

NOAA, National Weather Service Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center Briefing

Noon February 16, 2016

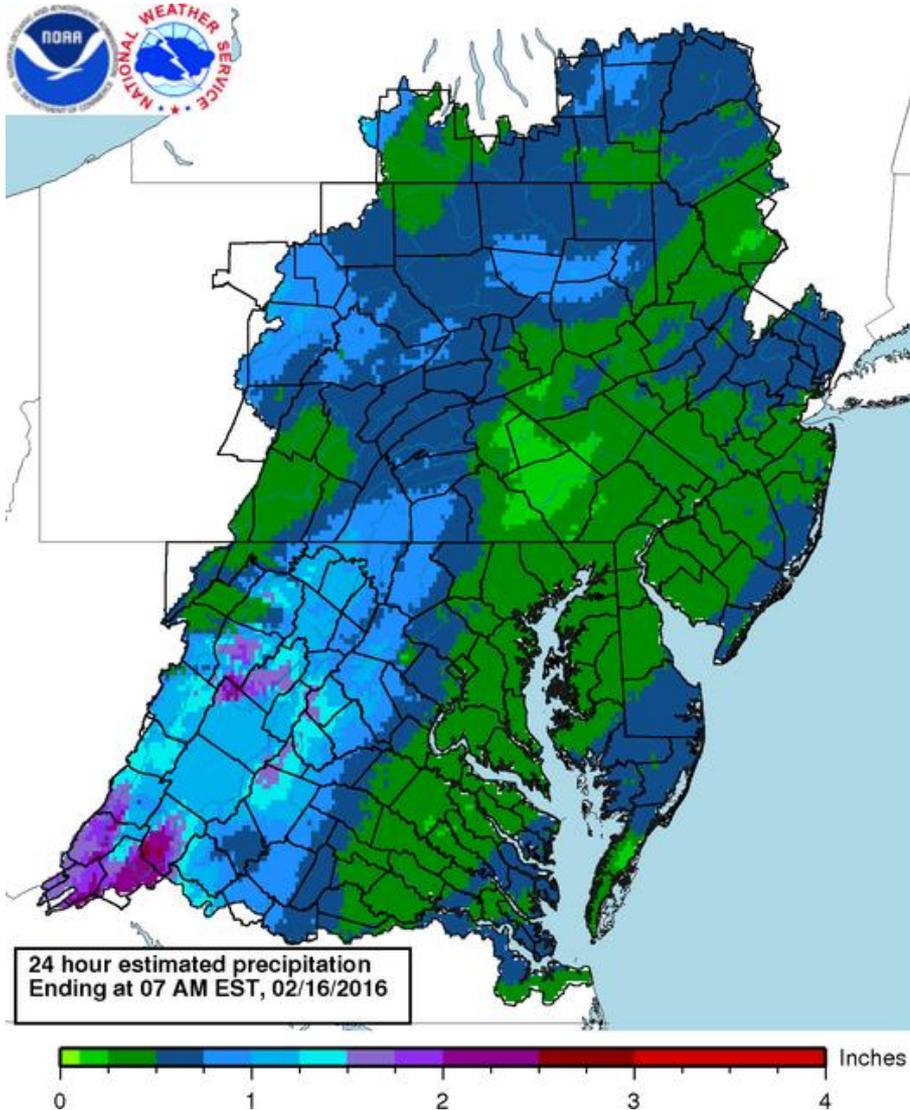
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Flood Potential Feb 16-18

- **MINOR RIVER FLOODING AT A FEW LOCATIONS POSSIBLE TODAY INTO THURSDAY. SMALL STREAM AND POOR DRAINAGE FLOODING LIKELY IN AREAS OF HEAVIER RAINFALL.**
- **SEE LATEST FORECASTS AT www.weather.gov/marfc**
- **Risk:** Low Risk of Minor Flooding across portions of the Mid-Atlantic. Near zero risk of Moderate flooding.
- **Timing:** Best chance for flooding is Today and Wednesday, but flooding could occur as late as Thursday.
- **Uncertainty:** Low to Moderate. There is still some uncertainty with runoff calculations due to cold surface temperatures and with this afternoon's rainfall north of the Mason-Dixon line and in New Jersey. Whether or not locations exceed minor flood stage will be determined by the amount of runoff and locations of heavier rainfall.
- **Note:** While this briefing mainly addresses river flooding, there is also a risk of localized small stream flooding today and tonight. Poor drainage flooding is also likely.

