



RIL 2022-10

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL PROBABILISTIC FLOOD HAZARD ASSESSMENT RESEARCH WORKSHOP

February 15-18, 2022

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**Research Information Letter**  
**Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research**

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## ABSTRACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) is conducting the multiyear, multi project Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment (PFHA) Research Program to enhance the NRC's risk-informed and performance-based regulatory approach with regard to external flood hazard assessment and safety consequences of external flooding events at nuclear power plants. RES initiated this research in response to staff recognition of a lack of guidance for conducting PFHAs at nuclear facilities that required staff and licensees to use highly conservative deterministic methods in regulatory applications. Risk assessment of flooding hazards and consequences of flooding events is a recognized gap in the NRC's risk-informed, performance-based regulatory framework. The RES Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment Research Plan describes the objective, research themes, and specific research topics for the program. While the technical basis research, pilot studies, and guidance development are ongoing, RES has presented annual PFHA research workshops to communicate results, assess progress, collect feedback, and chart future activities. These workshops have brought together NRC staff and management from RES and user offices, technical support contractors, interagency and international collaborators, and industry and public representatives.

These conference proceedings transmit the agenda, abstracts, and presentation slides for the Seventh Annual NRC Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment Research Workshop held virtually in February 2022 via web conference software. The workshop took place February 15–18, 2022 and was attended by members of the public; nuclear industry and nuclear industry consultants; NRC technical staff, management, and contractors; and staff from other Federal agencies and academia. The workshop began with an introductory session that included perspectives and research program highlights from RES, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and international working groups. NRC contractors and staff, as well as invited Federal and public speakers, gave technical presentations (including virtual poster sessions) and participated in various styles of panel discussion. The workshop included eight focus areas:

- (1) overview of flooding research programs of the NRC, other Federal agencies, and selected international organizations
- (2) sensors
- (3) climate influences on flooding hazards
- (4) precipitation processes and modeling
- (5) riverine flooding processes and modeling
- (6) coastal flooding processes and modeling
- (7) Duane Arnold derecho operational experience
- (8) Tornado wind loads in the ASCE/SEI 7-2022 Standard
- (9) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Inventory of Dams and National Levee Database updates

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

This research information letter (RIL) details the Seventh Annual U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment (PFHA) Research Workshop held virtually from February 15–18, 2022. These proceedings include presentation abstracts and slides. The workshop was attended by members of the public; nuclear industry and nuclear industry consultants; NRC technical staff, management, and contractors; and staff from other Federal agencies and academia.

The workshop began with an introduction from Ray Furstenau, Director, NRC Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES). Following the introduction, staff members from RES and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) described their flooding research programs. Additionally, John Nakoski, RES, provided an overview of external hazard efforts (including flooding) underway by the Nuclear Energy Agency, Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI), Working Group on External Events (WGEV).

Technical sessions followed the introduction session. Most sessions began with an invited keynote speaker, followed by several technical presentations, and concluded with a panel of all speakers, who discussed the session topic in general. At the end of each day, participants provided feedback and asked generic questions about research related to PFHA for nuclear facilities. At the end of the third day, a virtual poster session was held with each poster presenter being assigned a unique web conferencing room where attendees were free to attend and leave at will.

## 1.1 Background

The NRC is conducting the multiyear, multi project PFHA Research Program. It initiated this research in response to staff recognition of a lack of guidance for conducting PFHAs at nuclear facilities that required staff and licensees to use highly conservative deterministic methods in regulatory applications. The staff described the objective, research themes, and specific research topics in the “Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment Research Plan,” Version 2014-10-23, provided to the Commission in November 2014 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Nos. ML14318A070 and ML14296A442). The NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and the former Office of New Reactors endorsed the PFHA Research Plan in a joint user need request (ADAMS Accession No. ML15124A707). This program is designed to support the development of regulatory tools (e.g., regulatory guidance, standard review plans) for permitting new nuclear sites, licensing new nuclear facilities, and overseeing operating facilities. Specific uses of flooding hazard estimates (i.e., flood elevations and associated affects) include flood-resistant design for structures, systems, and components (SSCs) important to safety and advanced planning and evaluation of flood protection procedures and mitigation.

The lack of risk-informed guidance with respect to flooding hazards and flood fragility of SSCs constitutes a significant gap in the NRC’s risk-informed, performance-based regulatory approach to the assessment of hazards and potential safety consequences for commercial nuclear facilities. The probabilistic technical basis developed will provide a risk-informed approach for improved guidance and tools to give staff and licensees greater flexibility in evaluating flooding hazards and potential impacts to SSCs in the oversight of operating facilities (e.g., license amendment requests, significance determination processes, notices of

enforcement discretion) as well as the licensing of new facilities (e.g., early site permit applications, combined license applications), including proposed small modular reactors and advanced reactors. This methodology will give the staff more flexibility in assessing flood hazards at nuclear facilities so the staff will not have to rely on the use of the current deterministic methods, which can be overly conservative in some cases.

The main focus areas of the PFHA Research Program are to (1) leverage available frequency information on flooding hazards at operating nuclear facilities and develop guidance on its use, (2) develop and demonstrate a PFHA framework for flood hazard curve estimation, (3) assess and evaluate the application of improved mechanistic and probabilistic modeling techniques for key flood-generating processes and flooding scenarios, (4) assess potential impacts of dynamic and nonstationary processes on flood hazard assessments and flood protection at nuclear facilities, and (5) assess and evaluate methods for quantifying reliability of flood protection and plant response to flooding events. Workshop organizers used these focus areas to develop technical session topics for the workshop.

## **1.2 Workshop Objectives**

The Annual PFHA Research Workshops serve multiple objectives: (1) inform and solicit feedback from internal NRC stakeholders, partner Federal agencies, industry, and the public about PFHA research being conducted by RES, (2) inform internal and external stakeholders about RES research collaborations with Federal agencies, the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and the IRSN, and (3) provide a forum for presentation and discussion of notable domestic and international PFHA research activities.

## **1.3 Workshop Scope**

The scope of the workshop presentations and discussions included the following:

- overview of flooding research programs of the NRC, other Federal agencies, and selected international organizations
- sensors
- climate influences on flooding hazards
- precipitation processes and modeling
- riverine flooding processes and modeling
- coastal flooding processes and modeling
- Duane Arnold derecho operational experience
- Tornado wind loads in the ASCE/SEI 7-2022 Standard
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Inventory of Dams and National Levee Database updates

## **1.4 Organization of Conference Proceedings**

Section 2 provides the agenda for this workshop. The agenda is also available from NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at Accession No. ML22061A099.

Section 3 presents the proceedings from the workshop, including abstracts and presentation slides and abstracts for submitted posters.

The summary document of session abstracts for the technical presentations is available at ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A100. The complete workshop presentation package is available at ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A095.

Section 4 lists the workshop attendees and Section 5 summarizes the workshop.

## **1.5 Related Workshops**

The NRC's Annual PFHA Research Workshops take place approximately annually at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, MD. The proceedings from the Sixth Annual PFHA Research Workshop (held February 22–25, 2021) have been published as [RIL-2022-02](#). The proceedings from the Fifth Annual PFHA Research Workshop (held February 19–21, 2020) have been published as [RIL-2021-01](#). NRC has published the collected proceedings from the first four workshops, listed below, as [RIL-2020-01](#), available on the agency's public Web site:

- First Annual NRC PFHA Research Workshop, October 14–15, 2015
- Second Annual NRC PFHA Research Workshop, January 23–25, 2017
- Third Annual NRC PFHA Research Workshop, December 4–5, 2017
- Fourth Annual NRC PFHA Research Workshop, April 30–May 2, 2019

In addition, an international workshop on PFHA took place January 29–31, 2013. The workshop was devoted to sharing information on PFHAs for extreme events (i.e., annual exceedance probabilities (AEPs) much less than  $2 \times 10^{-3}$  per year) from the Federal community. The NRC issued the proceedings as NUREG/CP-302, "Proceedings of the Workshop on Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment (PFHA)," in October 2013 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13277A074).

## 2 WORKSHOP AGENDA

<h3 style="margin: 0;">Day 1 (February 15, 2022) Oral Presentations</h3>
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\* denotes speaker

<b><u>Session 1A: Introduction</u></b>		<b>Chair: Joseph Kanney, NRC/RES</b>	
1A-0	Webinar Logistics	<b>Kenneth Hamburger*</b> , NRC/RES	10:00 10:10
1A-1	Opening Remarks	<b>Ray Furstenau*</b> , Director, NRC Office of Research	10:10 10:25
1A-2	NRC PFHA Research Program Update	<b>Tom Aird*</b> , NRC/RES	10:25 10:40
1A-3	Moving FEMA towards Probabilistic Flood Risk Analysis and Probabilistic Flood Hazard Analysis	<b>David Rosa*</b> , Christina Lindemer, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	10:40 11:05
1A-4	Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI) Working Group on External Events (WGEV)	<b>John Nakoski*</b> , NRC/RES (WGEV Chair)	11:05 11:20
<b>Break</b>			11:20 11:35
<b><u>Session 1B: Sensors</u></b>		<b>Chair: Joseph Kanney, NRC/RES</b>	
1B-1	(Keynote) Flood & Fire Sensors for Resilient Communities	<b>Jeffrey Booth*</b> , Department of Homeland Security, Science & Technology Directorate	11:35 12:00
1B-2	USACE Instrumentation and Monitoring Program	<b>Georgette Hlepas*</b> , <b>Christopher Schaal*</b> , U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	12:00 12:25
1B-3	USGS Water Mission Area Observing Systems Research and Development Program	<b>R. Russel Lotspeich*</b> , U.S. Geological Survey	12:25 12:50
1B-4	State and Local Experience in Virginia Implementing IoT Sensors and Data Systems	<b>David Ihrle*</b> , Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation	12:50 13:15
1B-5	Sensor Panel Discussion	<i>All Presenters</i>	13:15 13:35
<b>Lunch</b>			13:35 14:35



**Session 1C: Climate**

**Chair: Elena Yegorova,  
NRC/RES**

1C-1	(KEYNOTE) Big Stories from the Historic Winter of 2020/21	<b>David Novak*</b> , National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service (NOAA/NWS)	14:35	15:05
1C-2	Linking Arctic variability and change with extreme winter weather in the US including the Texas Freeze of February 2021	<b>Judah Cohen*<sup>1</sup></b> , Laurie Agel <sup>2</sup> , Mathew Barlow <sup>2</sup> , Chaim Garfinkel <sup>3</sup> , Ian White <sup>3</sup> ; <sup>1</sup> Atmospheric and Environmental Research, <sup>2</sup> University of Massachusetts Lowell, <sup>3</sup> Hebrew University of Jerusalem	15:05	15:30
1C-3	2021 U.S. Billion Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters in Historical Context including New County-Level Exposure, Vulnerability and Projected Damage Mapping	<b>Adam Smith*</b> , National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Centers for Environmental Information (NOAA/NCEI)	15:30	15:55
1C-4	Climate Panel Discussion	<i>All Presenters</i>	15:55	16:25
1D	<b>Day 1 Wrap-up</b>		16:25	16:30

## Day 2 (February 16, 2022) Oral Presentations

	<b><u>Session 2A:</u></b>	<b>Chair: <i>Kevin Quinlan, NRC/NRR</i></b>		
	<b><u>Precipitation</u></b>			
2A-1	Uncertainty in Precipitation Frequency Estimates Under Current and Future Climate	<b><i>Azin Al Kajbaf*</i></b> , <i>Michelle Bensi, Kaye Brubaker; University of Maryland</i>	10:05	10:30
2A-2	(KEYNOTE) Gridded Surface Weather Data with Uncertainty Quantification - Daymet V4	<b><i>Peter Thornton*</i></b> , <i>Oak Ridge National Laboratory</i>	10:30	11:00
2A-3	Utility of Weather Types to Improve the Nonstationary Frequency Analysis of Extreme Precipitation	<b><i>Giuseppe Mascaro*</i></b> , <i>Arizona State University</i>	11:00	11:25
	<b>Break</b>		11:25	11:35
2A-4	Characteristics and Causes of Extreme Snowmelt over the Conterminous United States	<b><i>Joshua Welty*<sup>1</sup></i></b> , <i>Xubin Zeng<sup>2</sup></i> ; <i><sup>1</sup>U.S. Navy Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center, <sup>2</sup>University of Arizona</i>	11:35	12:00
2A-5	LIP PFHA Pilot Study	<b><i>Rajiv Prasad*</i></b> , <i>Arun Veeramany, Rajesh Singh; Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)</i>	12:00	12:25
2A-6	Precip Panel Discussion	<i>All Presenters</i>	12:25	12:55
	<b>Lunch</b>		12:55	14:00

**Session 2B: Riverine  
Flooding**

**Chair: Joseph Kanney, NRC/RES**

2B-1	(KEYNOTE) Flood Typing and Application to Mixed Population Flood Frequency Analysis: An Interagency Collaborative Effort	<b>Nancy Barth</b> <sup>*1</sup> , Michael Bartles <sup>2</sup> , John England <sup>2</sup> , Jory Hecht <sup>1</sup> , Gregory Karlovits <sup>2</sup> , William Lehman <sup>2</sup> ; <sup>1</sup> U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), <sup>2</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	14:00	14:30
2B-2	Applying Stochastic Weather Generation and Continuous Hydrologic Simulation for Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessments	<b>Joe Bellini</b> <sup>*1</sup> , Bill Kappel <sup>2</sup> , Dennis Johnson <sup>2</sup> , Doug Hultstrand <sup>2</sup> ; <sup>1</sup> Aterra Solutions, <sup>2</sup> Applied Weather Associates	14:30	14:55
2B-3	IWRSS Flood Inundation Mapping for Flood Response	<b>Robert Mason</b> <sup>*1</sup> , <b>Julia Prokopec</b> <sup>*1</sup> , <b>Adam Barker</b> <sup>*2</sup> , <b>Cory Winders</b> <sup>*3</sup> , <b>Darone Jones</b> <sup>*4</sup> ; <sup>1</sup> U.S. Geological Survey, <sup>2</sup> Federal Emergency Management Agency, <sup>3</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, <sup>4</sup> National Weather Service	14:55	15:20
2B-4	Using HEC-WAT for NRC's PFHA Process	<b>William Lehman</b> <sup>*</sup> , Gregory Karlovits, David Ho, Leila Ostadrahimi, Brennan Beam, Sara O'Connell, Julia Slaughter; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hydrologic Engineering Center (USACE/HEC)	15:20	15:45
2B-5	Riverine Panel Discussion	<i>All Presenters</i>	15:45	16:15
2C	<b>Day 2 Wrap-up</b>		16:15	16:25

## Day 3 (February 17, 2022) Poster Presentations

<b><u>Session 3A: Posters</u></b>		<b>Chair: <i>Thomas Aird, NRC/RES</i></b>		
3A-1	Flood Fragility Function Methodology for a Conceptual Nuclear Power Plant	<b><i>Joy Shen*</i></b> , <i>Michelle Bensi, Mohammad Modarres; University of Maryland</i>	10:00	11:00
3A-2	Quantifying Uncertainty in Hurricane Warning Times to Inform Coastal Hazard PRA	<b><i>Somayeh Mohammadi*</i></b> , <i>Michelle Bensi; University of Maryland</i>	10:00	11:00
3A-3	HEC-WAT Interface and Set Up for the Trinity River PFHA Pilot Project	<b><i>David Ho*</i></b> , <i>William Lehman, Brennan Beam, Sara O'Connell, Leila Ostadrahimi; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hydrologic Engineering Center</i>	10:00	11:00
3A-4	Riverine Flooding HEC-WAT Pilot Project Dam Break Modeling	<b><i>Brennan Beam*</i></b> , <i>William Lehman, Sara O'Connell, David Ho, Leila Ostadrahimi; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hydrologic Engineering Center</i>	10:00	11:00
3A-5	Flooding from Below – The Groundwater Emergence Hazard	<b><i>Kevin M. Befus*<sup>1</sup></i></b> , <i>Patrick L. Barnard<sup>2</sup>, Peter W. Swarzenski<sup>2</sup>, Clifford Voss<sup>2</sup>; <sup>1</sup>University of Arkansas, <sup>2</sup>U.S. Geological Survey</i>	10:00	11:00
3A-6	External Flooding PRA Guidance	<b><i>Marko Randelovic*<sup>1</sup></i></b> , <b><i>Raymond Schneider*<sup>2</sup></i></b> ; <i><sup>1</sup>Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), <sup>2</sup>Westinghouse Company</i>	10:00	11:00
	<b>Break</b>		11:00	11:10

## Day 3 (February 17, 2022) Oral Presentations

<b><u>Session 3B: Coastal Flooding</u></b>		<b>Chair: Joseph Kanney, NRC/RES</b>	
3B-1	(KeyNote) An Overview of CSTORM Model Development and Results for the South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACS)	<b>Margaret Owensby</b> <sup>*1</sup> , Chris Massey <sup>1</sup> , Tyler Hesser <sup>1</sup> , Mary Bryant <sup>1</sup> , Andrew Condon <sup>2</sup> ; <sup>1</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Engineer Research and Development Center, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, <sup>2</sup> USACE Jacksonville District	11:10 11:40
3B-2	Compound Flood Hazard Assessment using a Bayesian Framework	<b>Somayah Mohammadi</b> <sup>*1</sup> , Michelle Bensi <sup>1</sup> , Shih-Chieh Kao <sup>2</sup> , Scott DeNeale <sup>2</sup> , Joseph Kanney <sup>3</sup> , Elena Yegorova <sup>3</sup> , Meredith Carr <sup>4</sup> ; <sup>1</sup> Univeristy of Maryland, <sup>2</sup> Oak Ridge National Laboratory, <sup>3</sup> U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, <sup>4</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory	11:40 12:05
3B-3	Coastal Flooding PFHA Pilot Study	<b>Victor M. Gonzalez</b> <sup>*</sup> , Meredith L. Carr, Karlie Wells, Norberto C. Nadal Caraballo; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory	12:05 12:30
3B-4	Probabilistic Wave Height Hazard Assessment Method at the NPP Site Considering Storm Surge	<b>Beom-Jin Kim</b> <sup>*</sup> , Daegi Hahm, Minkyu Kim; Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute	12:30 12:55
3B-5	Comparative Assessment of Joint Distribution Models for Tropical Cyclone Atmospheric Parameters in Probabilistic Coastal Hazard Analysis	<b>Ziyue Liu</b> <sup>*1</sup> , Michelle Bensi <sup>1</sup> , Meredith Carr <sup>2</sup> , Norberto Nadal-Caraballo <sup>2</sup> ; <sup>1</sup> University of Maryland, <sup>2</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory	12:55 13:20
3B-6	Coastal Panel Discussion	<i>All Presenters</i>	13:20 13:50
3C	<b>Day 3 Wrap-up</b>		13:50 14:00

## Day 4 (February 18, 2022) Oral Presentations

	<b><u>Session 4A: Duane Arnold Derecho Operational Experience</u></b>	<b>Chair: Joseph Kanney, NCR/RES</b>		
4A-1	Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) Loss of Offsite Power (LOOP) Due to Derecho	<b>Terry Brandt*</b> , Nextera Energy	10:00	10:25
4A-2	The NRC's Regional Response to the Duane Arnold Derecho	<b>John Hanna*</b> , U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region 3 (NRC/R3)	10:25	10:50
4A-3	Why the Risk of the Extended Loss of Offsite Power Was Almost a Significant Precursor?	<b>Christopher Hunter*</b> , U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Research (NRC/RES)	10:50	11:15
4A-4	The NRC's Response to the Duane Arnold Derecho Event using the LIC-504 Process	<b>Matthew Leech*</b> , U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRC/NRR)	11:15	11:40
4A-5	Duane Arnold OpE Panel Discussion	<i>All Presenters</i>	11:40	11:40
	<b>Break</b>		11:40	11:55
	<b><u>Session 4B: ASCE-7 Tornado Wind Loads</u></b>	<b>Chair: Elena Yegorova, NRC/RES</b>		
4B-1	Introduction to Tornado Loads in the New ASCE 7-22 Standard - Including Long Return Period Tornado Hazards Maps with Applications to Nuclear Facilities	<b>Marc Levitan*</b> , National Institute of Standards and Technology	11:55	12:25
	<b>Lunch</b>		12:25	13:25
	<b><u>Session 4C: USACE Dam and Levee Database Updates</u></b>	<b>Chair: Joseph Kanney, NRC/RES</b>		
4C-1	National Inventory of Dams	<b>Becky Ragon*</b> , U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	13:25	13:55
4C-2	National Levee Database	<b>Brian Vanbockern*</b> , U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	13:55	14:25
4D	<b>Workshop Wrap-up Discussion</b>		14:25	14:45



## 3 PROCEEDINGS

### 3.1 Day 1: Session 1A – Introduction

Session Chair: Joseph Kanney, NRC/RES/DRA

There are no abstracts for this introductory session.

#### 3.1.1 Presentation 1A-1: Opening Remarks

Speaker: Raymond Furstenau, Director, NRC Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

3.1.1.1 *Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A138)*



The slide features the U.S. NRC logo at the top, which includes a stylized atom symbol and the text "U.S. NRC United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Protecting People and the Environment". Below the logo, the main title "Workshop Opening Remarks" is displayed in a large, bold, black font. Underneath the title, the speaker's name "Ray Furstenau" and his title "Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research" are listed. The event details "7<sup>th</sup> Annual NRC PFHA Research Workshop Via Webinar February 15-18, 2022" are also included. At the bottom of the slide, there is a graphic with a dark background and colorful light streaks, containing the text "MODERN, RISK-INFORMED REGULATOR" and "FOCUS ON OUR PEOPLE".

**U.S. NRC**  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
*Protecting People and the Environment*

# Workshop Opening Remarks

**Ray Furstenau**  
Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual NRC PFHA Research Workshop**  
Via Webinar  
February 15-18, 2022

**MODERN, RISK-INFORMED  
REGULATOR**

FOCUS ON OUR PEOPLE

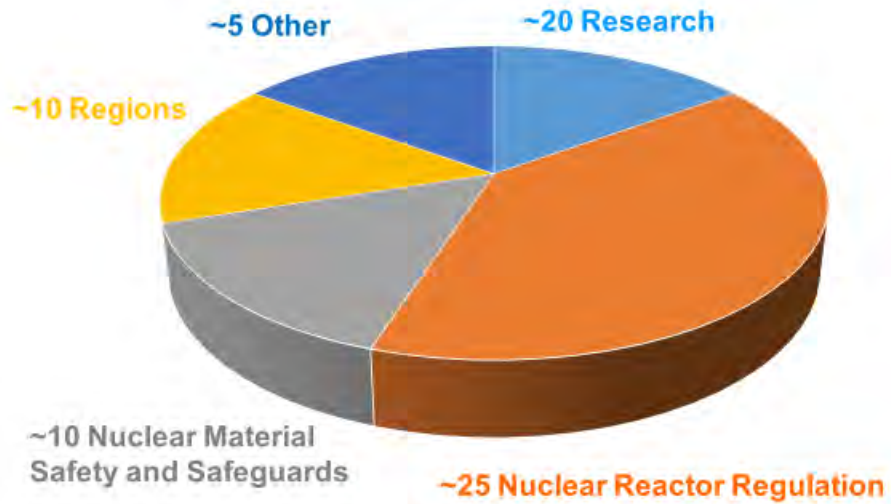


## Workshop Participation Snapshot



2

## NRC Participation (~70 total)



3

## Industry Participation



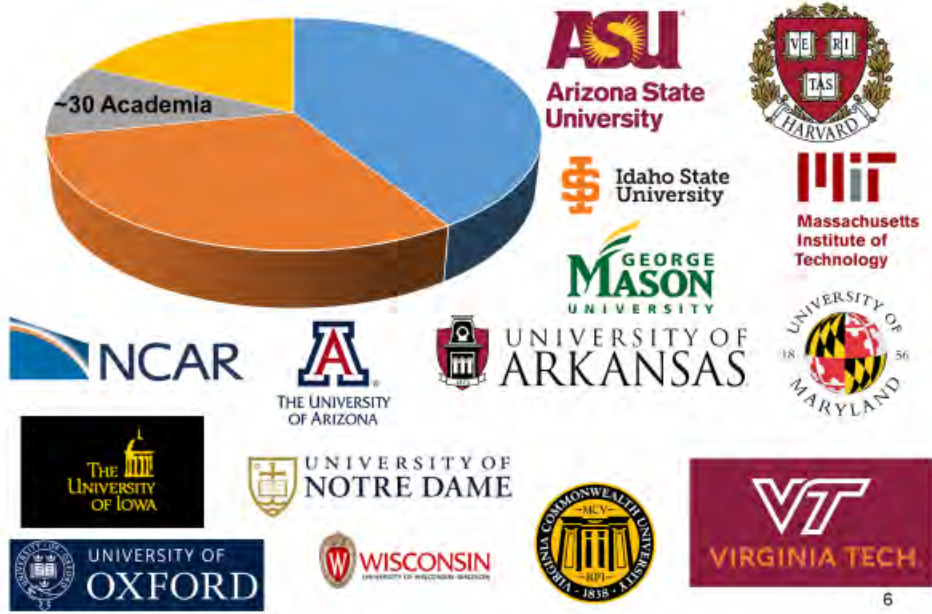
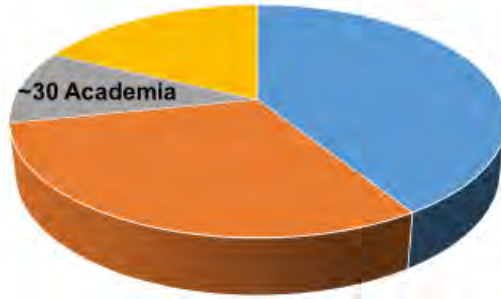
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## Non-NRC Government Participation



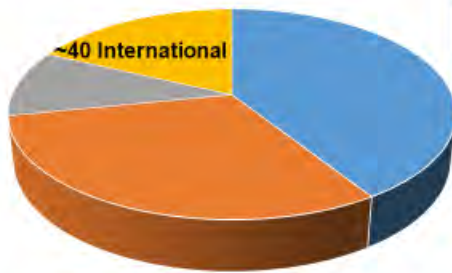
5

## Academic Participation



6

## International Participation

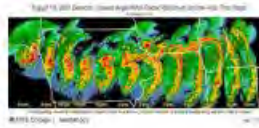


7



## Expanded Workshop Scope!

- Expanding the scope of the workshop beyond flooding to other non-seismic natural hazards
- High-winds
  - Duane Arnold Derecho Operating Experience
  - New National Tornado Windspeed Maps
- Flood and Wildland Fire Sensor Development
- National Dam and Levee Database Updates



### **3.1.2 Presentation 1A-2: NRC Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment Research Program Overview**

Authors: *Thomas Aird, Joseph Kanney, Elena Yegorova*, NRC Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Speaker: Thomas Aird

3.1.2.1 *Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A137)*



# NRC Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment Research Program Update

*Thomas Aird\**, Joseph Kanney, Elena Yegorova

Fire and External Hazards Analysis Branch  
Division of Risk Analysis  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual PFHA Research Workshop**  
NRC HQ, Rockville, MD  
February 15 – 18, 2022

1



## Outline

- Objectives, key challenges, approach
- Phase 1 Overview (Technical Basis)
- Phase 2 Projects (Pilot Studies)
- Thoughts on Phase 3 (Guidance)



2

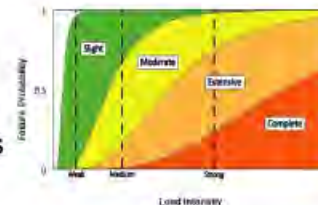
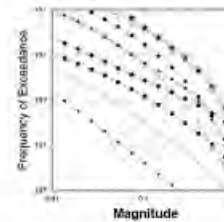
## PFHA Research Objectives

- Develop resources, tools and selected guidance to:
  - Address significant gap in the technical basis for guidance for probabilistic assessment of external hazards
    - Probabilistic: seismic, high winds
    - **Deterministic: flooding**
  - Support risk-informed licensing and oversight activities involving assessment of flooding hazards and potential consequences
    - Licensing and oversight in operating reactor program
    - Design basis flood hazard assessments for new facilities
      - Readiness for licensing of advanced reactors

3

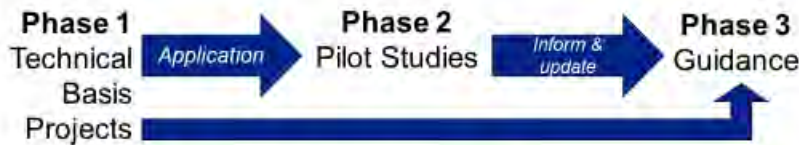
## Key Challenges

- Hazard Estimation
  - Range of annual exceedance probabilities (AEPs)
    - Moderately rare to extreme floods
  - Multiple flooding mechanisms
    - Coincident and correlated mechanisms
  - Uncertainty characterization and estimation
    - Aleatory (e.g., storm recurrence rates)
    - Epistemic (e.g., model structure, parameters)
- Fragility
  - Information on reliability of flood protection features and procedures is sparse
  - Cliff-edge effects



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## Phased Research Approach



- Phase 1 – Technical Basis Research - **Complete**
  - Climate and precipitation
  - Mechanistic, statistical and probabilistic modeling of flooding processes
  - Reliability of flood protection features and procedures
  - Modeling Frameworks
  - Natural Hazard Information Digest (NHID)
- Phase 2 – Pilot Studies - **In Progress**
  - Local Intense Precipitation (LIP) Flooding
  - Riverine Flooding - **Complete**
  - Coastal Flooding
- Phase 3 – Develop Guidance - **In Progress**

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## Phase 1 Technical Basis Research

- **Climate**
  - Historical trends and future projections for U.S. regions
- **Mechanistic, statistical and probabilistic modeling of flooding processes**
  - Extreme precipitation
  - Riverine flooding
  - Coastal flooding
- **Methods for Estimating Joint Probabilities of Coincident and Correlated Flooding Mechanisms**
  - Riverine flooding
  - Coastal flooding
- **Reliability of flood protection features and procedures**
  - Flood barriers (seals, etc.)
  - Environmental effects on manual actions
- **Modeling Frameworks**
  - Structured hazard assessment committee process for flooding (SHAC-F)
  - Dynamic analysis of flooding events
  - USACE HEC-WAT
- **Natural hazards information digest (for internal NRC staff use)**
  - Collect and organize natural hazard information for operating reactors

For more details on Phase 1 completion see Digital Exhibit #11 at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Regulatory Information Conference (RIC), March 8-10, 2022:

<https://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/conference-symposia/ric/index.html>

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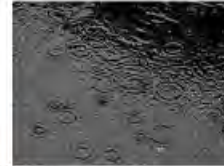
## Phase 2: Pilot Studies

**Objective: Synthesize results from technical basis research**

- Multiple flooding mechanism contribution to hazard curves
- Quantify key aleatory variabilities and epistemic uncertainties

• **LIP Flooding PFHA Pilot**

- PNNL
- *In Progress; completion expected in March 2022*



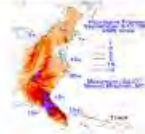
• **Riverine Flooding PFHA Pilot**

- USACE/HEC
- *Completed in January 2022*



• **Coastal Flooding Pilot PFHA Pilot**

- USACE/ERDC/CHL
- *In Progress; completion expected in June 2022*



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## Phase 2: LIP Pilot Study

• **Objectives**

- *Inform guidance development for probabilistic assessment of site-scale flooding hazards due to local intense precipitation*
- *Synthesize results from technical basis research*
- *Incorporate site-scale features (curbs, buildings, drains)*

• **Key elements**

- *Point rainfall (aleatory variability) based on NOAA Atlas 14*
- *Sensitivity study to identify key epistemic uncertainties wrt site features*
- *Propagation of uncertainties to construct hazard curve families for selected flood hazard metrics (e.g., depth, velocity, duration)*
- *Monte Carlo simulation with stratified sampling*

• **More detailed information:**

- *Presentation 2A-5 (Wednesday at 12:00)*

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## Phase 2: Riverine Pilot Study

- **Objectives**

- Inform guidance development for probabilistic assessment of riverine flooding hazards
- Synthesize results from technical basis research
- Incorporate multiple flooding mechanism contributions to hazard curves

- **Key elements**

- Stochastic rainfall model (aleatory variability)
- Epistemic uncertainties in hydrologic (runoff and routing), reservoir, and hydraulic models
- Multiple dam failure scenarios
- Propagation of uncertainties to construct hazard curve families for selected flood hazard metrics (e.g., elevation, velocity, duration)
- Monte Carlo simulation approach using HEC-WAT

- **More detailed information:**

- Presentation 2B-4 (Wednesday at 15:20)
- Posters 3A-4 and 3A-5 (Thursday at 10:00)



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## Phase 2: Coastal Pilot Study

- **Objectives**

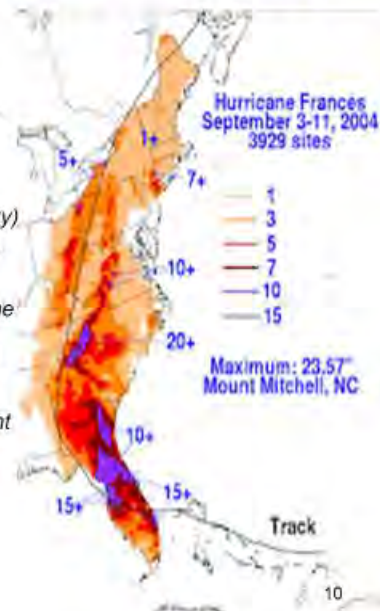
- Inform guidance development for probabilistic assessment of coastal flooding hazards
- Synthesize results from technical basis research
- Incorporate multiple flooding mechanism contributions to hazard curves

- **Key elements**

- Tropical cyclone rainfall model (aleatory variability)
- Epistemic uncertainties in hydrodynamic (surge), hydrologic (runoff and routing), and hydraulic models
- Flooding due to surge and rainfall-induced riverine discharge
- Propagation of uncertainties to construct hazard curve families for selected flood hazard metrics (e.g., elevation, velocity)
- USACE Probabilistic Coastal Hazard Assessment (PCHA) framework

- **More detailed information:**

- Presentation 3B-3 (Thursday at 12:05)



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## Phase 3: PFHA Guidance

- **FY 22/FY23: Develop draft guidance based on:**
  - *Technical basis research*
  - *Pilot projects*
  - *User office needs*
  - *Stakeholder & public interests*
- **FY23: Publish draft guidance for public comment**
- **FY23: Finalize guidance based on public comment**



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## Past Workshops

- **Proceedings of 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Annual NRC PFHA Research Workshops**
  - *NRC Research Information Letter (RIL) 2020-01*
- **Proceedings of 5<sup>th</sup> Annual NRC PFHA Research Workshop**
  - *RIL 2021-01*
- **Proceedings of 6<sup>th</sup> Annual NRC PFHA Research Workshop**
  - *RIL 2022-02*

***NRC Research Information Letters are available at:***

<https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/index.html#ril>

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## Questions?

