

Flooding and Flash Flooding

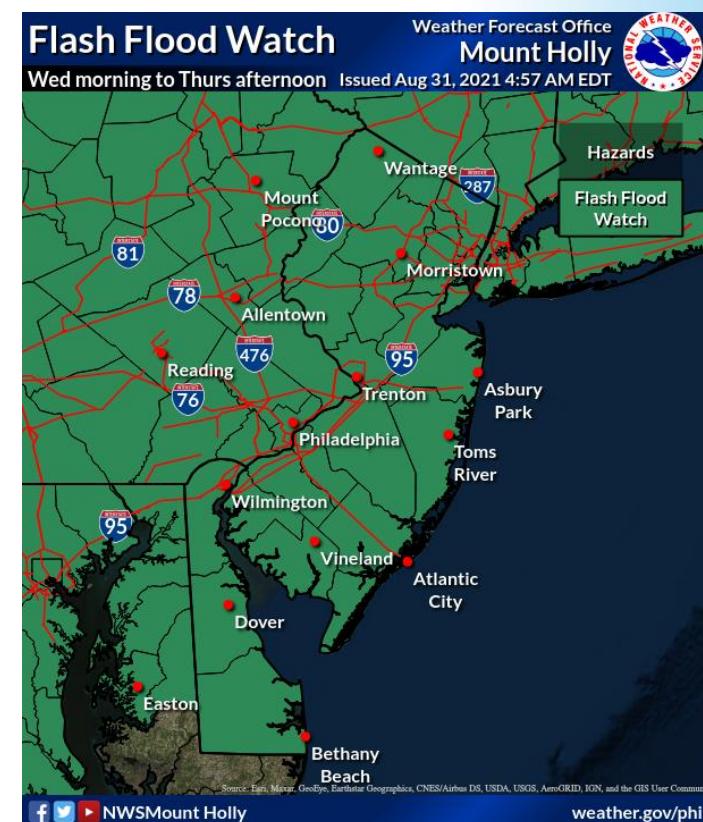
Wednesday through Thursday

Decision Support Briefing #3

As of: 6 AM, Tuesday, August 31, 2021

What Has Changed?

- ✓ *Flash Flood Watch now in effect from Wednesday morning to early Thursday afternoon.*
- ✓ *Increased risk of severe weather for Delmarva and southern New Jersey Wednesday evening/night.*



Main Points

Hazard	Impacts	Location	Timing	
Flash Flooding		Flooding of creeks, streams, urban areas, and poor drainage areas. Water likely to cover roads, especially in low-lying areas.	Eastern Pennsylvania and northern New Jersey.	From Wednesday afternoon through Thursday morning.
Flash Flooding		Some flooding of creeks, streams, urban areas, and poor drainage areas. Water likely to cover roads, especially in low lying areas.	Southern New Jersey, Delaware, and eastern Maryland.	From Wednesday afternoon through Thursday morning.
River Flooding		Moderate to major flooding possible along some main stem rivers. Roads and structures near these rivers flooded.	Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.	Starting Wednesday afternoon and possibly lasting into the weekend.
Severe Threat		Strong to severe storms possible, mainly over southern NJ & Delmarva. Wind gusts may bring down trees and power lines down. Isolated tornadoes possible.	Far southeast Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, Delaware, and eastern Maryland.	Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday night.



