



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

1:00PM February 15, 2016

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# Flood Potential Feb 16-18

- **PREPARE NOW FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF FLOODING.**
- **Risk:** Minor to Moderate Flooding possible across portions of the Potomac river basin. Isolated Minor Flooding possible elsewhere in the Mid-Atlantic.
- **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:** Moderate. There is still some uncertainty with the track of the storm and some uncertainty about how long temperatures will stay below freezing. This will impact how much of the precipitation falls as snow, freezing rain, and rain. The number of locations exceeding minor or moderate flood stage will depend on temperature and locations of heavier rainfall.
- **Note:** This briefing is for river flooding. There is a risk of localized small stream flooding in some areas beginning Monday night. Poor drainage flooding is also likely during the period.

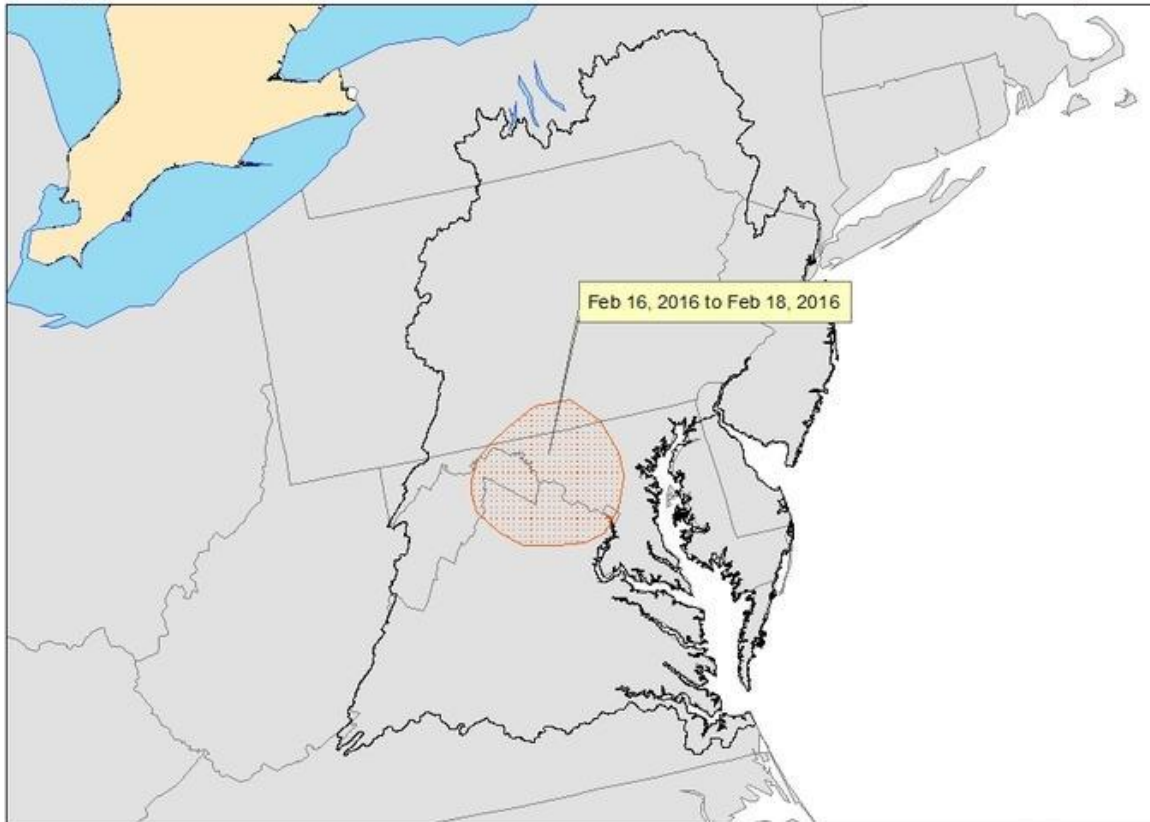


# Significant River Flood Outlook



Valid: 2/15/2016 - 2/20/2016

Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center 2/15/2016 12:40:01 PM