### Contacts:

[Joseph.Kanney@nrc.gov](mailto:Joseph.Kanney@nrc.gov)

[Thomas.Aird@nrc.gov](mailto:Thomas.Aird@nrc.gov)

[Elena.Yegorova@nrc.gov](mailto:Elena.Yegorova@nrc.gov)

### **3.1.3 Presentation 1A-3: Moving FEMA towards Probabilistic Flood Risk Analysis and Probabilistic Flood Hazard Analysis**

*Authors: David Rosa\*, Christina Lindemer, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)*

*Speakers: David Rosa*

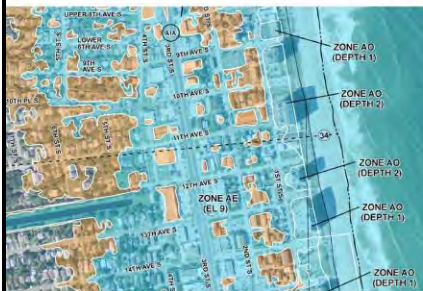


# Moving FEMA towards Probabilistic Flood Risk Analysis and Probabilistic Flood Hazard Analysis

7th Annual NRC PFHA Research Workshop  
February 15, 2022

David Rosa, Ph.D. FEMA Engineering Resources Branch  
Christina Lindemer, PE FEMA Engineering Resources Branch

## Flood Insurance Rate Maps: A Binary Snapshot of Risk



**FLOODWATERS DON'T STOP AT A LINE ON THE MAP.**



### What do FIRMs show?

FIRMs show a specific condition: the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

### What makes them regulatory?

Regulatory FIRMs are used for flood insurance purchase requirements and floodplain management.



- Regulatory FIRM leads people to believe that if they are 'out' of the SFHA, they are not at risk.
- Leads to communities to focus on lines on a map as a complete picture of flood risk.

A more complete picture

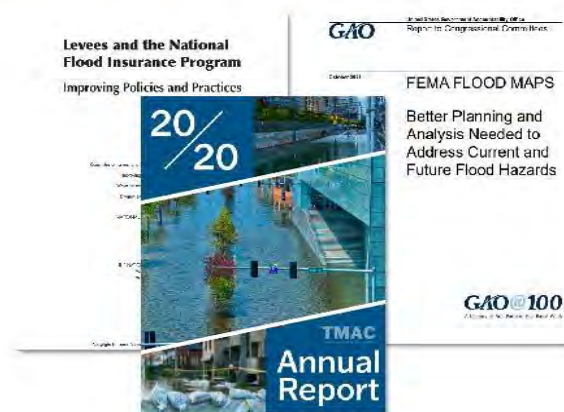
- Flooding can take many forms, can be minimal or severe, can have several driving factors
- FEMA's Future of Flood Risk Data (FFRD) initiative seeks to improve the state of mapping, adopting a probabilistic, risk-based approach to displaying graduated data



## Transition to Future of Flood Risk Data (FFRD)

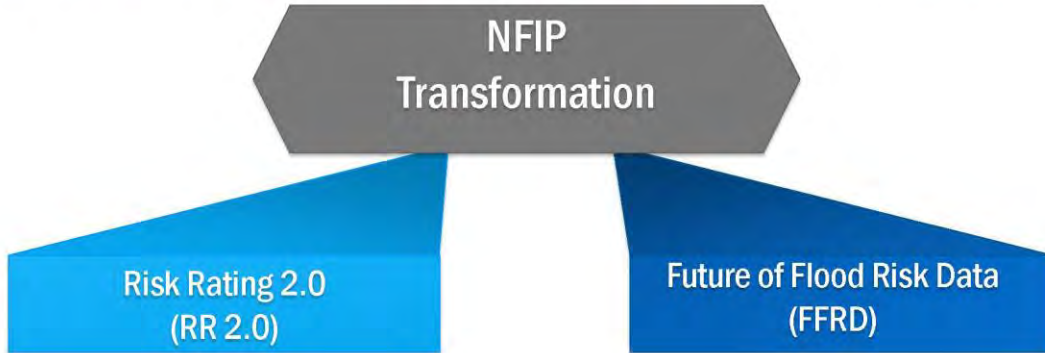
Feedback from stakeholders

- Technical Mapping Advisory Council (TMAC)
- GAO
- National Academy of Sciences
- Other Agencies
  
- Also, unmet statutory authorities including identifying residual risk behind levees





The NFIP is transforming to a risk-informed framework that enhances the Nation's understanding of risks from flood hazards. Risk Rating 2.0 and Future of Flood Risk Data are two components of this initiative.



## What is different about FFRD?

	Risk MAP	Future Flood Risk Data
<b>Service Model</b>	Product (FIRMs)	Data service model; user decision behavior drives product
<b>Investments</b>	Project driven - base data only generated for project area	National scale base data with federal partners
<b>Model Coverage</b>	Patchwork of models and flood hazard assessment	Nationwide flood hazard/risk assessments
<b>Frequency Interval</b>	Optimized around 1-percent annual-chance	Multiple flood hazards, multiple frequencies

# Graduated Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Application and Use Case Examples

**1 Graduated Flood Hazard and Risk Zones**

**2 Community Higher Standards Decision Support**

**3 Mitigation Project Identification & Pipeline**

**4 Mitigation Planning**

**5 National Risk & Mitigation Tracking**

**6 Pre-Event Planning and Response Forecasting**

**7 Rapid Damage Estimates & Expedited D**

**8 Structure Triage & Damage Assessment Prioritizat**

**9 Recovery Planning & Action Prioritization**

**Use Case Summary**

**Relevant Stakeholder Groups**

**End-Users**

**Technical Feasibility**

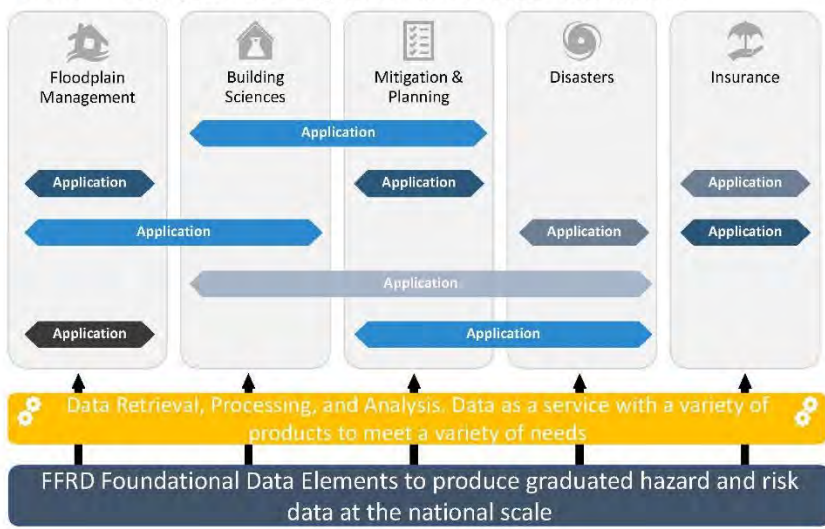
**Practical Feasibility**



FEMA

# Reimagining the Opportunities created by improved Hazard and Risk Data

## ► FFRD Concept/Use Case Alignment to Individual Stakeholders

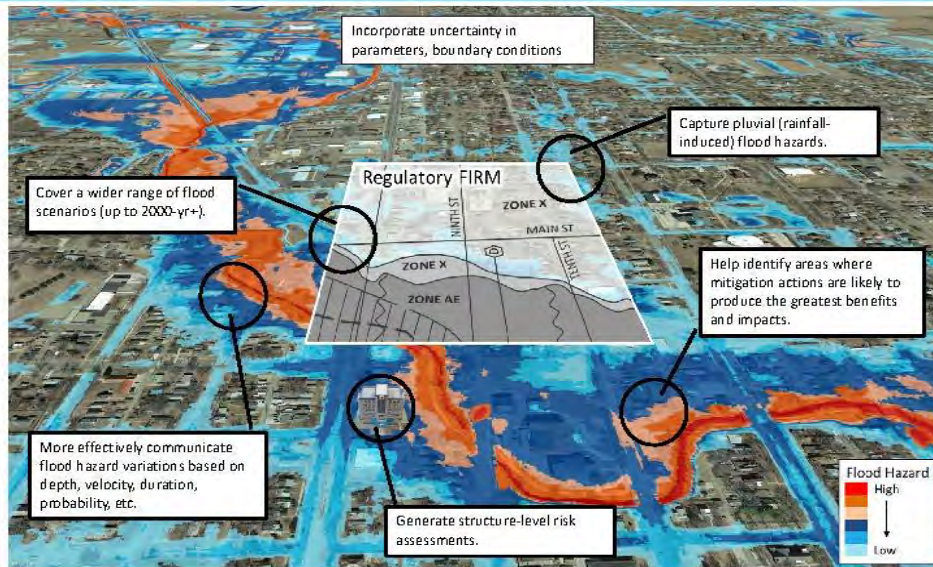


## Applications of FFRD

- Data applications by multiple stake-holders with cross-cutting benefits
- Flexibility for FEMA, other agencies, state and local partners, private entities, and other data users to develop tools and products to help meet their needs in reducing flood risk and increasing resiliency

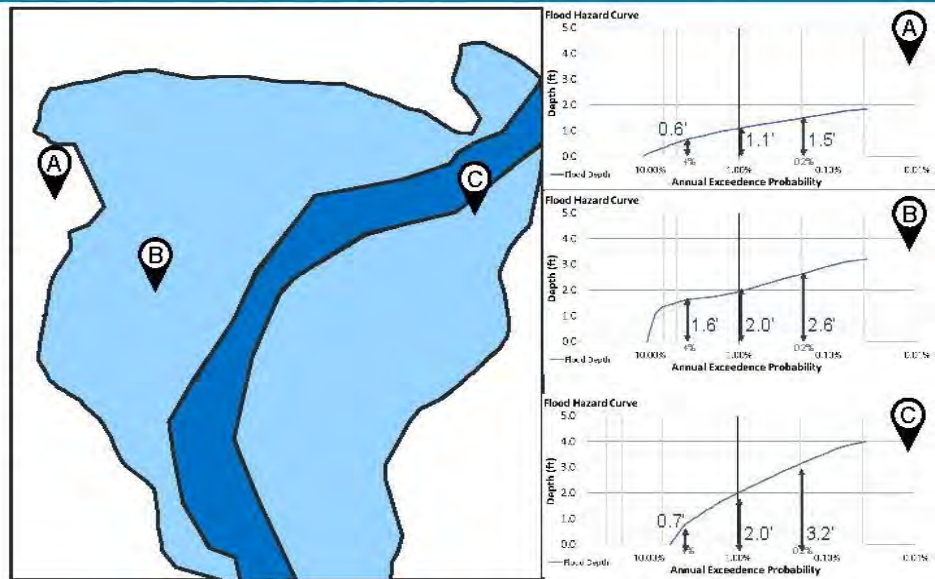


## What does FFRD tell us about the Nation's Risk? Comparison of Probabilistic Data to Traditional FIS Products

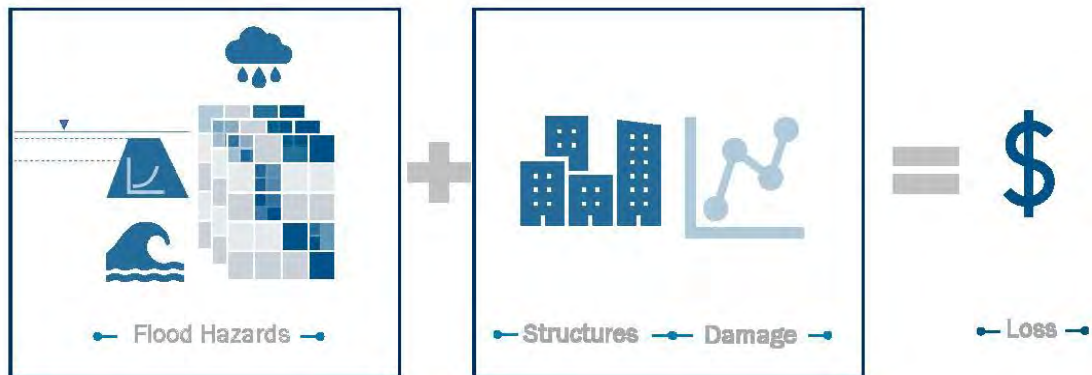


## What does FFRD tell us about the Nation's Risk? FFRD improves the understanding of unique flood hazards

- FFRD accounts for a range of conditions, frequencies, and severities
- Instead of being "inside" or "outside" the floodplain, each structure can have an associated annual exceedance probability (AEP) for each dimension of flood hazards studied.



## FFRD highlights where there is RISK



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## Potential Applications for Graduated Flood Risk Data

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# Hazard Data Beyond the SFHA



Existing Scenario

Existing NFHL Zones

- AE, Floodway
- AE
- X500
- X

# Hazard Data Beyond the SFHA



# Beyond the SFHA: Fluvial Scenarios



# Beyond the SFHA: Pluvial Scenarios





# Beyond the SFHA: Graduated Hazard



Event Type  
**Combined (P+F)**

Aggregated Hazard

Annual Probability of Flooding
Average Annualized Depth
Average Annualized Loss

Annual Probability of Flooding

- 50% - Extreme
- 10% - Very High
- 5% - High
- 1% - Medium
- .2% - Low
- .1% - Very Low

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# Graduated Flood Zones by Hazard Level



Event Type  
**Combined (P+F)**

Aggregated Hazard

Annual Probability of Flooding
Average Annualized Depth
Average Annualized Loss

Annual Probability of Flooding

- 50% - Extreme
- **10% - Very High**
- 2% - High
- 1% - Medium
- .2% - Low
- .1% - Very Low

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# Graduated Flood Zones by Hazard Level



**Event Type**

Combined (P+F)

**Aggregated Hazard**

Annual Chance of Flooding

Average Annualized Depth

Average Annualized Loss

**Annual Probability of Flooding**

- 50% - Extreme
- 10% - Very High
- 2% - High
- 1% - Medium
- .2% - Low
- .1% - Very Low

# Graduated Flood Zones by Hazard Level



**Event Type**

Combined (P+F)

**Aggregated Hazard**

Annual Probability of Flooding

Average Annualized Depth

Average Annualized Loss

**Annual Probability of Flooding**

- 50% - Extreme
- 10% - Very High
- 2% - High
- 1% - Medium
- .2% - Low
- .1% - Very Low



# Graduated Risk at the Building Level



**Risk Type**

- Buildings
- Infrastructure
- Environment
- People

**Risk View**

- Value
- Vulnerability
- Risk

**Heat Map**

- On
- Off

**Event Type**

- Combined (P+F)

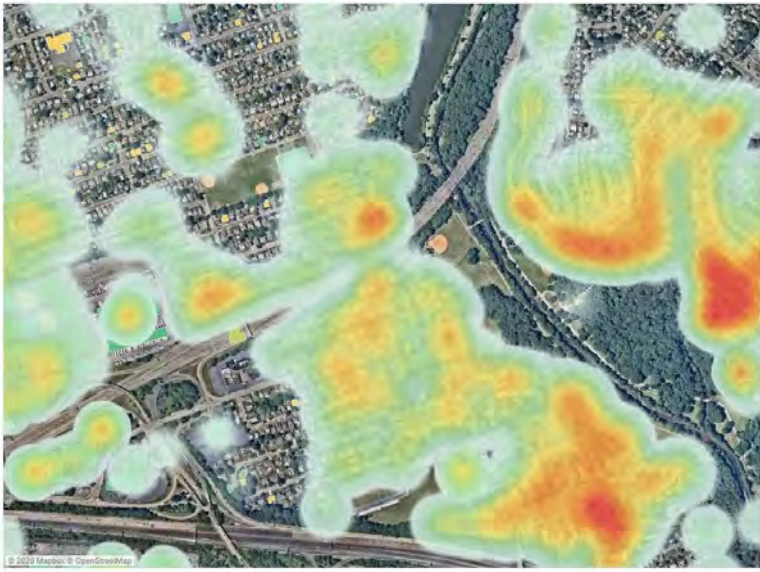
**Aggregated Hazard**

- Annual Probability of Flooding
- Average Annualized Depth
- Average Annualized Loss

**Building Risk Level**

- Extreme
- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very Low

# Graduated Risk Hot Spots



**Event Type**

- Combined (P+F)

**Aggregated Hazard**

- Annual Probability of Flooding
- Average Annualized Depth
- Average Annualized Loss

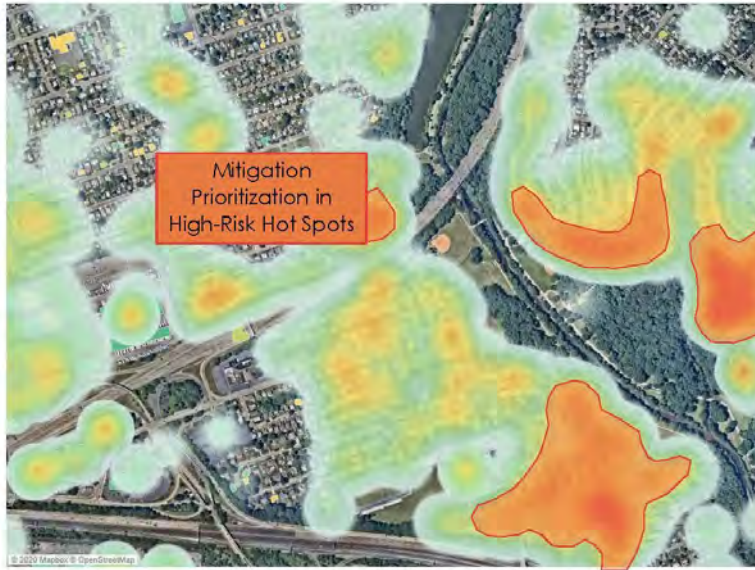
**Heat Map**

- On
- Off

**Risk Hot Spots**

- Extreme
- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low

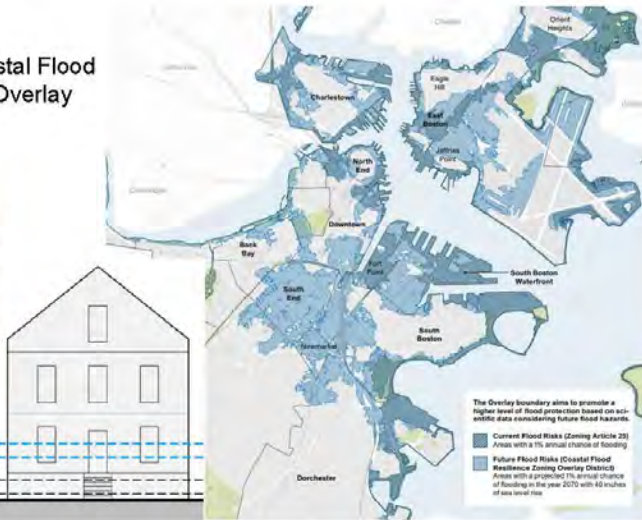
# Graduated Flood Zones by Existing Risk



- Event Type**
- Combined (P+F)
- Aggregated Hazard**
- Annual Probability of Flooding
- Average Annualized Depth
- Average Annualized Loss
- Heat Map
- Risk Hot Spots**
- Extreme
- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low

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## Example: City of Boston Coastal Flood Resilience Zoning Overlay

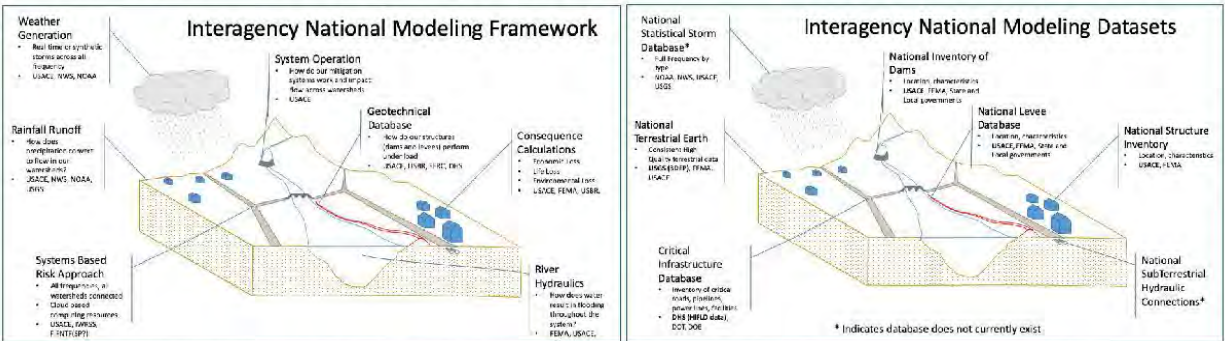


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# Authorities of FEMA and Other Federal Agencies

The increased data set and methodology for the shift to graduated risk can't be done by FEMA alone...



...so we are currently exploring the best way to leverage the strengths of our federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial community partners to develop and deliver graduated risk data.

FEMA
USGS
USACE
NWS
NOAA
NWS

FEMA

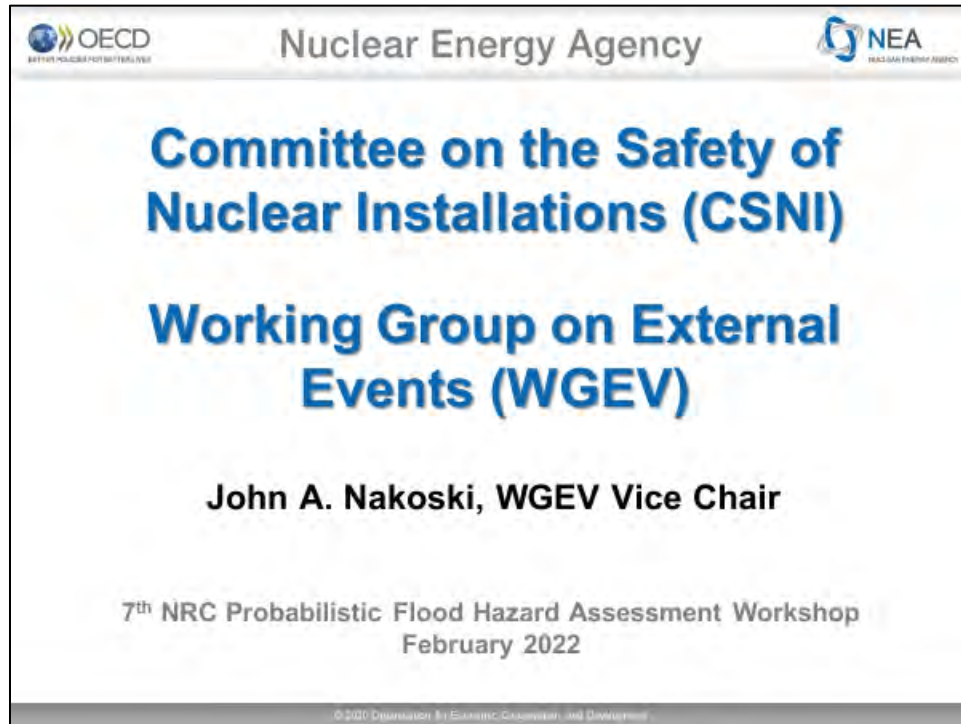
  
 RiskMAP
   
Increasing Resilience Together

# Q & A

**3.1.4 Presentation 1A-4: Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI)  
Working Group on External Events (WGEV)**

Speaker: John Nakoski, NRC/RES/DRA (WGEV Chair)

3.1.4.1 *Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A135)*



The image shows a presentation title slide. At the top left is the OECD logo with the text "OECD" and "Better Policies for Better Lives". At the top center is the text "Nuclear Energy Agency". At the top right is the NEA logo with the text "NEA" and "Nuclear Energy Agency". The main title is "Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI)" in large blue font, followed by "Working Group on External Events (WGEV)" in the same font. Below this is the name "John A. Nakoski, WGEV Vice Chair" in black font. At the bottom, it says "7<sup>th</sup> NRC Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment Workshop" and "February 2022". A small copyright notice "© 2022 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development" is at the very bottom.

## WGEV Administration

- **WGEV Chair:** Min Kyu Kim (KAERI, South Korea)
- **WGEV Bureau:** John A. Nakoski – Vice Chair (NRC, USA), ShiZhong Lei (CNSC, Canada), Dana Havlin Novakova (SONS, Czechia), Vincent Rebour (IRSN, France), Gernot Thuma (GRS, Germany), Stef Carelsen (ANVS – Netherlands)
- **WGEV Participants from:**
  - Belgium (BelV), Bulgaria (Kozloduy NPP), Canada (CNSC, OPG), Czech Republic (SONS), Finland (STUK), France (IRSN, EdF), Germany (GRS), Japan (NRA), Netherlands (ANVS), Poland (PPA), Romania (Cernavoda NPP), Spain (CSN), South Korea (KAERI), Sweden (SSM), Switzerland (ENSI), United States (NRC, DOE, EPRI)
  - International Atomic Energy Agency, and World Metrological Organization
- **NEA Technical Secretariat:** Taehee Kim
- **Established in 2014**
- **Meets twice a year**

## Completed Activities

- NEA/SEN/SIN/WGEV(2015)1 – Technical Note on Severe Weather with Concurrent Flooding and High Winds
- NEA/CSNI/R(2017)13 – Proceedings for the Workshop on Severe Weather and Storm Surge
- NEA/CSNI/R(2018)7 – Examination of Approaches for Screening External Hazards
- NEA/SEN/SIN/WGEV(2018)1 – Topical Report on Riverine Flooding
- NEA/SEN/SIN/WGEV(2018)13 – Proceedings for the Workshop on Riverine Flooding
- NEA/CSNI/R(2020)9 – Concepts and Definitions for Protective Measures in Response to External Flooding Hazards

## Ongoing Activities (1 of 4)

- **Benchmark on Hazard Frequency and Magnitude Model Validation for External Events**
  - Approved by CSNI in June 2021, currently in publications
  - For more information contact Curtis Smith ([Curtis.Smith@inl.gov](mailto:Curtis.Smith@inl.gov)) or Vincent Rebour ([Vincent.Rebour@irsn.fr](mailto:Vincent.Rebour@irsn.fr))
- **High winds and tornadoes**
  - Survey responses – February 2020
  - Preparation of initial draft report – June 2020
  - Final report – June 2021
  - Workshop – March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Virtual)

## Ongoing Activities (2 of 4)

- **High winds and tornadoes Workshop March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Virtual)**
  1. **Phenomenological aspects of HW & T** – Main objective is to have subject matter experts share their understanding of the phenomena associated with HW&T.
  2. **Data** – Main objective is to have subject matter experts share their understanding of the sources of the data associated with HW&T.
  3. **Design & Operation** – Main objective is to better understand how the impacts from the HW&T are reflected in design and operation, including the issues associated with direct and indirect effects, and their combinations.
  4. **Safety case approaches** – Main objectives is to better understand the development of the safety case based on deterministic, probabilistic or combined assessments to demonstrate the design and operation of the facility will be done safely, considering HW&T. Also considering how climate change and/or combination of effects influences the safety case.



## Ongoing Activities (3 of 4)

- **Combinations of External Hazards**

- Hazards and Impact Assessment and Probabilistic Safety Analysis for Nuclear Installations (joint project of WGEV and WGRISK)
- Kick-off meeting – February 2020
- Survey responses – September 2020
- Preparation of initial draft report – September 2021
- Final survey response report – June 2022
- Joint WGEVWGRISK workshop – Fall of 2022

## Ongoing Activities (4 of 4)

- **Uncertainties in the Assessment of Natural Hazards**

- Phase 1 - Sources of Uncertainty**

- **Decision on Spectrum of natural hazards to consider – March 2021**
- **Draft report based on literature review – March 2022**
- **Workshop on Sources of Uncertainty – April 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (hybrid – virtual/in person in Prague)**
- **Technical Report and Workshop Proceedings – December 2023**

- Phase 2 - Methods to Deal with Uncertainties**

- **Report Structure and Content decided – September 2022**
- **Workshop on Methods to Deal with Uncertainties – March 2024**
- **Technical Report and Workshop Proceedings – December 2024**

## Potential Future Activities

- **Local Intense Precipitation** – under development
- **Topical discussions and issues being considered**
  - Geomagnetic Storms and Space weather
  - Improving data sources for hazards assessment
  - Climate Change impacts on Hazards Assessment



*Thank you for your attention!*

## **3.2 Day 1: Session 1B –Flood & Fire Sensors for Resilient Communities**

Session Chair: Joseph Kanney, NRC/RES/DRA

### **3.2.1 Presentation 1B-1 (KEYNOTE): Flood and Fire Sensors for Resilient Communities**

Author: Jeffrey Booth, Department of Homeland Security, Science & Technology Directorate

Speaker: Jeffrey Booth

#### **3.2.1.1 *Abstract***

Flooding and Wildland Fires are the nation's leading natural disasters, accounting for the greatest loss of life, property damage and economic impact while threatening the resiliency of communities across the country. Current flood damage is estimated at \$5 billion per year and wildland fires annualized losses are estimated to range from \$63.5 billion to \$285 billion. The human cost is much greater.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has been working with small businesses on the development, evaluation, and commercialization of low-cost Internet of Things (IoT) flood and wildland fire sensors. The goal is to provide earlier alerts, warnings and notifications of rising waters and fire ignitions, allowing communities the ability to better respond, mitigate and possibly prevent catastrophic disasters.

#### **3.2.1.2 *Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A134)***

# Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment Workshop:

## *Flood and Fire Sensors for Resilient Communities*



Jeff Booth, Director, Sensor & Platform Technology Center  
Department of Homeland Security  
Science and Technology Directorate

February 15, 2022

### Executive Summary

#### *Flood and Fire Sensors for Resilient Communities*

Flooding and Wildland Fires are the nation's leading natural disasters, accounting for the greatest loss of life, property damage and economic impact while threatening the resiliency of communities across the country.

Current flood damage is estimated at \$5 billion per year and wildland fires annualized losses are estimated to range from \$63.5 billion to \$285 billion.

The human cost is much greater.



2017. (Santa Barbara County Fire Department)





## Low-Cost IoT Flood Sensors



Flood Sensor Technology Video:

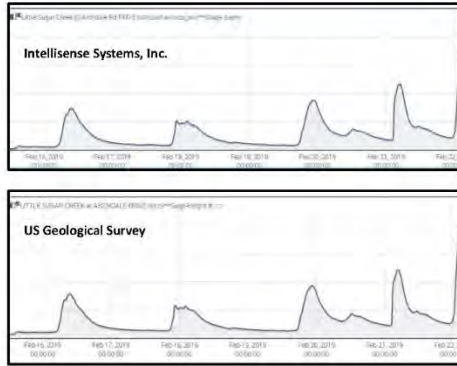
<https://www.dhs.gov/medialibrary/assets/videos/19974>

## Low-Cost IoT Flood Sensors: Phased Approach



Science and Technology

## Low-Cost IoT Flood Sensors: Relative Accuracy



*"The DHS APEX gauges have assisted Howard County in our efforts to improve and advance the flood warning system in Ellicott City."*

*Additionally, we shared data with US National Weather Service (NWS) and they indicated that among the gauges there was data provided by the pilot program that could "absolutely" be accepted the into their system."*

- Brian Cleary, Howard County, MD  
Storm Water Management Division



## Low-Cost IoT Flood Sensors: Hardware Configuration



## Flood Sensor Stakeholders and Use Cases

### STAKEHOLDERS

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Geological Survey
- Kentucky
- North Carolina
- Texas
- Virginia
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, NC
- Montgomery County, MD
- Ellicott City, MD
- Nashville, TN
- Norfolk, VA
- Torrance, CA
- State University, Albany NY
- The Nature Conservancy



### USE CASES

- Urban flash flooding
- Culvert runoff
- Coastal flooding
- Storm Surge
- Repetitive Loss valuation
- Dam Safety Monitoring
- Storm Water Management
- Water supply fire suppression
- Sheet wash over highways
- Critical Infrastructure shutdown
- Wetland mitigation monitoring
- Agriculture irrigation



## Wildland Fire Sensors

### National Fire Activity Synopsis

The 2020 fire season saw an increase in the annual number of acres burned with over 10 million acres. The large fire activity in 2020 was well above average.

A total of 17,904 structures were reported destroyed by wildfires in 2020, including 9,630 residences, 7,255 minor structures, and 1,119 commercial / mixed residential structures.

— National Interagency Coordinating Center Wildland Fire Summary & Statistics Annual Report 2020



2017. (Santa Barbara County Fire Department)



## Wildland Fire Sensors



Wildland Fire Sensor Technology Video:  
<https://www.dhs.gov/medialibrary/assets/videos/21982>

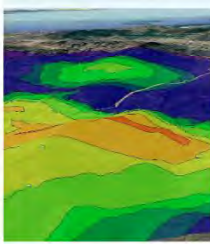
## Wildland Fire Sensors: Phase 1 Prototype





## Wildland Fire Sensors: Phase 2 Modeling and Testing

Conducted **extensive modeling** to define and understand the level of concentrations of smoke composition and particulate matter at a variety of distances and wind conditions



Designed a **Test Lab approach and mechanism** to test the sensors at low levels of smoke concentrations in a repeatable manner using chaparral fuel



Tested many scenarios of **different burn characteristics** (ignition, smoldering, flaming combination, etc.) and different environmental conditions



Conducted **test and demonstration** at a prescribed burn over 2 days in Red Bluff, CA. Sensors repeatedly demonstrated ability to detect smoke, at ignition and at a distance



## Wildland Fire Sensors: Stakeholders



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



**FEMA**



Thanks to our continuous Stakeholders from FEMA, Cal OES, Cal Fire, Cal OEIS, USFA, USFS throughout the Phases.



## Wildland Fire Sensors: Phase 2 Findings

- Backend algorithms need revision and need to combine data from multiple sensors and meteorological conditions to provide greatest situational awareness of wildfires
- Multi-modal sensors are necessary to detect wildfires and avoid nuisance alarms (multiple gas types and multiple PM types)
- Multiple sensing algorithms should be developed for near vs. far detection (smoke particles clumped over longer distances and smaller particles traveled farther)
- Cellular data back-haul was most reliable with long-range radios, an option in cellular denied areas
- Initial ability to distinguish a new ignition vs. background smoke



Science and Technology

## Wildland Fire Sensors: Phase 3 Next Steps



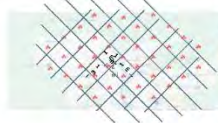
Breeze Technologies UG

- The sensors deployed in Phase 2 were spaced between 150 ft and 3 mi of the ignition sites. This led to the plan for Phase 3 sensors to be placed within 1 mile of each other to balance detection time vs. density



N5 Sensors, Inc.

- 100 sensors / performer to be deployed to determine optimal densification of sensors vs. detection
- Stakeholder infrastructure discussions for sensor installation & monitoring



[ SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIRECTORATE ]

## Engage with us:



scitech.dhs.gov



SandT.Innovation@hq.dhs.gov



@dhsscitech



Science and  
Technology

Low-Cost IoT  
Flood Sensors

QUESTIONS?

Wildland Fire  
Sensors

16



2017. (Santa Barbara County Fire Department)



### **3.2.2 Presentation 1B-2: USACE Instrumentation and Monitoring Program**

Authors: Georgette Hlepas, Christopher Schaal, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Speakers: Georgette Hlepas, Christopher Schaal

#### **3.2.2.1      *Abstract***

USACE's instrumentation and monitoring program monitors over 700 dams and 4,000 miles of levees. As part of USACE'S advancement in monitoring, this presentation will focus on the MIDAS (Monitoring Instrumentation Data Acquisition System) project, an enterprise-wide instrumentation database. USACE will also provide an overview of their ongoing evaluation of DHS developed Low-Cost IoT Flood Inundation Sensors, and their potential use to complement USACE's monitoring programs.



