



Flood Safety Awareness Week March 16-22, 2014



www.floodsafety.noaa.gov

www.floodsmart.gov

Flood Safety Awareness Week is March 16-22! [More information...](#)

- Flood Safety
- Flood Warning vs. Watch
- Before a Flood
- During a Flood
- After a Flood

- ### Flooding Resources
- Flood Safety
 - Turn Around Don't Drown
 - Flood/Safety Awareness Week
 - State Flood Information
 - Flood Hazards
 - NWS Flood Products
 - Forecasts and Observations
 - Education and Outreach Materials
 - Partner Agencies



Flood waters reach mailbox height in a neighborhood along the Red River in Minnesota. (photo credit: FEMA)

Flooding is a coast to coast threat to the United States and its territories nearly every day of the year. This page is designed to teach you how to stay safe in a flood event. If you know what to do before, during, and after a flood you can increase your chances of survival. Here you will find an interactive flood map, information describing the different types of flooding, educational material, and resources on how the National Weather Service keeps you aware of potentially dangerous flooding situations.



Call toll free: 1-888-579-9531 or have us call you

Search FloodSmart.gov

- HOME
- FLOODING & FLOOD RISKS
- ABOUT THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM
- RESIDENTIAL COVERAGE
- COMMERCIAL COVERAGE
- PREPARATION & RECOVERY

- ### RESOURCES
- Agent Site
 - Agent Locator
 - Bigger Waters Reform Act of 2012
 - Community Rating System
 - Community Resources
 - File Your Claim
 - Frequently Asked Questions
 - Glossary
 - Flood Facts
 - Media Resources
 - Tools
 - Email Updates

Winter Rainy Season Is Here. Are You Ready?

Heavy rains during the winter months can cause catastrophic flooding in many areas of the country.

[LEARN MORE](#)

- Winter Rainy Season
- 80-12
- New Flood Maps
- Video Testimonials

LATEST NEWS

LEAD COPIES reveal how properties and policies might be affected by the Bigger Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012.

Find out more about the Preferred Risk Policy Eligibility Extension. [Learn More](#)

Typically, there is a 30-day waiting period on new flood insurance policies.

GET COVERAGE FOR AS LOW AS \$129 PER YEAR

Find out about our Preferred Risk Policy for homes in moderate-to-low risk areas.

[LEARN MORE](#)

WHAT COULD FLOODING COST ME?

The interactive tool shows the cost of a flood to your home, inch-by-inch.

[LEARN MORE](#)

One-Step Flood Risk Profile

HOW CAN I GET COVERED?

- Rate your risk
- Estimate your premium
- Find an agent

Address:



Latest Flood Outlook – March 18



Despite a Couple of Mostly Helpful Weather Weeks Risk for River Flooding Remains Much Higher Than Usual

Despite some slow melting of Snow and Ice recently
We are still primed for an Active Flood Season the next Month or so

We Need to Continue to Avoid Rapid Melting and Heavy Rain

We continue a general 40-90% Risk for River Flooding Typical Year we have a 5-20% Risk

A higher risk for flooding does not mean we are predicting record flooding
Some flooding is likely, we are not here to say widespread significant flooding is certain



Ice Jam Potential

We Are Seeing More Open Water on Rivers, Streams
No Ice = No Ice Jam Risk

- Losing Ice does not remove flood threat for the spring, just eliminates ice jamming
- Great Lakes could prevent the escape of any flowing river ice - Offshore winds help by pushing ice to midlake and may open channels
- Breakup or movement of ice means jamming and flooding could develop quickly...ice jams on rivers can result in unpredictable rapid rises in rivers
- Please Share with the NWS immediately if you see ice breakup or movement
- Fast moving water combined with ice poses a very serious threat to rescue operations and first responders



