

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

1:30PM February 14, 2016

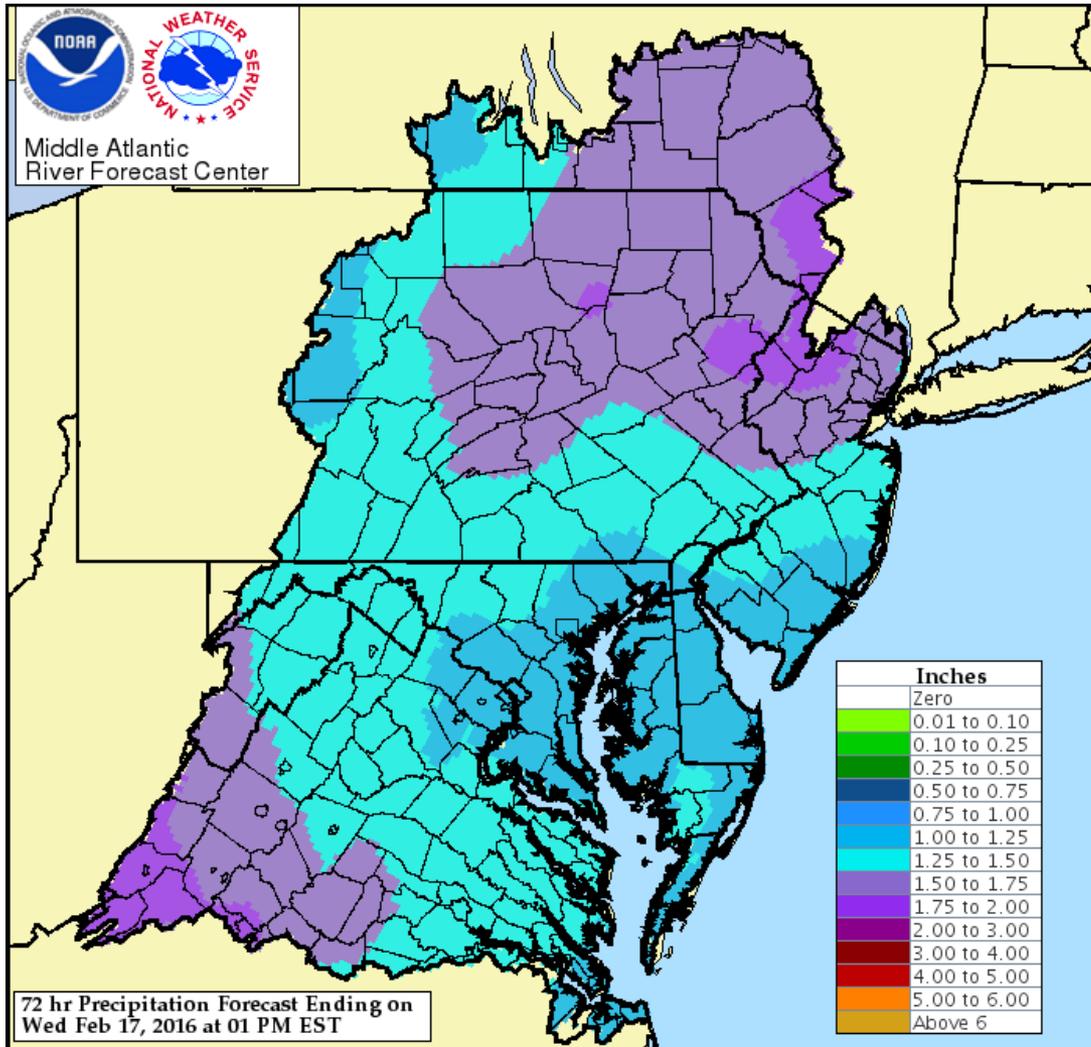
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# Flood Potential Feb 16-18