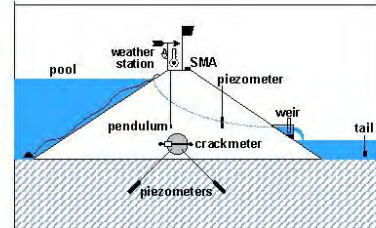
# USACE INSTRUMENTATION AND MONITORING

**Georgette Hlepas, PhD, PE**

*Geotechnical, Geology, and Material CoP Lead, HQ USACE*

**Christopher Schaal, EIT**

*Geotech – Dam & Levee Section, Chicago District, USACE*



**NRC PFHA WORKSHOP  
15 FEB 2022**



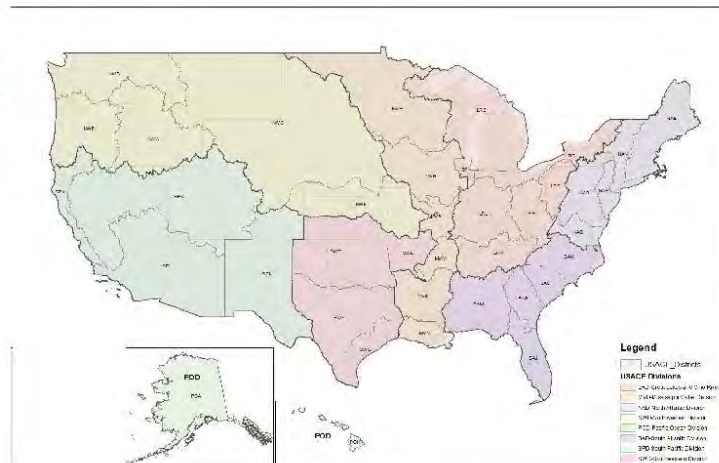
## US Army Corp of Engineers

~32,000 employees

HQ in DC

9 Divisions

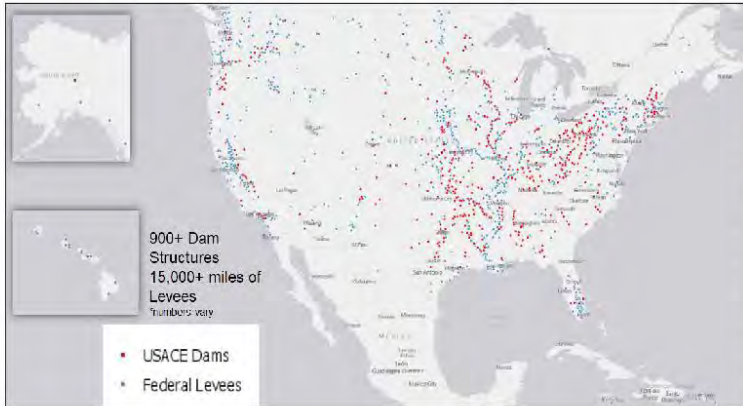
44 Districts



**DAMS & LEVEES OPERATED AND MAINTAINED BY DISTRICTS**



# National Inventory of Dams and Levees



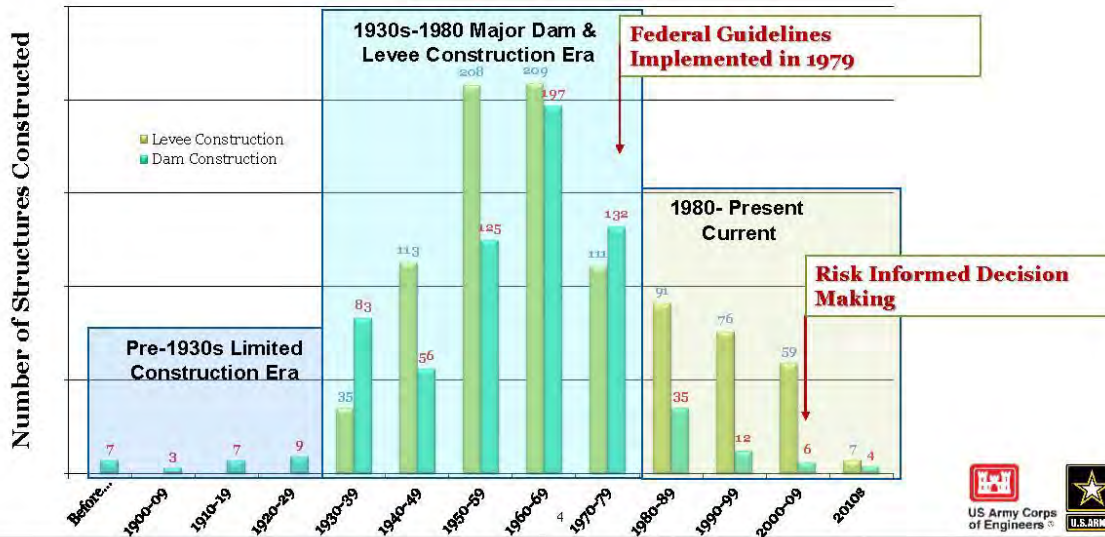
- ~715 Dams
- Population at Risk = +12.8M
- Property at risk = +1T
- Total length of 267 miles
- 80% earthen/20% concrete

- ~2,137 levee systems
- Population at Risk = +12M
- Property at risk = +1.3T
- Total length = 14,100 miles
- 97% earthen/3% floodwall

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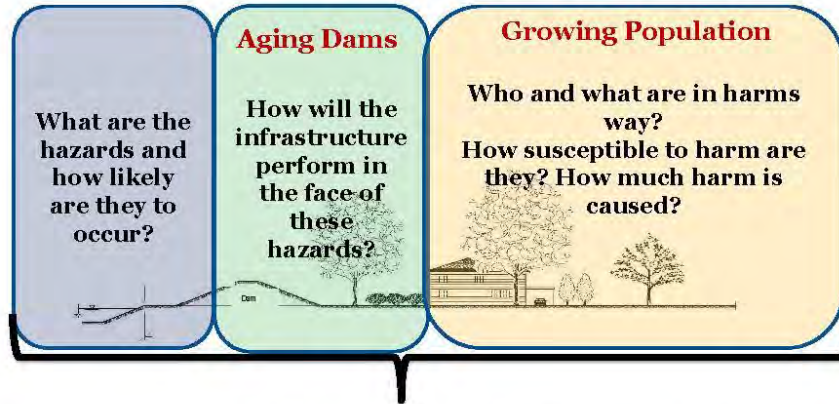


## Dams and Levees – Aging Infrastructure



## Risk Informed Decisions Making (RIDM)

$$\text{Risk} = f(\text{Hazard, Performance, Consequences})$$

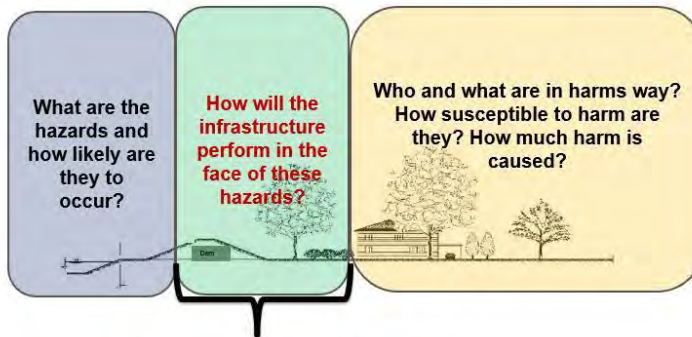


Infrastructure Safety Program Focused on: People, Performance, and Risks

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## Risk Informed Decisions Making (RIDM)



### Instrumentation

- ✓ Quantitative Measurement of Performance
- ✓ Informs Likelihood of PFM Occurrence
- ✓ Reduce Uncertainty in Risk Estimate

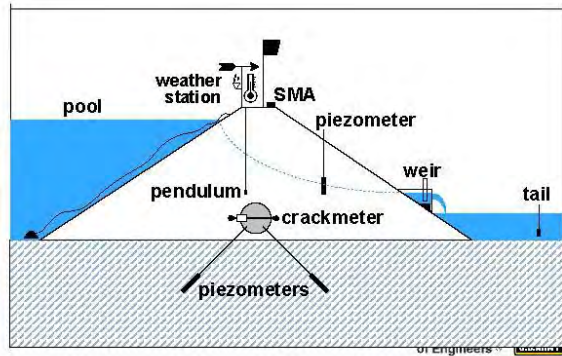
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## Instrumentation Type overview

- Geotechnical, Survey, Structural, Hydraulic (Quantity/Quality) Monitoring Instruments
  - Piezometers, Inclinometers, Crackmeters, Survey Monitoring Points, Stage gauges, Precipitation, Water Chemistry Sondes, etc.
- Manual and Automated Instruments



## Importance of Instrumentation Data

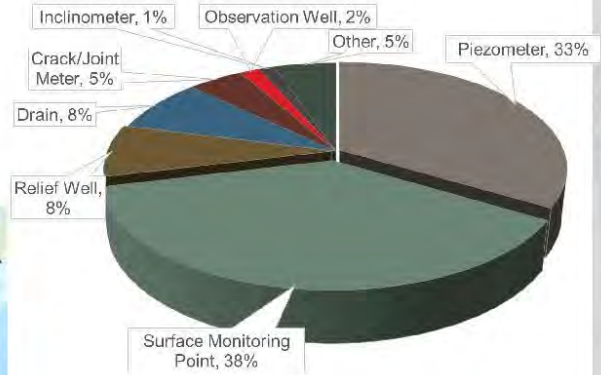
- Used in all Phases: Planning, Design, Construction, Ops,
  - Understand the baseline conditions to inform design
  - Monitor project performance & safety during construction
  - Evaluate short-term & long-term performance of the structure
    - Normal loading and Extreme events (post-seismic, flood, severe storms)
- Amount & Type of Instrumentation at Various Project Varies
  - Parameters Needed to be monitored
  - Frequency of data collection
  - Level of risk/concern associated with the project





## Dam And Levee Instrumentation Inventory

- **> 70,000** Instruments have been inventoried to date
- Average 106 instruments/project
- ~10-15% of all instruments are automated



## Data Volumes

### Wolf Creek Dam

**247 Piezometers**    +6.7 million readings  
**74 Inclinator**     +360k readings/yr  
**164 Monuments**    719MB; 40MB/yr



### J. Percy Priest Dam

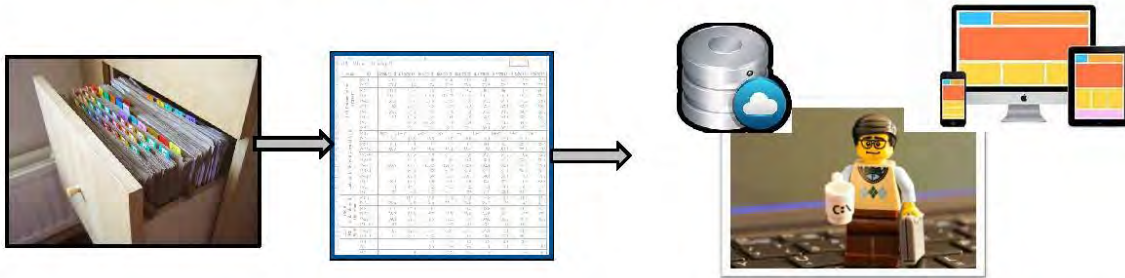
**130 Active Instruments**  
**+4.3M readings total / ~0.5M readings/yr**  
**423 MB since 1982 / 51 MB last year**



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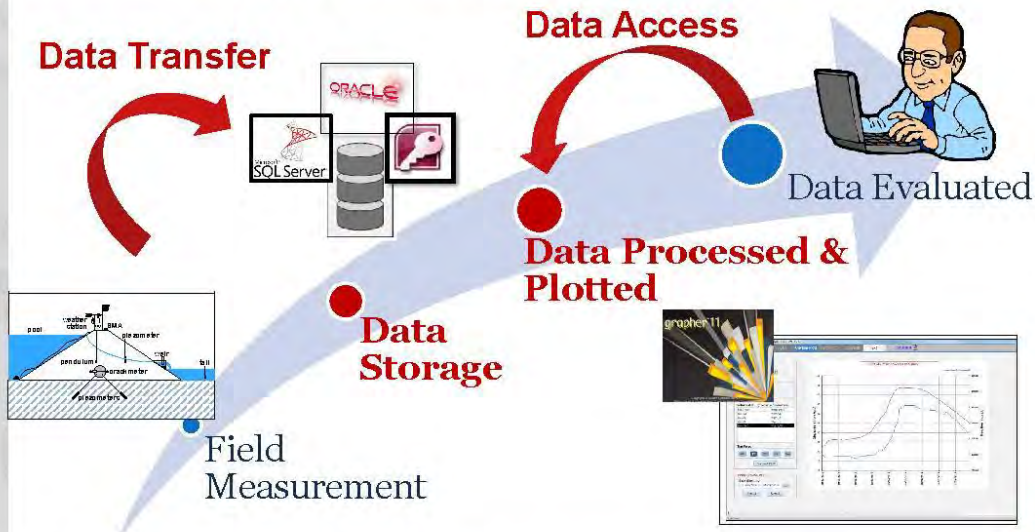
# Monitoring Instrumentation Data Acquisition System (MIDAS)



11



## DATA MANAGEMENT – CHALLENGES



Ref: USACE DAM & LEVEE INSTRUMENTATION DATA MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS, October 2019



# MIDAS Concept Requirements

- ✓ National/centralized cloud based system
- ✓ USACE owned, developed, managed
- ✓ State-of-the art tool and ability for future upgrades/updates
- ✓ USACE Standardized data model approach
- ✓ Ability to set and broadcast thresholds/alarms;
- ✓ Means of visualization/plotting integral to software/system
- ✓ Ability to assimilate historic data
- ✓ **Web-accessible and meets DOD Security Requirements**
- ✓ **Interoperability with other databases**



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Browser address bar: https://midas.usg.edu

Navigation: Home, USACE, A3 Test for Service, CDM, TD, ons, My Drive - Google, C: EMS, Mail - Microsoft Corp., Date, Ext folders, Reading list

## MIDAS

Monitoring Instrumentation Data Acquisition System

INSTRUMENTS	INSTRUMENT GROUPS	PROJECTS	INSTRUMENTS ADDED THIS WEEK	INSTRUMENTS TO BE DELETED THIS WEEK
<b>68513</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14574</b>

Filter: [input type="text"]

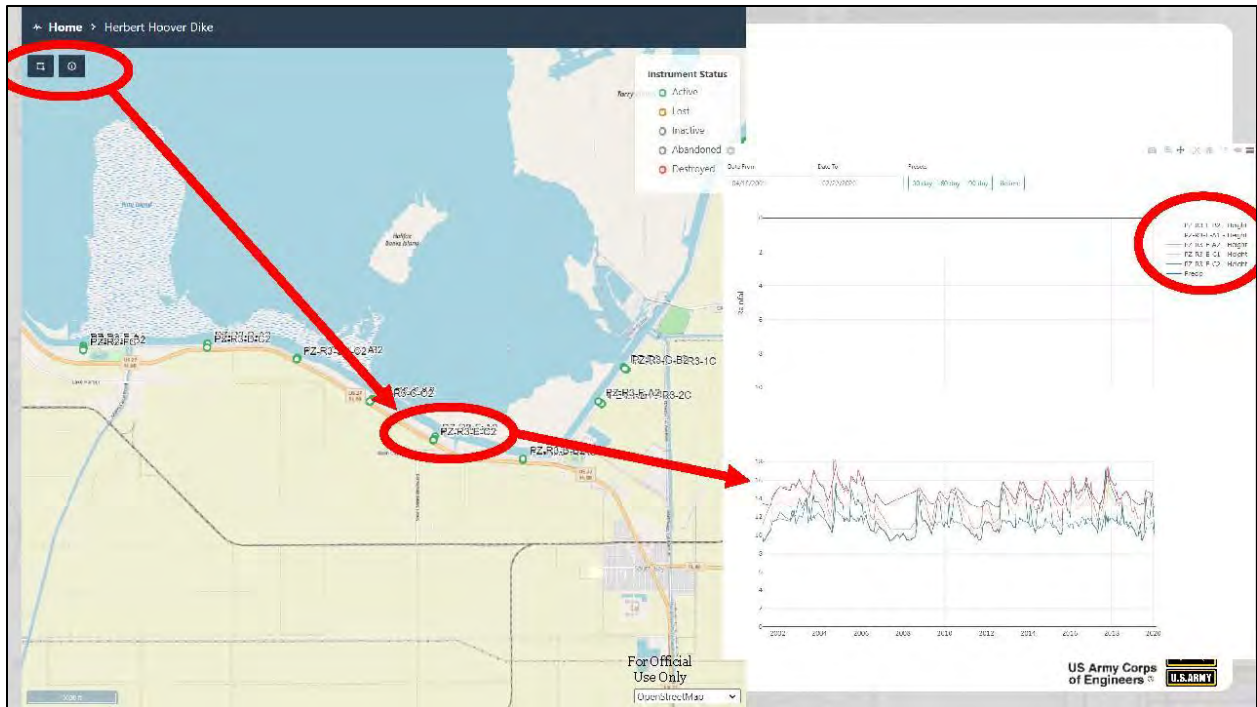
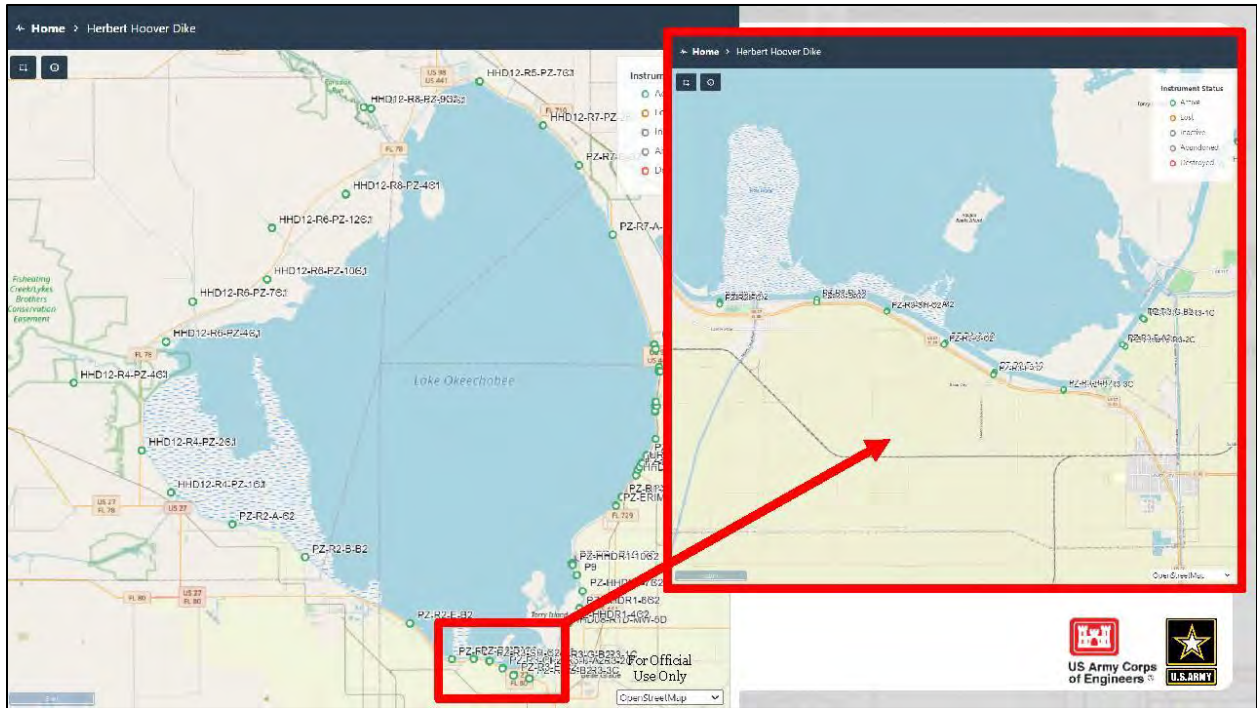
Project Name	Instrument Count	Instrument Group Count	Tools
10th Street Pumping Station - Instrumentation Browser	4	0	[icon]
25th Street Pumping Station - Instrumentation Browser	4	0	[icon]
Amesden - Instrumentation Browser	90	0	[icon]
Amesden 0360 - Instrumentation Browser	213	0	[icon]
Alcor Canal 8 Phase 2 - Instrumentation Browser	6	0	[icon]
Ashticks Dam - Instrumentation Browser	22	0	[icon]











ert Hoover Dike

Explorer Inventory Manager Reporting Help MQ

Instrument Status: Active, Lost, Inactive

Date from: 03/22/2020

Instrument Groups | All Instruments | Collection Groups

Filter (0...)

Name	Description	Tools
R3-1	0.7 Miles East of Cole of S-354	
Reach 3 Group 2	0.7 Miles East of Cole of S-354	
R3-3	1.0 Mile West of C-1	
R3-4	3.5 Miles East of Cole of S-354	
R3-5	0.8 Mile East of C-1A	
R3-6	0.6 Mile North East of South Bay Park Access Gate	
R3-7	1.0 Mile North East of South Bay Park Access Gate	

Legend: PZ-R3-E-B2 - Height, PZ-R3-E-A1 - Height, PZ-R3-E-A2 - Height, PZ-R3-E-C1 - Height, PZ-R3-E-C2 - Height, Piezo

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U.S. ARMY

PZ-R3-E-A2 Login to add/edit

Instrument Type: Piezometer

Status: Active

Station: N/A

Offset: N/A

Created On: 8/24/2020

Last Modified On: N/A

Belongs to: R3-4

Alerts

No Alerts for this instrument

Map: PZ-R3-E-A2

CartoDB Positron

Alerts | Constants | Timeseries | Formula Editor | Chart

Select an Alert New

Notes

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## Flood Sensor Program DHS-USACE



### Inter-Agency Agreement



- Assess the functionality of flood sensors for commercial viability
- Provides sensors & technical support
- Provide physical installation, data monitoring & evaluation
- Document effectiveness and provide feedback

22

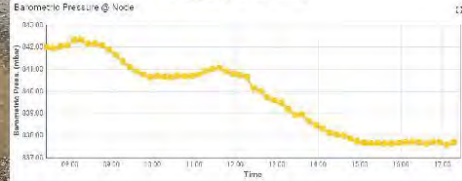
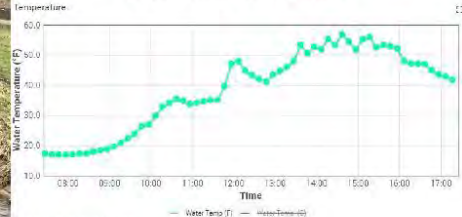
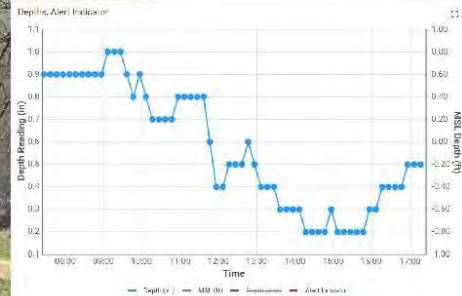






- Cellular Data Transmission
- Proprietary data storage and processing
- Sensors
  - Water level (~0.1 in)
  - Temperature
  - Atmospheric Pressure
  - Digital Camera
- Solar Panel
- Integral Battery

23







## *Instrumentation is great, but...*

- Where do I install instruments?
- What type do I install?
- How often do I collect/review data?
- When am I concerned?
- How do I manage my data?
- When can I stop monitoring?
- What does the data mean?
- Is my program adequate?

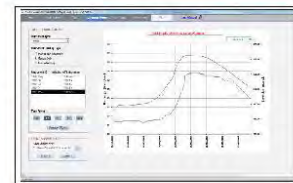


### EM 1110-2-1908 and EM 1110-2-4300 Updates

- EM 1908 (2021) Instrumentation of Embankment Dams & Levees
  - ▶ Vastly Expanded doc: **SMP, RIDM, Evaluation, Data Management, Newer Technology**
- EM 4300 (1987) Instrumentation for Concrete Structures
  - ▶ Update EM1908 with appropriate concrete structure monitoring guidance
  - ▶ Expected Complete end of FY22



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## ER 1110-2-103 and ER 1110-2-1802 Updates

- ER 103 Strong Motion Instruments for monitoring and recording earthquake motion **Published 2021** and replaced 1981 doc.
  - ▶ Applies to dam, levee, and navigation structures
  - ▶ Standardize instrumentation in accordance with USGS state-of-practice
  - ▶ Incorporated Risk Informed Decision Making into the site selection process
  - ▶ Requires the direct coord. w/ USGS;
  
- ER 1802 (2017) Reporting Earthquake Effects
  - ▶ Remove inconsistency with ER 103
  - ▶ Clarification on Reporting Requirements
  - ▶ Coordination with Operations
  - ▶ Expected Release FY22

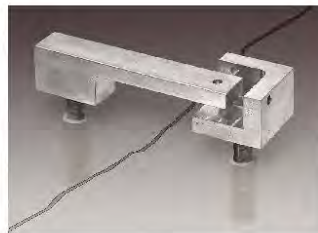


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## Instrumentation Guide Specification

- Expected Release April 2022
  - ▶ for use with construction contracts where performance monitoring instrumentation is required
  - ▶ Includes furnishing all labor and equipment for the installation and maintenance of performance monitoring instrumentation through the duration of the contract.
  - ▶ Includes instrumentation data management and data interpretation/reporting requirements.



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## Federal Guidelines for Instrumentation and Monitoring

- Partnership with FEMA, FHWA, TVA, BoR
- Best Practices Document



FEMA



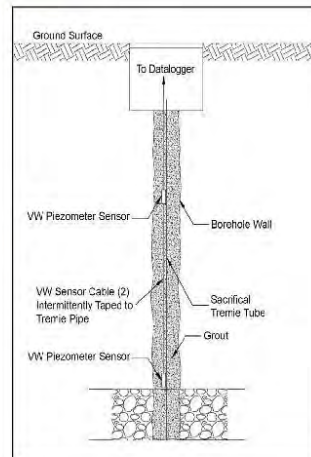
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration



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## ERDC Research Partnership

- Fully Grouted Vibrating Wire Piezometers
  - ▶ Grout Mix Design
  - ▶ Appropriate Applications
- FY21
  - ▶ Initial Field Install Visits and Numerical Modelling
  - ▶ Initial Lab Tests
- FY22-23
  - ▶ Continued Lab Tests and Field Testing – FY22




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## Instrumentation of Dams and Levees Course

- Georgetown, TX (  )
  - ▶ 5-8 May 2022
  - ▶ 7-9 June 2022



- Online Webex (no site visit)
  - ▶ 11-15 July 2022

- Advanced Course (next FY development, pending funding)

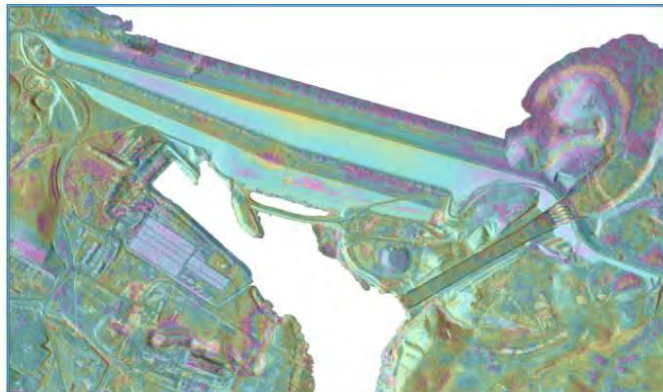
<https://ulc.usace.army.mil/CrsSchedule.aspx>

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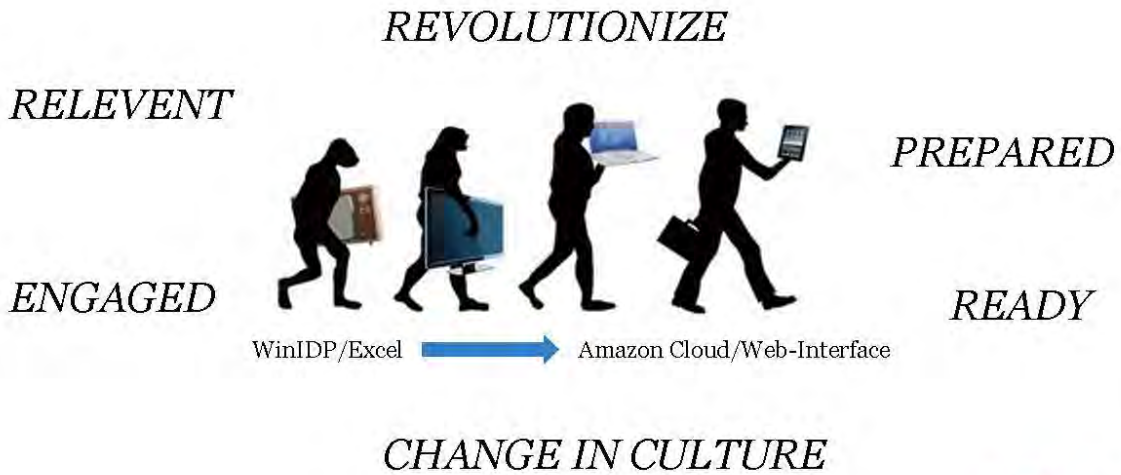
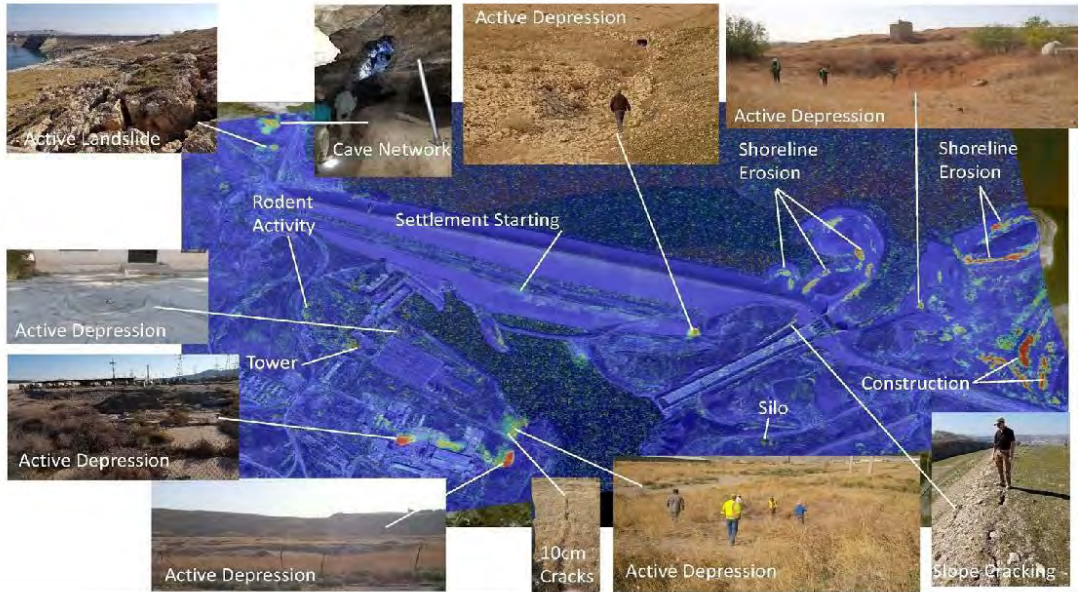


## InSAR Data

- Proven at Mosul Dam
- Implementing at multiple projects
- Using TerraSAR-X
  - Hi-Res Spotlight
  - ~0.5m resolution



# Three Years of Ground Truth



### **3.2.3 Presentation 1B-3: USGS Water Mission Area Observing Systems Research and Development Program**

Authors: R. Russell Lotspeich, U.S. Geological Survey

Speaker: R. Russell Lotspeich

#### **3.2.3.1 Abstract**

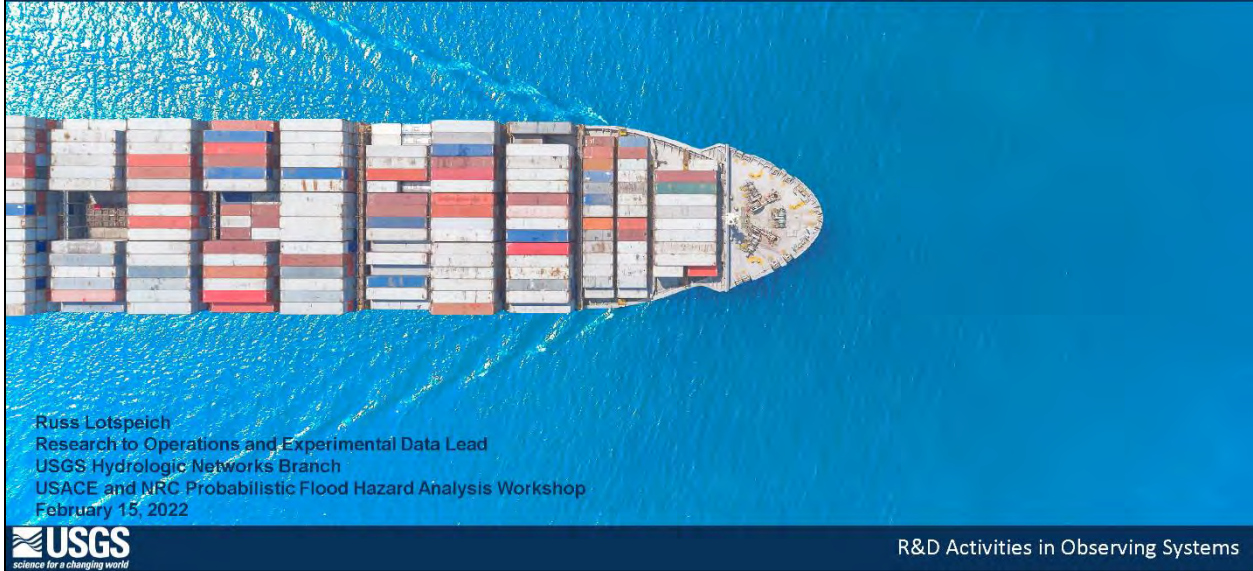
The USGS has a long history of evaluating water technologies for use in monitoring and research applications carried out to characterize the nation's water resources. This is done to verify manufacturer specifications as well as to evaluate technologies for use in new environments and under a range of environmental conditions. Not all technologies are well-suited for all environments and understanding instrument limitations is critical to selecting the best instrument for a given location and to properly interpreting the data generated.

The USGS Water Mission Area (WMA) began receiving congressional appropriations in 2018 to develop a Next Generation Water Observing System (NGWOS) program in select basins across the U.S. This program includes significant investments into evaluating new technologies and transitioning the most promising ones into national operations. Of interest to the program are new and innovative monitoring methods and instrumentation that result in increased efficiencies, accuracy, new data types, and (or) temporal and spatial resolution of water data across networks. Imagery, remote sensing, and artificial intelligence are just a few examples of technologies that are currently being evaluated through the NGWOS program.

