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Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA
813 AM EDT Mon Mar 9 2020

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared March 9 through March 13 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Each day during the awareness week will feature information about a different flood related topic.

Today's topic: The 10th Anniversary of the March 2010 Floods

Record rainfall and record flooding affected southern New England during March 2010. In particular, the areas most severely affected were portions of central and eastern MA, southeast CT, and almost all of RI.

For 5 weeks, the weather pattern favored moisture rich low pressure systems tracking into southern New England, and stalling out near our area. The storms stalled out due to strong high pressure over southeast Canada, which blocked the storms from tracking out of our area in a timely fashion. In addition, since we were still in early spring, vegetation had not come out of dormancy. This "pre-greenup" stage causes soil to become saturated more easily, causing more water to run off into rivers and streams.

Four significant rainfall events occurred over this 5 week period.

The first rainfall event occurred during the last week of February 2010, when 2 back-to-back low pressure systems brought a combination of snow and heavy rainfall. Liquid equivalent precipitation from both systems ranged from 3 to 5.5 inches. Numerous rivers and streams went into minor flood, leaving our area vulnerable to the next systems to affect southern New England.

The second rainfall event was much worse. During March 13 to 15, a slow moving storm system tracked from Virginia to south of Long Island. A swath of 7 to 10 inches of rain fell across east coastal MA from Methuen and Gloucester south through Plymouth and Brockton. Rainfall totals of 4 to 6 inches fell just to the west, into the Worcester Hills, Rhode Island, and northeast CT.

Widespread flooding occurred along the eastern half of southern

New England. Numerous rivers and small streams experienced flooding, ranging from minor to major. Several rivers experienced record flooding, including the following: The Pawtuxet River at Cranston RI, the Concord River at Lowell MA, the Shawsheen River at Wilmington MA, the Charles River at Waltham MA, and Taunton River at Bridgewater MA. There were two fatalities during this event- one from hydroplaning, and a second from a drowning.

The third rain event produced a lesser degree of flooding, but served to keep rivers and streams at elevated levels. Rainfall of 1 to 3 inches fell across the region during February 22 and 23, with higher totals of 3 to 5 inches across RI.

The fourth and final event involved a moisture rich low pressure system that lingered in our vicinity from March 29 to 31 2010. A steady feed of tropical moisture enabled copious rainfall and locales with historic flooding.

Rainfall totals ranged from 2 to 3 inches across interior CT and western MA, 3 to 6 inches across central and northeast MA, 5 to 8 inches across southeast MA, and 6 to 10 inches over RI and southeast CT.

Impacts were severe, particularly across eastern MA and RI. Widespread flooding occurred across numerous rivers and streams. Prolonged flooding even occurred on some area lakes. Record flooding was documented at a number of river gages in eastern MA and RI. Two rivers that experienced a record crest during mid-March, broke that record crest during the end of March. This included the Pawtuxet River at Cranston RI, and the Taunton River at Bridgewater MA.

Flooding also occurred across western MA and interior CT, though the flood impacts were mainly in the minor category. Minor to moderate flooding occurred on the lower Merrimack and Connecticut Rivers.

Know what to do before, during and after a flood.
Visit www.weather.gov/floodsafety

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Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA
737 AM EDT Tue Mar 10 2020

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared March 9 through March 13 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Each day during the awareness week will feature information about a different flood related topic.

Never Drive or Walk into Flood Waters - Turn Around, Don't Drown!
Flooding is one of the leading causes of weather related fatalities in the U.S. On average, flooding claims nearly 90 lives each year. More than half of these deaths occur in motor vehicles when people attempt to drive through flooded roadways. This happens because people underestimate the force and power of water, especially when it is moving.

Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock over and carry off an adult. Twelve inches of water can float a small car. If that water is moving, it can carry that car away. Eighteen to twenty-four inches of flowing water can carry away most vehicles, including large SUVs. It is impossible to tell the exact depth of water covering a roadway or the condition of the road below the water. This is especially true at night when your vision is more limited. It is never safe to drive or walk through flood waters. Any time you come to a flooded road, walkway, or path, follow this simple rule: Turn Around Don't Drown.

For more information and flood safety tips visit this web site:
www.weather.gov/floodsafety.

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Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA
1048 AM EDT Wed Mar 11 2020

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared March 9 through March 13 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Each day during the awareness week will feature information about a different flood related topic.

Know the Difference Between a Watch and a Warning. It's vital to your safety to know the difference.

Watch - Get Ready! A Watch is issued when a specific weather hazard is possible. For example, if conditions are such that flooding may occur, a watch will be issued. Flooding is not yet occurring when a watch is issued. This gives you time to get prepared. If your home is in a low lying area, you can prepare for the possibility of flood waters impacting the structure. You can also plan alternate routes for getting to home, work or school if you know certain roads you usually take could be covered by water. The Watch also gives you a chance to test your communications plan and alert family and friends to the threat of dangerous weather.

Warning - Take Action! A Warning is issued when a specific weather hazard is currently occurring or will be occurring very soon. If a Flood or Flash Flood Warning is issued and you are in a flood prone area move immediately to high ground. Follow evacuation orders if they are issued. If you encounter a roadway that is covered in water, do NOT enter the water! Turn Around Don't Drown! It is never safe to drive or walk through flood waters.

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Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA
824 AM EDT Thu Mar 12 2020

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared March 9 through March 13 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Each day during the awareness week will feature information about a different flood related topic.

Flash Flooding: Flash floods are exactly what the name suggests- floods that happen in a flash! Causes of flash flooding include heavy rain, ice or debris jams, and levee or dam failure. These floods exhibit a rapid rise of water over low-lying areas. There are many reasons that flash floods occur, but one of the most common is the result of copious amounts of rainfall from thunderstorms that cause flash flooding. These sudden downpours can rapidly change the water levels in a stream or creek and turn small waterways into violent, raging rivers. Urban areas are especially prone to flash floods due to the large amounts of concrete and asphalt surfaces that do not allow water to penetrate into the soil easily. It's important to avoid low lying areas and storm drains when heavy rain is in the area.

Remember, Turn Around, Don't Drown!

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Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA
833 AM EDT Fri Mar 13 2020

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared March 9 through March 13 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Each day

during the awareness week will feature information about a different flood related topic.

Be Aware: Knowing when flooding is possible will give you time to prepare! You can always find the latest forecasts and hazardous weather conditions at weather.gov and the latest river forecast information at water.weather.gov. If you're not on your computer, you can access the same information via your mobile device at <http://mobile.weather.gov>.

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are life saving messages that will pop up on your mobile phone. When a Flash Flood Warning is issued, a damage threat level will be identified. WEA is activated on your mobile phone when a Flash Flood Warning is issued for your geographic area, and the flash flood threat level is "Considerable" or "Catastrophic".

Visit www.weather.gov/wrn/wea for more information! Another tool to alert you to hazardous conditions is NOAA All Hazards Radio. This nationwide network of radio stations broadcasts continuous weather, river and other emergency information direct from NWS offices and emergency officials.

For more information, visit www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/

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