West Gulf River Forecast Center

River Forecast Overview

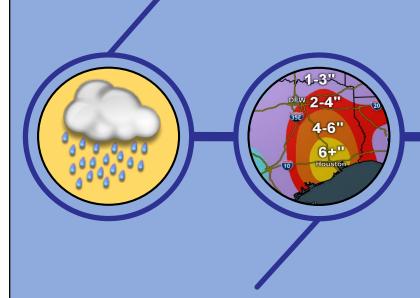


What Goes into a River Flood Warning?

Precipitation Analysis

1. Observed Rainfall

Collect, analyze, and quality control hourly blended rainfall data as input for the river model



2. Forecast Rainfall

8am

9am

10am

11am

12pm

7am

CDT

12Z

1pm CDT

18Z

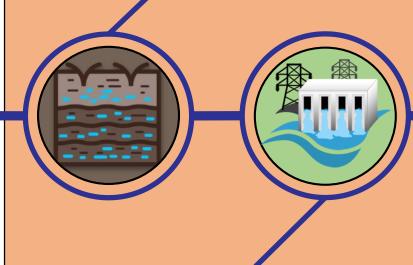
2pm

Utilizing blended weather models, forecasters estimate 6 hourly blocks of forecast rainfall as input for the river model

Hydrologic Modeling

3. Soil Moisture

Model analyzes how much of the provided precipitation analysis is absorbed and runs off into local creeks, streams, bayous, and rivers



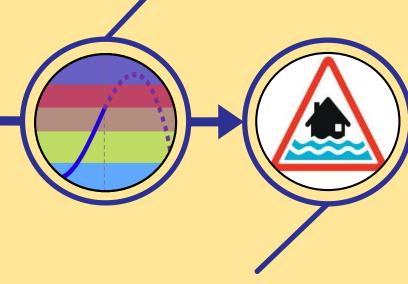
4. Reservoir Operations

Coordination with organizations controlling water from lakes is incorporated into the river model analysis

Decision Support

5. River Forecast

Forecasters evaluate model output and make modifications based on local knowledge before releasing the official forecast



6. Flood Warning

Weather Forecast Offices receive the river forecast and create flood warnings and other products for potentially impacted areas

River Forecast Timeline Observed Rainfall 6:30am (Every Hour) Ingest hourly radar rainfall estimations and gage **Rainfall Forecast** accumulations and create an 7:15am (Every 6 Hours) hourly rainfall estimate for the

Process national rainfall forecast from the Weather Prediction river model Center, make local adjustments and send to river model Official Forecast Package 8:00 - 9:00am (Every 6 Hours)

Using rainfall data create official forecast hydrograph for points exceeding flood criteria and for select points which forecasts are

River Flood Warning

9:15am (5-15 minutes After Official Forecast)

River forecast is transmitted to Weather Forecast Office who reviews the hydrograph and transmits the appropriate product (statement, advisory, warning)



Decision Support Products 11:00am (Daily)

Briefings, graphics, and other supporting material to translate the river forecast into a format for people to make educated decisions for flood hazards

Monitor River Forecasts

Stream gage and rain information updates through out the day, and forecasts are monitored and updated whenever necessary at any time of the day.



Repeat Process

1:00pm (Every 6 Hours)

Start back with updating the rainfall forecast and continue through the

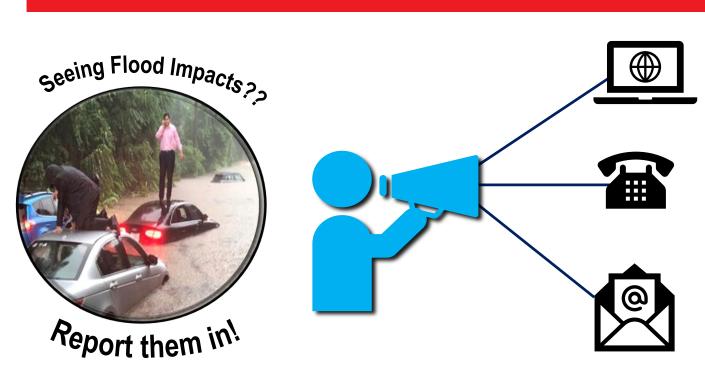
Operational Hours

Standard Operations 6:00am - 10:00pm

No updates between 10pm and 6am

Extended Operations

When rainfall conditions warrant monitoring between 10pm – 6am the river forecast center will extend hours and perform updates during this time



NWS Chat

Don't have an account?? If not register at https://nwschat.weather.gov/ and get access. If registered, go into ewxchat and provide your flood report to the IWT community

Phone

Report flooding impacts directly to the Austin/San Antonio office by calling (830) 629-0130

E-Mail

Send in your reports to the office email account at sr-ewx.webmaster@noaa.gov