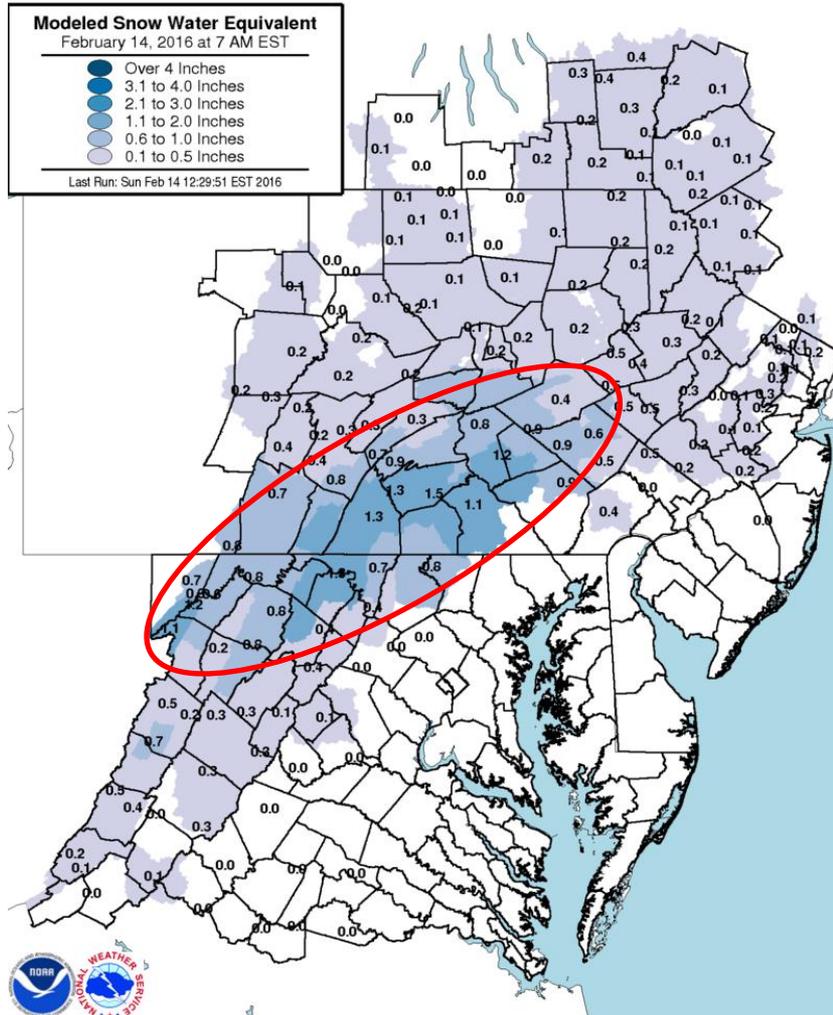
- **BEGIN TO PREPARE NOW FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF FLOODING.**
- **Risk:** Minor Flooding possible across portions of the Mid-Atlantic. Isolated locations could reach Moderate Flood levels. Too early to name specific river basins that may be impacted
- **Timing:** Best chance for flooding is Tuesday night and Wednesday, but flooding could occur as early as Tuesday morning or as late as Thursday.
- **Uncertainty:** High. Number of locations exceeding flood stage depends on temperature and locations of heavier rainfall. This depends heavily on the exact track of the storm. Parts of the region are expected to see mainly snow instead of rain, limiting runoff.
- **Note:** This briefing is for river flooding. There is a risk of localized small stream or flash flooding in some areas beginning Monday night. Poor drainage flooding is also likely during the period.

# 72 Hour Precipitation Forecast



Precipitation is expected to overspread the region on Monday and Monday night, beginning as snow or a mix, then changing over to rain from south to north. By Tuesday morning, most areas will have changed over to rain. Rainfall amounts will generally be between 1.0 and 2.0 inches, but higher amounts are possible locally.