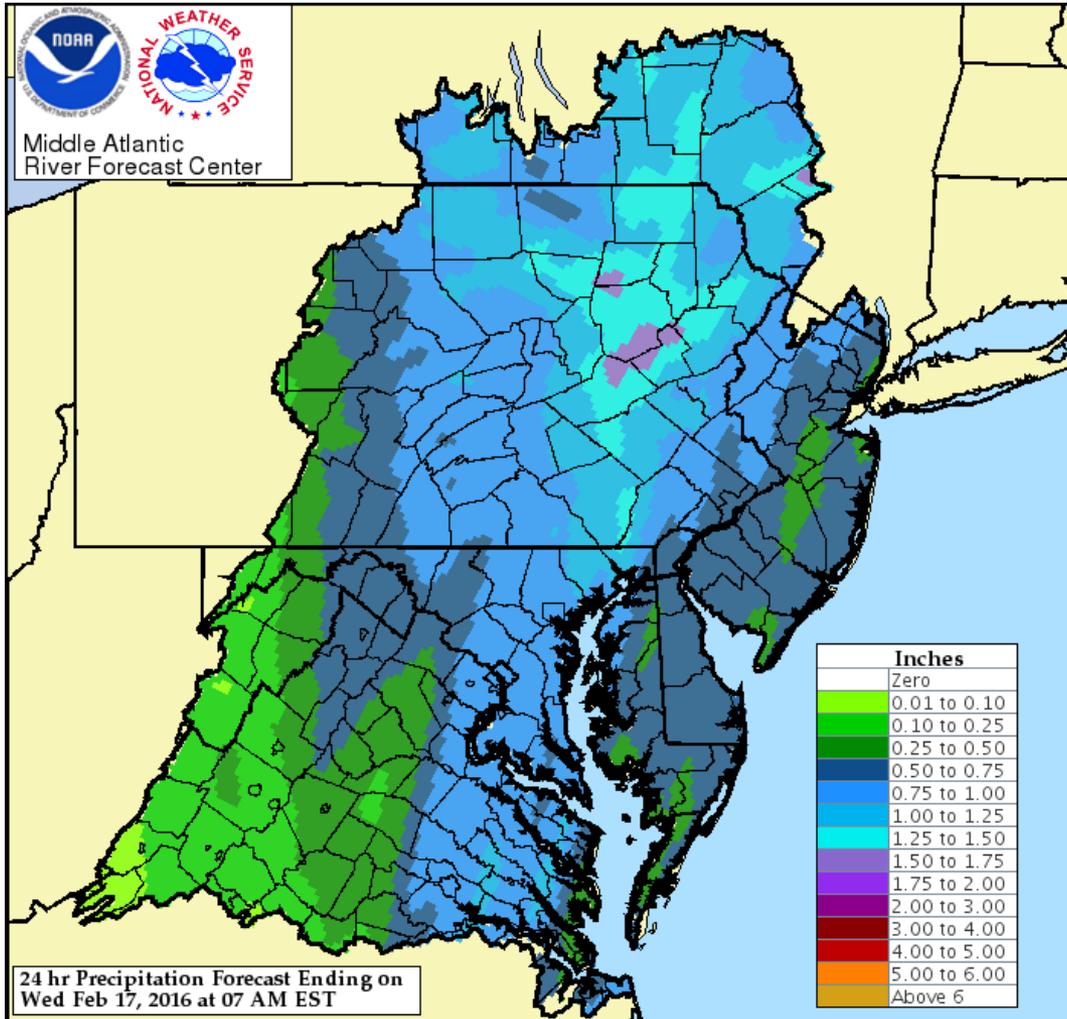
24 Hour Observed Precipitation



This map shows the 24 hour observed precipitation (snow, ice, rain) ending at 7am this morning. West of the Blue Ridge and north of the Mason-Dixon line most of this precipitation fell as either snow or a mix of snow, sleet, and freezing rain. This limited the runoff from this precipitation overnight.