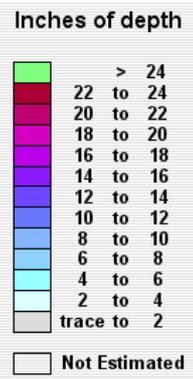
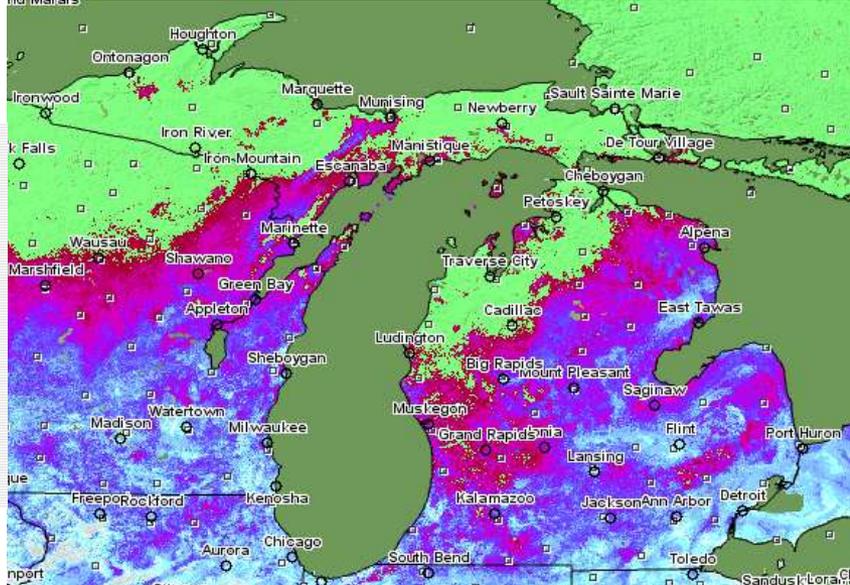
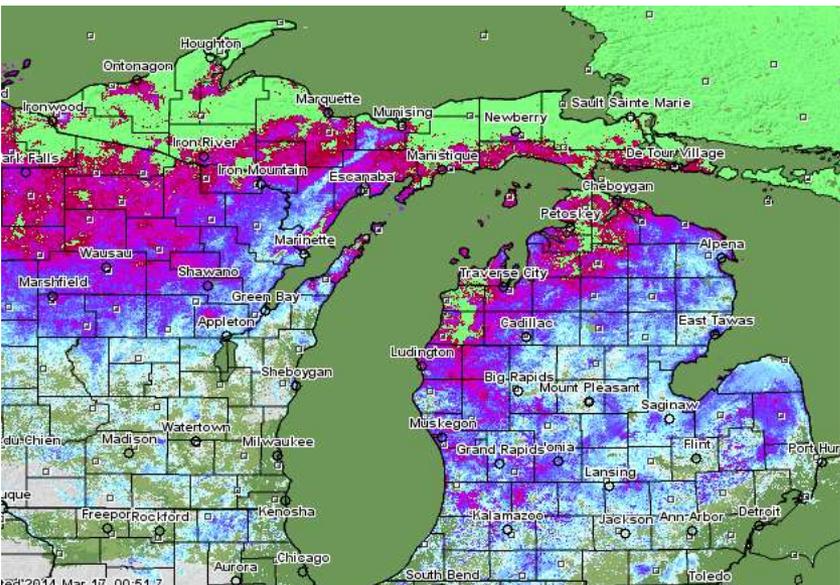
Snow Pack

