



NOAA, National Weather Service  
Middle Atlantic  
River Forecast Center  
Briefing

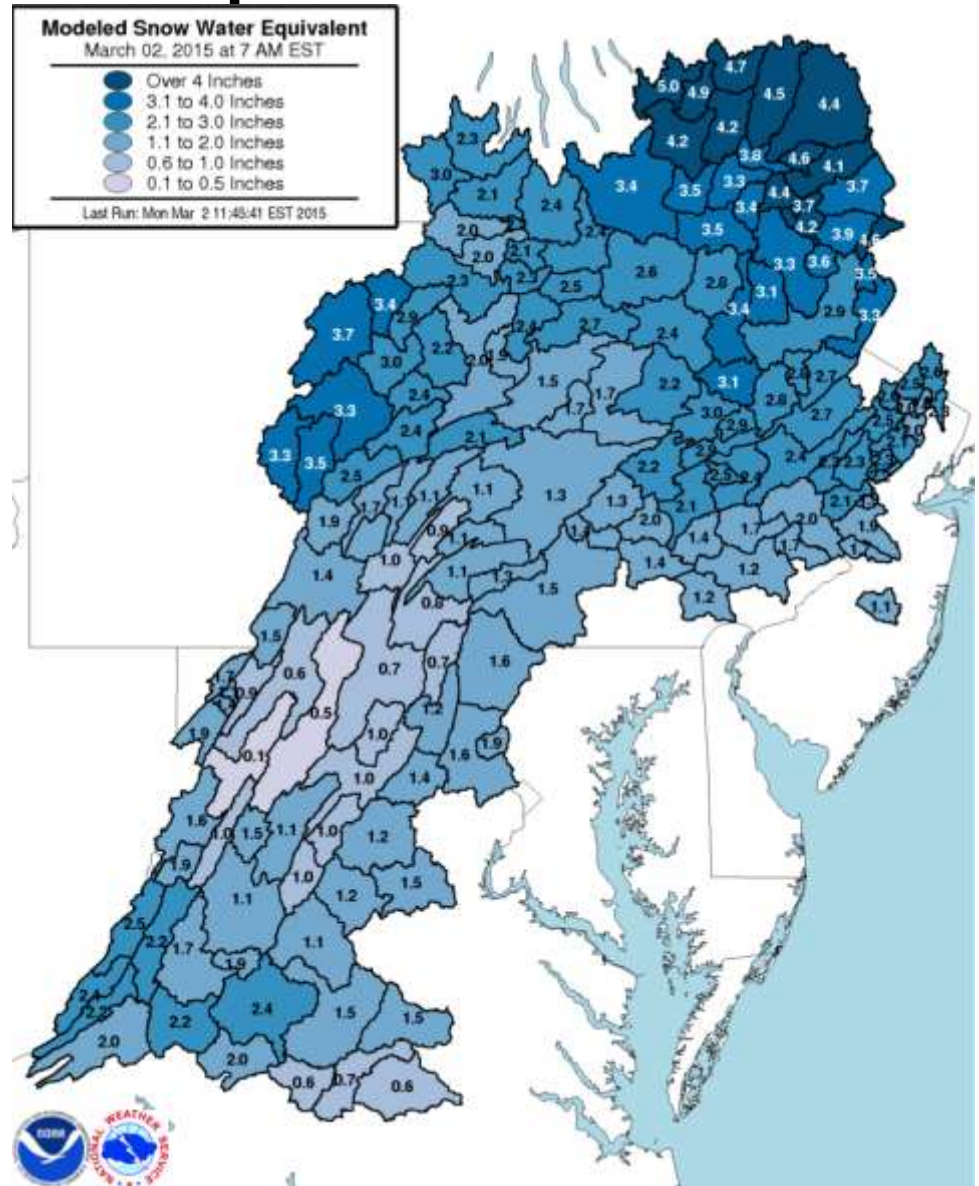
**5:15 pm March 2, 2015**

# Key Message

- Threat of significant river flooding for the period from Tuesday night through Friday has diminished in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Nuisance flooding in poor drainage areas and minor river flooding may still occur.
- Best chance for minor to moderate flooding is across Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland.
- Periods of moderate to heavy rain possible between Tuesday evening March 3 and Wednesday evening March 4.
- In northern areas the precipitation will start as snow or freezing rain before changing to rain.
- Temperatures south of the Mason-Dixon line are expected to rise well above freezing Wednesday resulting in snowmelt.
- Many rivers are ice covered. As river flow increases existing ice may break-up and begin moving downstream, raising the potential for ice jams.
- Forecast confidence: **Moderate**. There is still uncertainty in the amount of rainfall that will occur and where heavy rain may fall. However, models have been fairly consistent over the last couple of days leading to a gradual increase in confidence. Still too early to know exactly where any flooding will occur.
