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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE NEW YORK NY  
600 AM EDT FRI MAR 18 2016

...THIS WEEK IS NATIONAL FLOOD SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK...

TODAYS TOPIC IS FLOOD SAFETY.

FLOODING CAN OCCUR FROM A VARIETY OF CAUSES ALL YEAR ROUND.  
SO...WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF...YOUR LOVED ONES AND YOUR  
PROPERTY FROM THE DANGERS OF FLOODING...THAT IS THE GOAL OF FLOOD  
SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK.

FIRST AND FOREMOST...IF YOU ENCOUNTER A FLOODED ROAD...ESPECIALLY  
ONE IN WHICH WATER IS FLOWING OVER...TURN AROUND AND FIND AN  
ALTERNATE ROUTE. DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH A FLOODED ROAD. YOU ARE  
PLACING YOURSELF AND THOSE WITH YOU IN GRAVE DANGER. THIS IS HOW 50  
PERCENT OF ALL FLOOD DEATHS OCCUR IN THE UNITED STATES. TURN  
AROUND...DONT DROWN.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP INFORMED OF THE LATEST FORECASTS ESPECIALLY  
IF YOU LIVE...WORK OR HAVE TO DRIVE THROUGH A FLOOD PRONE AREA.  
NOAA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ISSUES FLOOD WATCHES WHEN THE  
POTENTIAL EXISTS FOR FLOODING IN LOW LYING AND POOR DRAINAGE AREAS  
AND ALONG STREAMS...CREEKS AND RIVERS. WHEN A FLOOD WATCH IS ISSUED  
...IT MEANS THAT THERE IS ABOUT A 50 PERCENT CHANCE OF FLOODING.

WHEN A WATCH IS IN EFFECT...YOU SHOULD CLOSELY MONITOR STREAMS NEAR  
YOUR RESIDENCE AND BE PREPARED TO EVACUATE AT A MOMENTS NOTICE  
SHOULD FLOODING OCCUR OR A WARNING IS ISSUED. IF YOU HAVE TO  
EVACUATE...YOU WILL WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU BRING ENOUGH SUPPLIES TO  
LAST FOR AT LEAST 3 DAYS OR LONGER. THIS INCLUDES AT LEAST ONE  
CHANGE OF CLOTHING FOR EACH PERSON...A BLANKET OR SLEEPING BAG PER  
PERSON...MEDICINE...A RADIO...CASH AND CREDIT CARDS AND SPECIAL  
ITEMS FOR THE ELDERLY...INFANTS OR DISABLED FAMILY MEMBERS.

A FLOOD WARNING IS ISSUED WITH AT LEAST 80 PERCENT FORECAST  
CONFIDENCE. WHEN YOU RECEIVE A FLOOD WARNING...EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY  
IF ADVISED TO DO SO. DO NOT DRIVE IF YOU DO NOT HAVE TO. GET OUT OF  
AREAS SUBJECT TO FLOODING. NEVER TRY TO WALK...SWIM...DRIVE OR PLAY  
IN FLOOD WATERS. YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SEE HOLES OR SUBMERGED  
DEBRIS. BE CAUTIOUS AT NIGHT WHEN IT IS HARDER TO RECOGNIZE FLOOD  
DANGERS.

THE BEST WAY TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON FLOOD WATCHES...WARNINGS AND  
ADVISORIES IS THROUGH NOAAS ALL HAZARD RADIO...A SPECIAL KIND OF  
RADIO STATION DEVOTED TO WEATHER FORECASTS AND WARNINGS. THE  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OPERATES OVER 900 OF THESE RADIO STATIONS  
NATIONWIDE. BROADCASTS CAN BE HEARD FROM NEW YORK CITY AND MONTVILLE  
CT ON 162.55 MHZ...FROM RIVERHEAD ON 162.475 MHZ AND FROM MERIDEN ON

162.40 MHZ. MANY SCANNERS AND SPECIAL WEATHER RADIOS SOLD AT MOST ELECTRONICS STORES CAN PICK UP THE NOAA WEATHER RADIO FREQUENCIES WHEN THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ISSUES A FLOOD WATCH OR WARNING.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FLOOD AWARENESS WEEK USE THIS WEB SITE...

[HTTP://WWW.FLOODSAFETY.NOAA.GOV](http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov)

IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION...CONTACT GARY CONTE AT GARY.CONTE@NOAA.GOV OR NANCY FURBUSH AT NANCY.FURBUSH@NOAA.GOV.