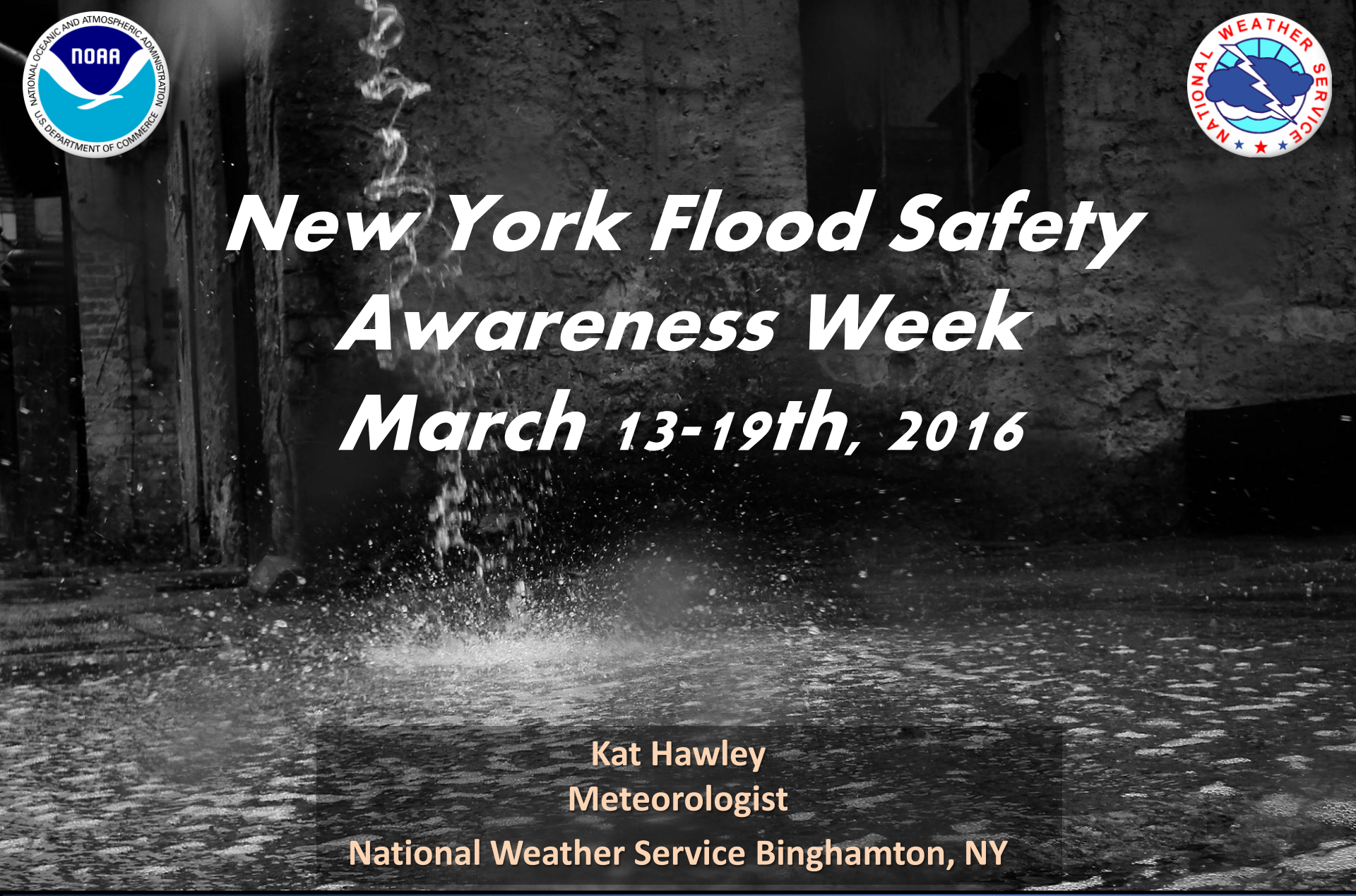

New York Flood Safety Awareness Week March 13-19th, 2016

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National Weather Service – Binghamton, NY

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Rescuers search for people stranded by flooding in downtown Kingfisher, Oklahoma. (photo credit: FEMA)

- Flooding is a coast to coast threat to the United States and its territories nearly every day of the year.
- This presentation 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.

- What Is Turn Around Don't Drown® (TADD)?
  - TADD is a NOAA National Weather Service campaign to warn people of the hazards of walking or driving a vehicle through flood waters.
- Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other severe weather related hazard. The Centers for Disease Control report that over half of all flood-related drowning occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water.
- Most flood-related deaths and injuries could be avoided if people who come upon areas covered with water followed this simple advice: Turn Around Don't Drown®.