- MARFC will be monitoring the situation and providing briefing updates as more information becomes available.
- **Preparedness actions recommended**: Review flood contingency plans. Clean debris, snow and ice from around storm drains. Monitor NWS river and weather forecasts in the coming days.

# 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
- Warm temperatures will melt snow on Wednesday, especially across West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland.
- Melting will be less over Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York due to cooler temperatures.



# Timing of rain & flooding

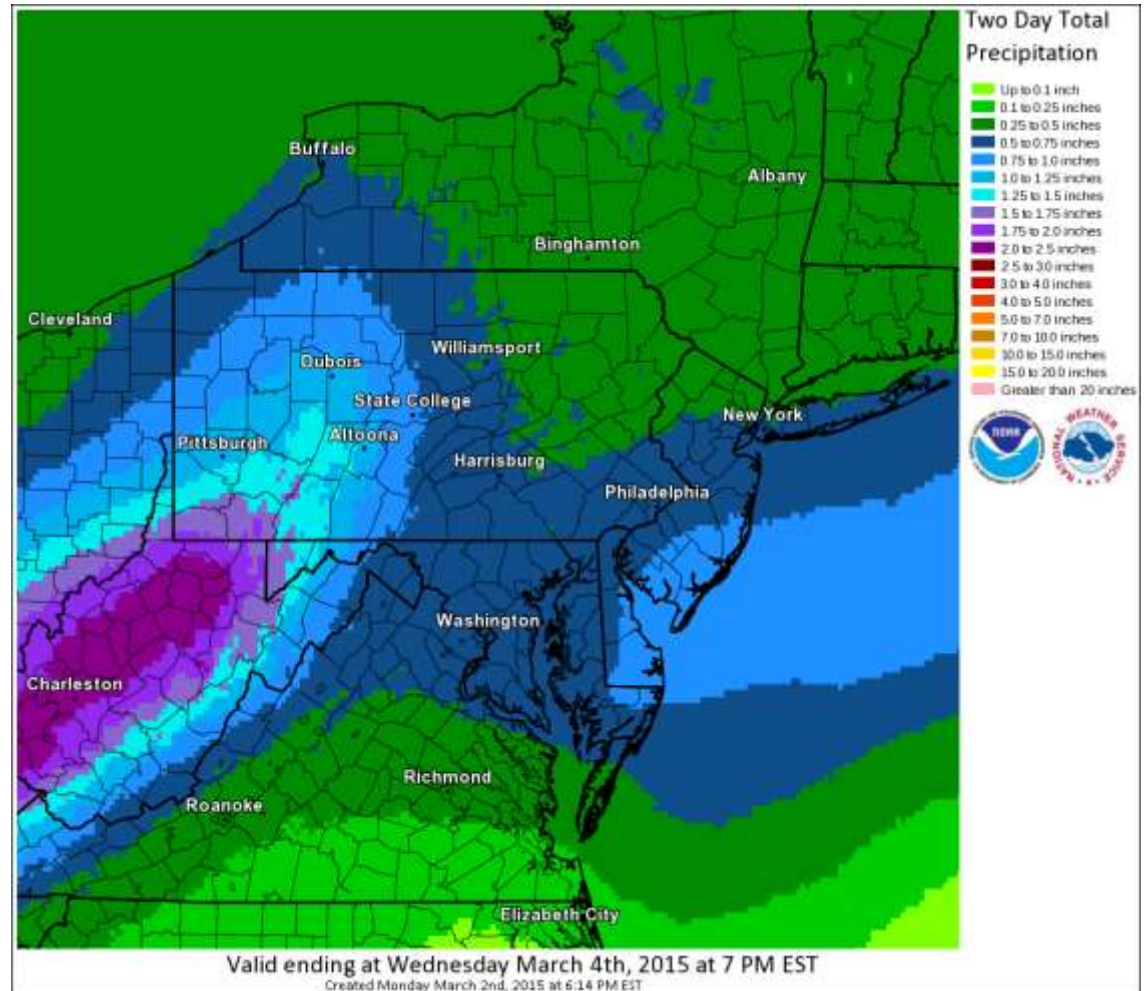
- Precipitation will overspread the region from west to east during the day on Tuesday. Will likely start out as snow or freezing rain in most areas
- Rain may be heavy for a period of time on Tuesday night or Wednesday. Best chance for heavier rain is over the upper Potomac and Upper James basins and their tributaries.
- In most areas, lighter rain may change to mix of rain/sleet and then snow Wednesday night. More snow possible in many areas on Thursday.
- Small stream and poor drainage flooding possible Tuesday night and Wednesday
- Chance of river flooding mainly south of the Mason-Dixon line beginning Wednesday night and extending through Friday.

