



# NOAA, National Weather Service Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center Briefing

**April 5, 2017**

**Potential for Minor to Moderate Flood across  
parts of Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey**

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# Flood Potential April 5 – April 8

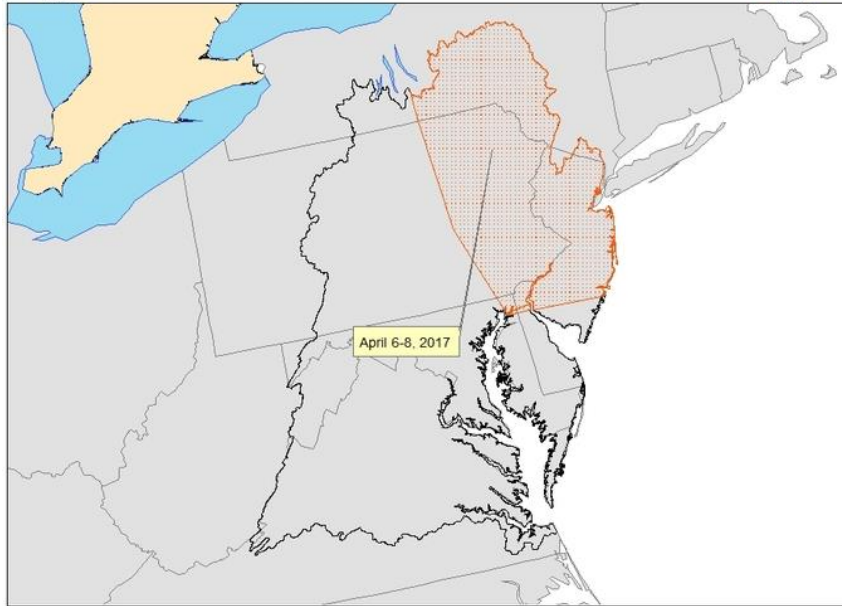
- **PREPARE NOW FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF FLOODING.**
- **MONITOR RIVER FORECASTS TODAY AND TOMORROW FOR POTENTIAL FLOODING.**
- **Risk:** Minor flooding possible. Predicted rainfall amounts have decreased somewhat from previous forecasts and therefore, moderate flooding is less likely.
- **Location:** Greatest chance for minor river flooding is from central New York thru northeast Pennsylvania and into northern New Jersey. Isolated small stream flooding possible elsewhere due to localized heavy rainfall from thunderstorms.
- **Timing:** Greatest chance for river flooding is on Thursday night and Friday. Isolated small stream and tributary rivers could flood as early as Thursday afternoon.
- **Confidence:** High confidence that we will be seeing some minor flooding within the region. However, which locations flood and whether or not flooding is widespread will depend on rainfall. With the heaviest rainfall still 24 hours away, the current rainfall forecast is subject to change.
- **Note:** This briefing is focused on the river flood threat. There is also a risk of localized small stream flooding, isolated flash flooding, and tidal flooding in some areas. Poor drainage and urban flooding is also likely in the areas of heaviest rainfall. Refer to your local NWS office for details.

# 5 Day Flood Potential




## Significant River Flood Outlook

Valid: 4/5/2017 - 4/10/2017  
Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center 4/5/2017 10:35:02 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.

