

NOAA, National Weather Service  
Middle Atlantic  
River Forecast Center  
Briefing

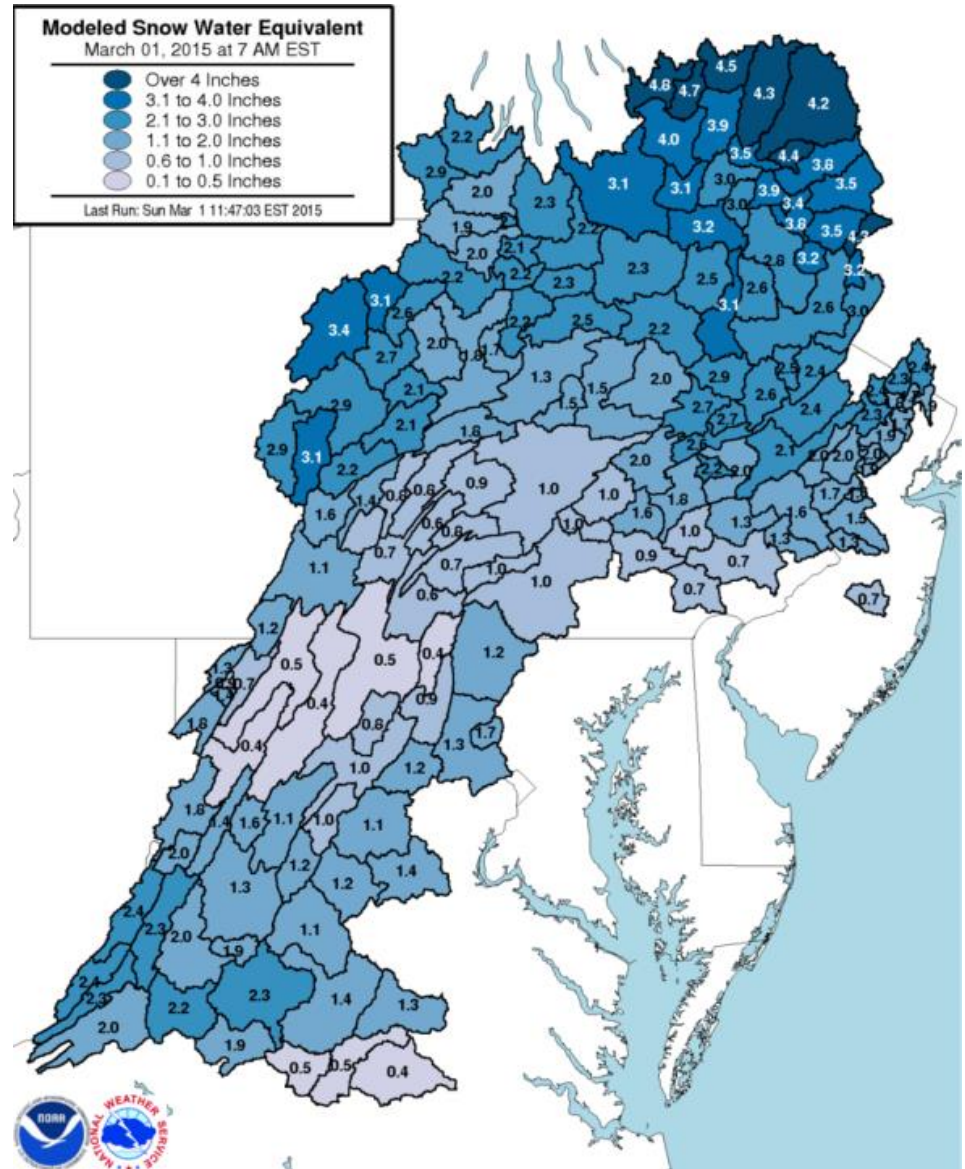
**4:00 pm March 1, 2015**

# Key Message

- Periods of moderate to heavy rain possible between Tuesday evening March 3 and Thursday March 5.
- 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 mainly from southern PA and points south.
- 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 Pennsylvania, and 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, location and severity of any flooding cannot be determined 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 2-4½ inches across upstate NY and the 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.



