

PHLPNSPHI
Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Mount Holly NJ
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From: Ray Krudzlo
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Subject: Flash Flood Impact-Based Warnings and Wireless Emergency Alerts

The Philadelphia/Mount Holly National Weather Service (NWS) has implemented a new format for Flash Flood Warnings. This is part of a nationwide initiative. Similar to Tornado Warnings, Flash Flood Warnings (FFW) have become impact-based.

Each Impact-Based Flash Flood Warning will contain a bulleted format of consistent, more readable information describing:

1. Hazard (i.e., Flash Flood)
2. Source (i.e., radar, gauges, trained spotters, emergency manager)
3. Brief description of the impact

These New Flash Flood Warnings and follow-up Statements will include machine-readable tags that will appear at the bottom of the messages.

These tags consist of:

1. Flash Flood Damage Threat:
 - Base...most flash floods, with the potential for impacts and damage
 - Considerable...unusual severity of impacts, urgent action is needed to protect lives and property
 - Catastrophic...exceedingly rare, violent flash floods which threaten lives and cause disastrous damage (Flash Flood Emergency)
2. Source Information (radar, gauges, trained spotter, Emergency Manager)
3. Causative Event (Expected Rainfall, Dam Break, Levee Break)

Once the FFW Impact-Based Warning format is fully implemented nationwide, cell phone Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) will only be utilized for Flash Flood Warnings or Statements that carry either the "Considerable" or "Catastrophic" threat tag.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

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