The USGS has historically held all the traditional types of water data it provides to the public to a uniform standard for data quality and uncertainty. With advances in technology providing exciting and useful alternative methods for measuring parameters such as water level, water velocity, and water temperature, some of the most promising technologies, unfortunately, do not meet that single standard. Because these data are still of great value to stakeholders and the USGS in defining the temporal and geographic variability in hydrologic conditions, there is a desire to move forward with operational implementation of many of these new systems. So that the new data types and results of new collection methods can be interpreted by end users with as much confidence as the traditional USGS data, the USGS WMA is evaluating systems of data classification that will clearly identify differing levels of quality and uncertainty associated with each new data type, and the NGWOS program is leading this effort.



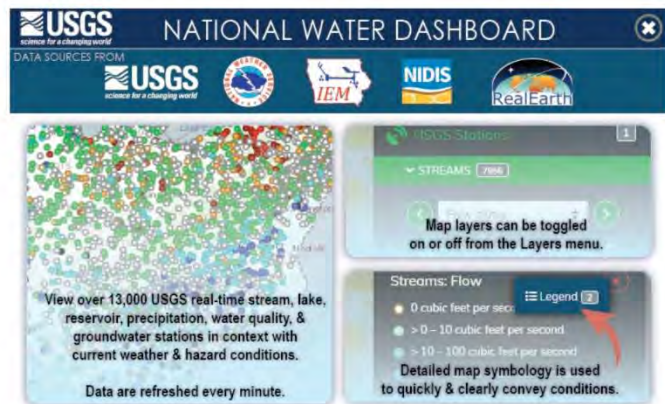
## USGS WMA Observing Systems Division Research and Development Program



## USGS WMA Observing Systems Division Research and Development Program

### Objectives:

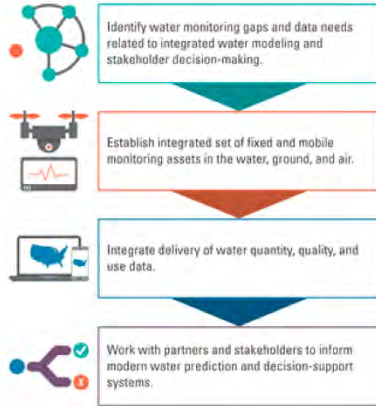
1. Provide overview of USGS Water Mission Area Observing Systems Research and Development
2. Discuss metadata enhancement to data delivery services (Fit-for-Purpose data)
3. Describe collaboration with DHS Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate



<https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/app/nwd/>



# Next Generation Water Observing System (NGWOS)



**Characteristics of a Next Generation Water Observing System:**

- State-of-the-art measurements
- Dense array of sensors at selected sites
- Increased spatial and temporal coverage
- New technology testing and implementation
- Improved operational efficiency
- Modernized and timely data storage and delivery

<https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/next-generation-water-observing-system-ngwos>



R&D Activities in Observing Systems

# Next Generation Water Observing System (NGWOS)

**The National Water Model**

Current River Forecast Points (~3,600) + NWM Streamflow Output Points (~2.7 mil)

<https://water.noaa.gov/about/nwm>

- ✓ Flood hazard assessment
- ✓ Flood protection/mitigation
- ✓ Flood risk assessment



R&D Activities in Observing Systems

## R&D Program - Objectives

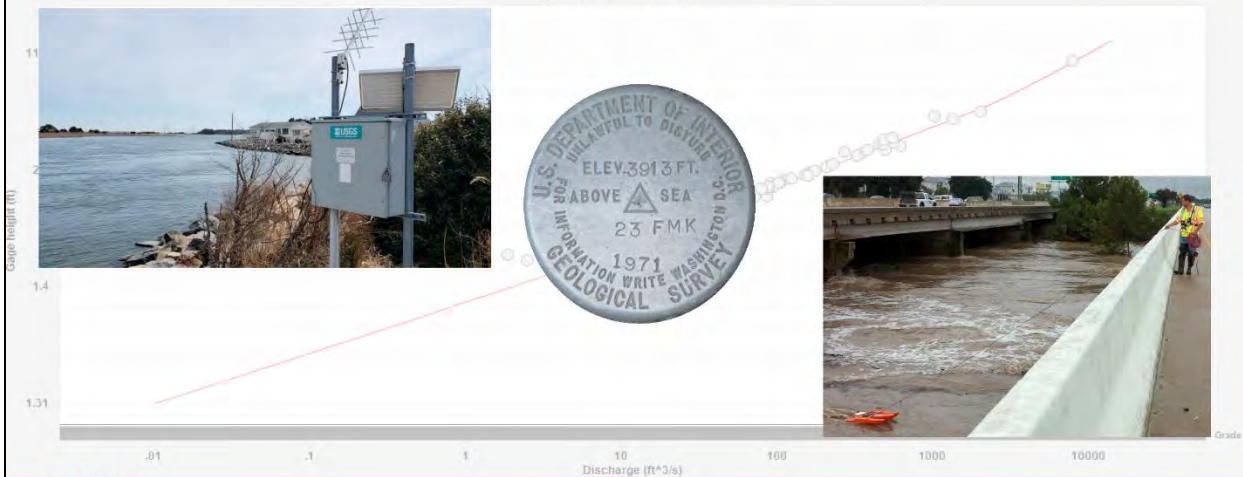
1. **Evaluate** innovative technologies and assess for operational implementation.
2. **Engage** industry and academia to leverage resources and stay informed
3. **Coordinate** R&D efforts to improve efficiency, communication, and transparency



R&D Activities in Observing Systems

## R&D Program - Enhancing Operations

01467087 - Frankford Creek at Castor Ave, Philadelphia, PA - DD: 1 Rating: 10  
Rating period from 2017-02-01



R&D Activities in Observing Systems



# R&D Program - Evaluating New Technology

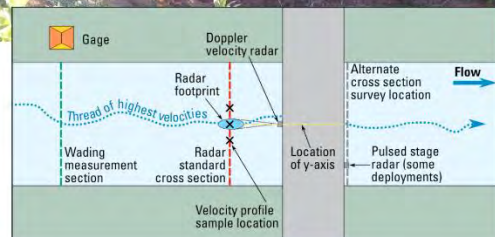
- Imagery
- IoT Telemetry
- Wireless sensors
- Edge computing
- Smart gages / Smart Cities
- Surface velocity methods
- Artificial Intelligence
- Power systems
- HABs and PFAS samplers
- Autonomous underwater samplers



R&D Activities in Observing Systems

# R&D Program - Evaluating New Technology

## Surface (Doppler) Velocity Radar



R&D Activities in Observing Systems

# R&D Program - Evaluating New Technology

## Camera-Based Monitoring

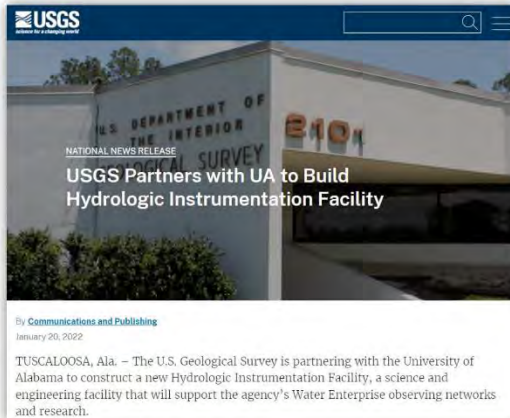


Ground-Penetrating Radar for bathymetry (prototype)



R&D Activities in Observing Systems

# R&D Overview - Engaging Industry



**USGS**  
science for a changing world

NATIONAL NEWS RELEASE

### USGS Partners with UA to Build Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility

By [Communications and Publishing](#)  
January 20, 2022

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. – The U.S. Geological Survey is partnering with the University of Alabama to construct a new Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility, a science and engineering facility that will support the agency's Water Enterprise observing networks and research.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Research & Economic Development

## Alabama Water Institute

The Alabama Water Institute has been established as a world-class, interdisciplinary research institute that engages in basic and applied research in the topical areas of earth systems science and water resource management, supporting sustainable waterways, ensuring water quality and biological diversity of aquatic systems.

Researchers apply state-of-the-art tools and techniques such as hydrological modeling, remote sensing, molecular ecology, hydro-informatics and disaster management.

[The University of Alabama \(ua.edu\)](http://The University of Alabama (ua.edu))

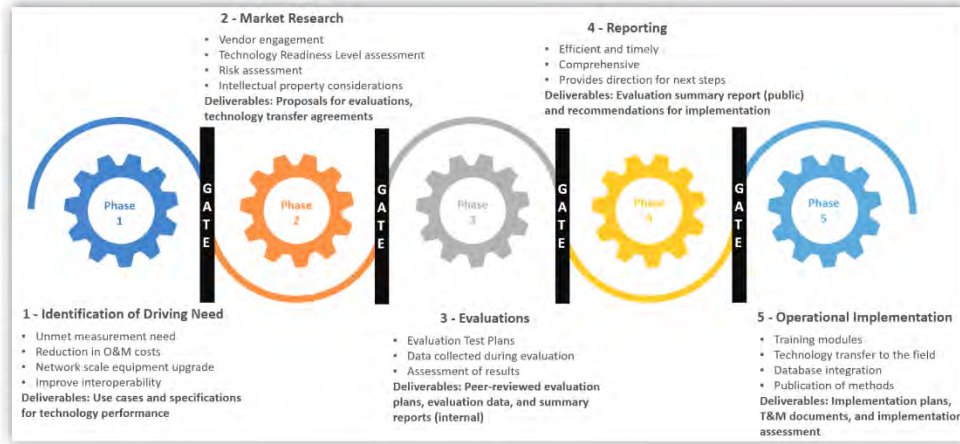
***"Innovation is outpacing acquisition" - Scott Rayder (Director, Alabama Water Institute)***



R&D Activities in Observing Systems



# R&D Overview - Technology Transition



# R&D Program - Research to Operations

### Realtime Data Delivery

View over 13,000 USGS real-time stream, lake, reservoir, precipitation, water quality, & groundwater stations in concert with current weather & hazard conditions. Data are refreshed every minute.

### Hydroacoustics

The current-meter method uses equipment such as (A) the Price AA current meter, (B) the Price AA current meter attached to a wading rod, and (C) the Price AA meter suspended above a heavy weight.

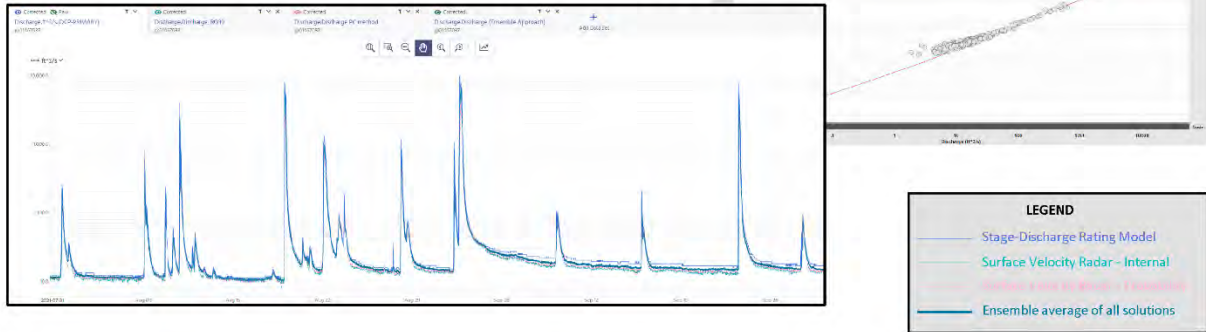
Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver  
Acoustic Doppler current profiler  
Bed  
Acoustic beams

**EXPLANATION**  
Fast ← Water Velocity → Slow

R&D Activities in Observing Systems

# R&D Program - Research to Operations

## Experimental and Fit For Purpose Data



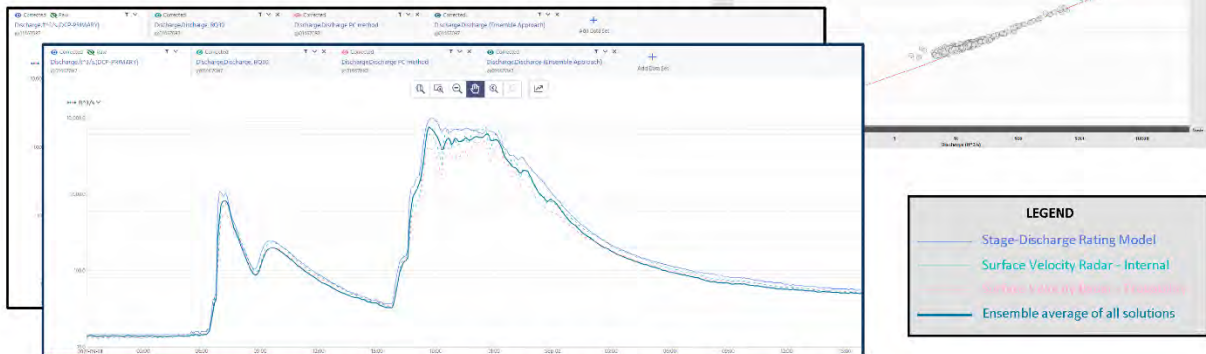
Provisional Data - Subject to revision



R&D Activities in Observing Systems

# R&D Program - Research to Operations

## Experimental and Fit For Purpose Data



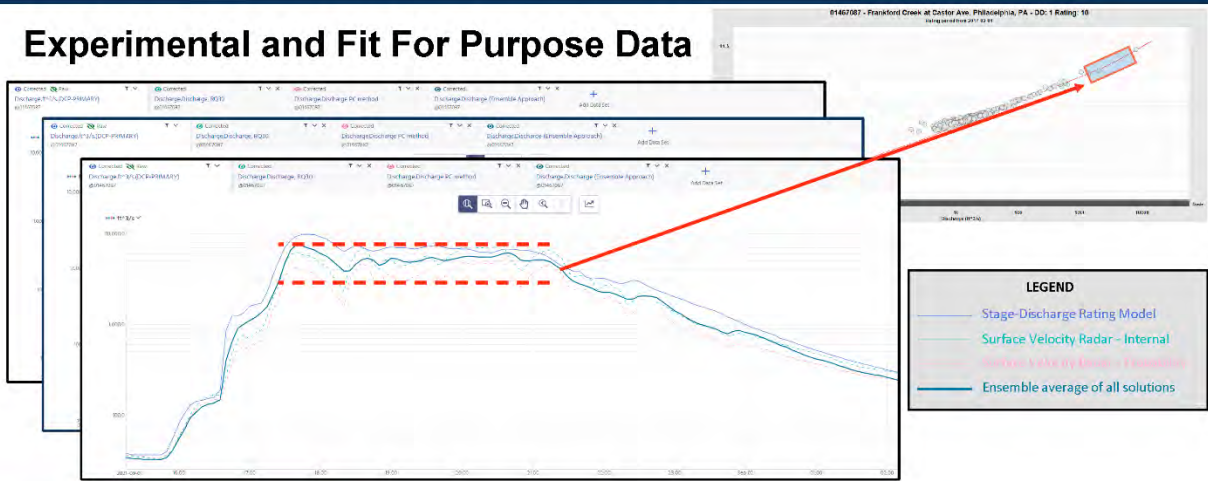
Provisional Data - Subject to revision



R&D Activities in Observing Systems

# R&D Program - Research to Operations

## Experimental and Fit For Purpose Data



Provisional Data - Subject to revision



R&D Activities in Observing Systems

# R&D Program - Sensor Testing



R&D Activities in Observing Systems



# USGS WMA Observing Systems Division Research and Development Program

## QUESTIONS

Balancing water availability and quality in  
the Delaware River Basin

Russ Lotspeich

How new USGS science and monitoring  
rlotspei@usgs.gov

Explore the viz

<https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/next-generation-water-observing-system-ngwos>





### **3.2.4 Presentation 1B-4: State and Local Experience in Virginia Implementing IoT Sensors and Data Systems**

Authors: David Ihrle, Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation

Speaker: David Ihrle

#### **3.2.4.1      *Abstract***

The Commonwealth of Virginia and local government partners now have increasing experience implementing IoT sensors such as flood and wildfire sensors, and their related data systems and user facing applications. This talk provides a description of the journey, lessons learned, and a look towards the future as these increasingly ubiquitous sensors become a primary driver for situational awareness and delivery of services.



## State and Local Experience in Virginia Implementing IoT Sensors and Data Systems

Presented to: 7<sup>th</sup> Annual NRC PFHA Research Workshop



**Author:** David Ihrie, VIPIC

**Abstract:** The Commonwealth of Virginia and local government partners now have increasing experience implementing IoT sensors such as flood and wildfire sensors, and their related data systems and user-facing applications. This talk provides a description of the journey, lessons learned, and a look towards the future as these increasingly ubiquitous sensors become a primary driver for situational awareness and delivery of services.

Funding for many of the technologies in this presentation has been provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Science & Technology Directorate, under contract number 70RSAT19CB000025

UNCLASSIFIED

February 2022



State Legal Authority



VIPA Operating Arm & Managing Nonprofit



VIPIC's Executive Office functions for VIPA and VIPIC Divisions include: Finance & Administration, Human Resources, Policy, Communications and Government Engagement.



**Mission**

Support and connection for entrepreneurial ecosystems and stakeholders around Virginia, including startup incubators and accelerators



**Mission**

Grant funding in support of tech-based research, development & commercialization to drive economic growth in Virginia



**Mission**

Seed and early-stage funding for Virginia-based companies with high potential for rapid growth and significant economic returns



**Mission**

Leadership for strategic initiatives that explore and shape programs designed to attract and grow innovation and new industries

Strategic Initiatives Current Portfolio:



January 2022

## Virginia Smart Community Testbed

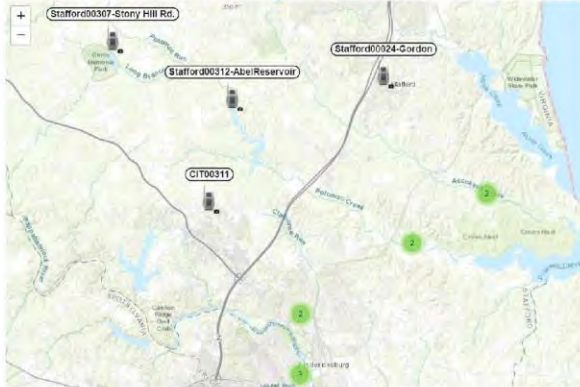


## Smart Community IoT Flood Sensors

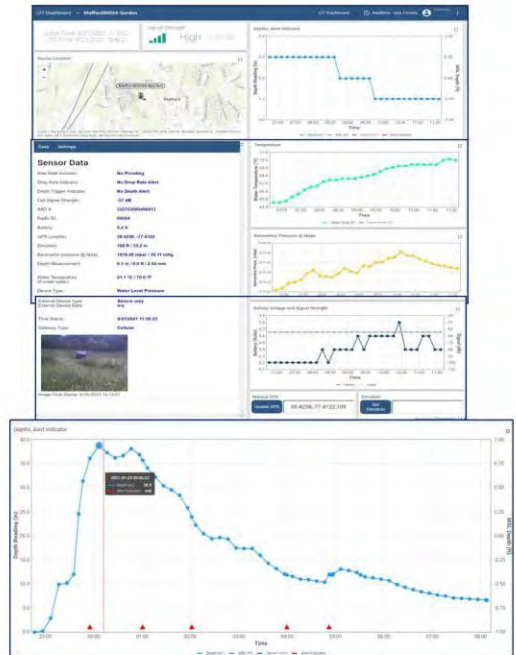


Stafford County Using Data for Emergency Management of Flooding

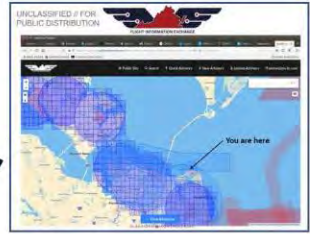
## Smart Community IoT Flood Sensors



- Stafford lead site for statewide pilot
- Significant uptake from all communities – some buying their own supplements
- Low cost a primary factor
- Advanced uses in discussion for Stafford



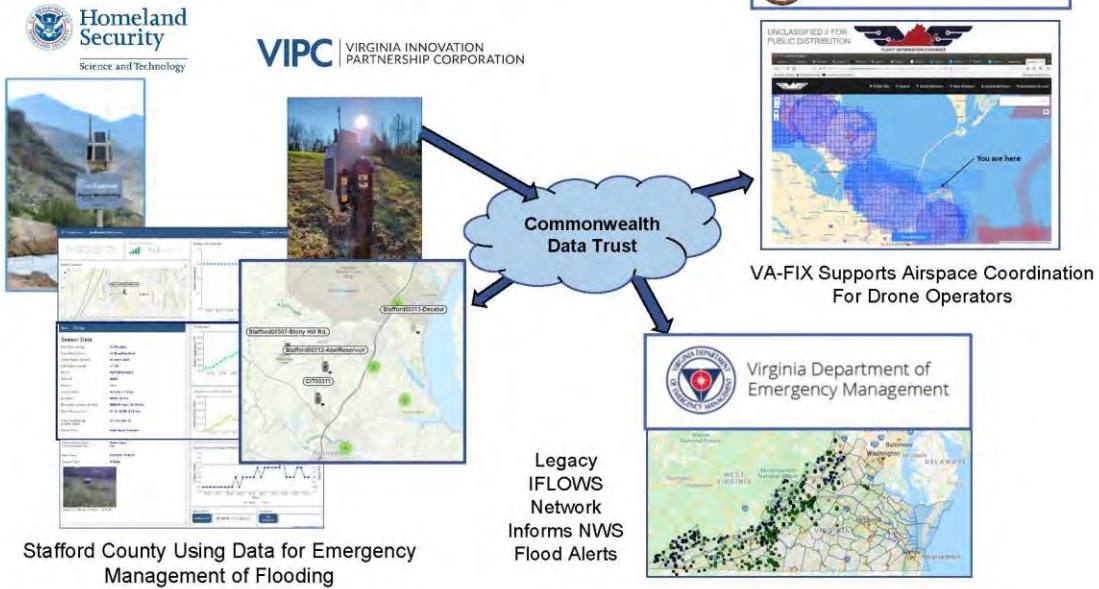
## Smart Community IoT Flood Sensors



Stafford County Using Data for Emergency Management of Flooding



# Smart Community IoT Flood Sensors

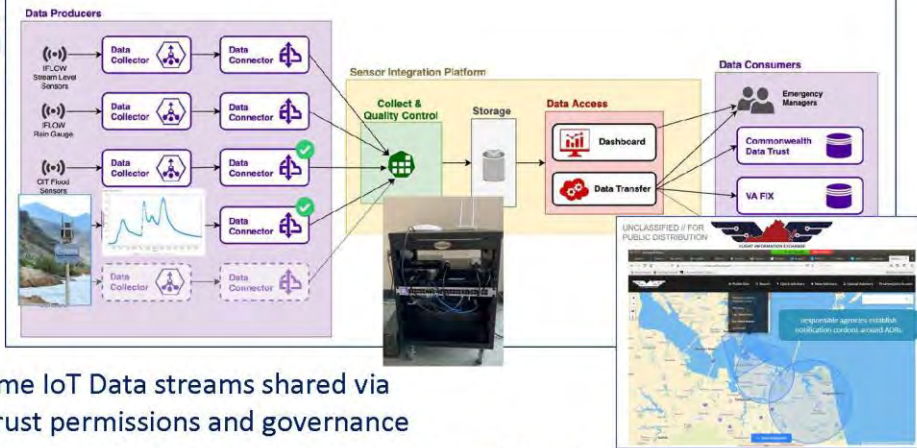


# Data Security and Governance



## Data Flow Diagram

Initial Operating Capability

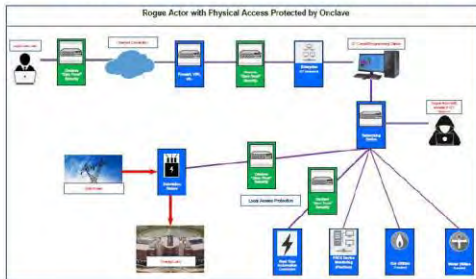
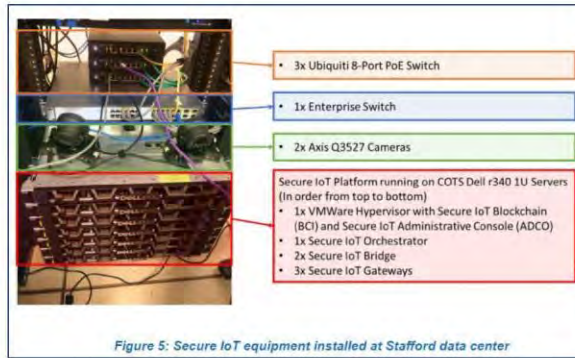


- Real-time IoT Data streams shared via Data Trust permissions and governance
- VA-FIX now registered user, VIPIC as Data Trust Member can upload streams or provide metadata for access

**VIPIC** VIRGINIA INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP CORPORATION  
Connecting Innovators with Opportunity

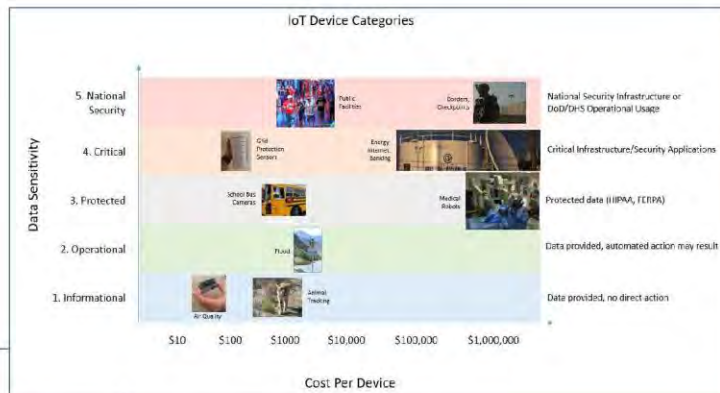
# IoT Device Security

- “Zero Trust Security”
- Makes groups of IoT devices invisible to hackers
- In place for Stafford Security cameras
- Wider applications demo at Ft. Belvoir for power infrastructure



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Connecting Innovators with Opportunity

# IoT Device Security



**IoT Block Diagram and Threats**  
(Not all elements present in all systems)

Point of Attack	Threat	Potential Solutions	Applicable Device Category
Device	Data Misuse (Malware)	Device Manager Integration	5+
	Repurposed Infrastructure	Behavioral Controls on Data Flow	1+
	Weak Encryption	Auto Backups	2+
In Transit	Compromised Data	Operational Checks	1+
	Device Spoofing	Device Validation	2+
System	Data Breaching (Malware)	Restrictive Configuration	2+
	Physical Access (Unauthorized Access)	Zero Trust	2+
	Data Leakage (Misconfiguration/Errors)	Event, Alert, Auditing	2+

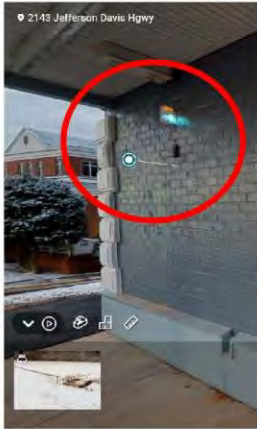
Security Note: IoT Security Ends Here. Other Security Measures Required (Firewall, IDS, etc.)

Assess other security procedural controls, training, risk tolerance, Categories per prior diagram of data sensitivity

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## IoT Data Infrastructure Supports Many Types of Sensors



Air Quality/Wildfire



Drone Video/Data

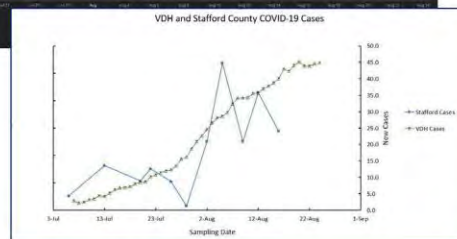
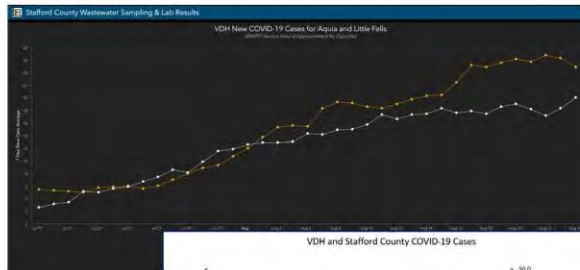
### Micro Weather Stations



The MWS®-M625 includes all the same great features as our line of proven line of Micro Weather Stations (MWS®) and adds cloud height measurement and two-way Iridium satellite for more accurate and reliable meteorological reporting.

**VIPC** VIRGINIA INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP CORPORATION  
Connecting Innovators with Opportunity

## IoT Data Infrastructure Supports Many Types of Sensors



- Wastewater data more accurate than VDH, presents earlier, enables passive monitoring
- Identifies both asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases
- Allows potential for more targeted response
- First of its kind testing in U.S.

**VIPC** VIRGINIA INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP CORPORATION  
Connecting Innovators with Opportunity

## Lessons Learned

- Get Started!
- Cost Matters
- Users Are the Best Innovators
- A secure, integrated architecture is critical for successful adoption
- Commonwealth Data Trust Provides a Model for Data Governance and Information Sharing



## State and Local Experience in Virginia Implementing IoT Sensors and Data Systems

Presented to: 7<sup>th</sup> Annual NRC PFHA Research Workshop

# Thank You!

Funding for many of the technologies in this presentation has been provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Science & Technology Directorate, under contract number 70RSAT19CB0000025

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February 2022



### 3.2.5 Flood & Fire Sensors for Resilient Communities Panel Discussion (Session 1B-5)

Moderator: Joseph Kanney, NRC/RES/DRA/FXHAB

*Jeffrey Booth, Department of Homeland Security, Science & Technology Directorate*

*Georgette Hlepas, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

*R. Russel Lotspeich, U.S. Geological Survey*

*David Ihrie, Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation*

#### **Question:**

What are your thoughts about the tradeoffs between using cellular communications for these instrumentation systems versus using a different type of communication system, such as the dedicated radio systems used for emergency management? Because cellular networks can get clogged up in emergencies. What are the tradeoffs of how the sensors would communicate with the databases or to be queried and things like that?

#### **David Ihrie:**

I think the actual sensing elements are independent of the radio system for the communications. Because there are a number of different potential user communities, my preference would be to have a more general type of communications backhaul rather than a single user, like the emergency management. But however that first hop occurs, our experience has been that the integration of the data on the backend and the sharing of that data is much trickier and it's kind of the critical piece. We've experimented with several different types of radios.

#### **Question:**

Can you say a little bit more about what different types of radios you have experimented with?

#### **David Ihrie:**

Sure. LoRa is one that is, I think, also pretty popular. We are doing some experimentation in the testbed directly with 5G and several mechanisms to kind of extend off the edge of the 5G network into areas without as much coverage. There has been a look at satellite communications. So, I think just a variety.

#### **Jeff Booth:**

For the flood sensors, we have done both cellular and LoRa. We had some challenges with LoRa in very steep terrain, granite hills, etc. So, they have both capabilities, in addition to Iridium satellite. But we are testing the next round of wildland fire sensors that will deploy 20 to 50 sensors with the US Geological Survey and the Feather River in California at LoRa sites that they have deployed for some of their monitoring to get a better sense of both the cell and LoRa comparisons.

#### **Georgette Hlepas:**

We often have these discussions with water management and geotech instrumentation. What is the best route? For normal operations cellular works just fine without an issue. Our concern is remote projects and those cellular systems not functioning during emergencies and not being

able to know what is happening at our projects. For those more critical projects, more remote projects, a lot of those are using satellite-based data. We transmit through the GOES satellite system. That's more reliable for specific areas.

***Russel Lotspeich:***

We are also utilizing several different technologies for telemetry. Primarily we utilize GOES. The issue with GOES is the lack of bandwidth for things like imagery. So, we keep getting pushed to cellular for these kinds of higher bandwidth requirement data types. Our focus has been on getting data into our national water information system faster and building better web services and API points, so that people can access the data more readily through our system.

We have added alert radios to our system, so our monitoring stations have the ability to use multiple types of telemetry, much like Jeff was describing. If there is a need by a locality to add one of their local radios to our systems, that is not out of the question, but it creates an issue for us to get the data into our system. That is why we still want to rely primarily on GOES.

**Question:**

Most of the presentations concentrated on deploying the sensors in some sort of a network ahead of time. I was curious has anyone given a lot of thought or have concrete plans for a use case, which would be more like a campaign in response to an event or an evolving situation? For example, if certain state is in a real drought situation, could there be a campaign to deploy those fire sensors? Or if there has been a particularly wet spring in a certain area and you are worried about snow melt flooding happening in the early summer in a certain area, could there be a campaign to deploy flood sensors?

**Jeff Booth:**

We have deployed a thousand sensors, mostly flood sensors. And some of our stakeholders did keep several back just for those types of purposes, mostly coastal right now in terms of hurricane and surge. But clearly that is some of what they are concerned about is storm events where they can deploy ahead of time when an unknown event is coming. To follow up after David Ihrie, users are the most creative innovators. One of the more recent use cases with wildland fire sensors was a planned burn or a prescribed burn where one of the performers deployed sensors with a county in Colorado for a prescribed burn just to get some data. They left the sensors there overnight after the fire suppression was performed by the fire department. Later that night, they got triggered on smoke alerts and they actually notified the fire department an hour before the first 911 call that there was a spark up where it went from smolder to ignition. So they were able to redeploy the fire department to suppress it. We are finding more and more use cases. Again, it is the creativeness of the users that is really intriguing. We have got a variety of use cases we never planned on for the flood sensors, and now finding more with the fire sensors as well.

**David Ihrie:**

Following up on the fire sensors, another recent use case that came to light from one of our fire colleagues was after a small wildfire in an area. Often, they need to deploy people and equipment for the next day or two to make sure it does not flare up again. So the idea was to rapidly deploy a couple of these wildfire sensors, not to detect initial ignition, but to check and help make sure that there is no flare up afterwards.

**Georgette Hlepas:**

Most of the USACE folks using these sensors are testing in different environments and seeing how they behave and how they react. The great purpose of these is quick deployable when you need something right away and everyone is pretty excited for that use case. We've predetermined, preinstalled these in locations just to see how easy they are to install and how effective they are in different environments, different temperatures, etc. We covered a lot of that in our presentation, but the vast majority of folks agreed that in an emergency this is what we can quickly deploy.

**Russel Lotspeich:**

We have had what we call a rapid deployment gauge program pretty much since Hurricane Katrina, where we recognized the need to either put out additional monitoring stations during an event. It was primarily focused at coastal events that point in time, but we've also evolved. Now, if a gauge is going to get flooded out due to a flood, we're putting these systems out in advance of that happening to maintain data continuity during the event, especially at forecast points. How those systems have been developed in the past are not very cheap. They are not very easy to install. So, we have been looking at ways to improve on those. We are targeting the Intellisense sensor, as well as some other technologies that are out there, for that purpose, as well as potential fixed continuous monitoring. But certainly, the rapid opportunistic deployment of sensors for various different applications is certainly on our map.

**Question:**

David, you had a couple of slides that did a good job of talking about the question of data sharing and data ownership, as well as the security aspect of using the sensors and sharing the data. Could I get some comments from the other presenters about how that is being handled in your organizations?