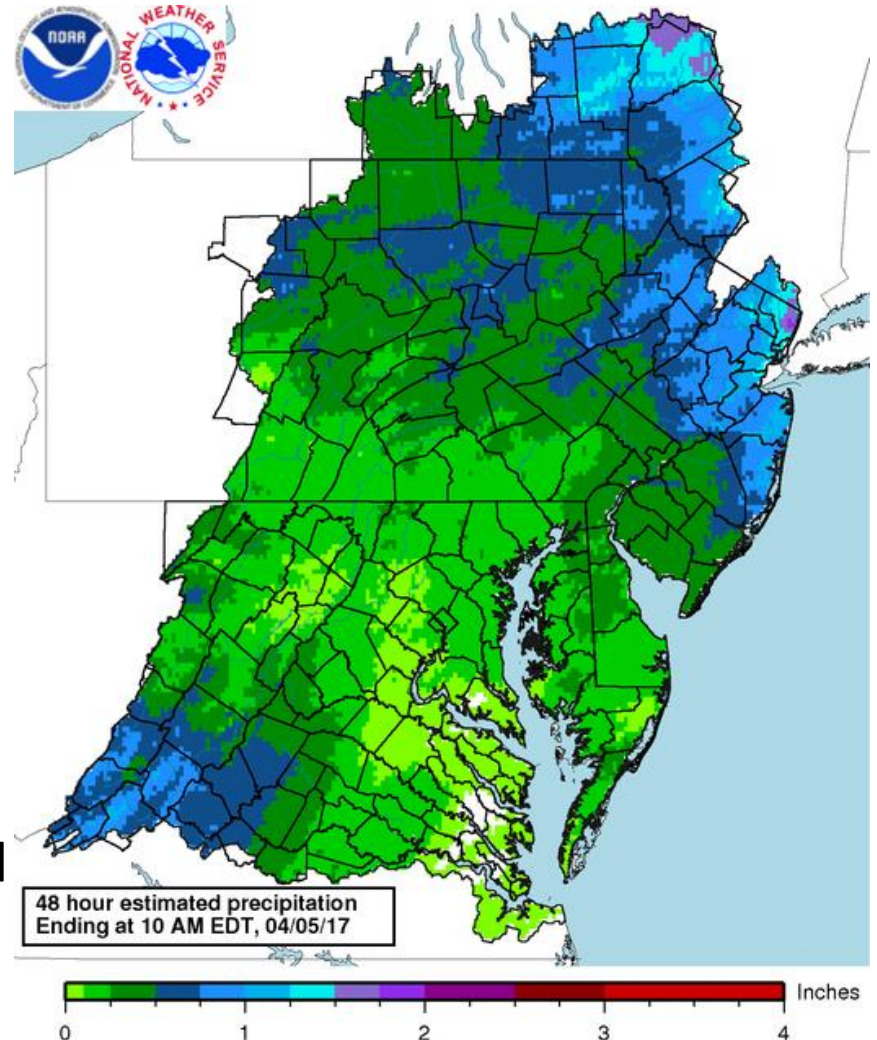
NOTE: Flash Flooding or Minor River Flooding will NOT be included in this outlook.

The orange hatched area shows the area where the potential exists for moderate flooding later in the week. The risk of moderate flooding is low (<20 percent) based on current rainfall forecasts.

Minor flooding is possible in the same region starting Thursday afternoon.