New York has a Long History of Floods

- March 1913
- July 1935: Finger Lakes Flood
- August 1955: Connie and Diane
- June 1972: Agnes
- January 1996: Snowmelt
- June 2006: Heavy tropical rains.
- August and September 2011: Irene and Lee

Flash Flooding

- Flash floods are exactly what the name suggests: floods that happen in a flash!
- Flash floods generally develop within 6 hours of the immediate cause.
- Causes of flash flooding include heavy rain, ice or debris jams, and levee or dam failure.

River Flooding

River flooding occurs when river levels rise and overflow their banks or the Edges of their main channel and inundate areas that are normally dry. River flooding can be caused by heavy rainfall, dam failures, rapid snowmelt and ice jams. River flooding is classified as minor, moderate or major based on height and impacts along the river.

Minor Flooding: Low-lying areas adjacent to the stream or river, mainly rural areas and farmland and secondary roadways.

Moderate Flooding: Water levels rise high enough to impact homes and businesses near the river and some evacuations may be needed.

Major Flooding: Extensive rural and/or urban flooding is expected.

Ice Jam Floods

Ice jams are common during the winter and spring along rivers, streams and creeks in the higher latitudes of the continental U.S. which includes NY!!

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NWS Flood Products

Flash Flood Warning: Take Action! A Flash Flood Warning is issued when a flash flood is imminent or occurring. If you are in a flood prone area move immediately to high ground. A flash flood is a sudden violent flood that can take from minutes to hours to develop. It is even possible to experience a flash flood in areas not immediately receiving rain.

Flood Warning: Take Action! A Flood Warning is issued when the hazardous weather event is imminent or already happening. A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring.

Flood Watch: Be Prepared: A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for a specific hazardous weather event to occur. A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.

Flood Advisory: Be Aware: A Flood Advisory is issued when a specific weather event that is forecast to occur may become a nuisance. A Flood Advisory is issued when flooding is not expected to be bad enough to issue a warning.

The forecast operations floor at the NWS Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center (RFC).

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Flash Flood Safety

Flash Flooding can occur with little to no warning

Create a Communications Plan

It is very important during an emergency to communicate with your family and friends. Make a phone tree. Communication helps keep your mind at ease especially when a natural disaster occurs.

Create an Emergency Kit

It is good practice to have enough food and water to last you and your family for three days when an emergency strikes. Also, keep a first aid kit in case someone gets hurt along with a flashlight. This kit should have foods that do not need refrigeration and are easy to prepare. Your kit should also have a battery powered radio along with extra batteries to remain informed.

Flash Flood Safety

Always have a plan! Know what to do and where to go!!!

Always stay informed
Obey evacuation orders
Practice electrical safety
Plan for pets

Turn around, don't drown! Only two feet of water will move most vehicles

Six inches of water will knock you off your feet

Stay away from creeks and ditches

Avoid flood waters
Avoid disaster areas
Wait for the "All Clear" before returning to your homes and businesses.

Photo: Wendell Malone

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During a Flood

Stay Informed: Monitor local radio and television (including NOAA Weather Radio), internet and social media for information and updates.

Get to Higher Ground: Get out of areas subject to flooding and get to higher ground immediately.

Obey Evacuation Orders: If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Be sure to lock your home as you leave. If you have time, disconnect utilities and appliances.

Electric Safety: Don't go into a basement, or any room, if water covers the electrical outlets or if cords are submerged!

Avoid Flood Waters: Do not walk through flood waters.

Do not drive into flooded roadways or around a barricade;

Turn Around, Don't Drown!

All Hazards NOAA Weather Radio
NOAA's National Weather Service

Flood waters rush around a house in Long Island, New York. (photo credit: USGS).

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After a Flood

Wait for the "All Clear": Do not enter a flood damaged home or building until you're given the all clear by authorities. If you choose to enter a flood damaged building, be extremely careful. Water can compromise the structural integrity and its foundation. Make sure the electrical system has been turned off, otherwise contact the power company or a qualified electrician. Contact your insurance agent as soon as possible to discuss the damage done to your property. If you have a home generator, be sure to follow proper safety procedures for use. You can find generator safety information at: http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/co/generator.shtm

Heed Road Closed and Cautionary Signs: Road closure and other cautionary signs are put in place for your safety. Pay attention to them!

Downtown Franklin, VA inundated by flood waters. (photo credit: FEMA)

For more information

http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/

http://www.ready.gov/floods

http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/flood

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