However, as rain falls today, some of this will melt out, adding to runoff today and leading to some rapid rises.

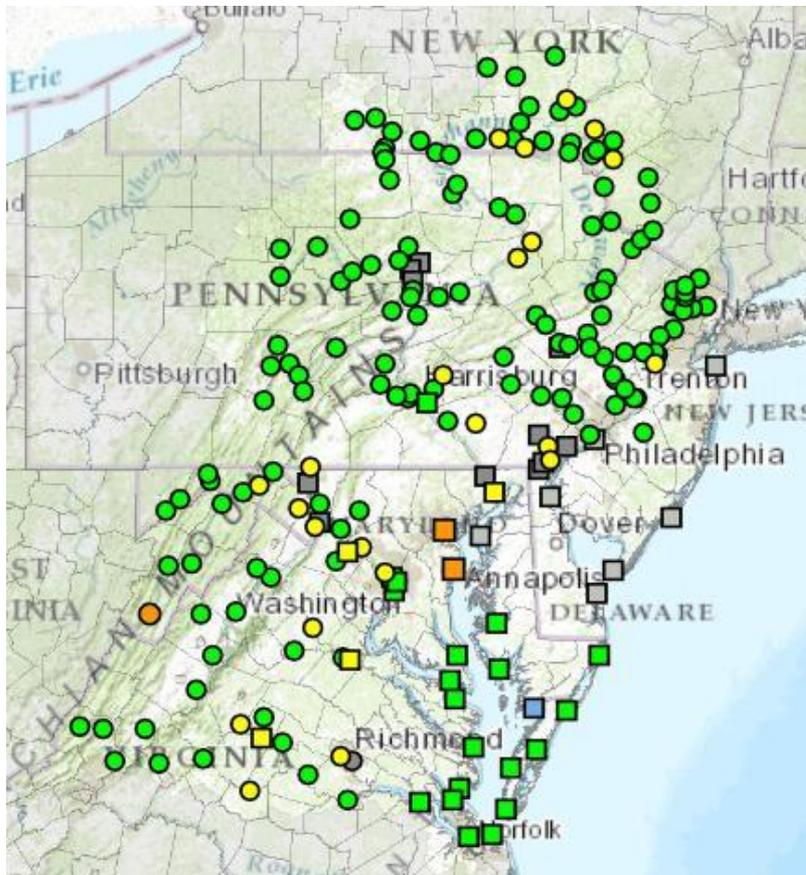
24 Hour Precipitation Forecast



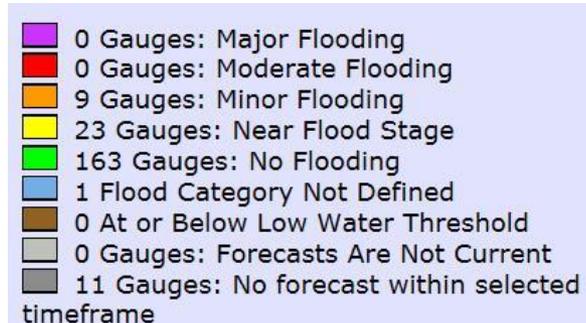
Precipitation today will be mainly in the form of rain, except in the far north and west where it will be mixed. A brief changeover back to snow is expected before the precipitation ends this evening. Rainfall amounts today will range from 0.25 in the south and east too 1.25 inches in central and northern areas. Higher amounts are possible locally.

Note: Lighter rainfall amounts and colder temperatures have led to decreased snowmelt and runoff in some areas.