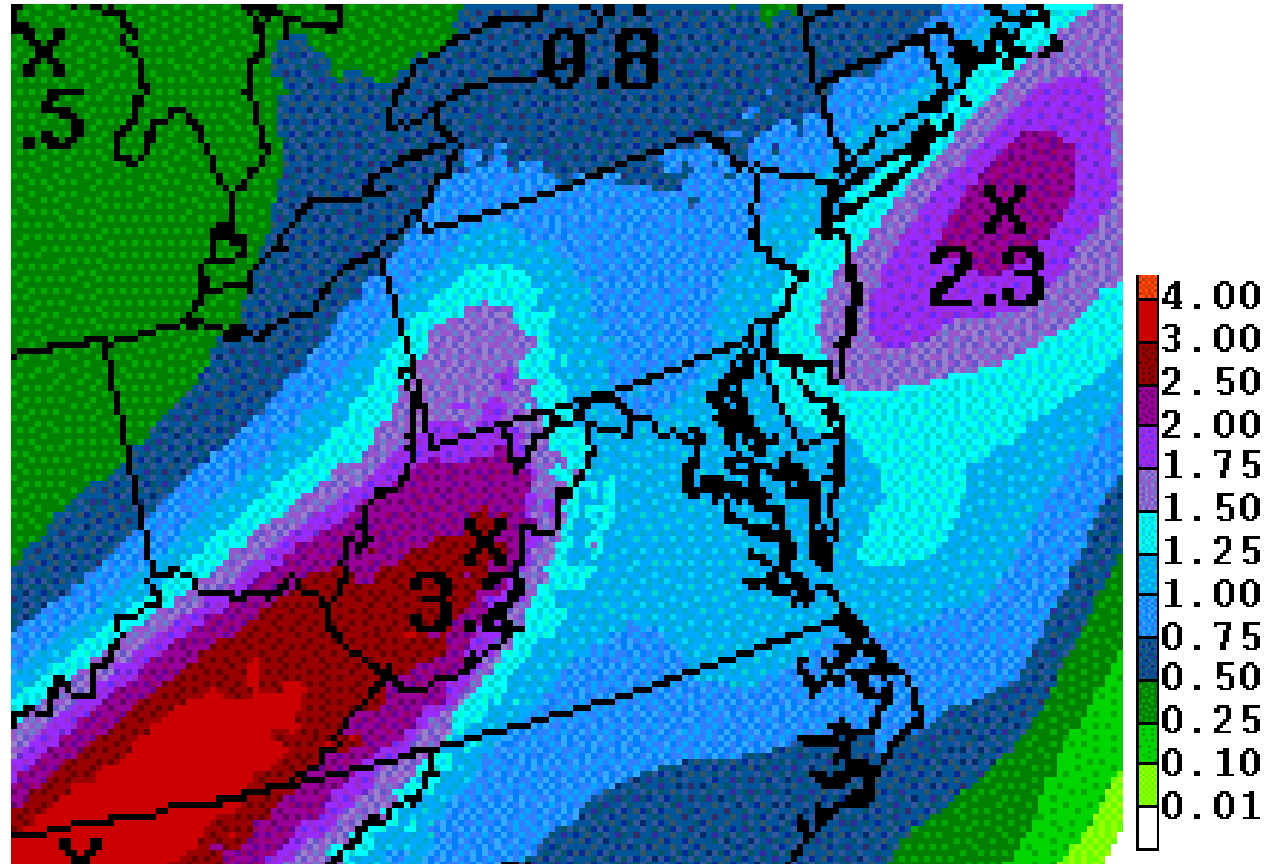
# Timing of rain & flooding

- Precipitation 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, especially north.
- Rain may be heavy for a period of time on Tuesday or Wednesday.
- In 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 through late Thursday.

# Precipitation Forecast

Here is the precipitation forecast for the next 5 days.

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



# River Forecasts

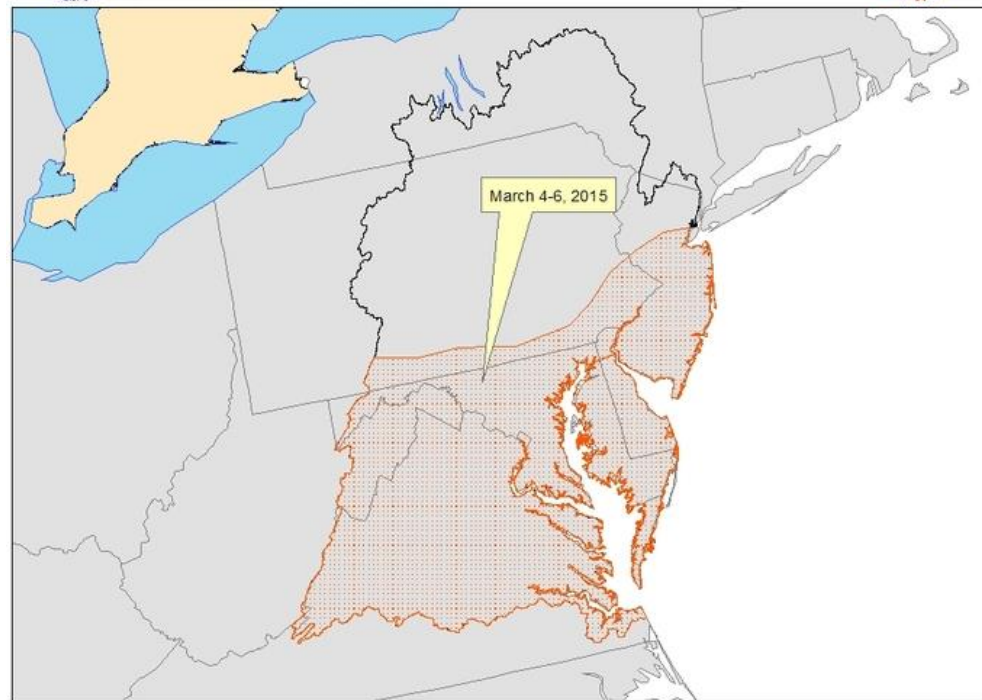
- River and small stream flooding possible in areas shown at right beginning late Wednesday and extending through at least Thursday
- Possible Rivers Impacted: James, Appomattox, Potomac, Shenandoah, Rappahannock, Monocacy, Schuylkill, SE Pennsylvania rivers, and Raritan.
- Many of these rivers are ice 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.**



## Significant River Flood Outlook


Valid: 3/1/2015 - 3/6/2015

Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center 3/1/2015 11:03:48 AM



 SIGNIFICANT RIVER FLOODING POSSIBLE.

 SIGNIFICANT RIVER FLOODING LIKELY.

 SIGNIFICANT RIVER FLOODING OCCURRING OR IS IMMINENT.

Significant River Flooding Impacts include:  
Roads adversely affected. Residential, commercial, industrial, and/or agricultural areas affected. May require evacuation of people.

NOTE: Flash Flooding or Minor River Flooding will NOT be included in this outlook.

# 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

- Monday March 2: 4pm