# Precipitation Forecast

Here is the precipitation forecast for through 7PM on Wednesday. It is possible the area of heavier rain shown in purple could shift eastward slightly.

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

Return to Colder temperatures will cause change-over back to snow on Wednesday evening in most areas.



# River Forecasts

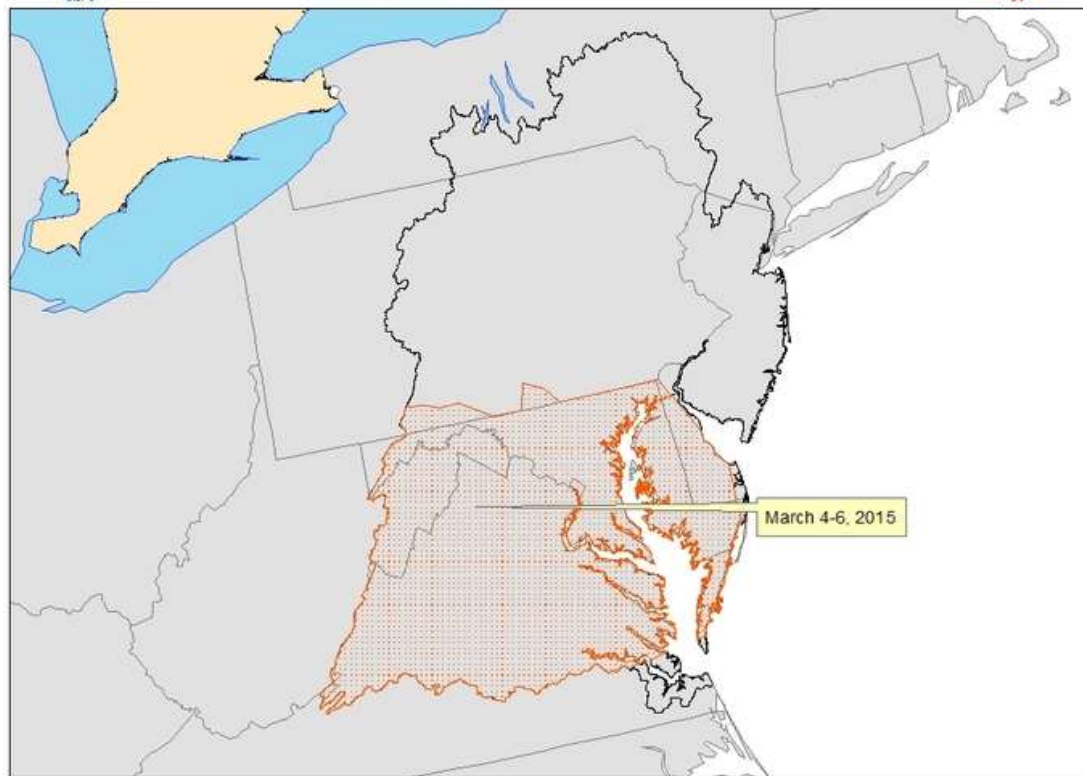
- River and small stream flooding possible in areas shown at right beginning Wednesday night and extending through Friday.
- Possible Rivers Impacted: James, Appomattox, Potomac, Shenandoah, Rappahannock, Monocacy.
- Many of these rivers are ice covered. Rises of two feet or more could lead to movement of ice and the possibility of ice jam flooding.
- **Stay tuned: For the latest river forecasts go to our web page at: [www.weather.gov/marfc](http://www.weather.gov/marfc)**



## Significant River Flood Outlook

Valid: 3/2/2015 - 3/7/2015

Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center 3/2/2015 9:56:52 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

- Tuesday March 3: 4pm