Official River Forecasts (as of noon on Feb 16)

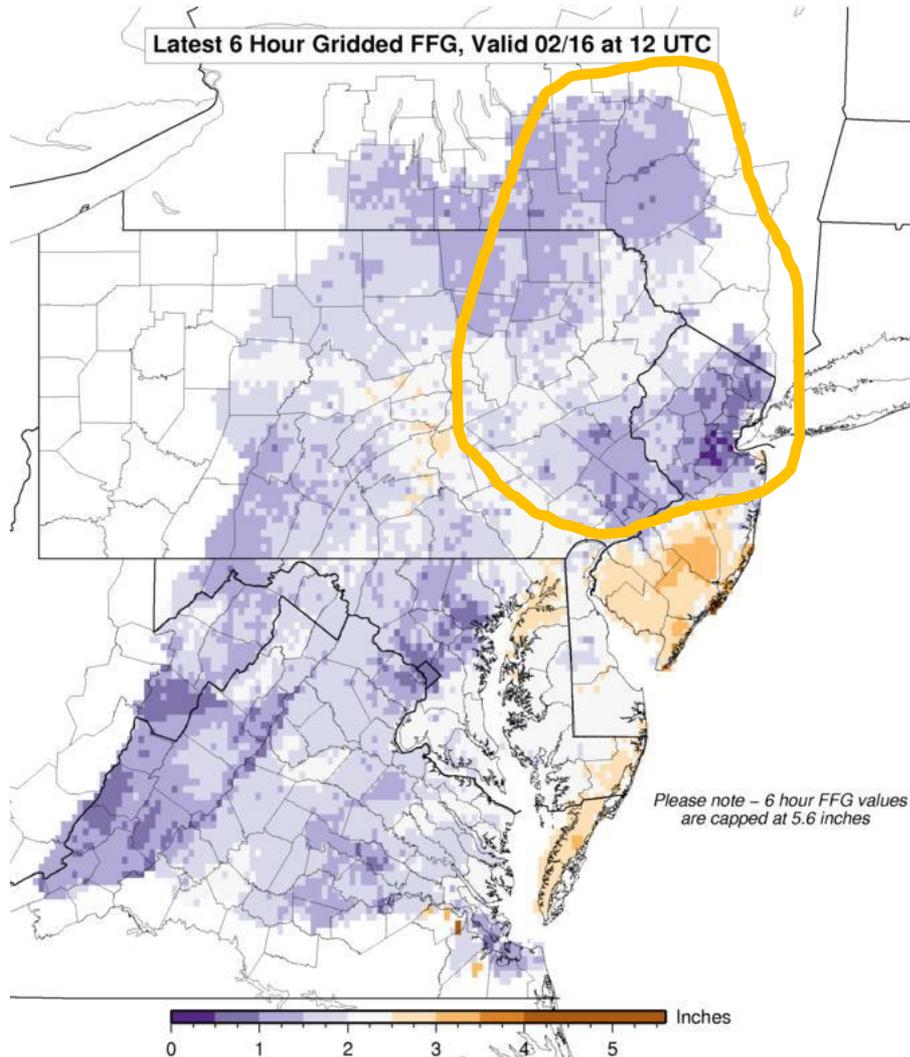


The official forecasts call for river levels near flood stage at numerous locations (yellow dots) and minor flooding at 1 location (Franklin, WV) in the Potomac river basin. Minor coastal flooding is also shown in the upper Chesapeake Bay. While the risk has diminished, minor flooding may occur at additional locations and forecasts will be updated as needed today and tonight. Near zero risk of Moderate flooding .



For the latest forecasts go to: www.weather.gov/marfc

Small Streams and Low Lying Areas



Today's risk of small stream and poor drainage flooding is highest within the area outlined by the orange circle. The highest risk is in more urbanized areas and areas with relatively wet soils (shades of purple on map). As the map shows, in some areas 0.25 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

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>
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Next MARFC Briefing

- **Unless conditions change significantly, this will be the last MARFC briefing or this event.**