

523

NOUS41 KBOX 151100

PNSBOX

CTZ002>004-MAZ002>024-026-RIZ001>008-152300-

#### Public Information Statement

National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA

700 AM EDT Mon Mar 15 2021

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared March 15 through March 19 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Each day during the week will feature information about a different flood related topic.

Today's topic: The 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Irene.

This August will mark the 10th Anniversary of the floods from Irene. Hurricane Irene, which became Tropical Storm Irene as it crossed into southern New England, brought damaging winds and copious amounts of rainfall into the area.

In southern New England, the heaviest rainfall occurred during the overnight hours of Saturday night the 27th, lasting until midday Sunday the 28th. In our region, the heaviest rains fell over the east slopes of the Berkshires, into Hartford County CT, with totals ranging from 6 to 10 inches.

From the Connecticut River eastward into central MA and northeast CT, rainfall totals were lower but still substantial, ranging from 2.5 to 6 inches. Totals in Rhode Island were generally 2 to 4 inches. Much less rain fell along the immediate coastline of MA as well as southeast MA, with totals of 0.5 to 2.5 inches.

In Western MA and north central CT, the response of rivers and streams was profound. Several river locations monitored by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in Franklin and Hampshire Counties in MA had new peaks of record. In addition, landslides occurred along some of the steeper terrain along Route 2 in northwest MA, resulting in a road closure that lasted for 3 months.

Major flooding occurred in portions of northwest Massachusetts, from Greenfield northwest through Colrain, Leyden, Buckland, Charlemont, and vicinity. Numerous roads were flooded. There were numerous evacuations and a number of homes that were flooded and others also condemned. One building in Shelburne Falls along the Deerfield River was moved approximately 100 yards downstream of its foundation.

Along the Deerfield River in between MA Route 5 and Interstate 91, a large swath of farmland was inundated, and many homes

within that stretch experienced various degrees of flooding. The Mowhawk Meadow Country Club at the junction of the Connecticut and Deerfield Rivers was submerged. On the Green River in Greenfield, the Eunice Williams Covered Bridge dislodged from its abutments, and the river scouring was so severe the river diverted itself around the bridge.

In western MA, the Westfield River at Westfield crested at 19.9 feet, just short of the Major Flood Stage of 20 feet. Two out of the 3 major tributaries to this river are under substantial control from the Corps of Engineers' Knightville and Huntington Dams. The majority of the runoff contributing to the high-end moderate flood on the Westfield River in Westfield came largely from a single uncontrolled tributary, the West Branch Westfield River.

In north central CT, significant flooding occurred along the Pequabuck River, with numerous water rescues and a building collapsing into the river. Significant floodwaters washed onto and flowed through Main Street in Bristol. One person drowned and was found approximately 2.5 miles downriver in the Forrestville Section of Bristol.

With much of Irene's heavy rainfall occurring along the length of the Connecticut River Watershed, serious flooding occurred on this waterway as well. At River Forecast Points along the Connecticut River from Montague MA south to Middletown CT, the River had its highest peak since 1987, except 1984 at Montague.

Know what to do before, during and after a flood.  
Visit [www.weather.gov/floodsafety](http://www.weather.gov/floodsafety)

\$\$

For the latest updates...please visit our webpage at  
[www.weather.gov/boston](http://www.weather.gov/boston)

You can follow us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/us.nationalweatherservice.boston.gov](http://www.facebook.com/us.nationalweatherservice.boston.gov)

You can follow us on Twitter at  
[@NWSBoston](https://twitter.com/NWSBoston)

552  
NOUS41 KBOX 161045  
PNSBOX  
CTZ002>004-MAZ002>024-026-RIZ001>008-162245-

Public Information Statement  
National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA

645 AM EDT Tue Mar 16 2021

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared March 15 through March 19 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Each day during the 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](http://www.weather.gov/floodsafety).

\$\$

For the latest updates...please visit our webpage at [www.weather.gov/boston](http://www.weather.gov/boston)

You can follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/us.nationalweatherservice.boston.gov](http://www.facebook.com/us.nationalweatherservice.boston.gov)

You can follow us on Twitter at [@NWSBoston](https://twitter.com/NWSBoston)

573  
NOUS41 KBOX 171139  
PNSBOX  
CTZ002>004-MAZ002>024-026-RIZ001>008-172345-

Public Information Statement  
National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA  
739 AM EDT Wed Mar 17 2021

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared March

15 through March 19 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.

\$\$

For the latest updates...please visit our webpage at [www.weather.gov/boston](http://www.weather.gov/boston)

You can follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/nwsboston](http://www.facebook.com/nwsboston)

You can follow us on Twitter at [@NWSBoston](https://twitter.com/NWSBoston)

476  
NOUS41 KBOX 181052  
PNSBOX  
CTZ002>004-MAZ002>024-026-RIZ001>008-182300-

Public Information Statement  
National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA  
652 AM EDT Thu Mar 18 2021

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared March 15 through March 19 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!

\$\$

For the latest updates...please visit our webpage at [www.weather.gov/boston](http://www.weather.gov/boston)

You can follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/nwsboston](http://www.facebook.com/nwsboston)

You can follow us on Twitter at [@NWSBoston](https://twitter.com/NWSBoston)

250  
NOUS41 KBOX 191211  
PNSBOX  
CTZ002>004-MAZ002>024-026-RIZ001>008-200015-

Public Information Statement  
National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA  
811 AM EDT Fri Mar 19 2021

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared March 15 through March 19 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](http://weather.gov) and the latest river forecast information at [water.weather.gov](http://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](http://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/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/)

\$\$

For the latest updates...please visit our webpage at [www.weather.gov/boston](http://www.weather.gov/boston)

You can follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/nwsboston](http://www.facebook.com/nwsboston)

You can follow us on Twitter at [@NWSBoston](https://twitter.com/NWSBoston)