Some Changes from Last Month - Still High

Modeled Snow Depth

March 16, 2014

February 25, 2014





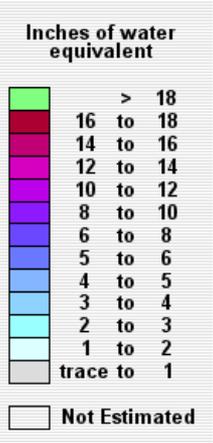
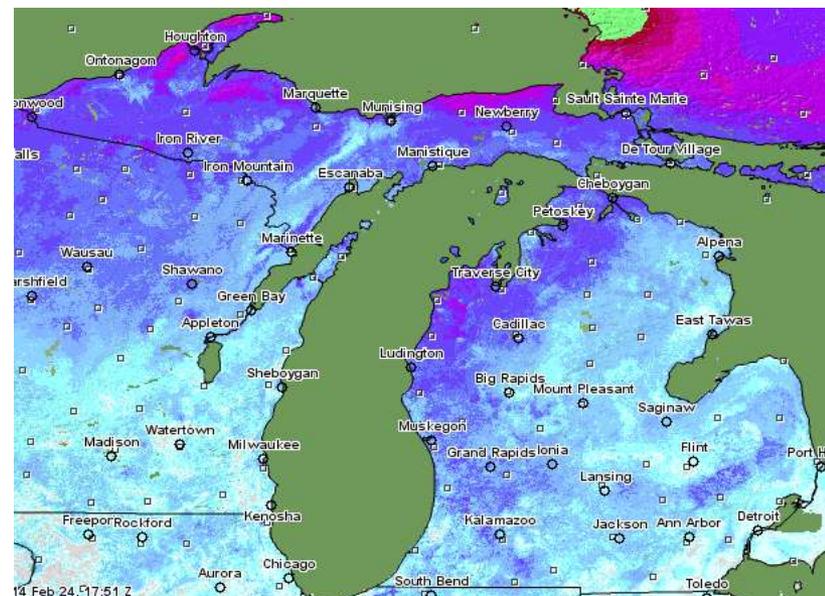
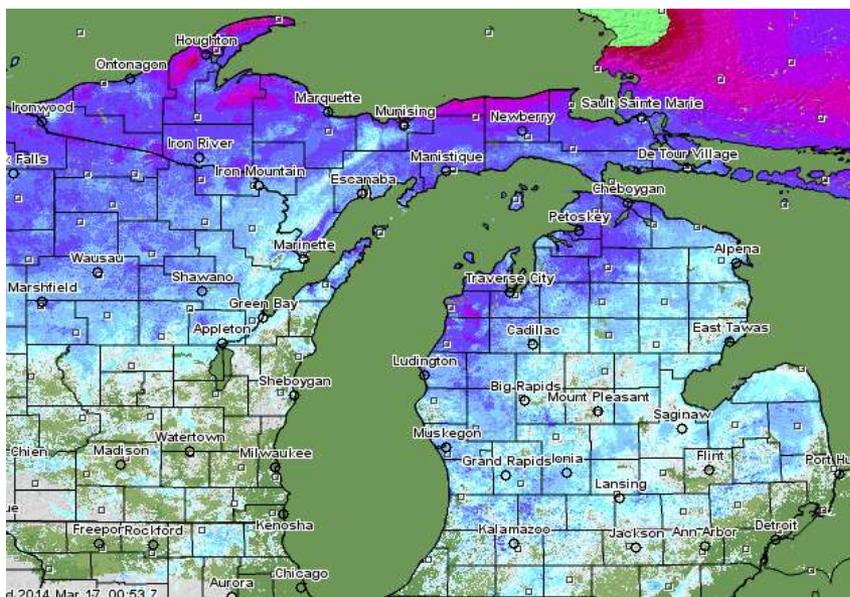
Water in the Snow Pack

Some Changes from Last Month - Still High

Modeled Snow Water Equivalent

March 16, 2014

February 25, 2014





Outlook for the Next Two Weeks



Transition to Warmer and Wetter Weather Should Start to Occur Very Soon

Very Few Days Expected with Average Temperature Below 20 degrees
Meaning ice on rivers should not typically grow in depth

Rain/Snow March 18-20

Around one-half inch of rain or less - Will Add to River Levels, Snow Pack
Not expected to cause significant issues at this time - some minor flooding possible
Greatest Rain Amounts Expected: Southern Lower Michigan