Summary of Greatest Impacts



Flash Flooding: N NJ, E PA, including Philadelphia

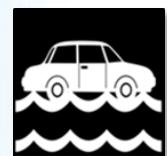
None

Limited

Elevated

Significant

Extreme



River Flooding: NJ and E PA

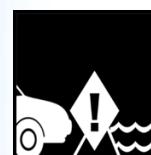
None

Limited

Elevated

Significant

Extreme



Flash Flooding: S NJ, DE, Eastern shores of MD

None

Limited

Elevated

Significant

Extreme



Strong to Severe T-storms: Delmarva, S NJ, SE PA

None

Limited

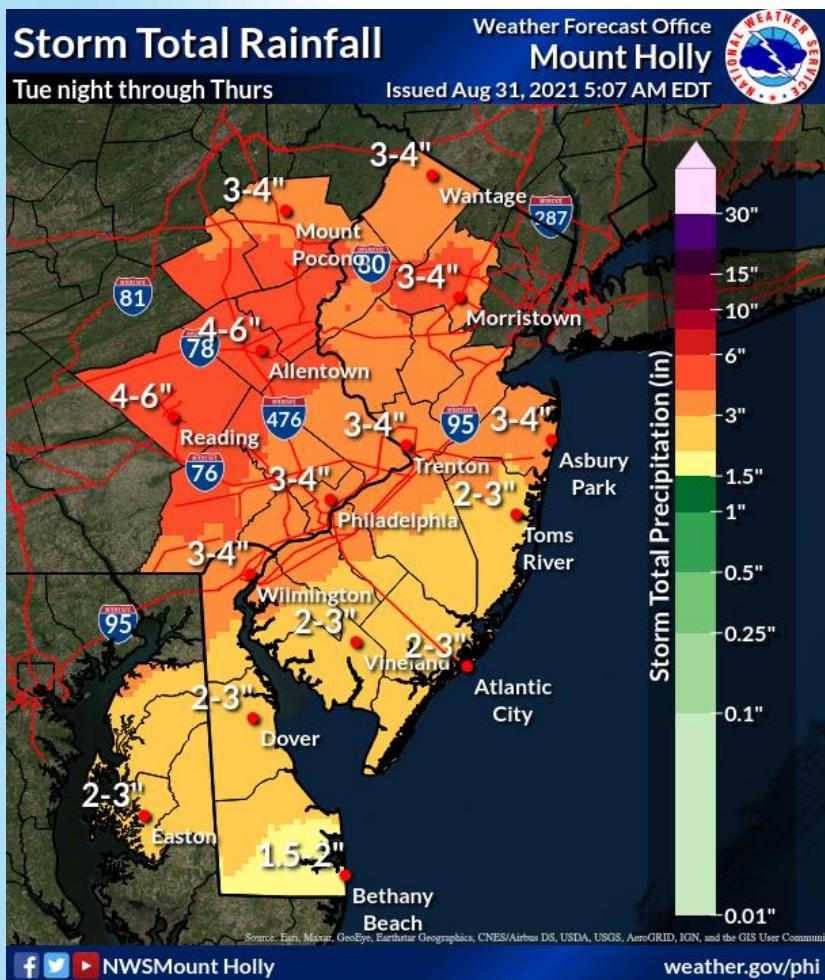
