

2013 Flood Safety Awareness Week

Today's topic: **the NWS Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service and partner services.**

This week we have discussed what flood safety is, the different types of floods you may encounter, the NWS **Turn Around Don't Drown** campaign and the National Flood Insurance Program. Today we hope to tie all of those together to help you prepare for situations when flood waters flow!

As mentioned on Monday, the NWS website provides up to date advisory, watch and warning information for the U.S. and its territories. But there is additional information on that page you may not be aware of to help you before, during and after a flood.

AHPS

The Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, or AHPS, is an ongoing effort to modernize the NWS's hydrologic services. AHPS provides river and flood forecasts and water information across America to protect life and property. Everyone who makes decisions based on water, including but not limited to: farmers, river boat pilots, emergency managers, municipal water supply officials, recreationists and dam operators can benefit from AHPS. You can get to AHPS from the NWS website.

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=oax>

Flood inundation mapping

The ability to look days into the future to see how many city blocks and roads might be flooded is becoming clearer with flood inundation mapping. Sets of maps, referred to as libraries, are being developed which include map layers depicting the spatial extent and depth of water for various flood levels ranging from minor flooding all the way through the flood of record in the vicinity of NWS river forecast locations. Combined with traditional NWS river forecasts these flood maps show the areas of likely inundation based on current conditions and river forecasts. Maps are produced using geographic information systems (GIS) and datasets created in the production of FEMA's flood insurance rate maps. These libraries are accessible through the AHPS web site for select sites.

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps/inundation.php>

As we wrap up the 2013 flood safety awareness week, remember, flooding causes more damage in the United States than any other weather related event. Being prepared in advance and knowing a few flood safety tips will help you and your family survive a flood if it happens in your area. Know your risk, **Turn Around Don't Drown**, evaluate your need for flood insurance, visit with our partners to learn how they too can help you prepare and be a force of nature! It could save your life.

If you have questions please use the contact below:

David Pearson
Senior Service Hydrologist
National Weather Service Omaha/Valley
(402) 359-5166 x493
david.pearson@noaa.gov