**Jeff Booth:**

So I can answer for S&T. The unique thing about the Science and Technology Directorate is that we don't own the mission. We are the science edge for identifying gaps in the mission and then applying the technology. So from a data sharing standpoint, we aren't the ones that deploy the sensors or operate them. We're basically trying to find the technology to help the user. So from my standpoint it's not that big of an issue for my mission area.

**Question:**

Then my question to you Jeff would be: what technology best supports the data security and the data sharing? Are you doing research on that?

**Jeff Booth:**

David alluded to an effort we're doing right now with the Geological Survey on Cyber IoT security issues. In this case we'll use the Stafford County testbed and look at the flood and fire sensors for cyber vulnerabilities. There's a lot of sensors that are readily deployed because of their price points, but they introduce vulnerabilities for networks. So USGS and DHS have been

discussing some of the vulnerabilities with sensor deployments. We have a kick off meeting this week on that effort to look at some of the cyber vulnerabilities for those sensors.

**Russel Lotspeich:**

I'm sending a link in the chat (<https://www.fedramp.gov>). Data sharing, access to data, and data ownership have always been a big issue for the USGS to move forward with the use of any third party data services. The key is this Fedramp program and having fully documented, embedded APIs. We're still working through this. We're also looking at zero trust architecture that David mentioned. We have other cyber security projects that are underway looking at this exact question. How do we get data from these IoT based sensors in a way that doesn't violate any of our federal cyber infrastructure rules. If a vendor is Fedramp certified, this currently gives us somewhat of a green light to move forward, because we're moving everything into the cloud anyway. All of our database is moving to the cloud. Once everything is in the cloud, and we can have that handshake, then I think it makes things a lot easier. That has been a significant hurdle up to this point.

**Georgette Hlepas:**

Security has been a huge concern at the USACE. We had a lot of difficulties trying to find a good way to bring data, especially automated data, from the field into our Corps net. But once we implemented a cloud-based solution, (we have a government owned Amazon cloud system) that's enabled us to do a lot more. We do meet all the government security requirements and make the appropriate handshakes to bring data in. But that cloud-based solution has provided a lot of relief.

We also do work with folks who have to go through the Fedramp certification process, and I chuckle at that because it's a lengthy process. But if there is a third party who is Fedramp certified, it does make it a lot easier, because they have to have met all the security restraints that the DoD has.



### **3.3 Day 1: Session 1C – Climate**

Session Chair: Elena Yegorova, NRC/RES/DRA

#### **3.3.1 Presentation 1C-1 (KEYNOTE): Big Stories from the Historic Winter of 2020/21**

Authors: *David Novak, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service (NOAA/NWS)*

Speaker: *David Novak*

##### **3.3.1.1 Abstract**

This review will highlight some of the "big stories" of the 2020-21 historic winter season, including one of the snowiest Octobers on record in the CONUS, an historic early season ice storm in Oklahoma, a December nor'easter with 40" of snow in 15 hours, and most, notably, an historic and devastating February cold wave. Winter dryness over the west foreshadowed a devastating drought for the remainder of 2021. Notable events in the early part of the 21-22 season will also be reviewed. These events will be used to illustrate the impacts of extreme winter conditions on society and the national infrastructure, and the weather enterprise's efforts in building public readiness for such events. Winter 2020-21 will be best known for the February cold wave - the most destructive and costly winter event to affect the United States in recorded history. The event was responsible for 172 deaths and over \$20 Billion in direct losses (nearly doubling the inflation-adjusted cost of the 1993 Superstorm). This talk will review the rare meteorological circumstances of the event, which contributed to cascading failures in the power, water, and transportation infrastructure. In reviewing the events of the 2020-21 season, this presentation will also highlight successes and challenges in building industry readiness for winter weather, including new product and messaging innovations.



**NATIONAL  
WEATHER  
SERVICE**

# Big Stories from the Historic Winter of 2020-21

Dr. David Novak & Greg Carbin  
NOAA/NWS Weather Prediction Center













### U.S. 2021 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters

Drought/Heat Wave
 Flooding
 Hail
 Hurricane
 Tornado Outbreak
 Severe Weather
 Wildfire
 Winter Storm/Cold Wave



This map denotes the approximate location for each of the 20 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that impacted the United States in 2021



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**

Building a Weather-Ready Nation // 2





# The Weather Prediction Center

**MISSION:** Provide national weather situational awareness and precipitation expertise to enable readiness for hazardous weather events



## National Weather Situational Awareness

Heavy Rainfall

Winter Weather

Upcoming Hazards



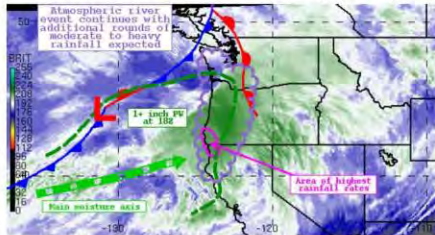
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Building a Weather-Ready Nation // 3



# Specialized Meteorological Expertise

Specialized meteorological expertise applied to challenges of intense rainfall, winter precipitation, and upcoming hazards.



Extended Forecast Discussion  
NWS Weather Prediction Center, College Park, MD  
189 AM EST Tue Dec 22 2020  
Valid 12Z Fri Dec 25 2020 - 12Z Tue Dec 29 2020  
Threat of heavy precipitation and strong winds over parts of the eastern U.S. to extend into Christmas Day...  
...Overview and Model Guidance Evaluation/Preferences...  
Amplified upper flow late this week, featuring a western ridge and eastern trough, will trend flatter in the mean for the rest of the period but contains moderately amplified troughs that will provide active weather over some areas.  
Once southeastern Canada low pressure pushes a sharp cold front through the Northeast on Fri/Christmas Day (CF's still somewhat faster than other guidance by varying degrees), the focus will turn to the West Coast as sharpening shortwave energy likely develops low pressure just off the Washington coast and Vancouver Island. For this system most guidance has been fairly well clustered over the past couple cycles aside from the farther south UKMET. The larger scale shortwave will progress through the West and into the Plains during the weekend. Guidance is showing a decent signal that this energy, along with yet-to-be resolved potential input of northern stream flow from Canada, will support an area of surface low pressure tracking across the central/eastern U.S. Sun-Mon with consolidation into an East Coast or western Atlantic storm by early Tue. At that time the latest GFS/ECMWF means have been signaling such a system but with enough spread among ensemble members to keep the low fairly weak, while recommending a latitude between the southern ECMWF runs through 12Z and northern GFS. The G2Z CMC has come in with a low position close to the 12Z ECMWF mean while the 00Z GFS mean is a bit more offshore. A preferred model/ensemble mean blend provides a low position closest to the 18Z GFS/12Z ECMWF means while yielding intermediate depth. Significant changes in the new 02Z ECMWF (farther north) highlights the uncertainty that still exists for this system.

Heavy Rainfall



Winter Precipitation



Upcoming Hazards



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Building a Weather-Ready Nation // 4

## Extreme Weather Forecasts are Inherently Uncertain

- Predictability varies from event-to-event & by scale
- Impacts more difficult to predict than the meteorology
- Results in wide range of lead-time for partner decisions

WEEK

TO

HOURS



NWS Portland @NWSPortland

Okay. Enough trying to play catch up with our forecast. Someone in the valley will likely see a FOOT of snow by tomorrow morning.

9:59 PM · 10 Jan 2017

194 Retweets 274 Likes

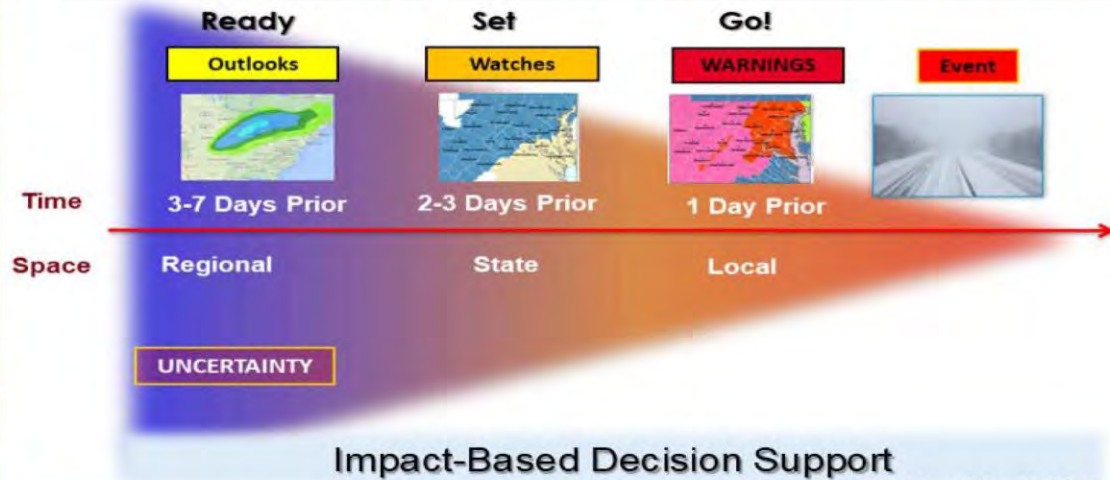
25 194 274

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Building a Weather-Ready Nation // 5

## Operational Approach

### Products & Language Triggered by Level of Certainty



Adapted from Rothfusz et al. 2018

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Building a Weather-Ready Nation // 6



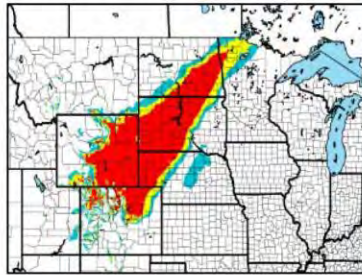


# Probabilistic Outlooks Drive National Awareness

Excessive Rainfall Outlooks



Experimental Winter Storm Outlook



Medium Range Hazards Outlook



Outlooks calibrated to probability of impactful events



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Building a Weather-Ready Nation // 7



# Winter of 2020-21

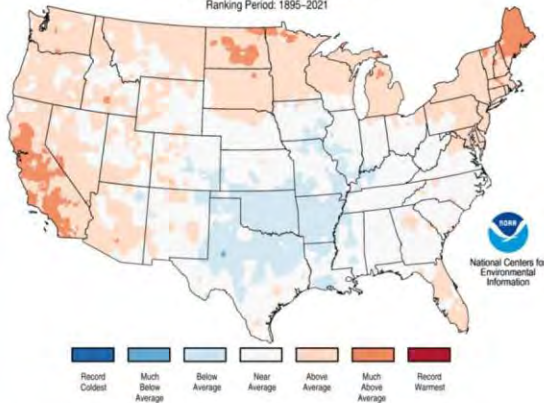


NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Building a Weather-Ready Nation // 8

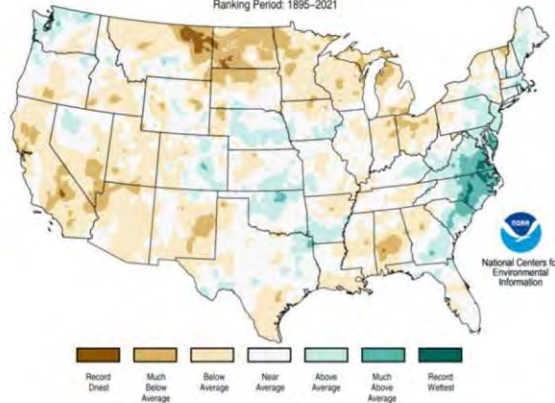
# 2020-21 Winter Climate Anomalies

Mean Temperature Percentiles  
December 2020–February 2021  
Ranking Period: 1895–2021



- Southern Plains below average
- Much above in CA, ND, and ME

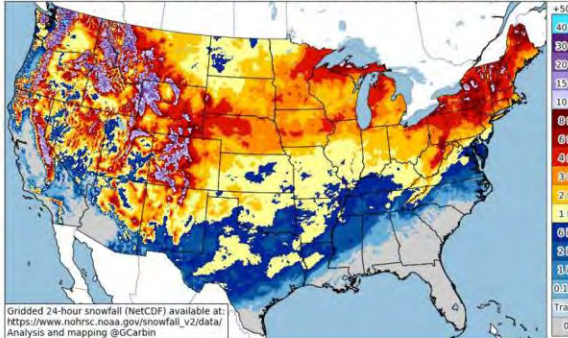
Total Precipitation Percentiles  
December 2020–February 2021  
Ranking Period: 1895–2021



- Drier than average, except coastal Mid-atlantic

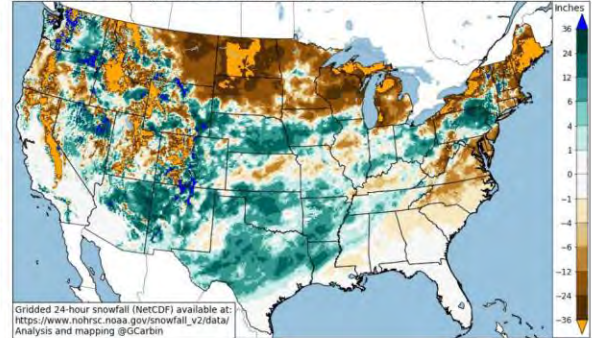
# Seasonal Snowfall (Oct 2020 - April 2021)

Summed Daily NOHRSC Snowfall (12-12 UTC), Oct-Apr, 2020/21



Gridded 24-hour snowfall (NetCDF) available at: [@GCarbin](https://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/snowfall_v2/data/analysis_and_mapping)

Oct-Apr 2020-21 Daily Summed Snowfall Departure from 12y Mean (2008/09-2019/20)

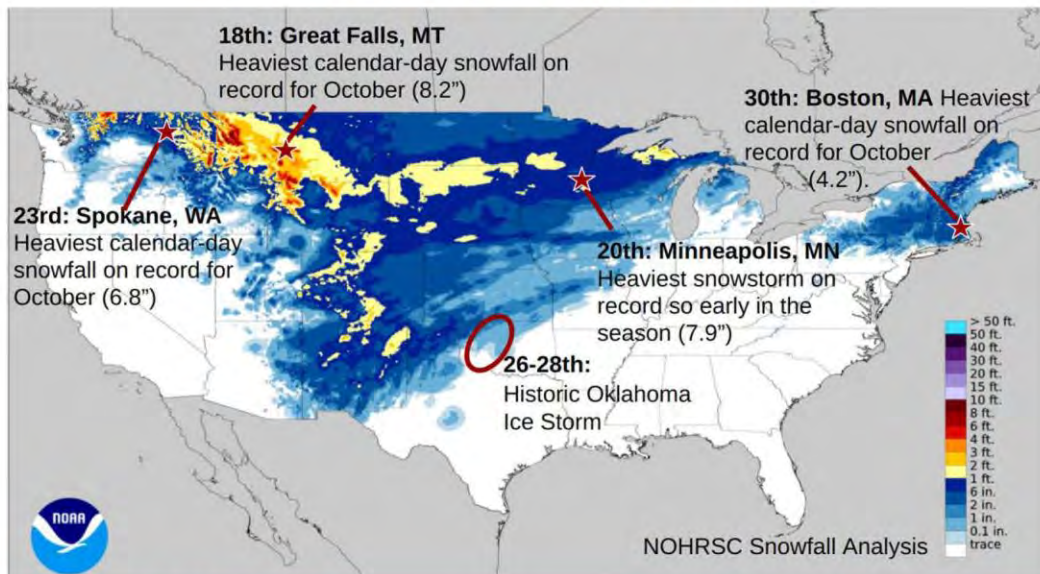


Gridded 24-hour snowfall (NetCDF) available at: [@GCarbin](https://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/snowfall_v2/data/analysis_and_mapping)

- Snow “Drought” across the West and Northern Tier
- Above normal snowfall along the Front Range, and Southern Plains



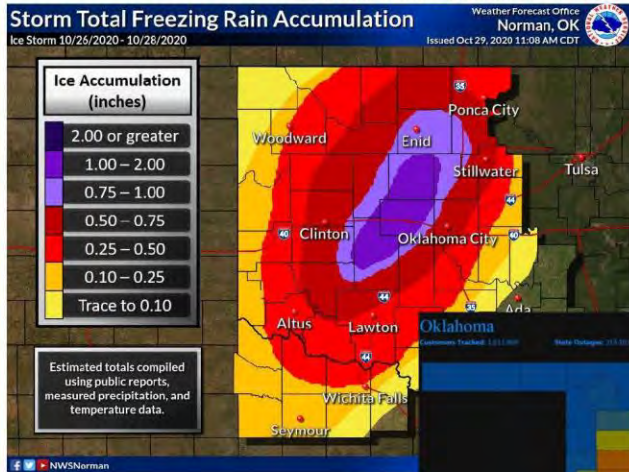
# An Historic October 2020



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# Oklahoma Ice Storm 2020



NEWS

## More Than 40,000 Still Without Power 10 Days After Oklahoma Ice Storm

By Jan Werner Childs - November 06, 2020

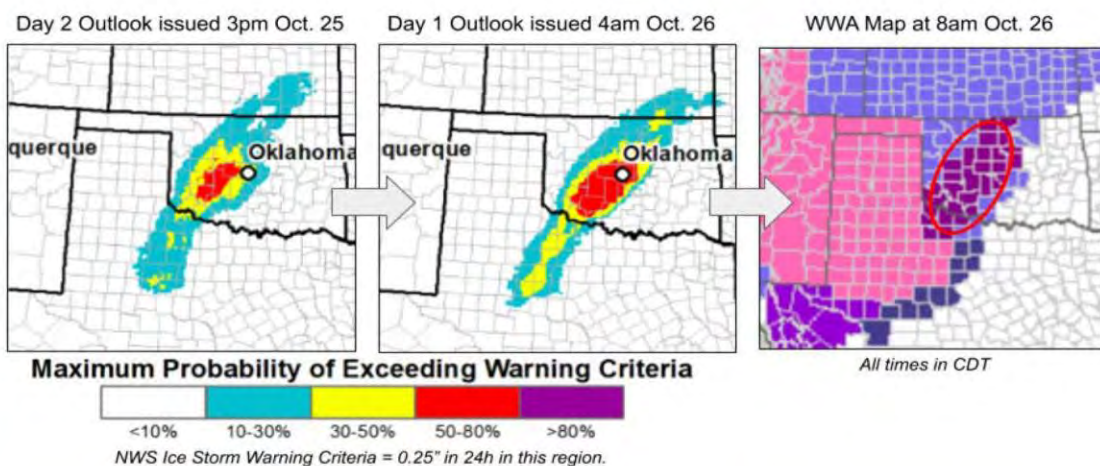


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# Oklahoma Ice Storm 2020

NWS/WPC Winter Storm Outlooks leading to **Ice Storm** Warning on Oct. 26, 2020



# Historic Southern Plains Arctic Outbreak

The most destructive and costly winter storm to affect the United States in recorded history.

- 172 direct deaths Source: NOAA Storm Data
- \$20+ Billion in direct losses

Historic meteorological event

- Cold
- For a long duration of time (~7 days)
- With successive snow/ice storms

Contributed to cascading failures in the power, water, and transportation infrastructure.



**A Deadly Week of Winter: Arctic Air Mass and Coast-to-Coast Winter Storms Wreak Havoc**

**Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021**  
 135-car pile up, I35, north TX  
 6 dead, dozens injured

**Fri-Sat, Feb.12-13, 2021**  
 Major ice storm, NW Oregon



**Sat, Feb. 13, 2021**  
 8.9" at SEA, snowiest day since Dec. 1968!  
 Major ice storm, southwest Virginia

**Sun, Feb. 14, 2021**  
 6" of snow in OKC, MaxT 12F



**Sun-Mon, Feb. 14-15, 2021**  
 All-time record cold, snow, and ice across Texas.

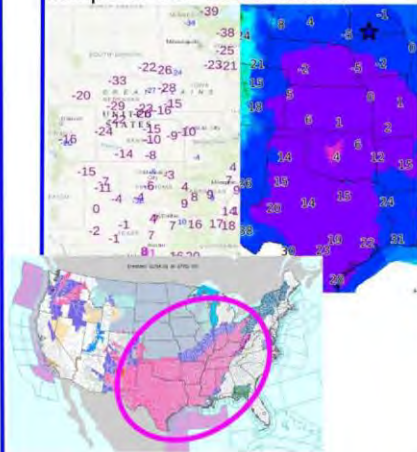
Houston I45 pile up, millions without power.



**A Deadly Week of Winter: Arctic Air Mass and Coast-to-Coast Winter Storms Wreak Havoc**

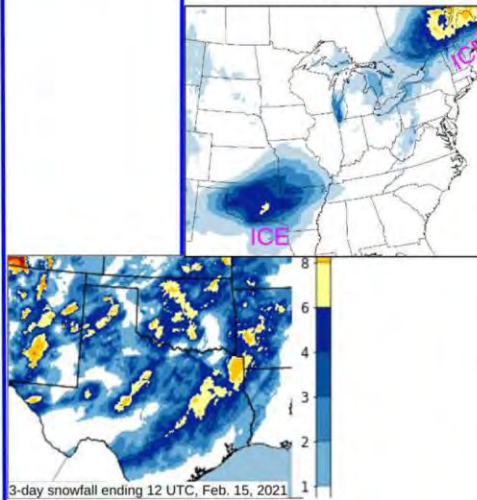
**Sun-Mon, Feb. 14-15, 2021**  
 Largest areal coverage of  
 NWS Winter Storm Warnings

**Mon, Feb.15, 2021, at least**  
 61 daily record low temps, max  
 temps 40-50F below normal



**Mon, Feb. 15, 2021**  
 All-time record snowfall Abilene & San  
 Angelo, Texas (14.8 & 10.1 inches)

**Tue, Feb. 16, 2021**

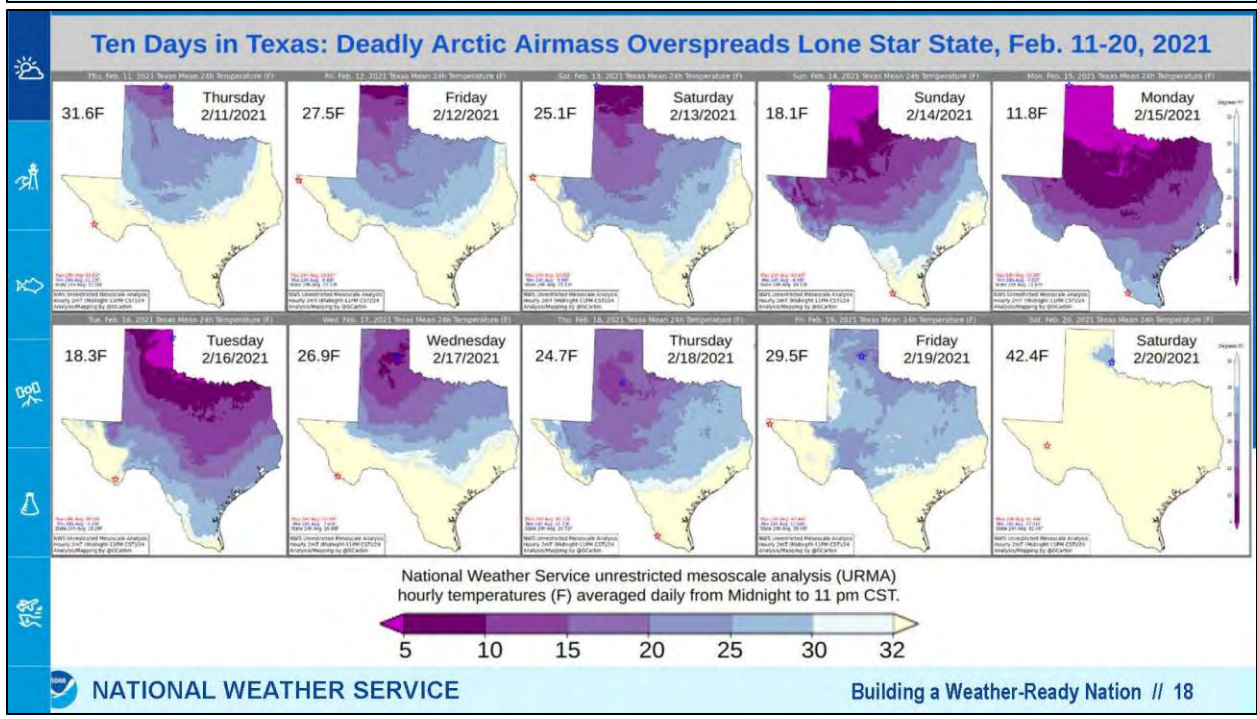
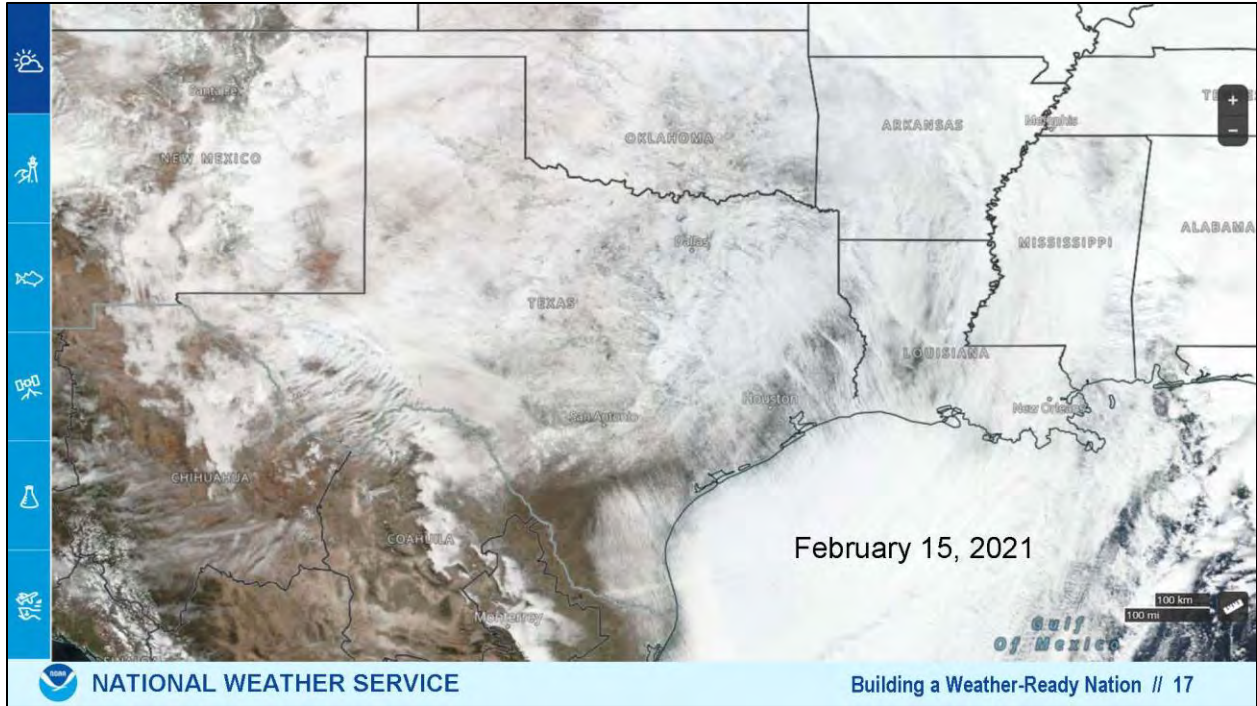


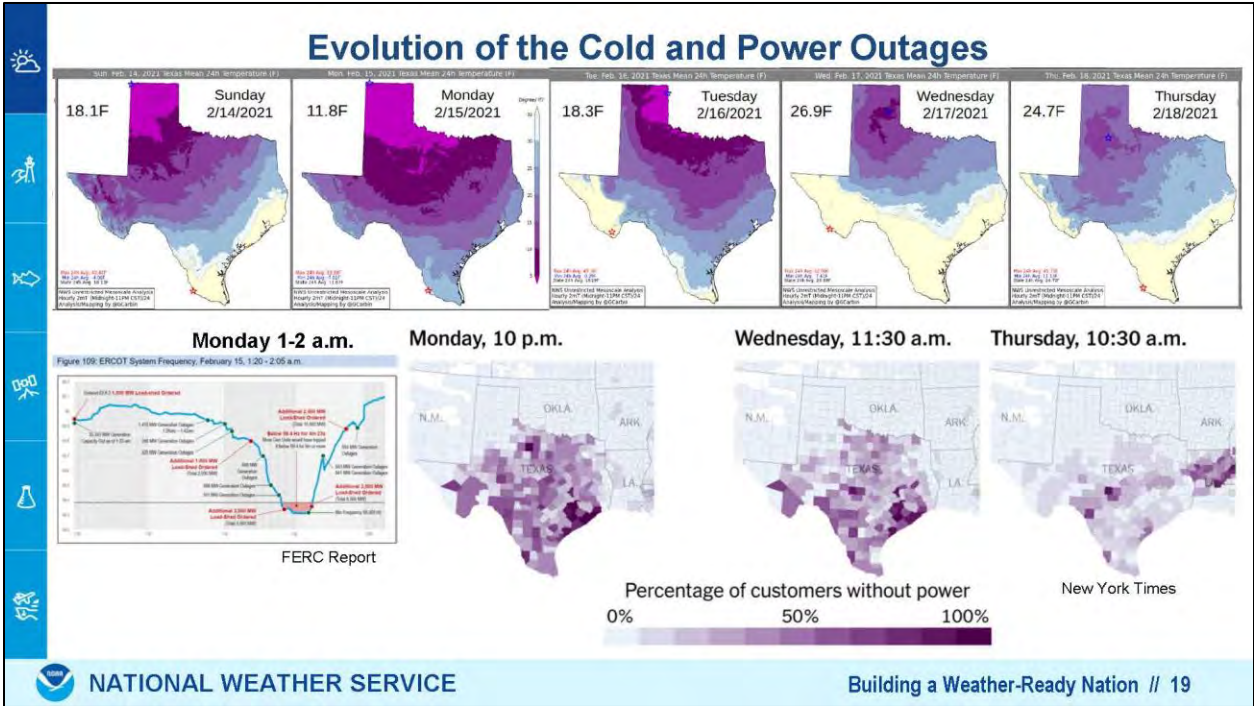
**Wed-Thu, Feb 17-18, 2021**

2nd snowiest day on  
 record at Little Rock ,AR





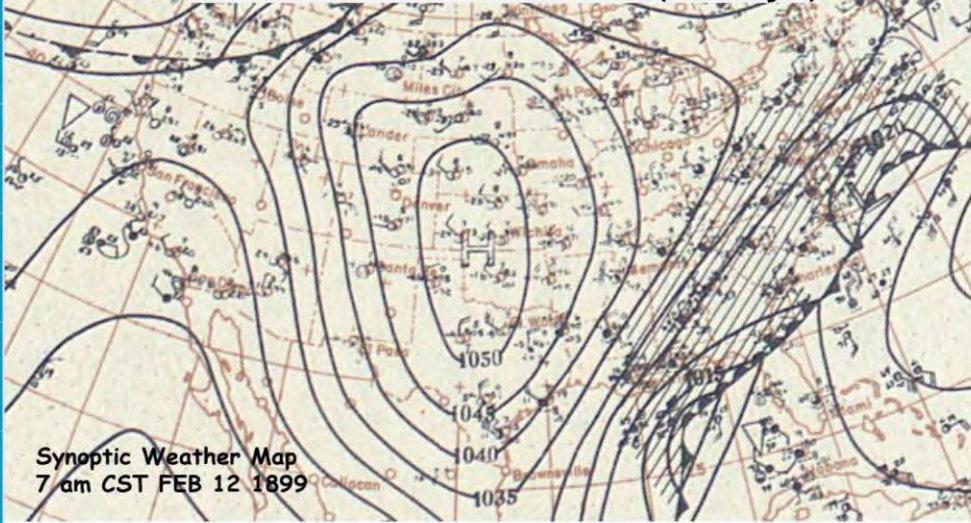






## Historical Extreme Cold of February 1899

**BUT - SHORT DURATION (~2 days)**



Extremely strong high pressure system with central pressure greater than 1055 mb!

Examples of All-time record lows:

**Oklahoma City**

**-17°F**

**Dallas Ft-Worth**

**-8°F**

**Tallahassee, FL**

**-2°F**

(Feb. 13, 1899)

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## 7-day Temperature & Anomalies, Dec. 20-26, 1983 and Feb. 12-18, 2021

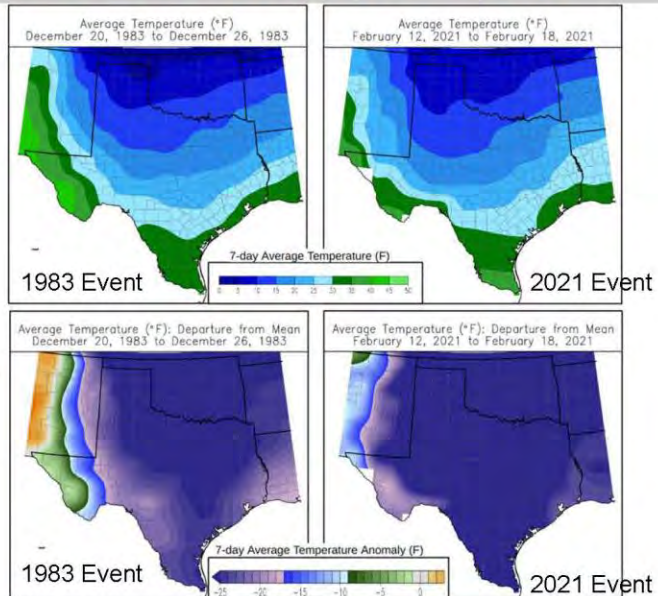
Mean temperature and departure from normal for 7-days centered on the coldest days for Dec. 1983 and Feb. 2021 cold air outbreaks over the Southern Plains. The December 1983 outbreak appears to be a reasonable analog to Feb. 2021.

Anomalously cold air does appear to have spread a bit farther west, south and east in the most recent Arctic outbreak, when compared to 1983.

(Note: Midwest Regional Climate Center (MRCC) online plotter does not go below -25F departure.)

Plots made with Cli-MATE MRCC Applications Tool Environment.

Normals period of record 1981-2010.