Elevated

Significant

Extreme



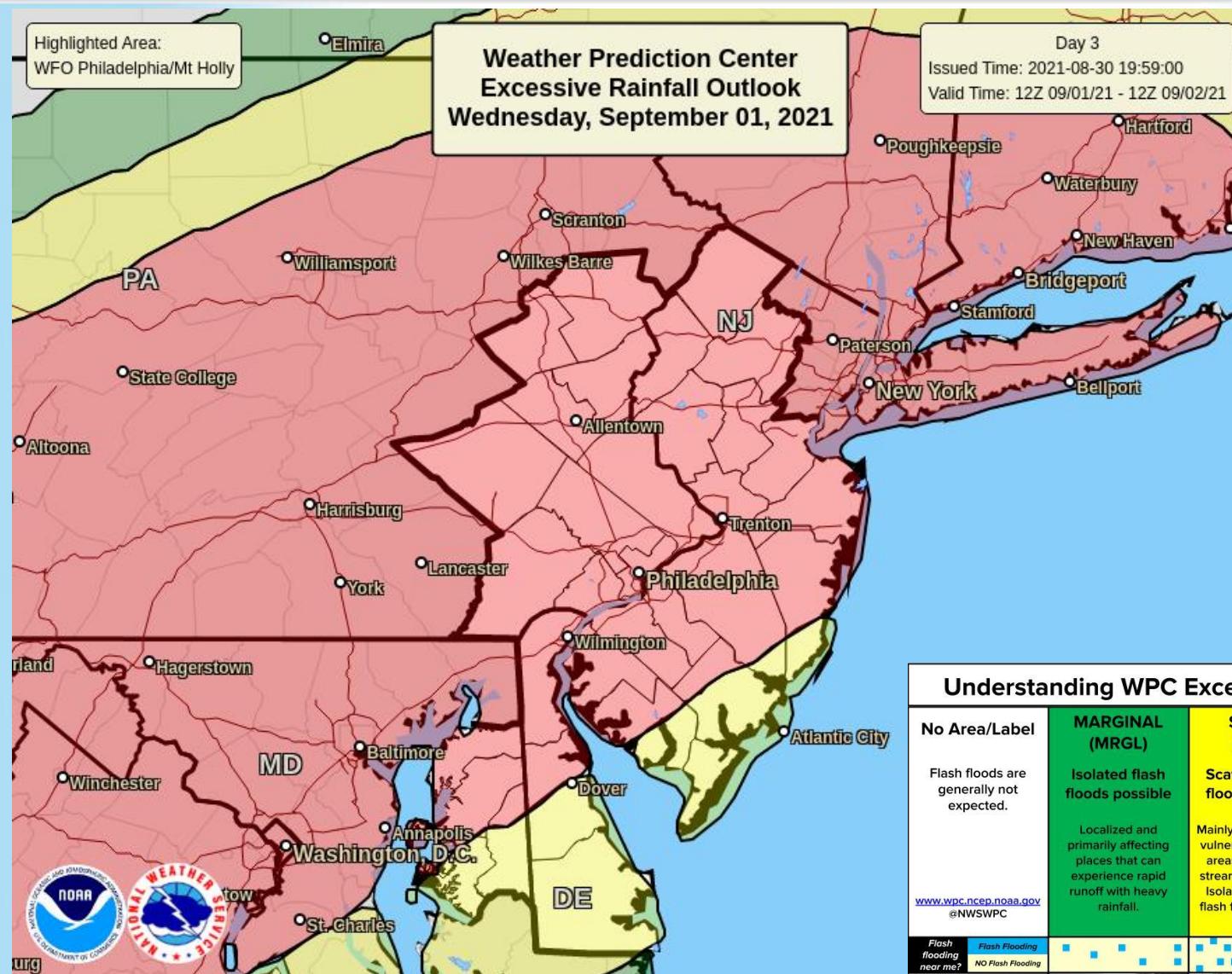
Rainfall Amounts



Uncertainty information:

- Widespread heavy rainfall likely (**high confidence**)
- Pinpointing axis of heaviest totals (4-6+ inches) is of **moderate confidence**; most likely near and/or northwest of the I-95 corridor.

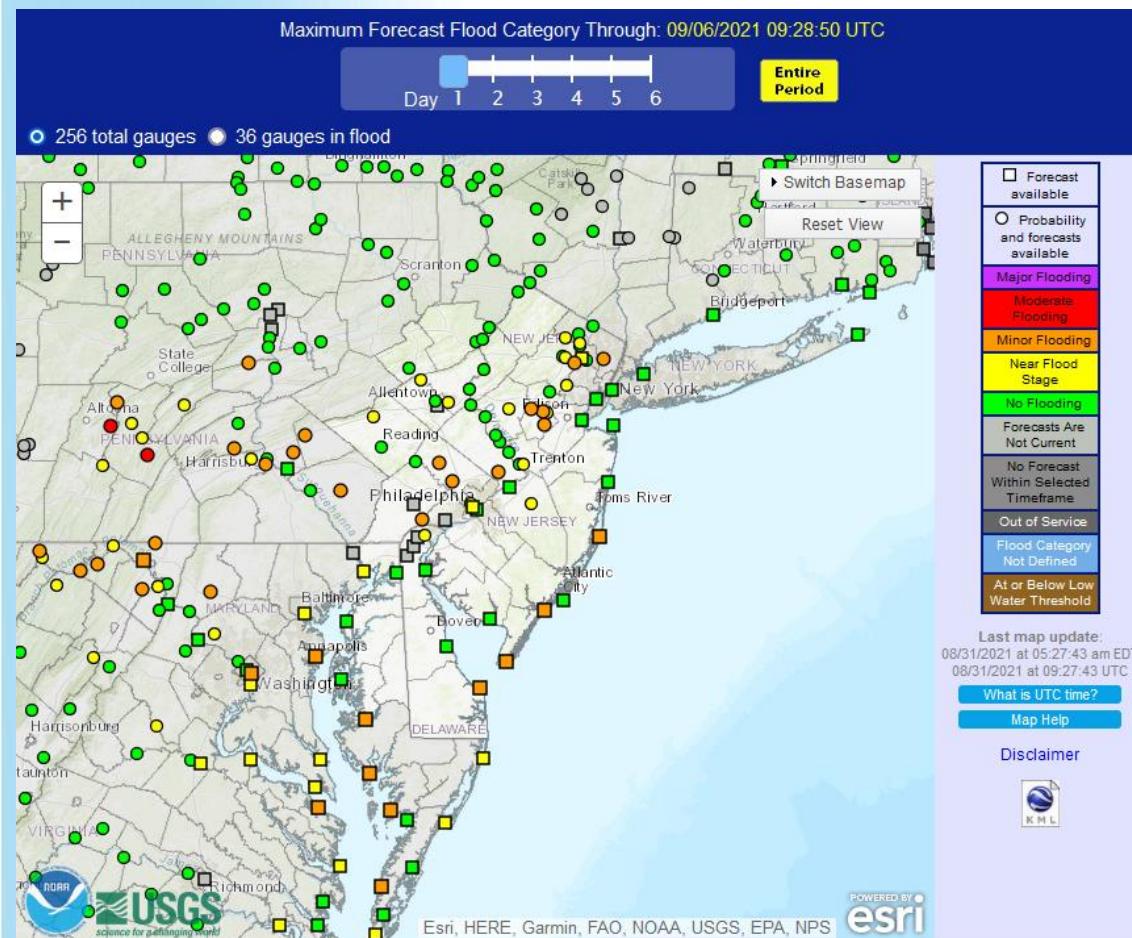
Timing: The heaviest rainfall is expected late Wednesday afternoon through the overnight hours.