**SIGNIFICANT RIVER FLOODING POSSIBLE.**



**SIGNIFICANT RIVER FLOODING LIKELY.**



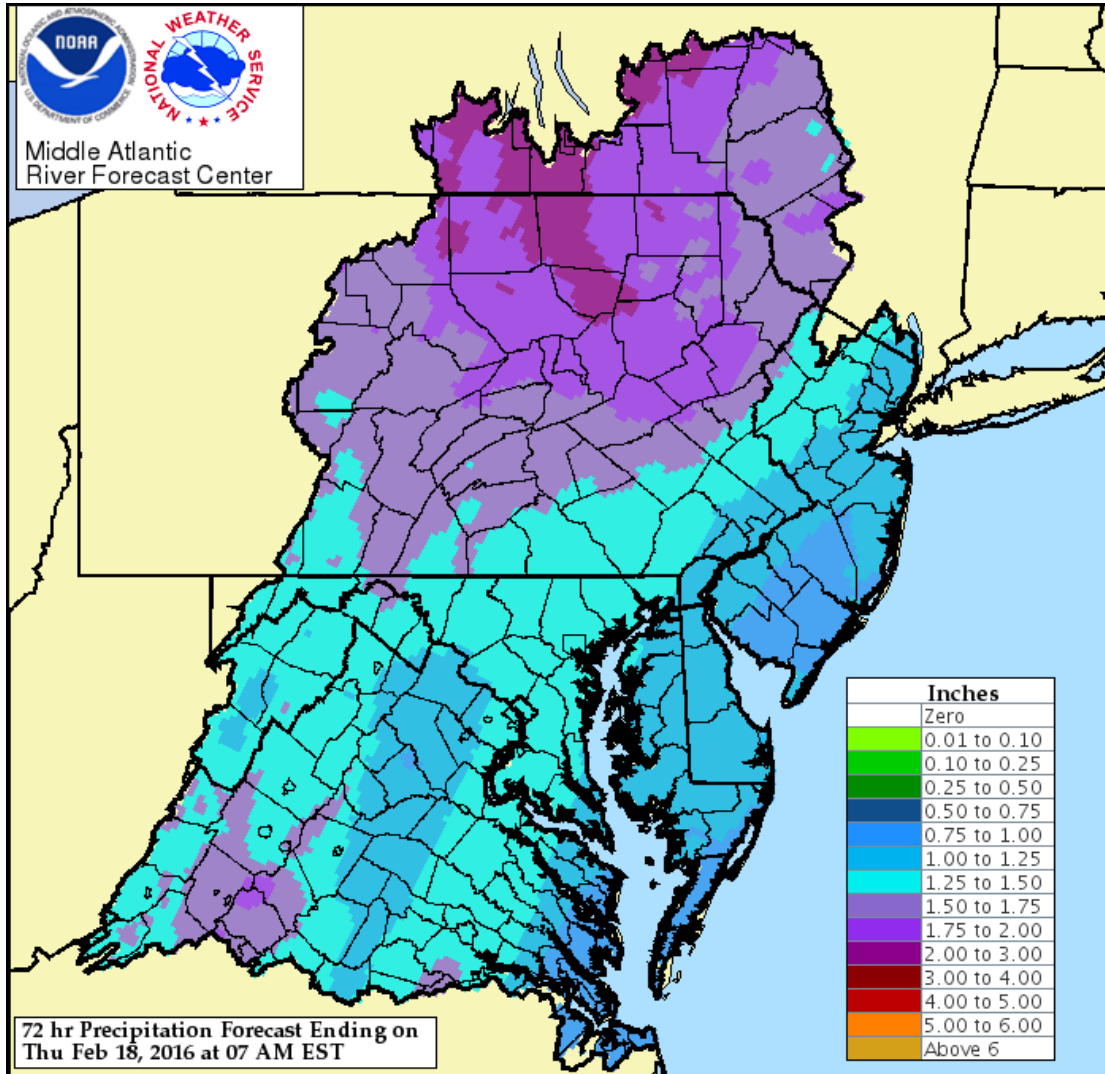
**SIGNIFICANT RIVER FLOODING OCCURRING OR IS IMMINENT.**

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.

Minor to moderate flooding is possible in parts of the Potomac river basin. Best chance for flooding is Tuesday night and Wednesday, but flooding could occur as early as Tuesday morning or as late as Thursday.

