday.
- Across areas north and west of I-95 corridor lighter rain may change to snow before tapering off Wednesday night
- Small stream and poor drainage flooding possible Tuesday night and Wednesday
- Chance of river flooding beginning Wednesday afternoon and extending thru Thursday.

# Precipitation Forecast

Here is the precipitation forecast for the period from Tuesday afternoon through Wednesday afternoon.

Will likely start out as a mix of snow, sleet, or freezing rain over Pennsylvania and Upstate NY.

Best chance of some heavier rain is Wednesday morning over West Virginia and southwest Virginia

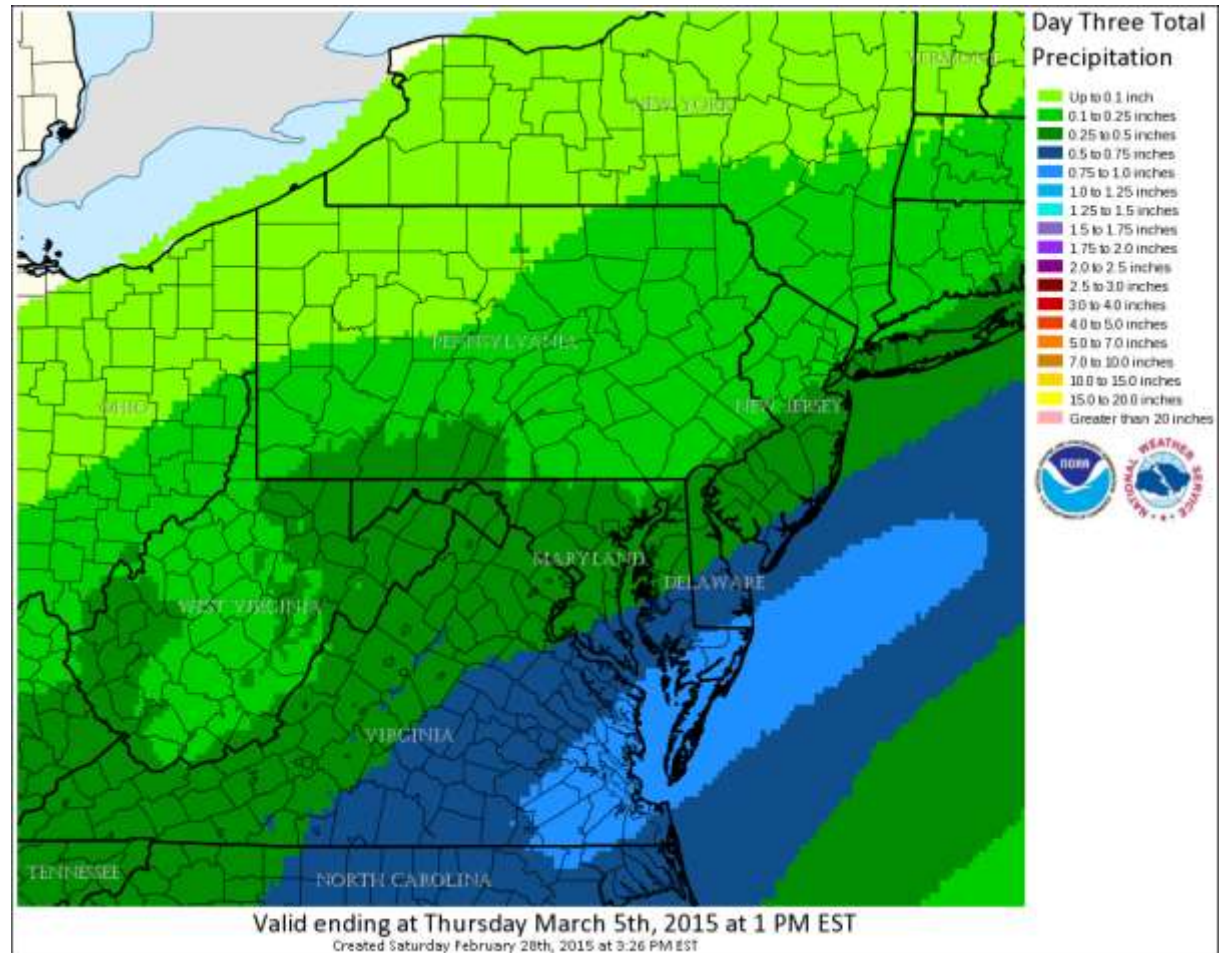


# Precipitation Forecast

Here is the precipitation forecast for the period from Wednesday afternoon through Thursday afternoon.