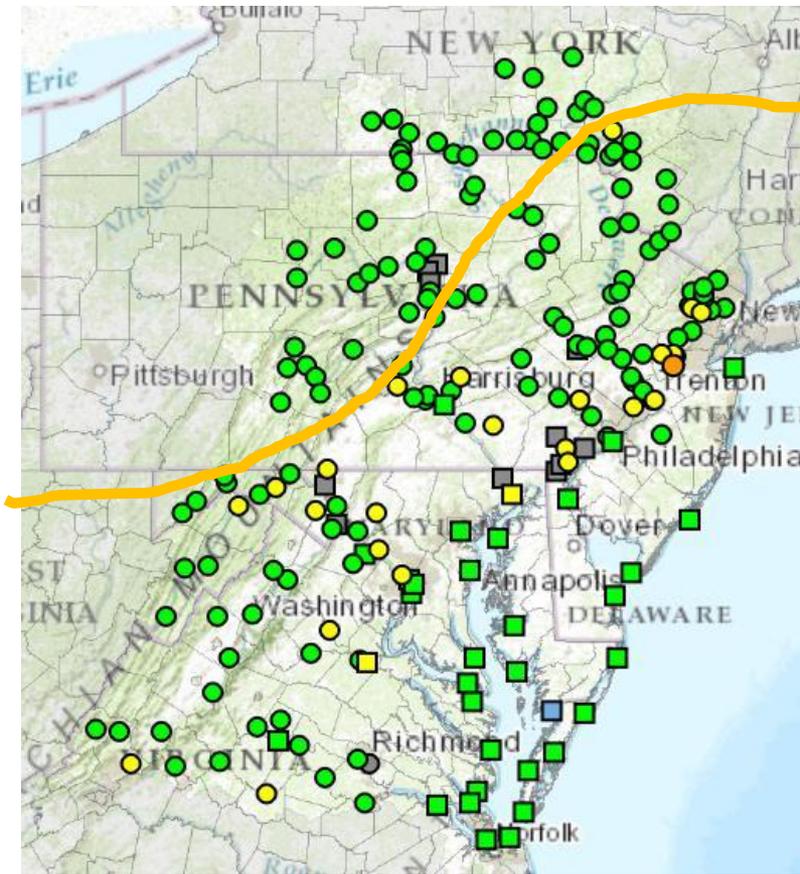
# Water in Snowpack



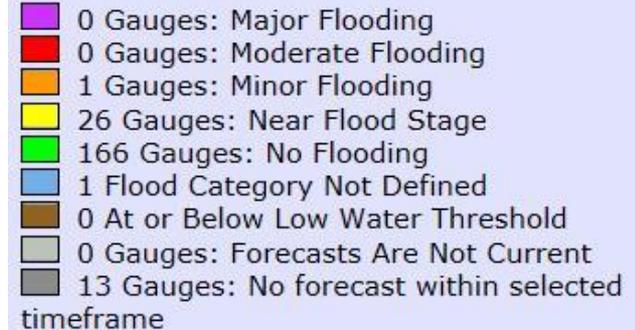
The circled area shows where the water in the snowpack ranges from 0.5 to over an inch and will contribute to the runoff as it melts along with the rain on Tuesday.



# Official River Forecasts (as of noon on Feb 14)

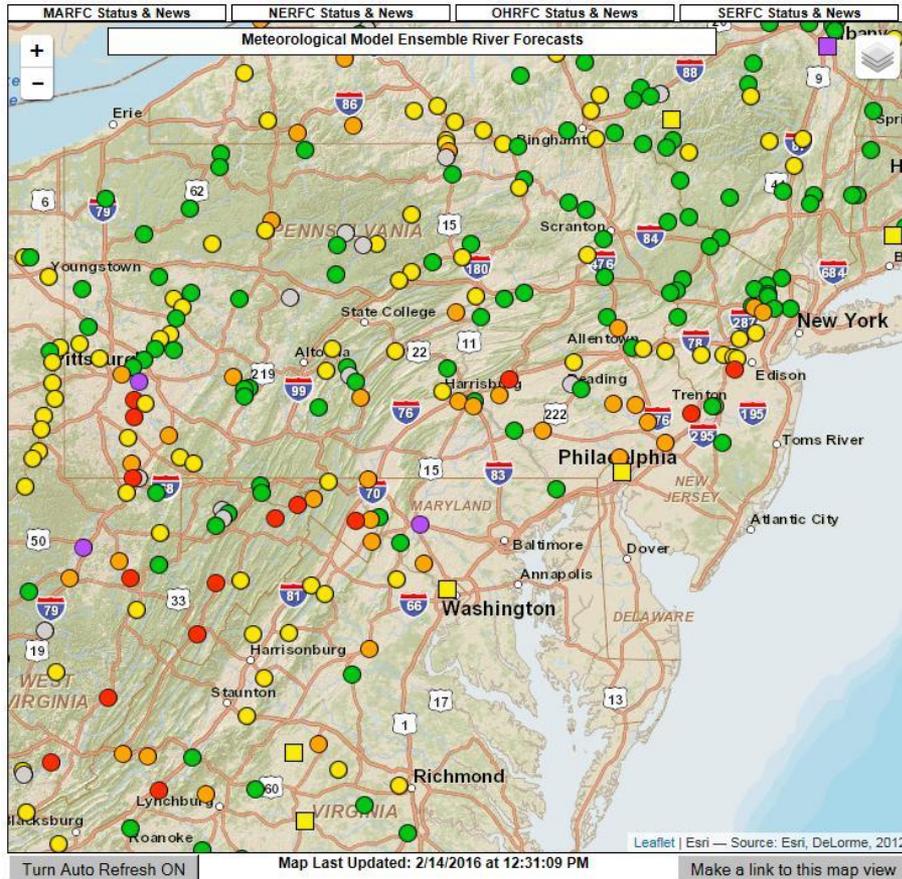


**Stay Tuned:** The official forecasts call for river levels near flood stage at numerous locations (yellow dots) and minor flooding on the Millstone River at Blackwells Mills, NJ. Best chance for flooding is south of the orange line. Minor flooding may occur at additional river locations and forecasts will be updated as needed tonight and tomorrow. Isolated moderate flooding is even possible. Major flooding is not expected.