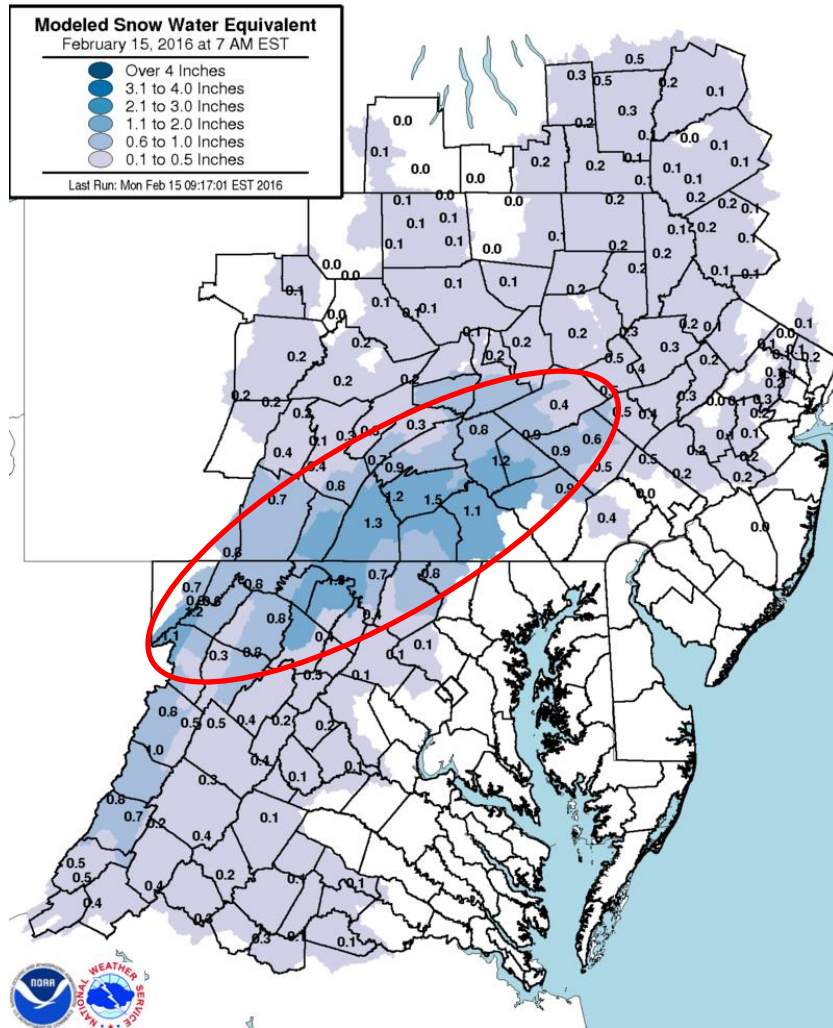
# 72 Hour Precipitation Forecast



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 0.50 and 1.5 inches, but higher amounts are possible locally.

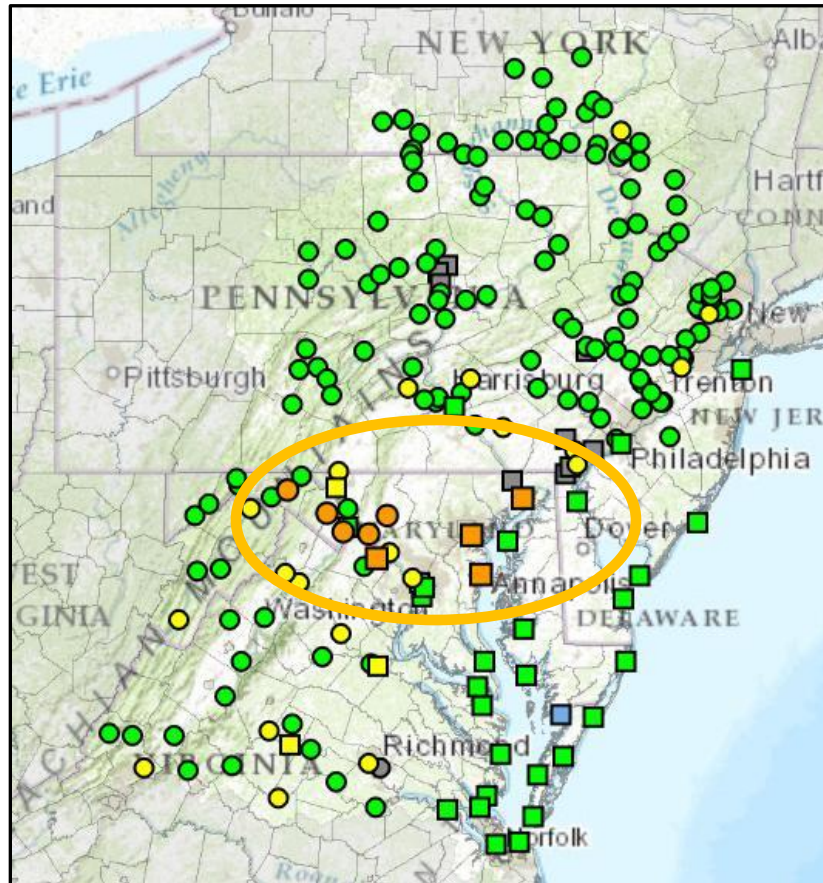
Note: Compared to yesterday's forecast the expected axis of heavier precipitation has shifted west. This has lowered the threat of flooding somewhat across New Jersey. However, localized small stream and poor drainage flooding is still possible.