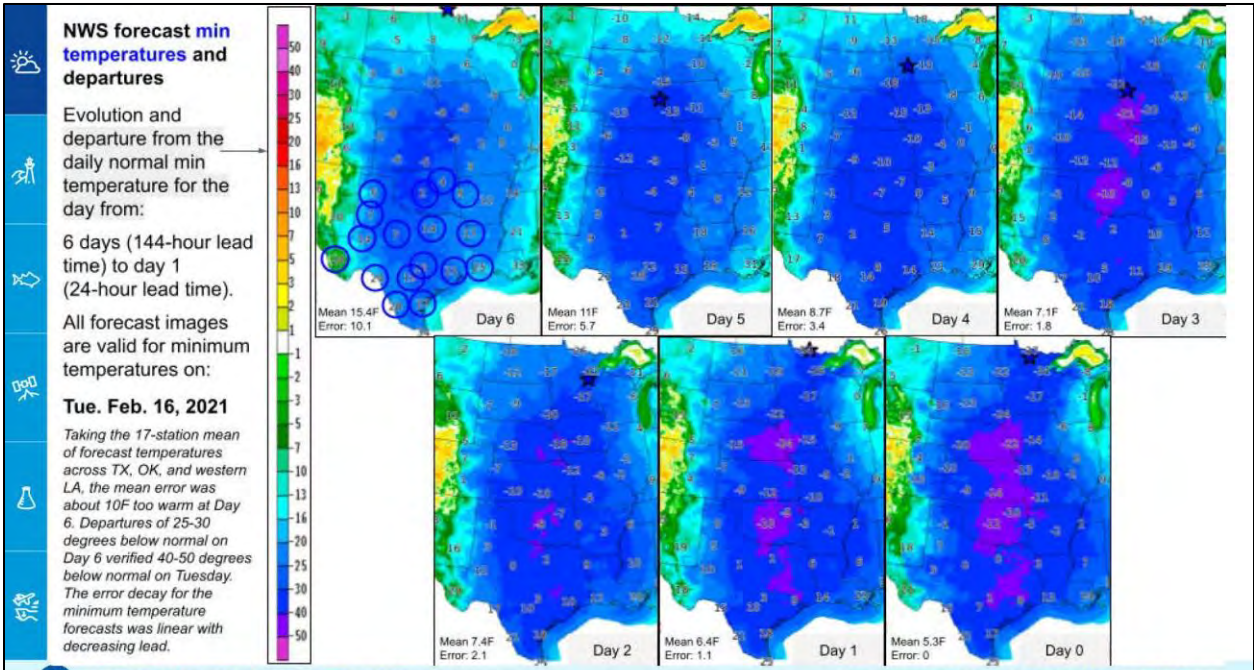
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

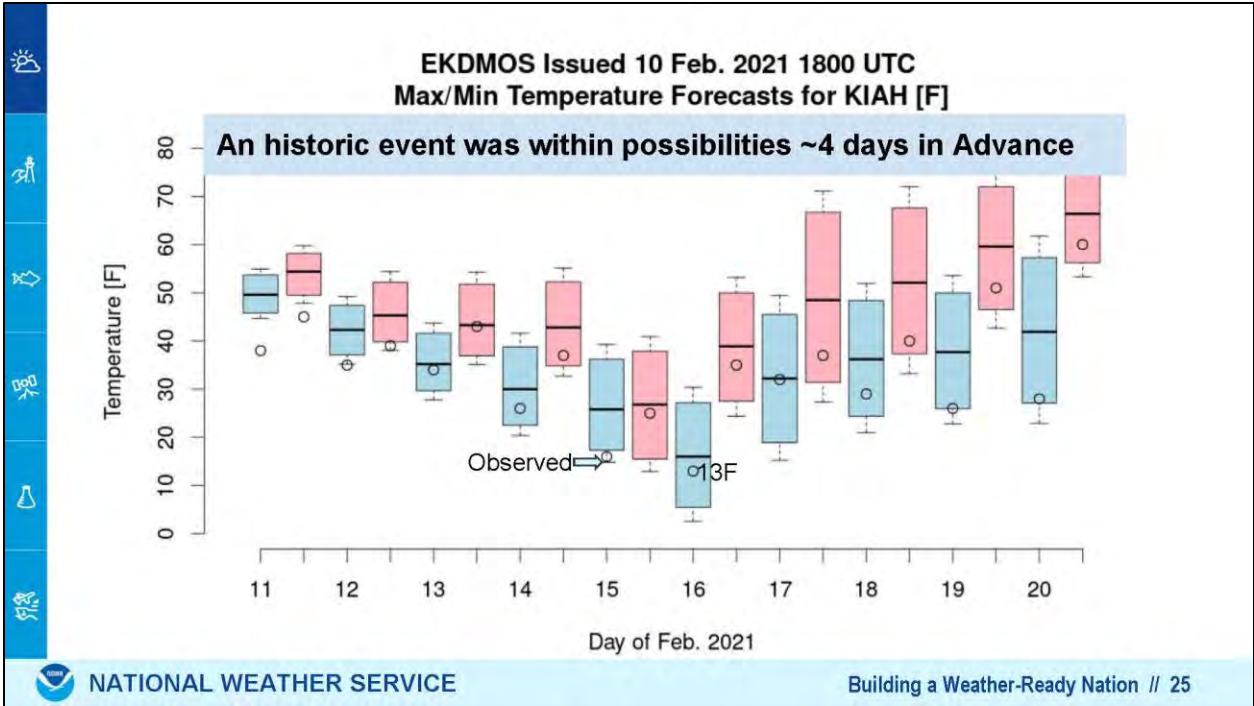
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# Was it Forecast?





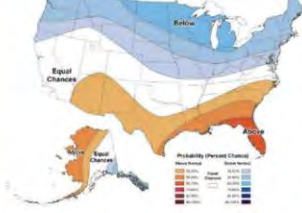
## A Few NWS Winter Predictive Tools

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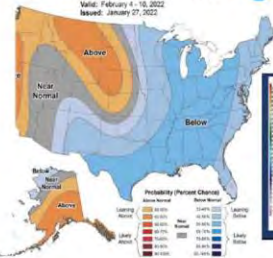


# NWS Temperature Forecasts

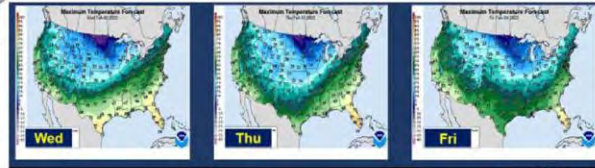
Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook  
Valid: January 22 - February 4, 2022  
Issued: January 7, 2022



8-14 Day Temperature Outlook  
Valid: February 4 - 16, 2022  
Issued: January 27, 2022



Daily Forecasts



Forecast Records



# Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI)

**Goal:** Forecast the potential severity of community impacts from winter storms, including tree damage, property damage, transportation impacts, and disruptions to daily life

- Impacts relayed in a 5 category scale
  - Relates to rarity of meteorological event
- Algorithms connect official NWS meteorological forecast to general impact categories
- Incorporates non-meteorological factors
  - Population, tree cover, land use

Winter Storm Severity Index - Effective From Sat, Jan 30, 2021 08AM ET Through Mon, Feb 01, 2021 07 PM ET  
Last Updated: Saturday January 30, 2021 08:17 AM ET



<p><b>No Impacts</b> Impacts not expected.</p>	<p><b>Moderate Impacts</b> Often threatening to life and property, some damage unavoidable. Typically results in disruptions to daily life.</p>
<p><b>Limited Impacts</b> Rarely a direct threat to life and property. Typically results in little inconveniences.</p>	<p><b>Major Impacts</b> Extensive property damage likely, life saving actions needed. Will likely result in major disruptions to daily life.</p>
<p><b>Minor Impacts</b> Rarely a direct threat to life and property. Typically results in an inconvenience to daily life.</p>	<p><b>Extreme Impacts</b> Extensive and widespread severe property damage, life saving actions will be needed. Results in extreme disruptions to daily life.</p>

Output available here:  
[www.weather.gov/wssi](http://www.weather.gov/wssi)

# WSSI - Components & Scale



### Snow Load

Indicates potential infrastructure impacts due to the weight of snow



### Snow Amount

Indicates potential impacts due to the total amount of snow or snow accumulation rate



### Ice Accumulation

Indicates potential infrastructure impacts due to combined effects and severity of ice and wind



### Ground Blizzard

Indicates the potential travel-related impacts of strong winds interacting with pre-existing snow cover



### Flash Freeze

Indicates the potential of flash freezing during or after precipitation events.



### Blowing Snow

Indicates the potential disruption due to blowing and drifting snow

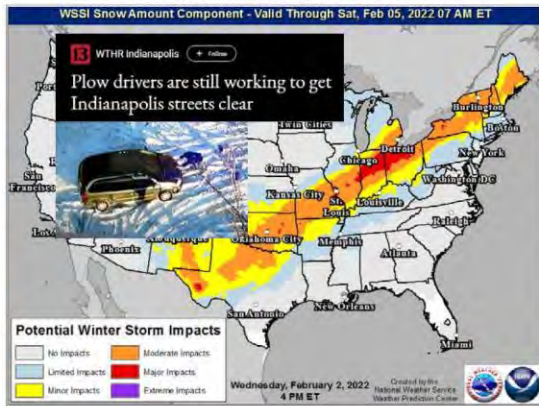
## Potential Winter Storm Impacts

<b>No Impacts</b> Impacts not expected.	<b>Moderate Impacts</b> Often threatening to life and property, some damage unavoidable. Typically results in disruptions to daily life.
<b>Limited Impacts</b> Rarely a direct threat to life and property. Typically results in little inconveniences.	<b>Major Impacts</b> Extensive property damage likely, life saving actions needed. Will likely result in major disruptions to daily life.
<b>Minor Impacts</b> Rarely a direct threat to life and property. Typically results in an inconvenience to daily life.	<b>Extreme Impacts</b> Extensive and widespread severe property damage, life saving actions will be needed. Results in extreme disruptions to daily life.

# Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI)

Able to show the impacts from different parts of the storm

## Snow Amount



## Ice Accumulation





# Winter Storm Key Messages

## The Purpose

- Galvanize partners and media around consistent, coordinated messages

## Specifics

- Used for High-impact storms that are expected to cause travel disruptions or pose a hazard to life and property and/or rare events
- Collaborated among operational units
- Available on WPC homepage and integrated into WFO & WPC messaging

**Key Messages for Feb. 1-4 Winter Storm** Updated February 02, 2022  
4:00 PM CST

Significant snow and ice across the Central U.S. then heavy snow in the interior Northeast

- A large, prolonged, and significant winter storm will continue to impact much of the central U.S. and move into the Northeast overnight, bringing a variety of winter weather hazards including heavy snow, sleet, and freezing rain.
- A damaging ice storm is likely from eastern Arkansas northeastward to western Kentucky. This will likely result in power outages, tree damage, and dangerous travel conditions. A broader corridor of heavy ice accumulation is likely from Texas through the Ohio River Valley.
- Heavy snow totals are expected over the southern Rockies and from the south-central Great Plains through the eastern Great Lakes and interior Northeast.
- Locations impacted by snow and/or ice are expected to have temperatures remain below freezing, and well below average, for at least a couple days after the wintry precipitation ends.

**Forecast snowfall through 6AM CST Saturday**

**Forecast ice accumulation through 6AM CST Saturday**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | For more information go to: <https://www.weather.gov> | <https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov> | <https://www.weather.gov>  
 Weather Prediction Center College Park, MD

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## Summary

- Weather extremes are increasing, stressing critical infrastructure
- The winter of 2020-21 was historic
  - The Southern Plains Cold Wave
  - Oklahoma Ice Storm
- The National Weather Service provide critical observations and forecasts essential to public safety

National Weather Service: <https://www.weather.gov>  
 Weather Prediction Center: <https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov>



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### **3.3.2 Presentation 1C-2: Linking Arctic variability and change with extreme winter weather in the US including the Texas Freeze of February 2021**

Authors: *Judah Cohen*<sup>\*1</sup>, *Laurie Agel*<sup>2</sup>, *Mathew Barlow*<sup>2</sup>, *Chaim Garfinkel*<sup>3</sup>, *Ian White*<sup>3</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*Atmospheric and Environmental Research*, <sup>2</sup>*University of Massachusetts Lowell*, <sup>3</sup>*Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

Speaker: *Judah Cohen*

#### **3.3.2.1 Abstract**

The Arctic is warming at a rate twice the global average and severe winter weather is reported to be increasing across many heavily populated mid-latitude regions, but there isn't yet agreement on whether there is a physical link between the two phenomena. Here I will present observational analysis to show that a lesser-known stratospheric polar vortex (SPV) disruption that involves wave reflection and stretching of the SPV is linked with extreme cold across parts of Asia and North America, including the recent February 2021 Texas cold wave, and has been increasing over the satellite era (post 1980). I will also present numerical modeling experiments forced with trends in autumn snow cover and Arctic sea ice to establish a physical link between Arctic change and SPV stretching and surface impacts. This phenomenon is also active in January 2022 and if time permits, I will present on the weather of January 2022.

## Linking Arctic variability and change with extreme winter weather in the US including the Texas Freeze of February 2021

Judah Cohen  
AER/Dept CEE MIT  
February 15, 2022

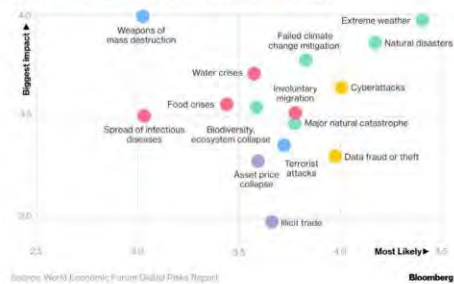


## Extreme Weather

These Are the Biggest Global Risks for 2018

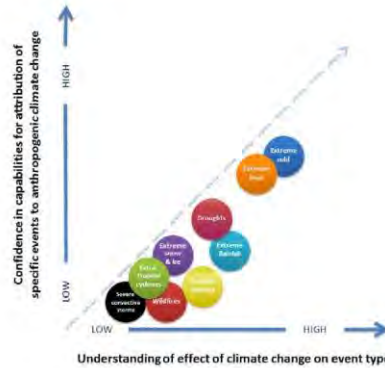
The World Economic Forum's top 10 risks, ranked by likelihood and impact

● Economic ● Environmental ● Geopolitical ● Societal ● Technological



Source: World Economic Forum Global Risks Report

Bloomberg



- Extreme weather is the considered by economists to be the biggest global risk
- The extreme weather climate scientists are most confident will change due to climate change is a decrease in extreme cold



National

# A winter storm will hit Texas – bringing back memories of last year’s power grid failure



Power lines are seen after winter weather caused electricity blackouts in F. Nakamura/Reuters)



U.S.

The New York Times

PLAY THE CR

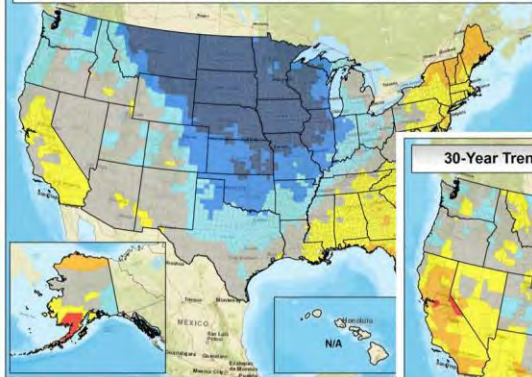
## As Texas braces for a cold snap, officials promise the power grid will hold.



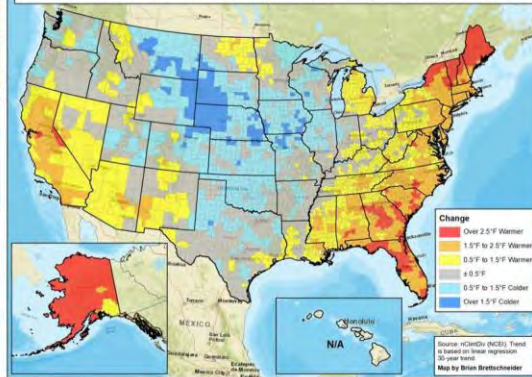
Trucks moved slowly down Interstate 35 in Dallas on Thursday. Jeffrey McWhorter for The New York Times

# A Warmer Arctic is Related to Increased Severe Winter Weather in Central US

30-Year Trend in February Temperature During 1992-2021 Period



30-Year Trend in Dec-Feb Temperature During 1992-2021 Period



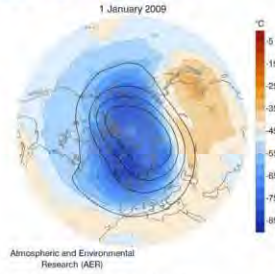
@climatologist49





## Arctic Oscillation (AO)/Polar Vortex

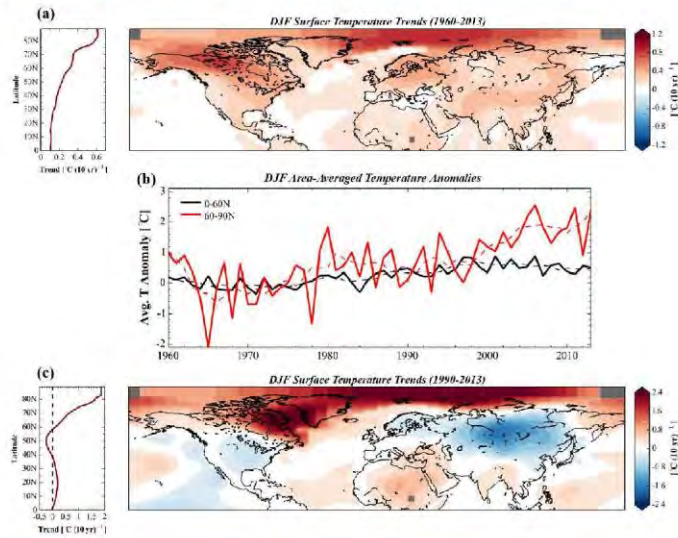
- Dominant mode of Northern Hemisphere climate variability. Also known as the North Atlantic Oscillation.
- Can be thought of as a metric of how much mixing of air masses is occurring in the atmosphere.
- Positive AO/strong polar vortex – little mixing with strong low pressure/cold air sitting over the pole and higher pressure/warmer air to the south.
- Negative AO/weak polar vortex – strong mixing causes warm air from the south to rush the Pole and Arctic air spills equatorward



## ARCTIC AMPLIFICATION

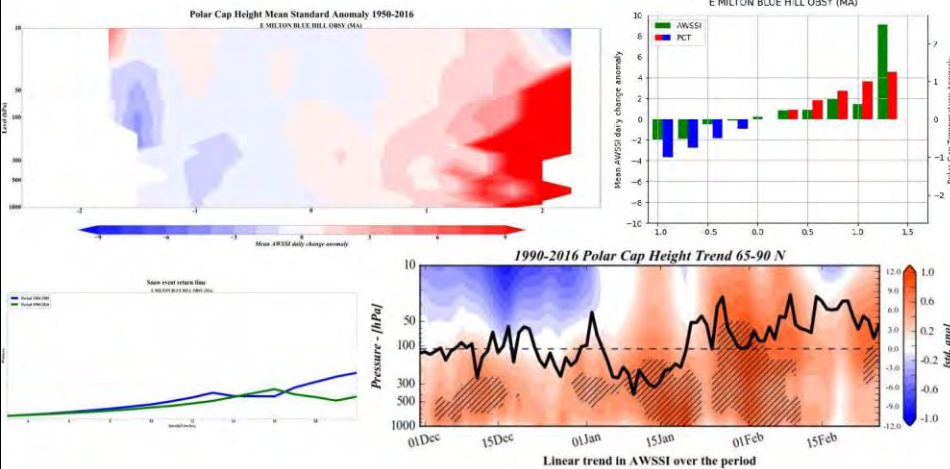


# Arctic Amplification



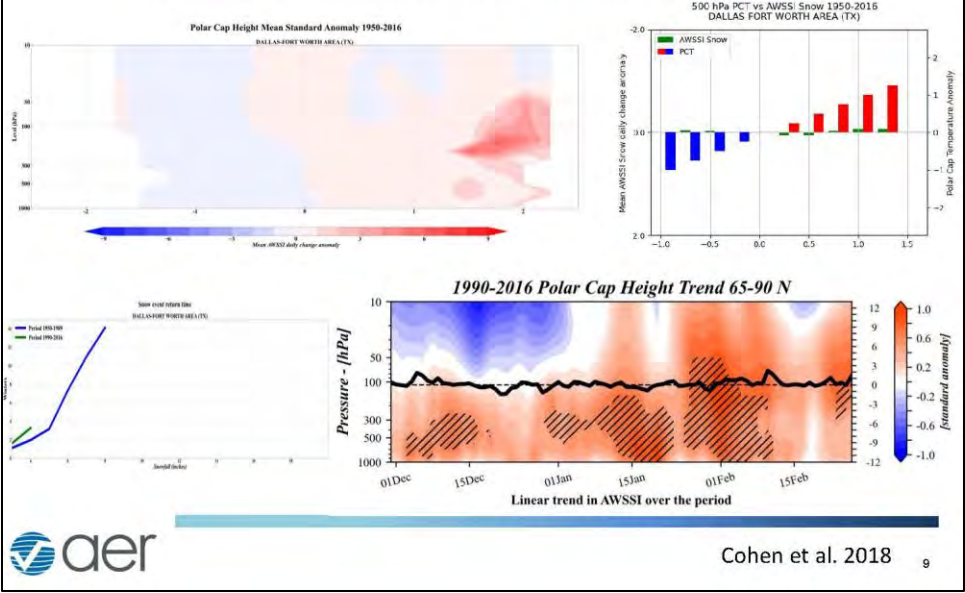
Cohen et al. 2014 Review paper

# A Warmer Arctic is Related to Increased Severe Winter Weather in Boston



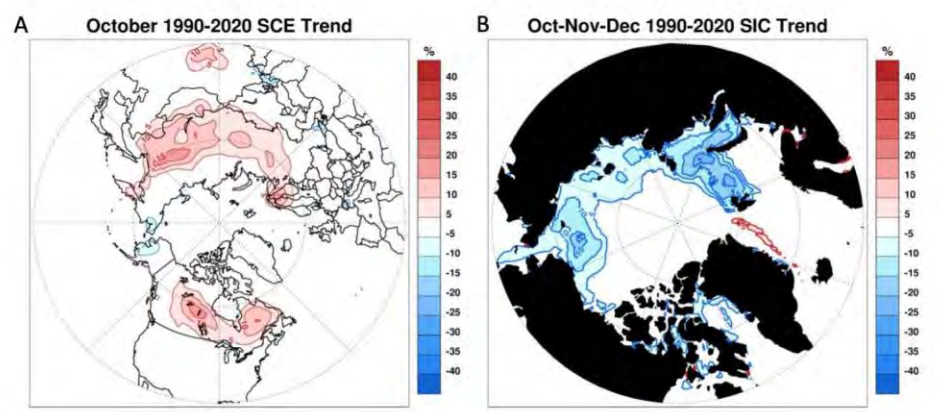
Cohen et al. 2018

# A Warmer Arctic is Related to Increased Severe Winter Weather in Dallas

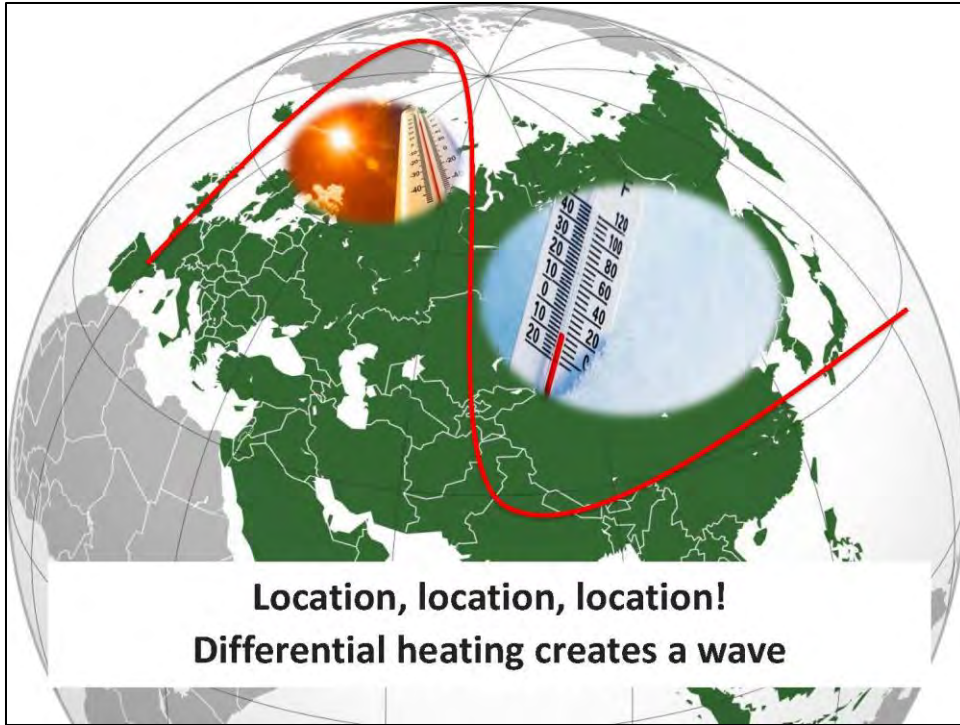


Cohen et al. 2018

# Snow and Sea Ice Trends during Era of Arctic Amplification



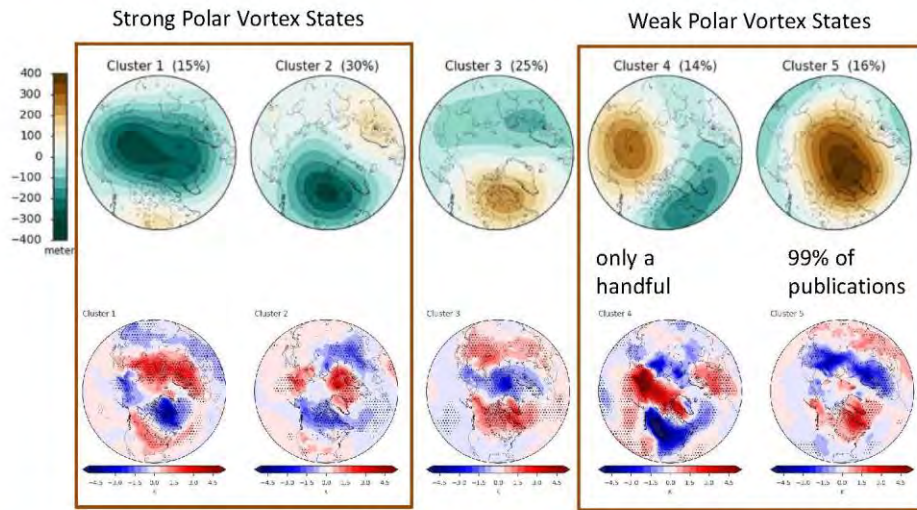




**Location, location, location!  
Differential heating creates a wave**

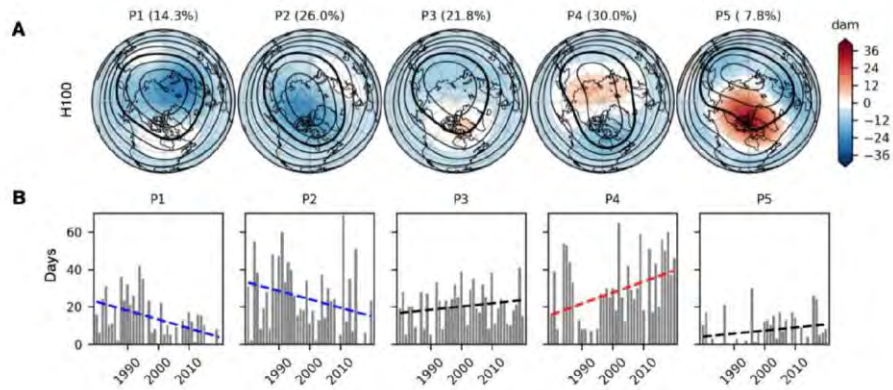
## **STRETCHED POLAR VORTEX**

# Cluster Analysis of Polar Vortex and Trends



Kretschmer et al (2018)

# Trends of five clusters over reanalysis



Cluster 4 i.e., stretched polar vortex shows strongest increasing trend



Cohen et al (2021)

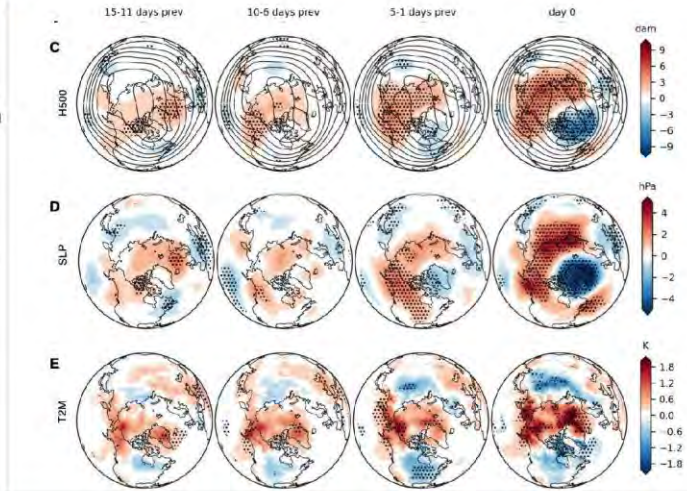
14

# Precursors

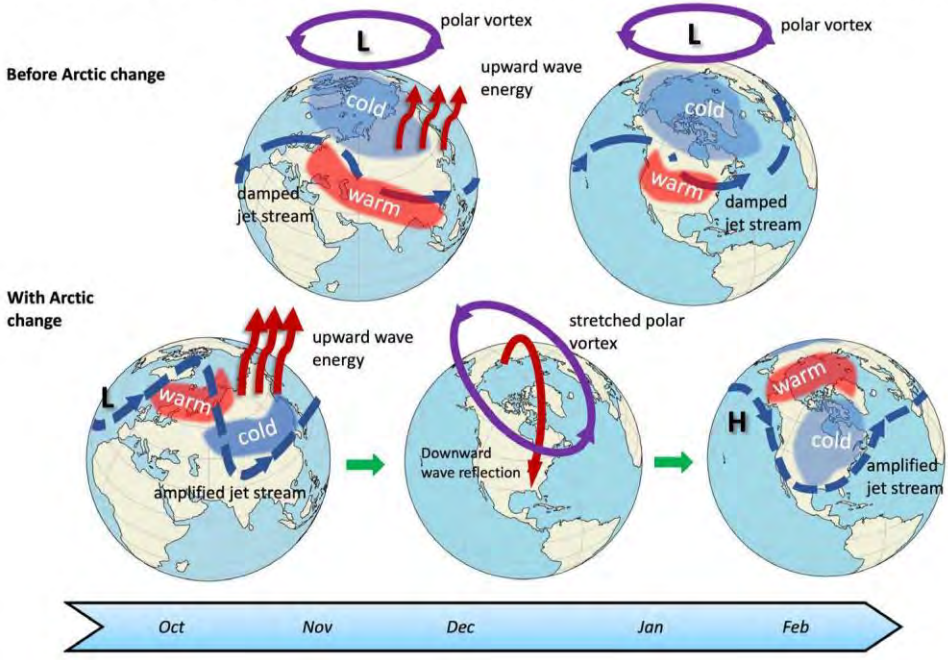
Ridging across the Arctic  
Troughing across East Asia

High pressure across the Arctic

Warm across the Arctic  
Cold across Asia then  
North America



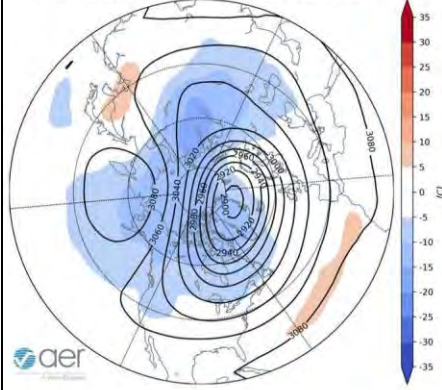
Late fall to early-winter Arctic amplification amplifies the natural standing wave over Eurasia, which leads to mid- to late-winter wave amplification over North America. Wave amplification on both continents favors extreme winter weather.



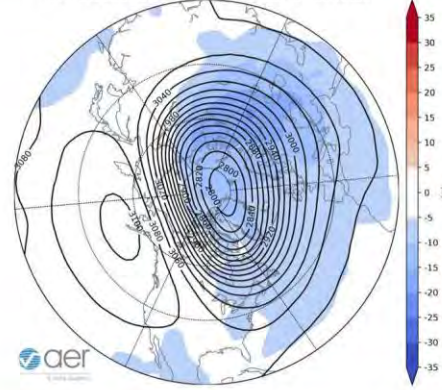


# Stretched polar vortices 2021 and 2022

GEFS 1-5 Day Forecast 10 mb GPH & T Anomaly  
INIT: 00Z 02/08/2021 FCST: 02/09/2021 to 02/13/2021



GEFS 1-5 Day Forecast 10 mb GPH & T Anomaly  
INIT: 00Z 01/25/2022 FCST: 01/26/2022 to 01/30/2022



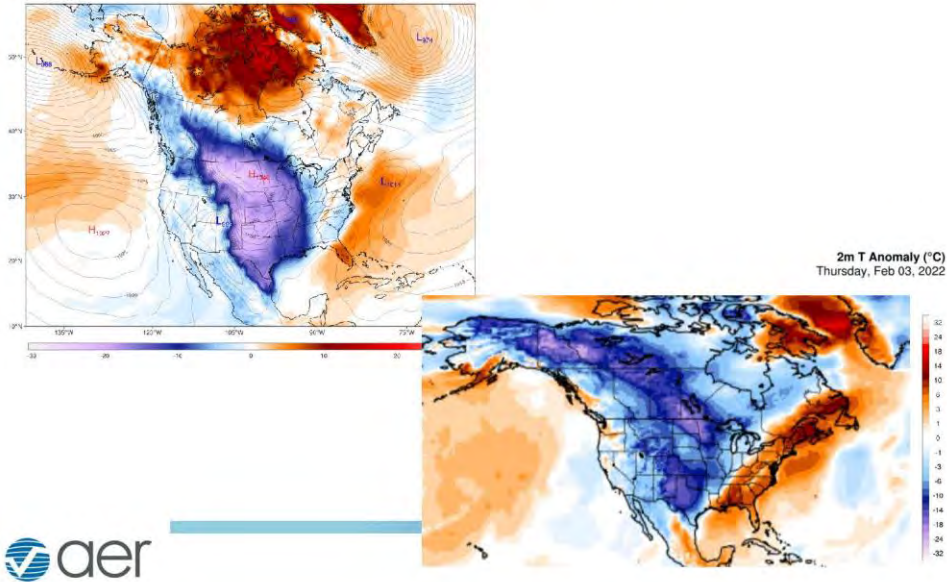
# Weather Warnings 2021 and 2022



# Temperatures 2021 and 2022

CFSv2 2m T Anomaly (°F) (1979-2020 base), MSLP (hPa)  
Sat: Feb 14, 2021

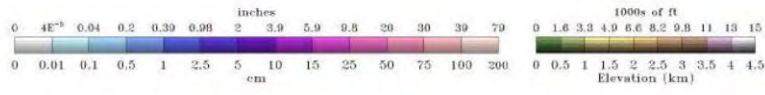
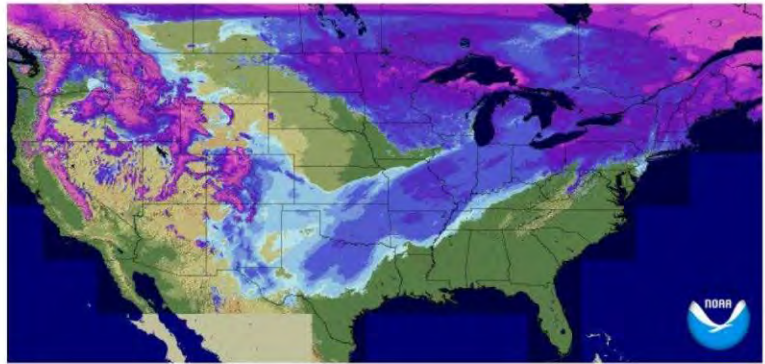
ClimateReanalyzer.org



# Record snow cover extent in 2021

Snow Water Equivalent  
2022-02-04 06 UTC

National Snow 2020-2021 Analysis 2021  
OWP OFFICE OF WATER PREDICTION





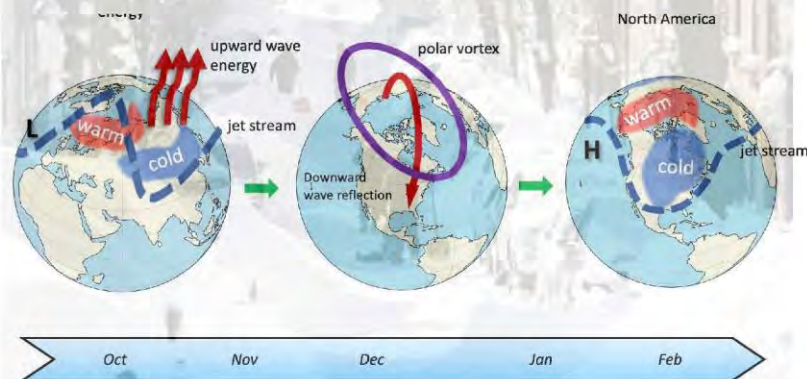
## Summary

- The globe is warming and our climate system is much warmer than even a few decades ago.
- Global warming is not equal everywhere. Over the past three decades the Arctic has been warming the fastest while the mid-latitudes have cooled/no trend (in winter).
- Studies strongly suggests that the warming in the Arctic is related to the cooling in the mid-latitudes and the dynamical link is through the “polar vortex.”
- A rather esoteric behavior of the polar vortex is related to extreme winter weather east of the Rockies including Texas where the polar vortex becomes elongated or stretched.
- Winter days where the polar vortex “stretches” have been increasing during the period of accelerated Arctic warming, which can contribute to more severe winter weather.