Understanding WPC Excessive Rainfall Risk Categories

No Area/Label	MARGINAL (MRGL)	SLIGHT (SLGT)	Moderate (MDT)	High (HIGH)
Flash floods are generally not expected.	Isolated flash floods possible Localized and primarily affecting places that can experience rapid runoff with heavy rainfall.	Scattered flash floods possible Mainly localized. Most vulnerable areas are urban areas, roads, small streams and washes. Isolated significant flash floods possible.	Numerous flash floods likely Numerous flash flooding events with significant events possible. Many streams may flood, potentially affecting larger rivers.	Widespread flash floods expected Severe, widespread flash flooding. Areas that don't normally experience flash flooding could. Lives and property in greater danger.
@NWSPWC				
<i>Flash flooding near me?</i>	Flash Flooding NO Flash Flooding			
WEATHER PREDICTION CENTER				

River Forecasts (as of 6 am)



Several gauges are forecast to reach flood stage in our area. As confidence in rainfall totals increases, more gauges may be forecast to go into flood.

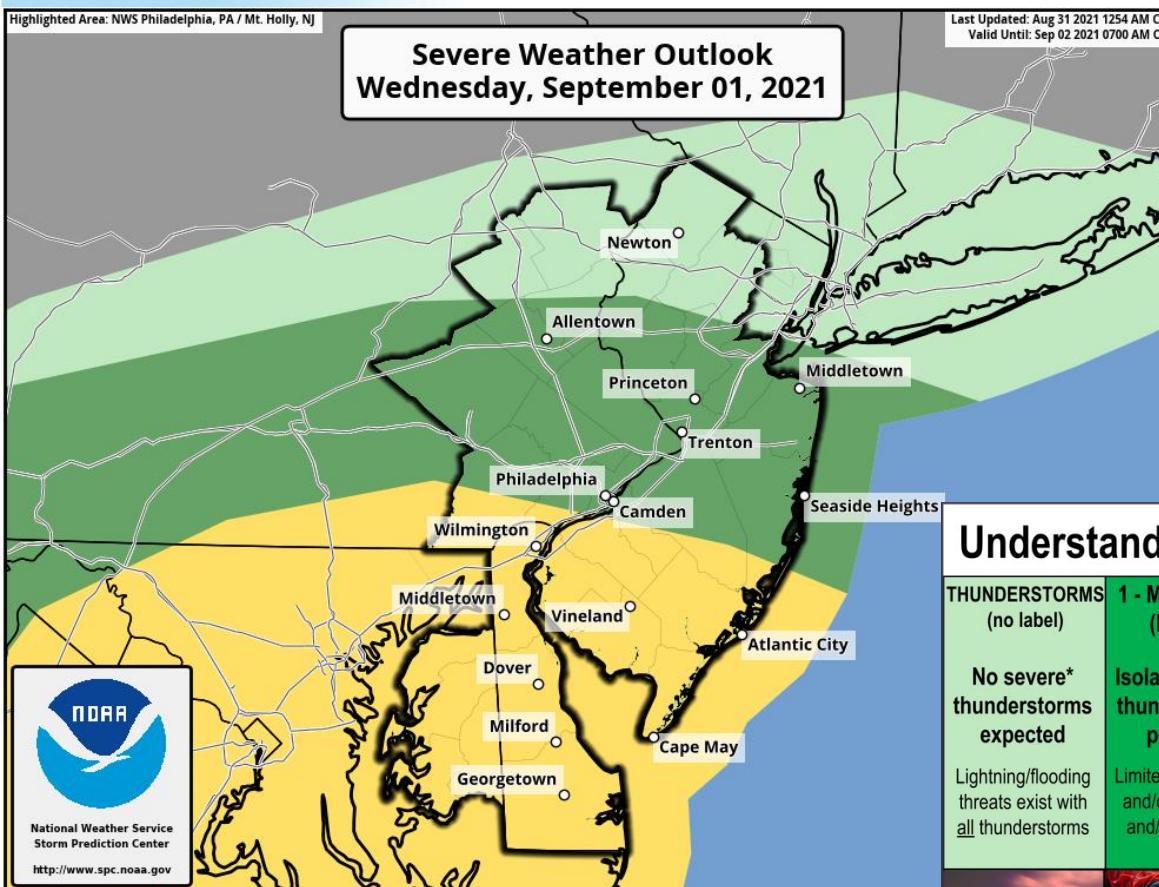
Latest river forecasts can be found [here](#).