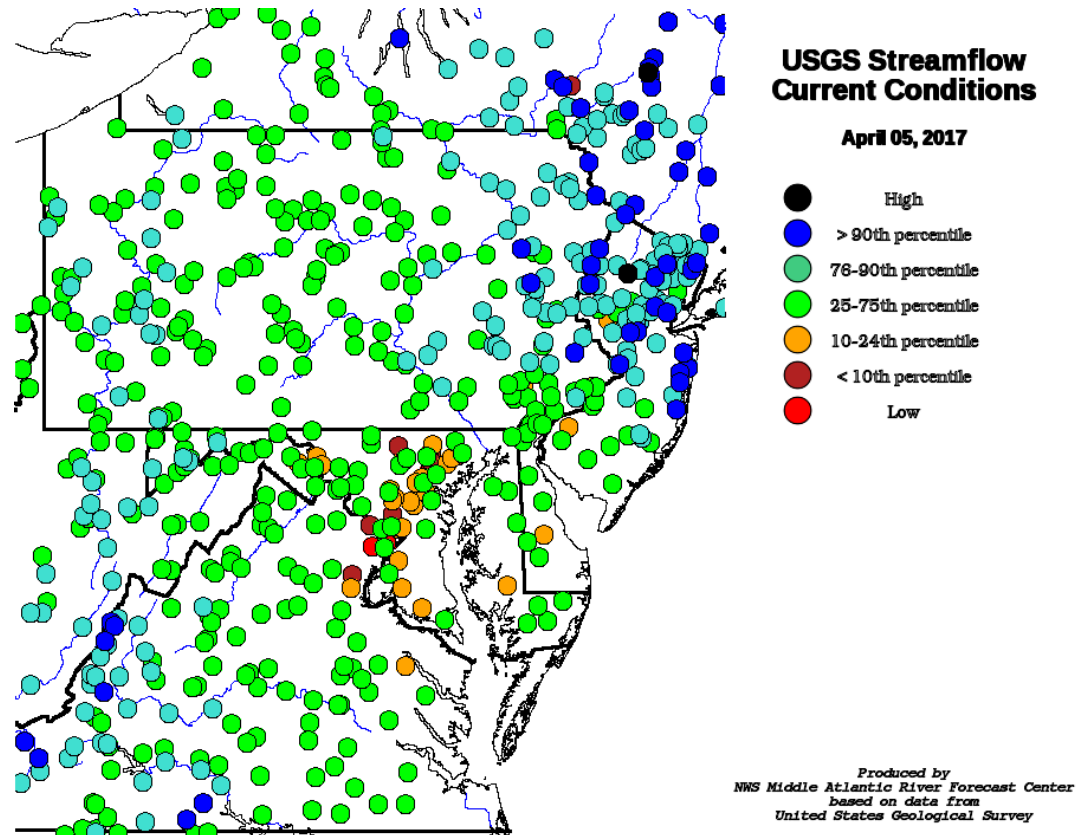
# Observed Rainfall

- Over the past 48 hours we have seen up to 1-2 inches of rain in parts of New York, northern New Jersey, northeast Pennsylvania, and southcentral Virginia.
- Over the past 30 days, precipitation has been around 2 inches above normal in the North Branch Susquehanna and the Upper Delaware basins. Soils are now relatively wet in these areas and a greater percentage of the rainfall will runoff into streams and rivers.