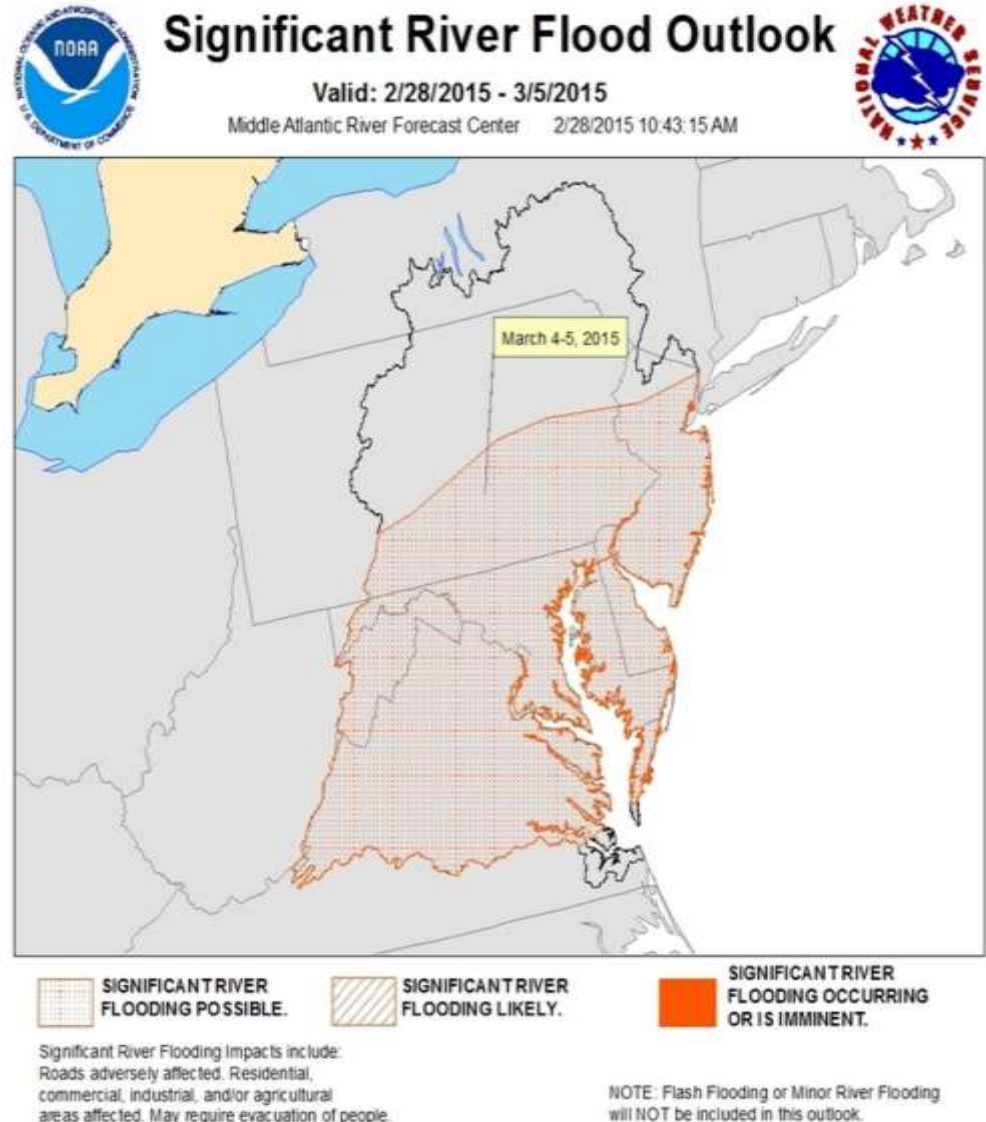
Localized heavier rain is possible in the areas with dark green and blue shading.

In areas North of Washington D.C. or west of I-81, rain will likely change to snow before tapering off from west to east Wednesday evening and Wednesday night.



# River Forecasts

- River and small stream flooding possible in areas shown at right beginning Wednesday afternoon and extending through at least Thursday
- Possible Rivers Impacted: James, Appomattox, Potomac, Shenandoah, Rappahannock, Monocacy, Lower Susquehanna tributaries, Schuylkill, SE Pennsylvania rivers, Raritan, Passaic, Other New Jersey rivers.
- Many of these rivers are ice covered. Rises of two feet or more could lead to movement of ice and the possibility of ice jam flooding.
- **Stay tuned: There is still considerable uncertainty on where and when flooding may occur.**



# Need more info?

- Contact your local NWS Weather Forecast Office
  - Binghamton, NY <http://weather.gov/bgm>
  - Blacksburg, VA <http://weather.gov/rnk>
  - Mt Holly, NJ <http://weather.gov/phi>
  - State College, PA <http://weather.gov/ctp>
  - New York City, NY <http://weather.gov/okx>
  - Sterling, VA <http://weather.gov/lwx>
  - Wakefield, VA <http://weather.gov/akq>
- Email: [peter.ahnert@noaa.gov](mailto:peter.ahnert@noaa.gov)



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# Next MARFC Briefing

- Sunday March 1: 4pm