You can also refer to the Mid-Atlantic River Forecast Center for the latest information on river forecasts:

<https://www.weather.gov/marfc>



Convective Weather Outlook



Primary threats:

- Isolated tornadoes
- Damaging wind gusts

Timing: Late Wednesday afternoon through Wednesday night

Understanding Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories

THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
No severe* thunderstorms expected	Isolated severe thunderstorms possible	Scattered severe storms possible	Numerous severe storms possible	Widespread severe storms likely	Widespread severe storms expected
Lightning/flooding threats exist with all thunderstorms	Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Winds to 40 mph• Small hail	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Winds 40-60 mph• Hail up to 1"• Low tornado risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One or two tornadoes• Reports of strong winds/wind damage• Hail ~1", isolated 2"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A few tornadoes• Several reports of wind damage• Damaging hail, 1 - 2"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong tornadoes• Widespread wind damage• Destructive hail, 2" +	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tornado outbreak• Derecho

* NWS defines a severe thunderstorm as measured wind gusts to at least 58 mph, and/or hail to at least one inch in diameter, and/or a tornado. All thunderstorm categories imply lightning and the potential for flooding. Categories are also tied to the probability of a severe weather event within 25 miles of your location.

Event Summary

- ✓ The remnant low of Ida will pass through the region on Wednesday and Wednesday night. Excessive rainfall is the main threat with this system, with severe storms possible in southern portions of the region as well.
- ✓ Widespread rainfall of 2 to 5 inches is forecast, with locally higher amounts possible, from Tuesday night through Thursday across the region, with the highest amounts from the I-95 corridor north and west.
- ✓ Numerous instances of flash flooding are likely Wednesday and Wednesday night, with some events possibly significant, since the ground is saturated from recent heavy rain events.
- ✓ Widespread river flooding is likely to occur if storm total rainfall forecasts are realized. Roads and structures along particularly susceptible rivers, creeks, and streams may be impacted. Stay tuned to the latest forecasts.
- ✓ The locations and severity of flooding impacts will depend on the placement of the heaviest rain axis, along with the potential for excessive hourly rainfall rates.
- ✓ Some severe thunderstorms are possible, mainly across southern New Jersey and Delmarva. The main threats from thunderstorms are damaging wind gusts and isolated tornadoes. The most likely time frame for this is late Wednesday afternoon through Wednesday night.



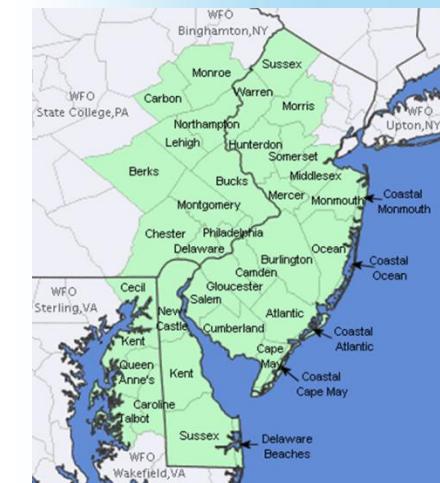
Contact and Next Briefing Information



Next Briefing

When: 6 PM, Tuesday,
August 31, 2021

Briefing Webpage:
www.weather.gov/media/phi/current_briefing.pdf



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