# 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 and higher river levels as it melts along with the rain on Tuesday.

# Official River Forecasts (as of noon on Feb 15)

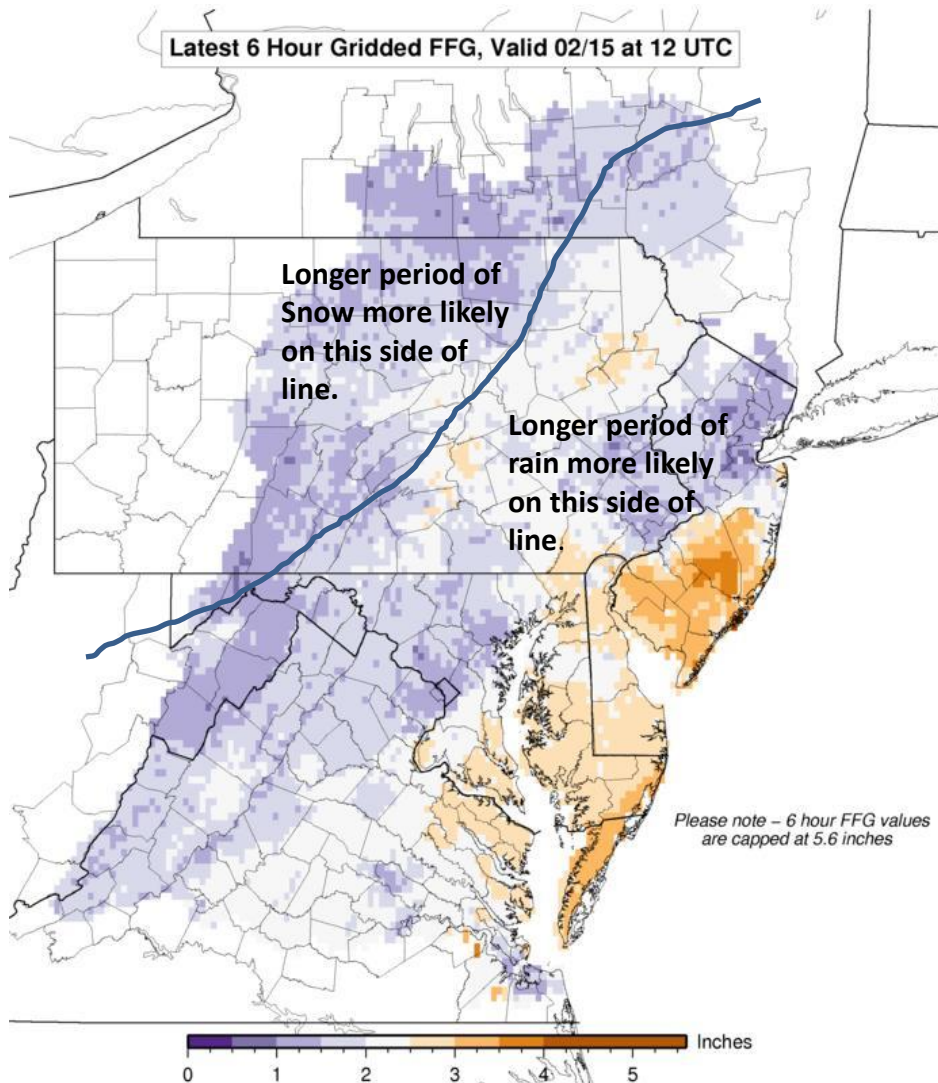


**Stay Tuned:** The official forecasts call for river levels near flood stage at numerous locations (yellow dots) and minor flooding at 6 locations (orange dots) in the Potomac river basin. Minor coastal flooding is also shown in the upper Chesapeake Bay. Best chance for flooding is within the orange circle. Minor flooding may occur at additional locations and forecasts will be updated as needed tonight and tomorrow. Isolated moderate flooding is possible in the Potomac basin if rainfall is heavier than expected.

0 Gauges: Major Flooding
0 Gauges: Moderate Flooding
9 Gauges: Minor Flooding
23 Gauges: Near Flood Stage
163 Gauges: No Flooding
1 Flood Category Not Defined
0 At or Below Low Water Threshold
0 Gauges: Forecasts Are Not Current
11 Gauges: No forecast within selected timeframe

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

# Small Streams and Low Lying Areas



In more urbanized areas and areas with relatively wet soils (shades of purple on map), there is a better chance of some localized small stream and poor drainage flooding. As the map shows, in some areas 0.5 to 1.0 inch 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. Flash flooding is unlikely.

# Stay Tuned....

- To see the latest MARFC river forecasts for a given location 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)

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# Next MARFC Briefing

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