

A hydrograph shows how the river level changes over time at a specific location. Forecast hydrographs are displayed when flooding is expected, otherwise the hydrograph for the past few days is provided, if the data are available. At key river gages, such as along navigable rivers, daily forecast hydrographs are provided, whether or not flooding is anticipated. For some locations, probabilistic outlooks for extended periods of up to 90 days are provided.

In cold regions, the hydrograph may seasonally show the effects of the formation of an ice cover. Gauges may either malfunction due to cold weather and/or show sporadic readings due to formation of ice cover on a river or movement of ice. The amount of ice effects can be determined at a site by comparing the gauge forecasts (which is based on open water flow) to the observed stages.

Links to past and forecast precipitation, river level impact and historical flood information are also included on this page.

The following terminology is used when describing floods

Action Stage - the stage which; when reached by a rising stream, lake, or reservoir represents the level where the NWS or a partner/user needs to take some type of mitigation action in preparation for possible significant hydrologic activity. The appropriate action is usually defined in a weather forecast office (WFO) hydrologic services manual. Action stage can be the same as forecast issuance stage (see forecast issuance stage)

Minor flooding - minimal or no property damage, but possibly some public threat.

Moderate Flooding - some inundation of structures and roads near stream. Some evacuations of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations.

Major Flooding - extensive inundation of structures and roads. Significant evacuations of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations.

Record Flooding - flooding which equals or exceeds the highest stage or discharge at a given site during the period of record keeping.

Stage - level of the water surface in a river measured with reference to some datum.

Flow - volume of water passing a given point per unit of time.

kcfs - measurement of water flow equivalent to 1000 cubic feet of water passing a given point for an entire second.

UTC - Universal Coordinated Time (same as Zulu (Z) and Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)). Time zones around the world are expressed as positive and negative offsets from UTC.