Additional Rainfall the Next Two Weeks Looks Minimal

Some Additional Precipitation Fri-Sat and Mon-Wed next week

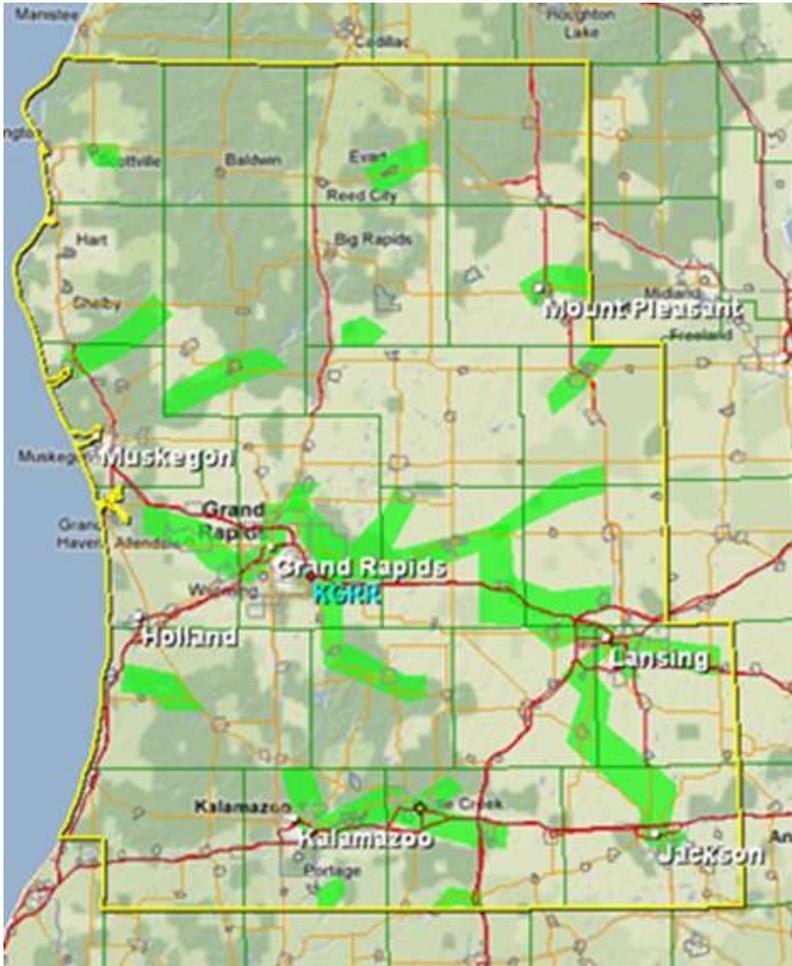
**Snowpack Will Absorb Very Little Water
Ground Will Absorb Some - But Not Much**



If River Flood Warnings Are Issued

Some Changes in Warning Maps for Michigan this Spring

Example of River Flood Warnings



- More Specific Mapping Than Before
 - Focus Closer to Rivers
 - No Longer Light Up Entire County
- Does Not Mean Entire Area Will Flood
 - Not Inundation Maps
- County Names Still Listed
- Warning Information Same As Before
 - Current Stage
 - Forecast Crest and Time
 - Typical Impacts Listed

Flood Advisories Will Still Light up entire county



Flood Terminology

Major Flooding

Extensive Inundation - Road, Structure, Communities
Evacuations

Movement of Property to Higher Elevations

Moderate Flooding

Some Inundation - Road, Structure, Communities
Possible Evacuations

Movement of Property to Higher Elevations

Minor Flooding

Minimal Property Damage,
Public Inconvenience



Best Case Scenarios



Would Help Lessen Flood Threat If...

- We continue to see cool temperatures with plenty of sunshine
- Slow Snow Melt with no rain - Gradual Warming with periods Below Freezing
- Spaced Out Smaller Rainfall Events - Allowing Drainage to Occur
- Rivers being free and clear of ice before any big rain event or rapid melting



Worst Case Scenarios



Would Increase Flood Threat If...

- Significant Additional Wet Snow Events Occur
- Quick Change from Cold to Very Warm and Wet Pattern
- Significant Intense Rainfall Happening at Once or Multiple Times (like April 2013)
- Heavy Rainfall Occurs Across Entire Basins - especially the Headwaters
- Rapid Snow Melt - Long Time Well Above Freezing with Very Warm Days (50+)
- Combination of Lots of Rainfall and Rapid Snow Melt before Ice is off the Rivers
- Quick Breakage and Release of thick River Ice



Monitoring the Latest Flood Risk



Map Detailing 50% Chance of Exceeding Flood Stage

<http://go.usa.gov/BFT4>

Can see other percentages

Including...
25%, 75%, 95%