## SCIENCE PAPER

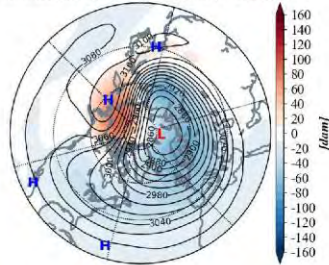
Cohen, J., L. Agel, M. Barlow, C. I. Garfinkel, I. White. 2021: Linking Arctic variability and change with extreme winter weather in the US, *Science*, 373 (6559), 1116–1121, DOI: 10.1126/science.abi9167.



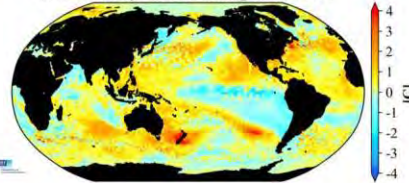


# Arctic Oscillation/Polar Vortex Blog

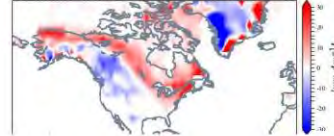
Initialized 00Z 10 hPa HGT/HGTa 07-Dec-2017



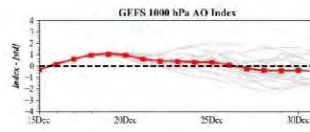
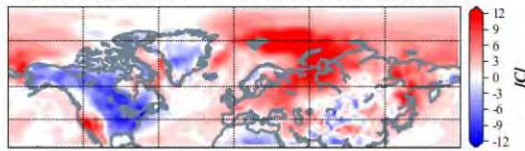
SST Anomaly - Week Ending 10 Dec 2017



GEFS 1-5 Day Forecast Mean 24-hour Snow Depth Change  
INIT: 00Z 12/08/17 FCST: 12/09/17 to 12/13/17



GEFS 6-10 Day Forecast T2m Anomaly  
INIT: 00Z 12/23/17 FCST: 12/29/17 to 01/02/18



<http://www.aer.com/science-research/climate-weather/arctic-oscillation>

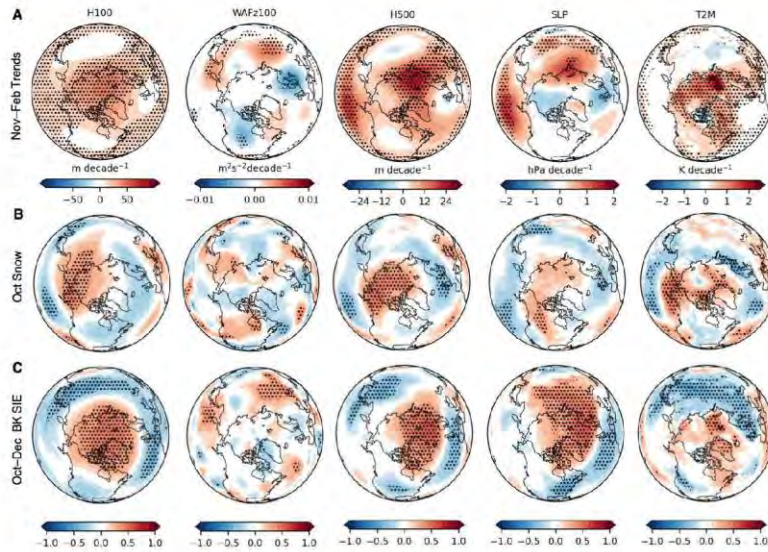
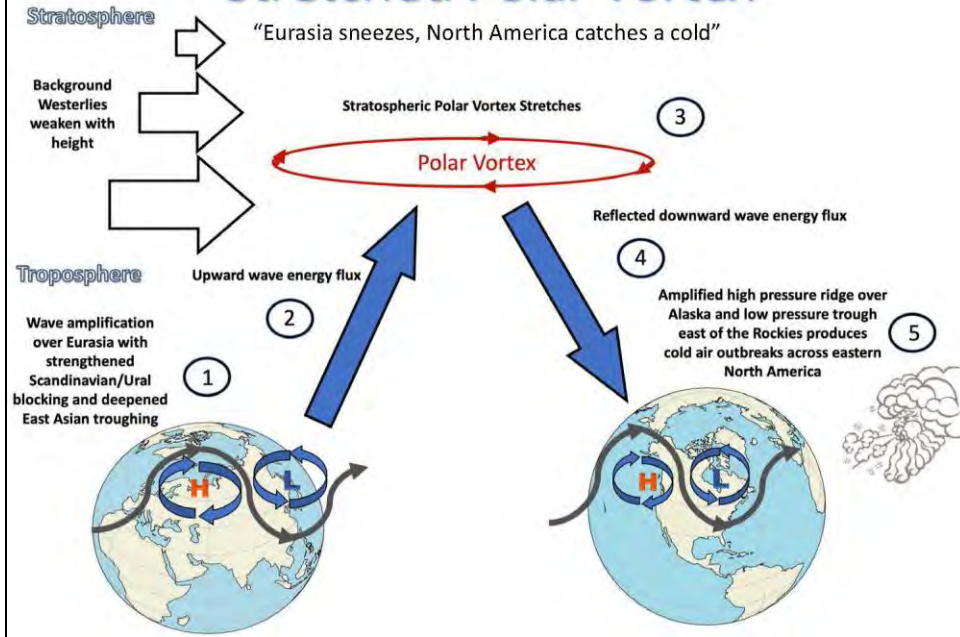
23

- Cohen, J., M. Barlow, P. Kushner, and K. Saito, 2007: Stratosphere-Troposphere coupling and links with Eurasian Land-Surface Variability, *J. Climate*, 20, 5335–5343.
- Cohen, J., J. Furtado, J. Jones, M. Barlow, D. Whittleston and D. Entekhabi 2014: Linking Siberian snow cover to Precursors of stratospheric variability. *J. Clim.*, 27, 5422-5432.
- Cohen, J. and co-authors, 2014: Recent Arctic amplification and extreme mid-latitude weather. *Nature Geosci.*, 7, 627-637, doi:10.1038/ngeo2234.
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Thank you!

# Stretched Polar Vortex





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## Conclusions

- Subseasonal timeframe (2-6 weeks) has exhibited the poorest forecast skill from days to months.
- Land surface influence may just be the sweet spot to provide a signal in the subseasonal timeframe and if the response is long-lived then also in the seasonal timeframe.
- Demonstrated snow cover extent pathway through troposphere-stratosphere coupling make it ideal for subseasonal prediction.
- But challenges remain on the observations snow-AO relationship has decreased over the past decade.
- Models have a difficult time simulating a snow-AO/polar vortex relationship especially free running simulations.
- Still our recent study both observational and modeling (snow forced) confirm snow-polar vortex relationship but not in the traditional SSW-AO pathway but rather a stretched polar vortex-North Pacific Oscillation pathway.



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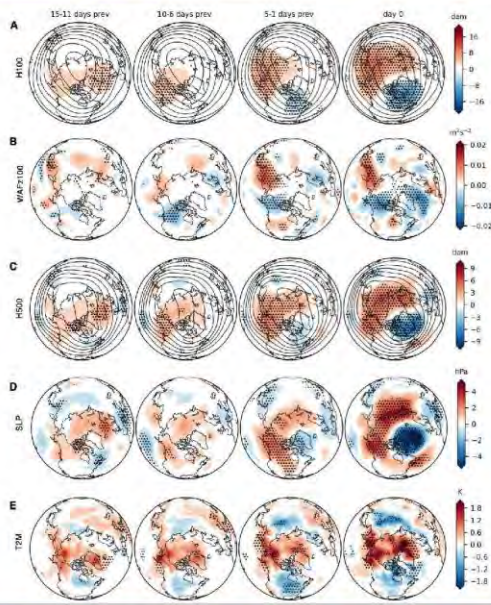
## Outline

- A statistically significant correlation exists between fall Eurasian snow cover extent (SCE) and the dominant mode of Northern Hemisphere (NH) winter climate variability (AO/NAM).
- How SCE influences winter climate can be explained by a six-step process.
- There are challenges though, including most model ensembles and a failing observed AO-SCE relationship.
- However recent studies confirm a snow-troposphere-stratosphere connection but may be independent of the AO.
- That SCE anomalies is a precursor to polar vortex behavior and eventual severe winter weather makes it useful for seasonal to subseasonal prediction.

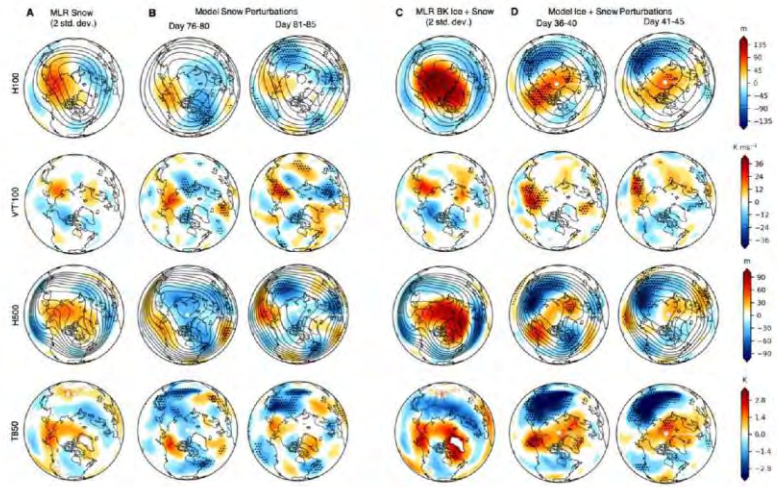




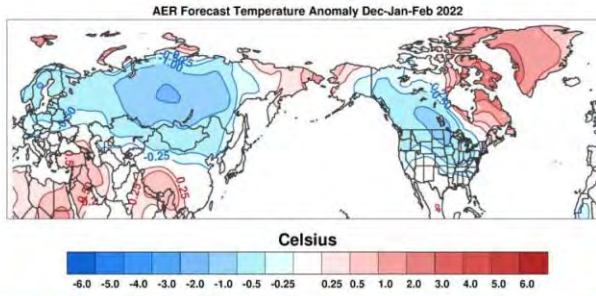
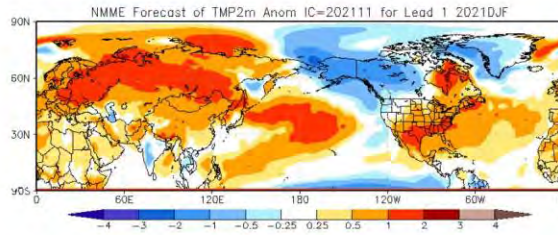
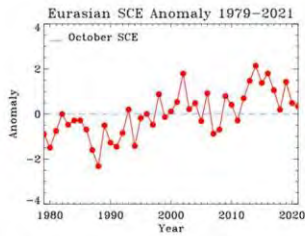
# Precursors



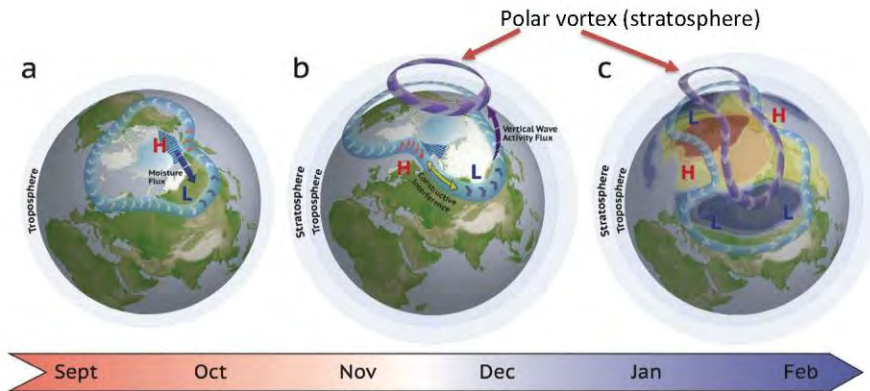
# Observational and modeling support



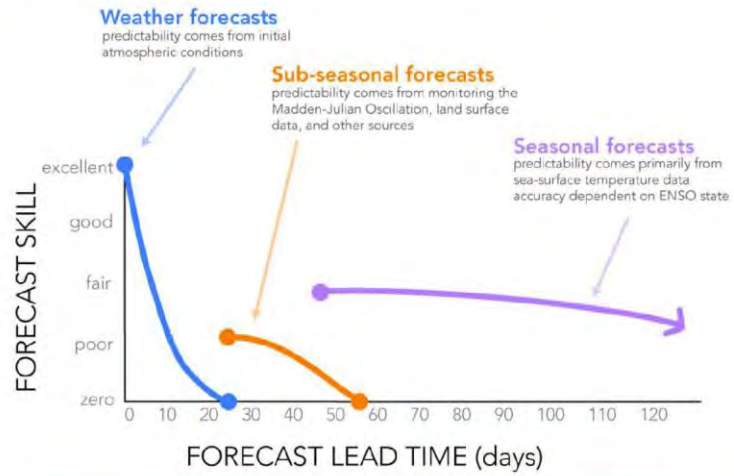
# Winter Temperature Forecast



# How Accelerated Arctic Warming Impact the Polar Vortex



**“It is hard to make predictions, especially about the future.” (Yogi Berra, Niels Bohr)**



IRI



### **3.3.3 Presentation 1C-3: 2021 U.S. Billion Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters in Historical Context including New County-Level Exposure, Vulnerability and Projected Damage Mapping**

Authors: *Adam Smith, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Centers for Environmental Information (NOAA/NCEI)*

Speaker: *Adam Smith*

#### **3.3.3.1 Abstract**

NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) released the final update to its 2021 billion-dollar disaster report ([www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions)), confirming what much of the nation experienced throughout 2021: another year of frequent and costly extremes. The year came in second to 2020 in terms of number of disasters (20 versus 22) and third in total costs (behind 2017 and 2005), with a price tag of \$145 billion. The events included: 1 winter storm/cold wave event (focused across the deep south and Texas); 1 wildfire event (combined impacts of wildfires across Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington); 1 drought and heat wave event (summer/fall across western U.S.); 2 flood events (in California and Louisiana); 3 tornado outbreaks (including the December tornado outbreaks); 4 tropical cyclones (Elsa, Fred, Ida and Nicholas); and 8 severe weather events (across many parts of the country, including the December Midwest derecho). The costliest 2021 events were Hurricane Ida (\$75 billion), the mid-February Winter Storm / Cold Wave (\$24.0 billion), and the Western wildfires (\$10.9 billion). Adding the 2021 events to the record that began in 1980, the U.S. has sustained 310 weather and climate disasters where the overall damage costs reached or exceeded \$1 billion. The cumulative cost for these 310 events exceeds \$2.15 trillion. In broader context, the total cost of U.S. billion-dollar disasters over the last 5 years (2017-2021) is \$742.1 billion, with a 5-year annual cost average of \$148.4 billion, both of which are new records and nearly triple the 42-year inflation adjusted annual average cost. The U.S. billion-dollar disaster damage costs over the last 10-years (2012-2021) were also historically large: at least \$1.0 trillion from 142 separate billion-dollar events. It is concerning that 2021 was another year in a series of years where we had a high frequency, a high cost, and large diversity of extreme events that affect people's lives and livelihoods—concerning because it hints that the extremely high activity of recent years is becoming the new normal. 2021 marks the seventh consecutive year (2015-21) in which 10 or more separate billion-dollar disaster events have impacted the U.S. The 1980–2021 annual average (black line) is 7.4 events (CPI-adjusted); the annual average for the most recent 5 years (2017–2021) is 17.2 events (CPI-adjusted). To better reflect multi-hazard risk – the Billion-dollar disaster site now provides a new mapping tool that provides county-level information on natural disaster hazards across the United States. This interactive NOAA mapping tool provides detailed information on a location's susceptibility to weather and climate hazards that can lead to billion-dollar disasters—such as wildfires, floods, drought and heat waves, tornado outbreaks, and hurricanes. The tool expands upon FEMA's National Risk Index to provide a view of a location's risk for, and vulnerability to, single or multiple combinations of weather and climate hazards for every county and county-equivalent in all 50 states: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/mapping> In addition, the 2021 annual U.S. billion-dollar disaster report is available here: <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/beyond-data/2021-us-billion-dollar-weather-and-climate-disasters-historical>



## 2021 U.S. Billion-dollar Weather & Climate Disasters – New country hazard risk and vulnerability mapping expanding FEMA’s NRI

Better understanding U.S. disaster costs, hazard risk and resilience over space and time – integrating new county-level hazard risk mapping

Adam B. Smith, Applied Climatologist  
NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)  
Climate Science and Services Division

February 2022

## U.S Billion-dollar Weather and Climate Disasters

Outline:

- Context for Measuring Disaster Impact
- Data Sources / What we are Measuring
- 2021 U.S. Disasters in Review
- Historical Cost Comparisons, Maps, Tools
- County Multi-hazard Risk Mapping




U.S. Billion-dollar Weather and Climate Disasters – 2021 in Context // 2





## NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) – Climate Science and Service Division



Statutory mission to describe the climate of the United States and act as the "Nation's Scorekeeper" regarding the trends and anomalies of weather and climate.

- As part of this responsibility we also analyze extreme weather and climate events in the U.S. that have **great economic and societal impacts** known as **"U.S. Billion-dollar Weather & Climate Disasters"**
- NCEI's [U.S. billion-dollar disaster analysis](#) seeks to bring the best public and private disaster loss data together in a systematic approach. To that end, we maintain a consistent record of weather and climate disasters with costs equaling or exceeding \$1 billion in damages (adjusting for inflation) using high-quality data sources and peer-reviewed methods.
- **Period of record: 1980-2021 (Quarterly updates)**
- The U.S. has sustained **310** separate weather and climate disasters since 1980 where overall damages/costs reached or exceeded \$1 billion.
- **Total, direct costs exceed \$2.15 trillion (CPI-adjusted to 2021).**

U.S. Billion-dollar Weather and Climate Disasters – 2021 in Context // 3



## To capture losses requires a broad array of **public** and **private** data

	Hurricanes/ Tropical Storms	Severe Local Storms	Winter Storms	Crop Freeze	Wildfire	Drought / Heat Wave	Inland / Riverine Flooding
Insurance Service Office - Property Claim Services	x	x	x		x		x
FEMA – Presidential Disaster Declarations	x	x	x	x	x		x
FEMA – National Flood Insurance Program	x						x
USDA – Risk Management Agency	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
National Interagency Fire Center					x		
Energy Information Administration	x	x	x		x	x	
US Army Corps of Engineers							x
State Agencies	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Account for total, direct losses (i.e., **insured** and **uninsured**) for assets including:

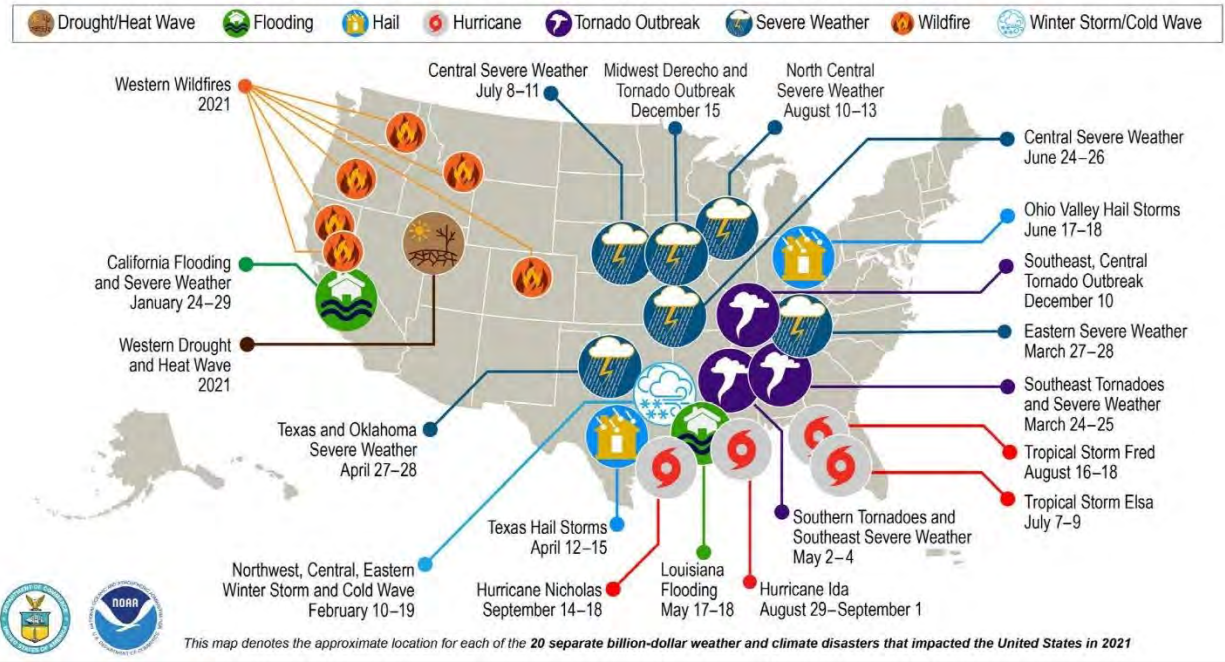
- **physical damage** to residential, commercial, and government buildings
- **material assets** (content) within a building
- **time element losses** (i.e., time costs for businesses; hotel costs for loss of living quarters)
- **vehicles, boats, offshore energy platforms**
- **public infrastructure** (i.e., roads, bridges, levees, buildings)
- **Agricultural / forestry assets** (i.e., crops, livestock, commercial timber, wildfire fighting)

We do not account for:

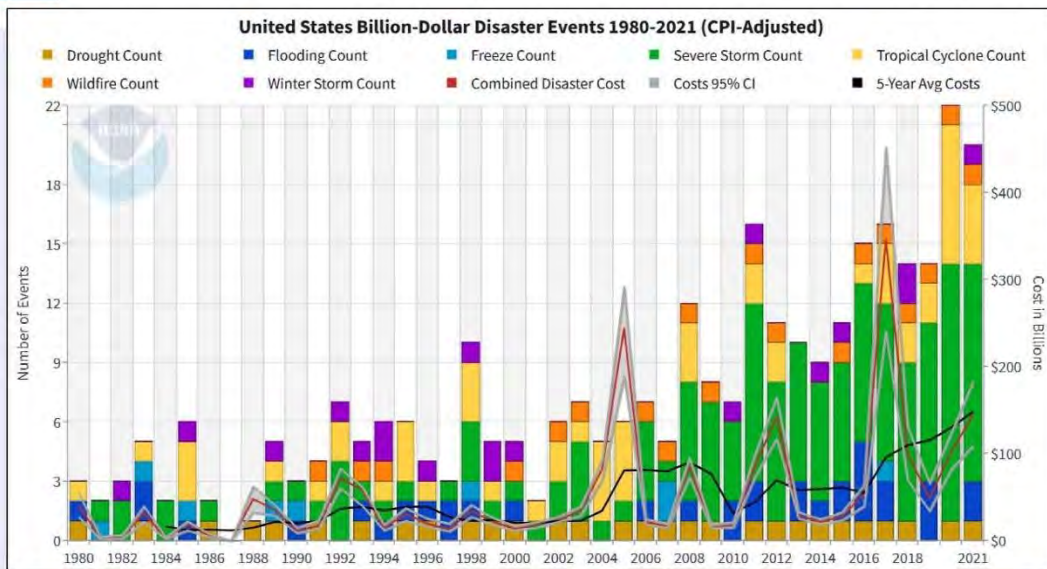
- natural capital/envn. degradation;
- mental or physical healthcare-related costs;
- all downstream (indirect) costs



## U.S. 2021 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters



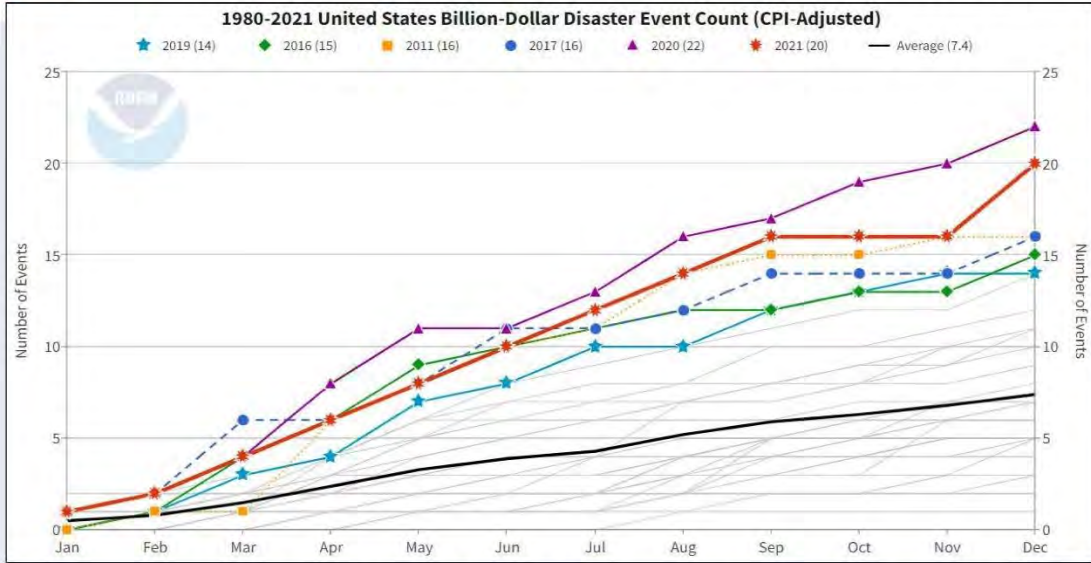
## U.S. Billion-dollar event frequency, annual cost, 5-year cost average (1980–2021)



- Western wildfires, severe storms, inland flooding and hurricane costs all on the rise
- **5-year annual cost average >\$148.4 billion - a record; costs over 5 years (2017-2021) \$742 billion - a record**



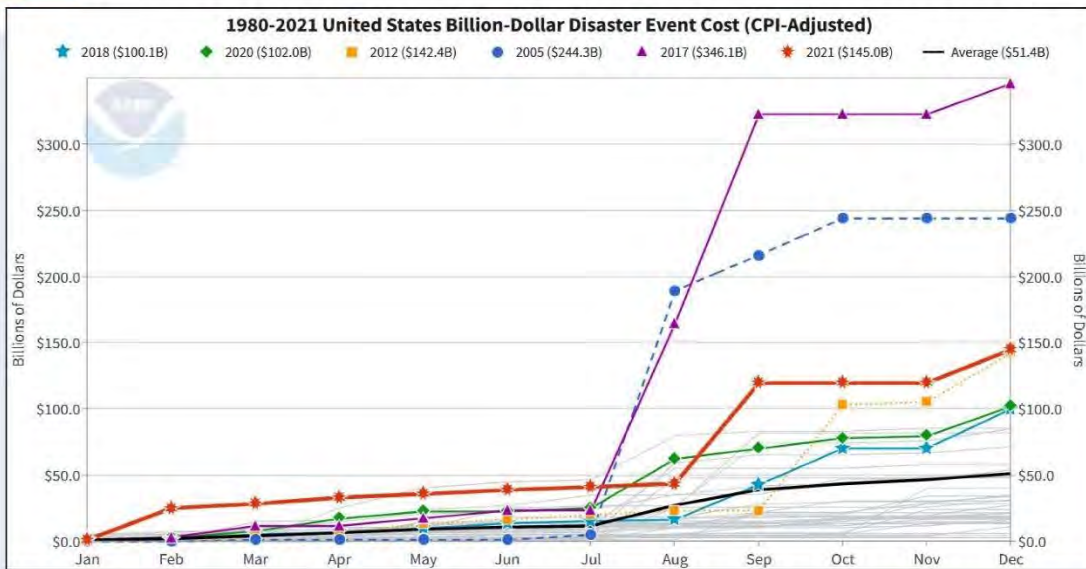
### Cumulative U.S. billion-dollar disaster frequency (year-to-date) for years 1980-2021



- 1980 – 2021 annual average: **7.4 events** (CPI-adjusted). **2017–2021 5-year average: 17.2 events** (CPI-adjusted)
- **2021 - 20 events** [11 severe storm events, 4 tropical cyclones, 2 floods, 1 winter storm, drought & wildfire]

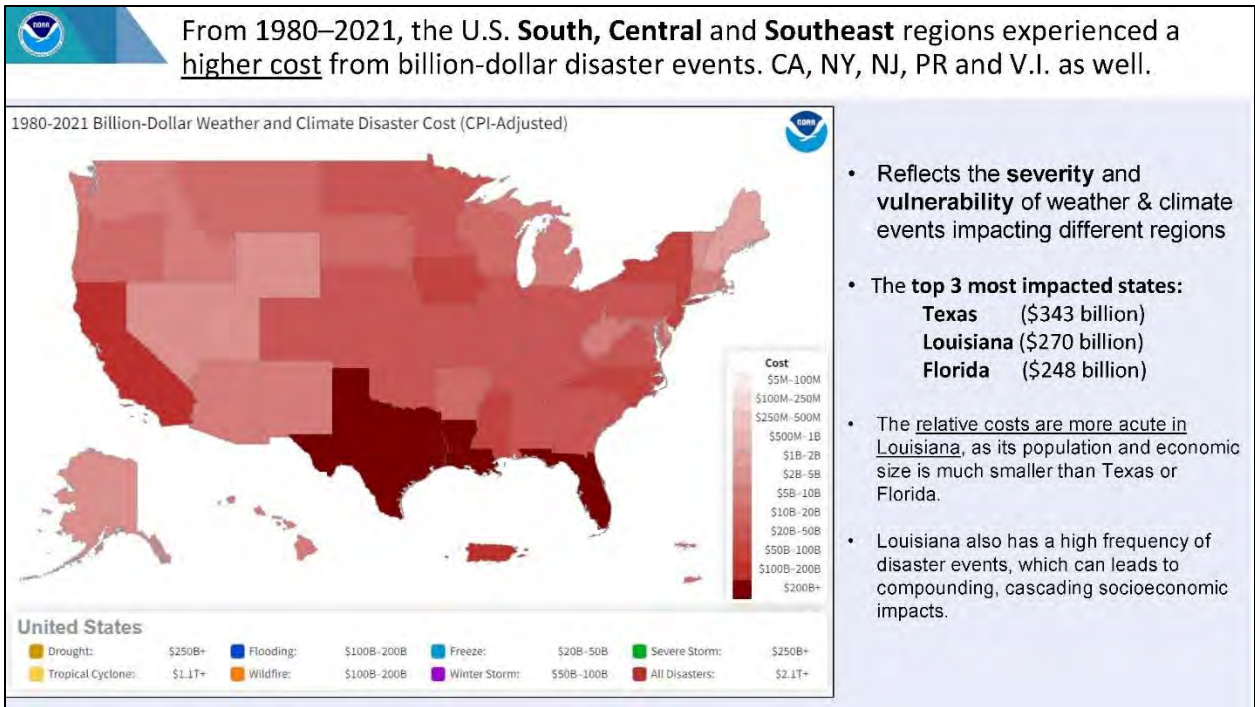
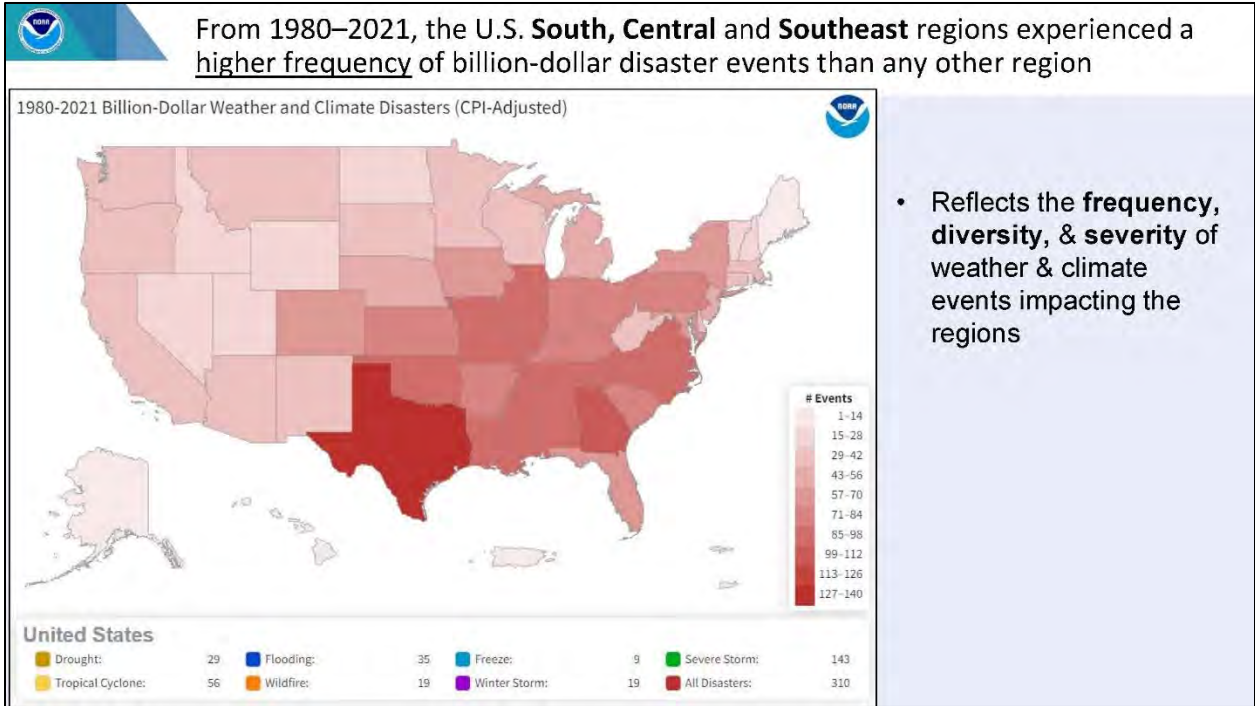


### Cumulative U.S. billion-dollar disaster cost (year-to-date) for years 1980-2021



- **2021 cost total (\$145.0 billion – 3<sup>rd</sup> highest)** vs. the 42-year period of record at **\$51.4 billion**
- The **top 3 most costly years** for U.S. - **2017** (\$346.1 billion); **2005** (\$244.3 billion); **2021** (\$145.0 billion)







From 1980-2021, the U.S. has experienced **310** distinct billion-dollar weather & climate events - each causing at least \$1 billion in direct losses

- **Total, direct losses** from these **310 events** exceeds **\$2.15 trillion** (CPI-adjusted, 2021)

Disaster Type	Events	Events/Year	Percent Frequency	Total Costs	Percent of Total Costs	Cost/Event	Cost/Year	Deaths	Deaths/Year
Drought	29	0.7	9.4%	\$285.4B	13.2%	\$9.8B	\$6.8B	4,139 <sup>†</sup>	99 <sup>†</sup>
Flooding	35	0.8	11.3%	\$164.2B	7.6%	\$4.7B	\$3.9B	624	15
Freeze	9	0.2	2.9%	\$32.8B	1.5%	\$3.6B	\$0.8B	162	4
Severe Storm	143	3.4	46.1%	\$330.7B	15.3%	\$2.3B	\$7.9B	1,880	45
Tropical Cyclone	56	1.3	18.1%	\$1,148.0B	53.2%	\$20.5B	\$27.3B	6,697	159
Wildfire	19	0.5	6.1%	\$120.2B	5.6%	\$6.3B	\$2.9B	401	10
Winter Storm	19	0.5	6.1%	\$78.6B	3.6%	\$4.1B	\$1.9B	1,277	30
<b>All Disasters</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$2,159.9B</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$7.0B</b>	<b>\$51.4B</b>	<b>15,180</b>	<b>361</b>

<sup>†</sup>Deaths associated with drought are the result of heat waves. (Not all droughts are accompanied by extreme heat waves.)