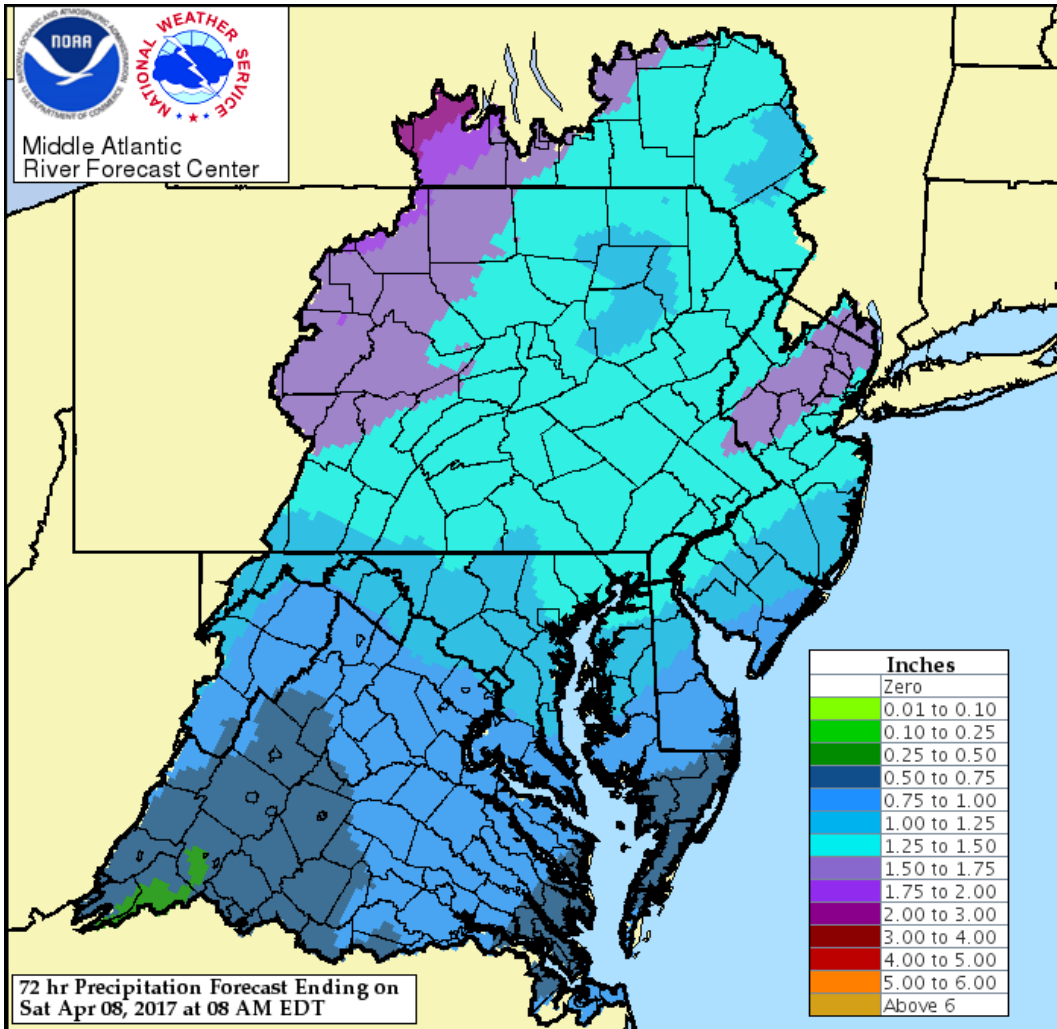


# Current Streamflows

- Recent rainfall and in some areas snowmelt have combined to raise streamflows to moderately high levels (dark blue and turquoise dots) across parts of New York, eastern Pennsylvania, northern New Jersey and western Virginia.
- Where stream levels are already high, less runoff will be required to initiate flooding.



# 72 Hour Precipitation Forecast



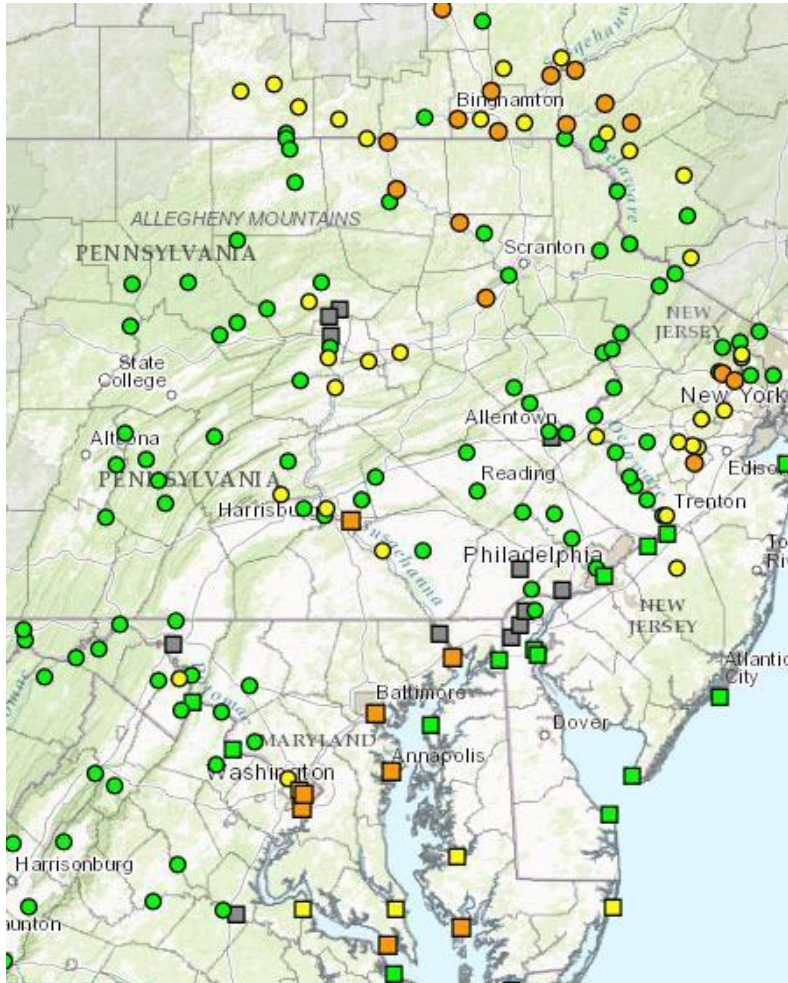
Predicted rainfall during the next 3 days. Up to about 2.0 inches are expected with the highest amounts across the Chemung and West Branch Susquehanna river basins.

Rainfall will overspread the region from southwest to northeast beginning early Thursday morning with the heaviest amounts Thursday afternoon and evening across the Susquehanna basin, Delaware basin, and New Jersey river basins.

Compared to yesterday's predicted amounts, many of the areas with the highest flood threat are now expected to get 0.25 to 0.5 inches less rain. This is why the threat of moderate flooding has diminished.

Amounts shown are basin averages. Localized higher amounts are possible over short periods of time in thunderstorms. This is why there is also a threat of small stream, flash flood, and poor drainage/urban flooding.