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

# Meteorological Model Ensemble River Forecasts (Potential River Levels)



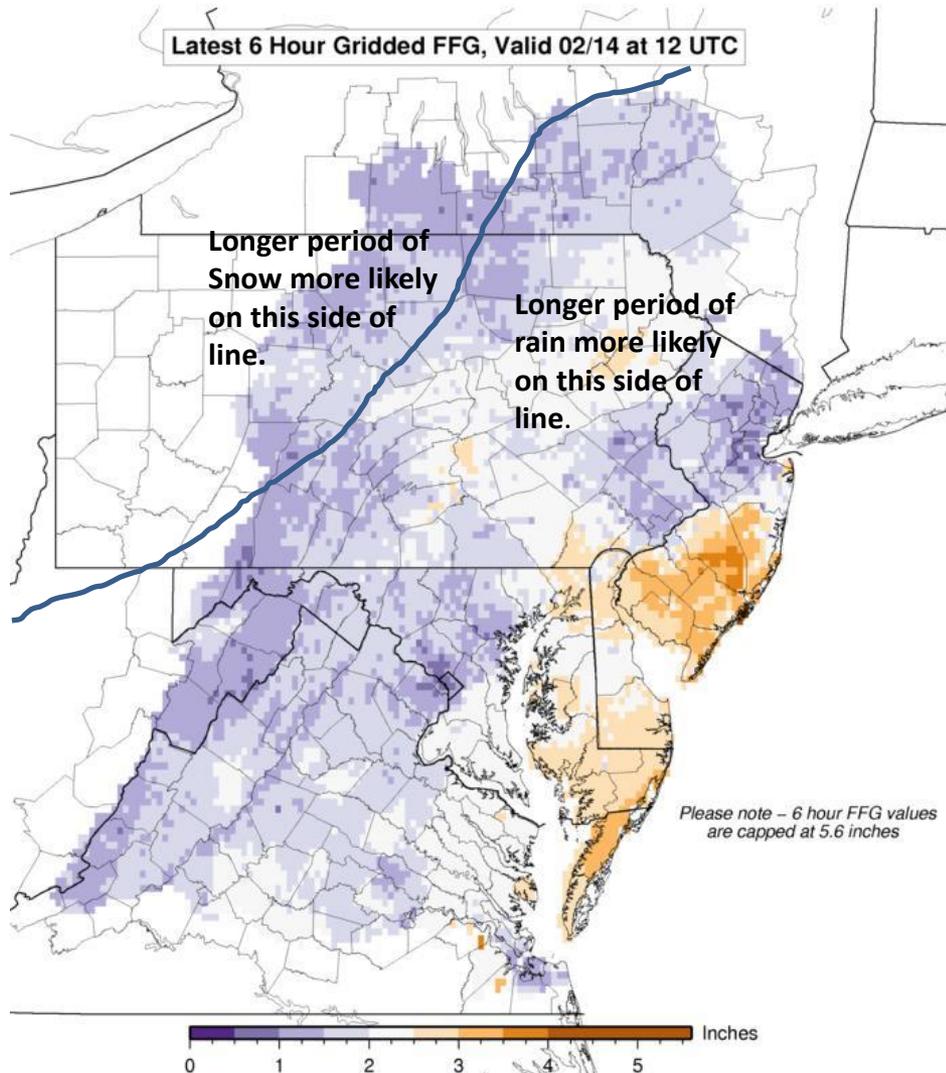
Stay tuned: While not the official forecast, this map shows potential additional areas where flooding is possible. While the chance is low, isolated moderate flooding is possible as seen here. Since this map is based on a forecasts of temperatures and precipitation 2-3 days from now, uncertainty is still high and the predicted locations and severity of flooding will likely change over the next couple of days.

Chance of Exceedance		
30%	Level	70%
	Action	
	Minor Flood	
	Moderate Flood	
	Major Flood	
	= less than 30% chance of reaching Action level	
	= no critical levels defined for this point	

[www.weather.gov/erh/mmefs](http://www.weather.gov/erh/mmefs)

(above map based on 02/14/2016 06UTC SREF model)

# Small Streams and Low Lying Areas



In more urbanized areas and areas with relatively wet soils (shades of purple on map), there is a good chance of some localized small stream and poor drainage flooding. Isolated flash flooding is also possible in areas of heaviest rainfall. As the map shows, in some areas as little as 0.5 inches of rain in six hours will be enough to cause rapid rises and small stream flooding. Poor drainage flooding is also likely in areas that get heavy rain in a short amount of time.

# Stay Tuned....

- To see plots showing the river flood potential for other locations:  
[www.weather.gov/erh/mmefs](http://www.weather.gov/erh/mmefs)
- To see the latest MARFC river forecasts and other hydrologic information:
- [www.weather.gov/marfc](http://www.weather.gov/marfc)

# 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)

# Find MARFC Online at:

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# Next MARFC Briefing

- **The next MARFC briefing will be issued Monday around 1pm.**