# Official River Forecasts (as of Noon April 5)



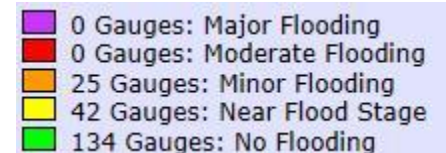
These are the river forecasts for the next 3 days based on the current rainfall forecast. Minor flooding is predicted at 25 locations (orange dots) with an additional 42 locations with river levels near flood stage.

Impacted river basins include

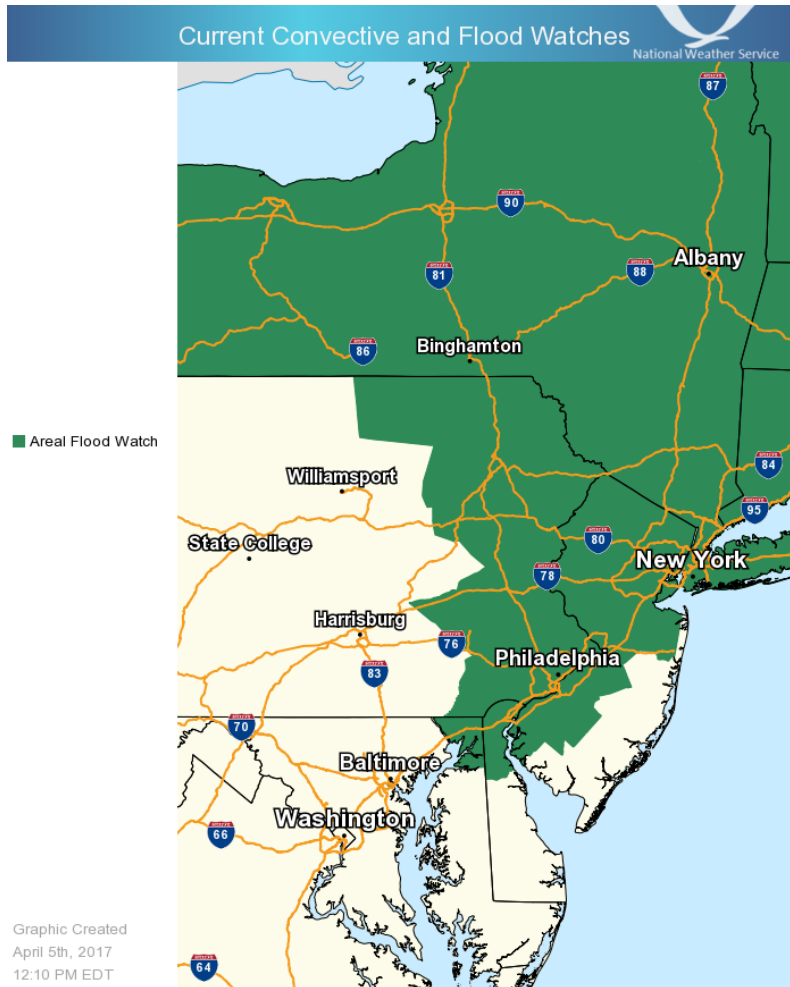
- Susquehanna North Branch (NY/PA)
- Delaware above Cannonsville (NY)
- Passaic (NJ)
- Millstone (NJ)
- Swatara Creek (PA)

Note there are also forecasts for minor coastal flooding along the Chesapeake Bay and for the tidal Potomac around Washington D.C. and Alexandria, VA.

For the latest forecasts go to: [www.weather.gov/marfc](http://www.weather.gov/marfc)



# Flood Watches Are In Effect



- Flood watches are currently in effect in the green shaded areas.
- Moderate to heavy rain in these areas will likely result in some roadway flooding along with flooding in areas of poor drainage beginning on Thursday afternoon. Isolated instances of flash flooding may occur, especially in urban areas. Some small streams and creeks may leave their banks Thursday afternoon into Thursday night. Minor flooding of some larger rivers could then occur Thursday night into Friday. Minor river flooding in some areas could persist into the weekend.



# Keep Up To Date with Latest 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>
- River Forecasts
  - <http://www.weather.gov/marfc>
- Email: [peter.ahnert@noaa.gov](mailto:peter.ahnert@noaa.gov)

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# Next MARFC Briefing

- **The next MARFC briefing will be issued Thursday around noon.**