Flooding events (river basin or urban flooding from excessive rainfall) are separate from inland flood damage caused by tropical cyclone events.

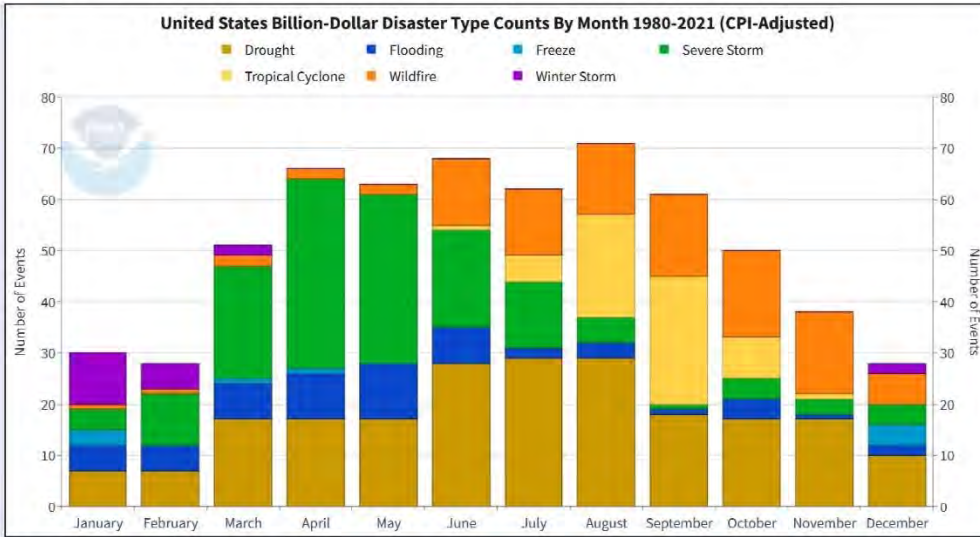
### Comparison of U.S. Billion-dollar disaster stats over time

Time Period	Billion-Dollar Disasters	Events/Year	Cost	Percent of Total Cost	Cost/Year	Deaths	Deaths/Year
1980s (1980-1989)	29	2.9	\$190.2B	8.8%	\$19.0B	2,870	287
1990s (1990-1999)	53	5.3	\$293.0B	13.6%	\$29.3B	3,045	305
2000s (2000-2009)	63	6.3	\$556.8B	25.8%	\$55.7B	3,091	309
2010s (2010-2019)	123	12.3	\$872.9B	40.4%	\$87.3B	5,224	522
Last 5 Years (2017-2021)	86	17.2	\$742.1B	34.4%	\$148.4B	4,519	904
Last 3 Years (2019-2021)	56	18.7	\$295.9B	13.7%	\$98.6B	994	331
Last Year (2021)	20	20.0	\$145.0B	6.7%	\$145.0B	688	688
<b>All Years (1980-2021)</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>\$2,159.9B</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$51.4B</b>	<b>15,180</b>	<b>361</b>

The number and cost of disasters are increasing over time due to a combination of increased [exposure](#) (i.e., values at risk of possible loss), [vulnerability](#) (i.e., where we build; how we build) and that climate change is increasing the frequency of some types of extremes that lead to billion-dollar disasters ([NCA 2018, Chapter 2](#))



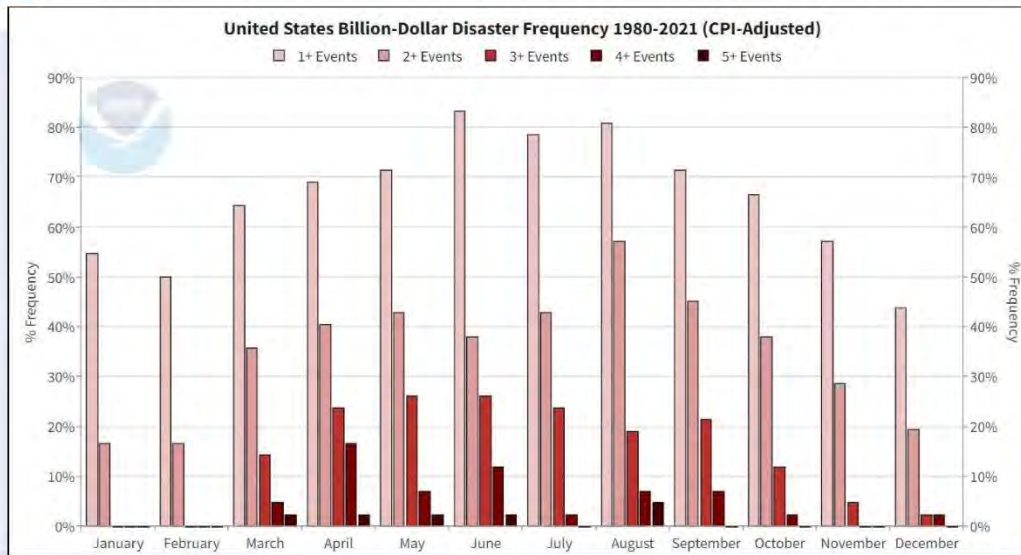
**Severe storm and inland flooding events frequent during Spring and Summer  
Wildfires and hurricanes most frequent during Fall months.**



- Visualizing the 42-year **frequency of climatology of extreme**, damaging events across the Nation.
- A way for decision-makers to understand which types of large events typically occur at what times of year, by region.



**Historic record for multiple, billion-dollar events, by month**

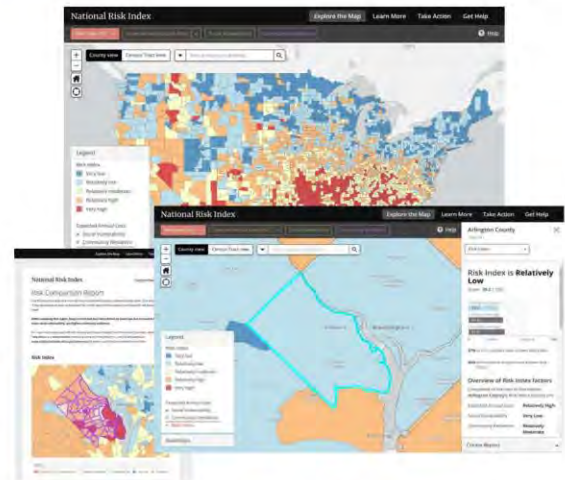


As noted in the [Climate Science Special Report](#) of the *Fourth National Climate Assessment*, "The physical and socioeconomic impacts of compound extreme events (such as simultaneous heat and drought, wildfires associated with hot and dry conditions, or flooding associated with high precipitation on top of snow or waterlogged ground) can be greater than the sum of the parts."



## New: Integration & expansion of FEMA National Risk Index within the Billion-dollar disasters platform

- A strategy for reducing cost and eliminating inconsistent risk assessments in planning
- Identifies areas that offer high return on mitigation investment
- Reduces the cost of risk assessment allowing community planners to prioritize action
- Provides pre-calculated, top-down national baseline risk assessment



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## Multi-hazard county weather and climate risk mapping

- NCEI worked with & expanded upon FEMA's NRI to enhance the NOAA Billion-dollar disaster website producing **127 new, interactive U.S. county hazard risk maps** for any combination of county-level hazard risk for:  
hurricanes, severe storms (tornado, hail, damaging winds), inland/urban flooding, drought/heat wave, wildfire, winter storms and freeze/cold wave events.
- Importantly, these maps offer more granular information in relation to **exposure, vulnerability and resilience** to weather & climate hazards, at a county scale.
- These new hazard combination maps are useful as we see more focus on **cascading hazard impacts**  
**For example:** drought-enhanced wildfires produce mountain-side burn scars, which often enhance debris flows from flooding. This is a compound hazard with cascading impacts that we see in California.



# Calculating Risk

**Risk = Expected Annual Loss x Social Vulnerability ÷ Community Resilience**

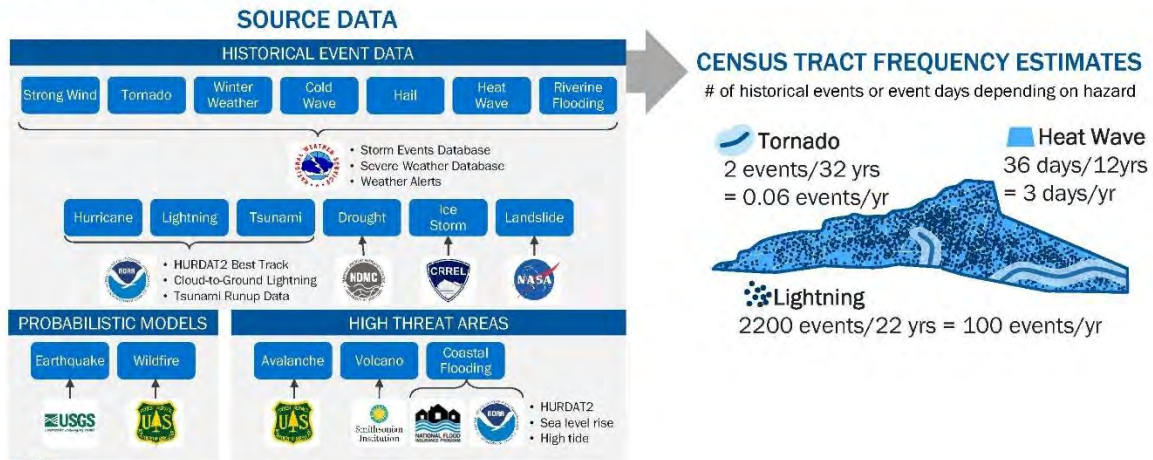
where **Expected Annual Loss (EAL) =**



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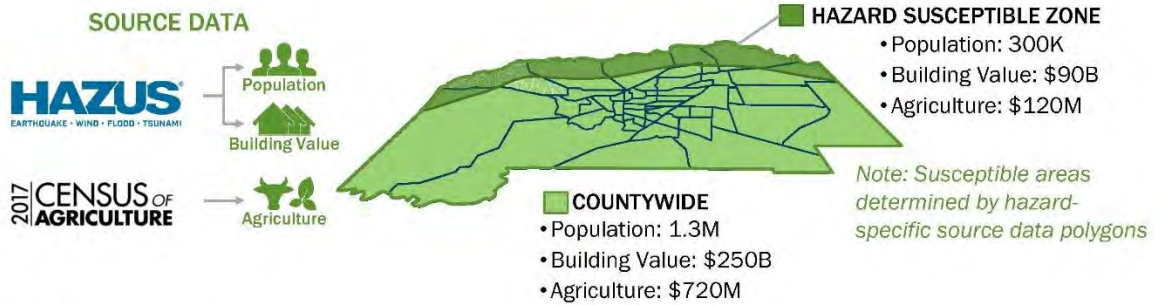
# Estimating Annualized Frequency: Rate of hazard occurrence



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# Establishing Hazard Exposure: People/property/ag at risk

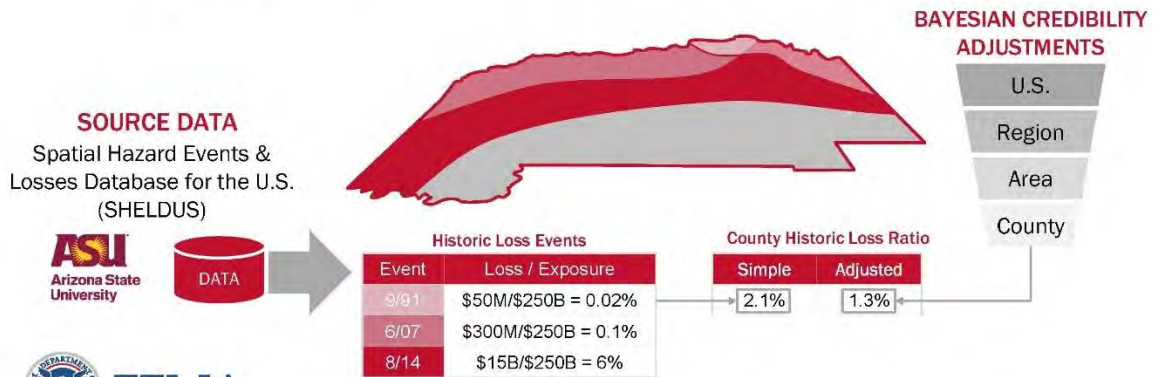
Many hazards impact the entire county/census tract while some are limited to susceptible zones



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# Characterizing Historic Loss Ratios: % of exposure lost in historic events

To address variance & lack of enough events for statistical significance, **county ratios are calculating using Bayesian adjustments informed by averages from multiple geographic levels**



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# Social Vulnerability and Community Resilience

## Social Vulnerability Index: SoVI 2010-2014

- Grouped into 7 components with 29 variables (SoVI 2010):
  - Race and class (7 variables), Wealth (5 variables), Elderly residents (6 variables), Hispanic ethnicity (5 variables), Special needs individuals (2 variables), Native American ethnicity (1 variable), and Service industry employment (2 variables)
- Comparative index at the county & census tract levels
- Positive and negative component loading

## Baseline Resilience Indicators for Communities: BRIC 2010-2014

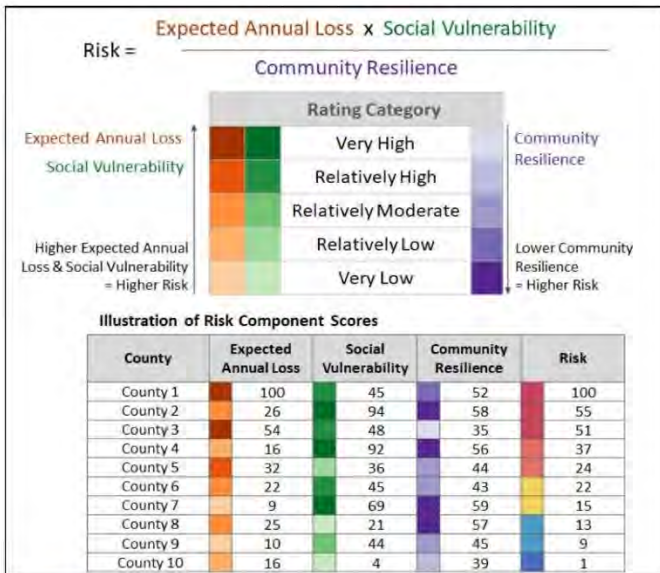
- 6 resilience category scores, plus total score
  - Social, Economic, Community Capital, Institutional, Infrastructural, Environmental
- Comparative indicators at the county level
- Indicators analyze the relationship between resilience, vulnerability, and the relative impact of disasters on rural and urban places

FEMA NRI's "Social Vulnerability and Community Resilience Working Group reviewed multiple top-down and bottom-up indices and chose to recommend the University of South Carolina's Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute (HVRI) Social Vulnerability Index (SoVI)."



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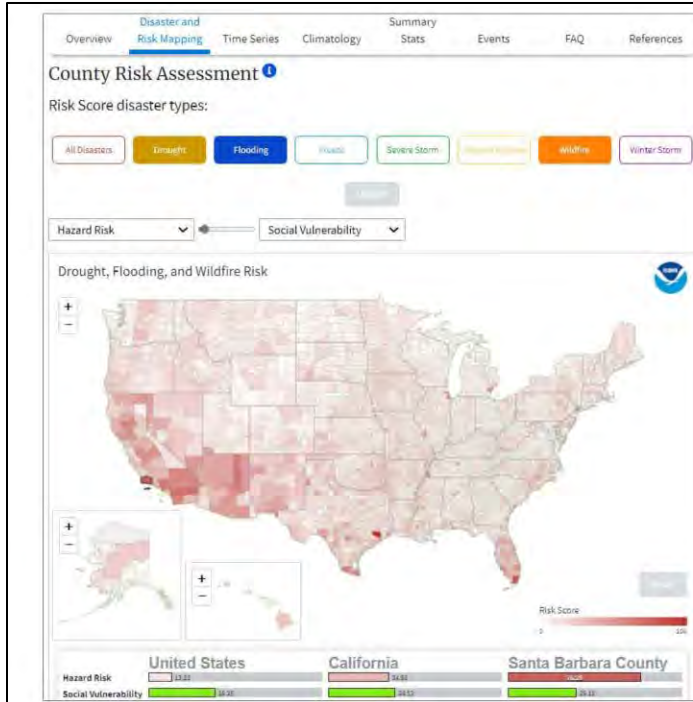
All scores are constrained to a range of 0 (lowest possible value) to 100 (highest possible value). To achieve this range, **the values of each component are rescaled using min-max normalization, which preserves their distribution** while making them easier to understand. EAL values are heavily skewed by an extreme range of population and building value densities between urban and rural communities. **To account for this, a cube root transformation is applied before min-max normalization.**

By applying cube root transformation, the National Risk Index controls for this characteristic and provides scores with greater differentiation and usefulness. If the minimum value of the EAL is a nonzero number before normalization, an artificial minimum is set to 99% of that value so that communities expected to experience loss do not receive a 0 EAL score



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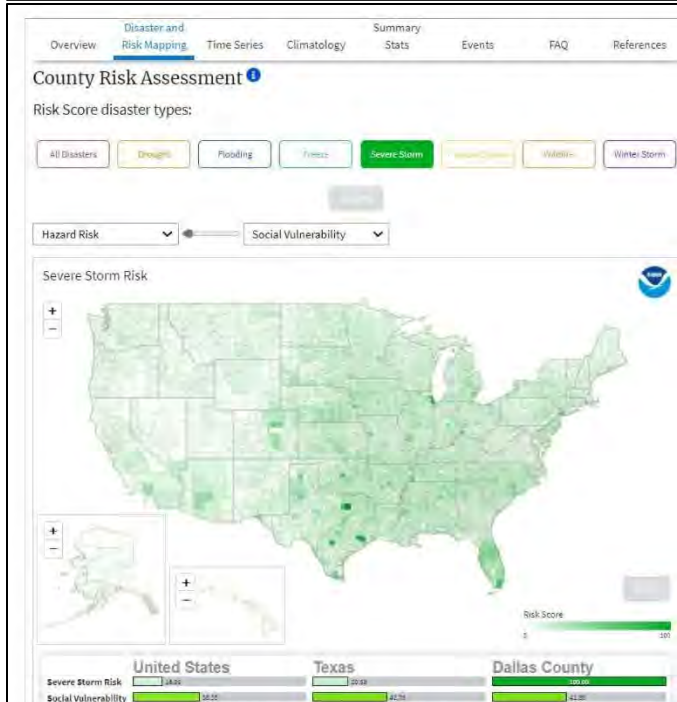


### Compound hazard county risk (Drought, Wildfire and Flooding)

Each region faces **unique hazard combinations, which are useful in a new era of more likely cascading hazard impacts** (i.e., drought-enhanced wildfires produce mountain-side burn scars, which often enhance debris flows from flooding).

As noted in National Climate Assessment (2017) "the physical and socioeconomic impacts of compound extreme events (such as simultaneous heat and drought, wildfires associated with hot and dry conditions, or flooding associated with high precipitation on top of snow or waterlogged ground) can be greater than the sum of the parts."

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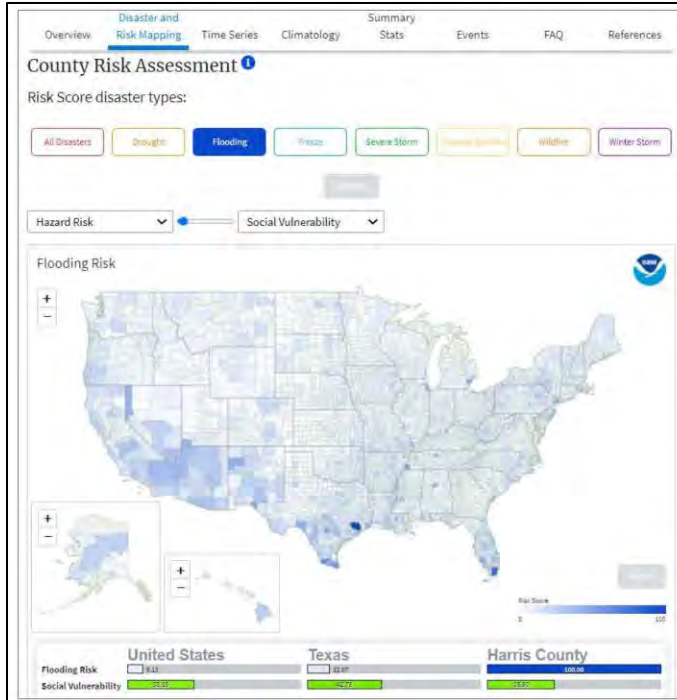


This map provides county risk scores for combined **severe storm events (i.e., tornado, hail, high wind damage)** reflecting a county's annualized hazard frequency; its potential hazard cost related to building value, crop value and population exposure; and its social vulnerability and resilience to recover from hazard impacts based on dozens of socioeconomic variables.

The map highlights that **Dallas County, Texas has a very high score for severe storm risk** due to its historic frequency of being impacted by these events in addition to having a large urban population and valuable exposure, which further increases the damage potential for severe storm impacts and costs.

Dallas County's SOVI score (42.85) is also near the Texas average but is higher than the U.S. county-average score (38.35). A higher SOVI score indicates lower resilience.

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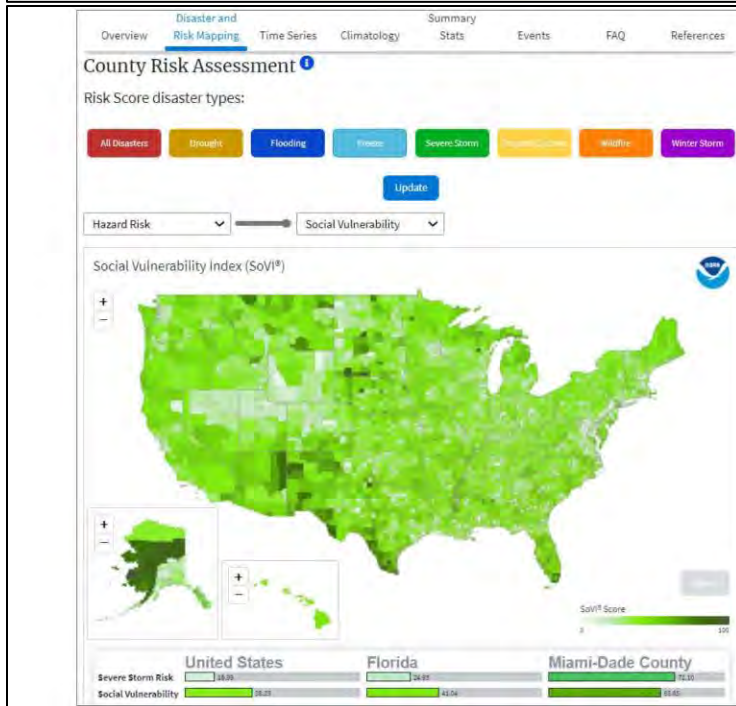


**Harris County, Texas** - home to **Houston** as America's 4th most populous city - has a very high overall risk from damaging urban flood events.

The Houston area has been **impacted by several 100-year urban flood events** since the year 2015, in addition to **Hurricane Harvey in 2017**.

Harris County's SOVI score (38.90) is **below** (more resilient) than the **Texas county SOVI score average**.

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The **new mapping interface also provides an interactive control slider** that allows users to compare county hazard risks with county-level hazard risks with county-level vulnerability "to prepare for, respond to, and recover from hazards," via the Social Vulnerability Index (SoVI).

The SoVI is a widely referenced data set that is "a location-specific assessment of social vulnerability that utilizes 29 socioeconomic variables deemed to contribute to a community's reduced ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from hazards."

**The darker colors represent counties with higher scores of socioeconomic vulnerability.** The dataset was developed by and is referenced to the University of South Carolina's Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute (HVRI).



## Harris County, TX Risk Assessment

Historic Risk	Harris County	Texas	U.S.
Drought Risk	20.36	14.32	11.61
Flooding Risk	100.00	12.97	9.13
Freeze Risk	12.05	13.09	15.72
Severe Storm Risk	94.56	20.58	16.99
Tropical Cyclone Risk	100.00	8.63	5.74
Wildfire Risk	11.81	11.28	6.30
Winter Storm Risk	65.33	15.99	13.71
Weather and Climate Combined Risk	100.00	17.19	13.25
Social Vulnerability Index (SoVI®) Score	38.90	42.76	38.35

**Harris County, Texas** - home to Houston as America's 4th most populous city - has a **very high overall risk from damaging urban flood events, severe storm and hurricane impacts.**

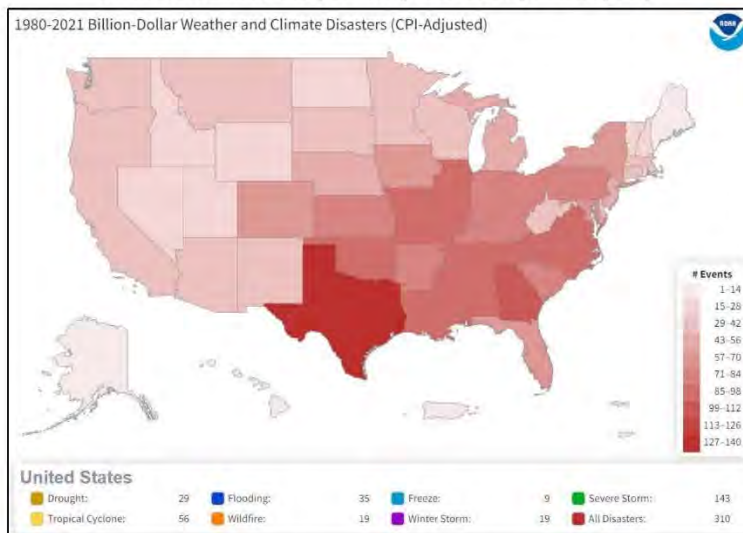
The **Houston** area has been impacted by several **100-year urban flood** events since the year **2015**, in addition to **Hurricane Harvey in 2017**.

Houston's large population and valuable infrastructure were also damaged from hazards such as the **mid-February 2021 winter storm / cold wave**, which crippled the regional power grid causing widespread damage and disruption.

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**From 1980–2021, the U.S. South, Central and Southeast regions experienced a higher frequency from billion-dollar disaster events. CA, NY, NJ, PR and V.I. as well.**

Cumulative Event Frequency (1980-2021) for each state (combined perils)



Historically, the U.S. **South, Central & Southeast regions** have experienced the highest frequency and cost from billion-dollar disaster events (see state / event maps on billion-dollar disasters).

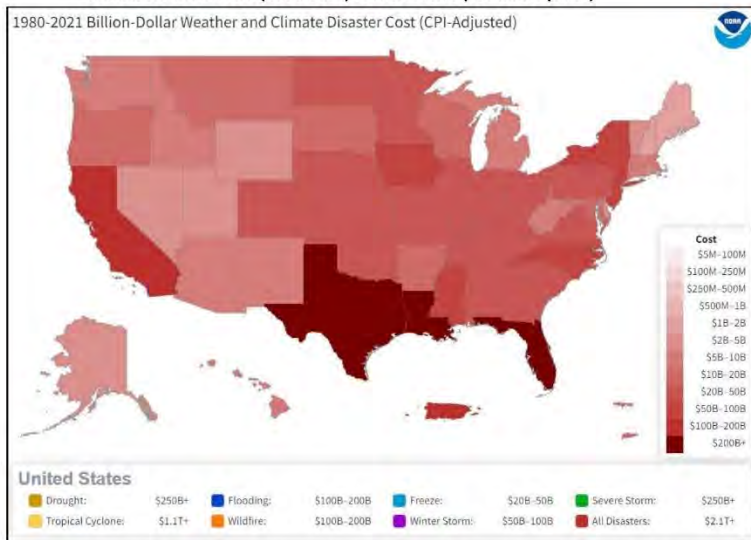
The **same U.S. regions** are **projected** to have the **most negative future impacts** across **several socioeconomic metrics**

→ Reflects the **severity & vulnerability** of weather & climate events impacting different regions



From 1980–2021, the U.S. South, Central and Southeast regions experienced a **higher cost** from billion-dollar disaster events. CA, NY, NJ, PR and V.I. as well.

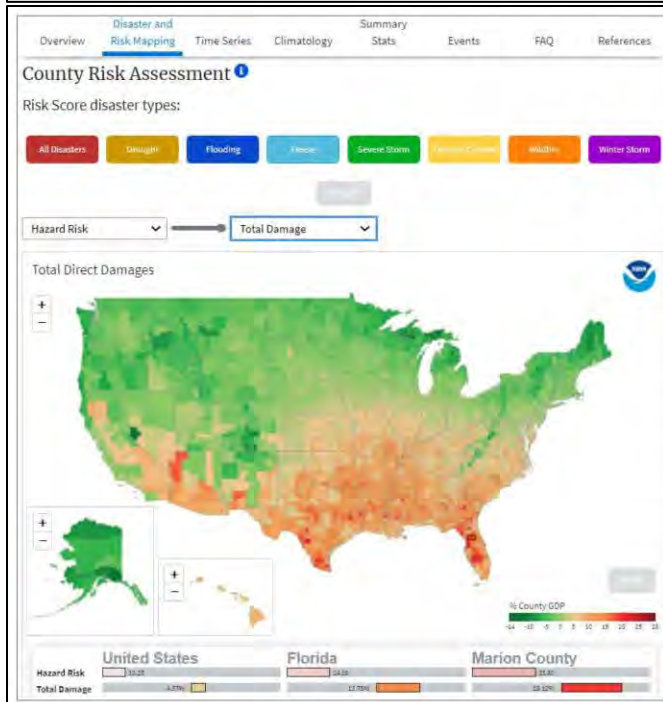
Cumulative Event Cost (1980-2021) for each state (combined perils)



Historically, the U.S. **South, Central & Southeast regions** have experienced the highest frequency and cost from billion-dollar disaster events (see state / event maps on billion-dollar disasters).

The **same U.S. regions** are projected to have the **most negative future impacts** across several socioeconomic metrics

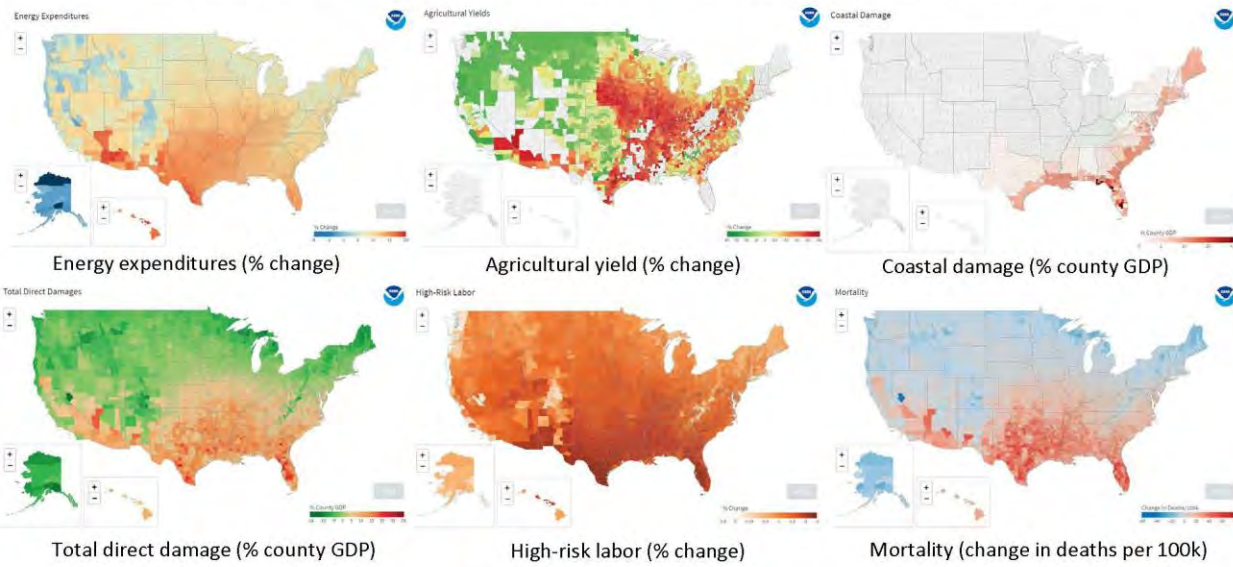
→ Reflects the **severity & vulnerability** of weather & climate events impacting different regions




**County-level median total direct economic damage across all sectors as a % of county GDP for the combined variables (A)-(H) using a future (2080-2099) high-emission scenario (RCP 8.5). This represents:**

- (A) Percent change in yields, area-weighted average for corn, wheat, soybeans, and cotton.
  - (B) Changes in all cause mortality rates, across all age groups.
  - (C) Change in electricity demand.
  - (D) Change in labor supply of full-time equivalent workers for low risk jobs where workers are minimally exposed to outdoor temperature.
  - (E) Same as (D) except for high risk jobs where workers are heavily exposed to outdoor temperatures.
  - (F) Change in damages from coastal storms.
  - (G) Changes in violent crime rates.
  - (H) Changes in property crime rates.
- Source: "Estimating economic damage from climate change in the United States" (Hsiang et al., 2017)


**Spatial distributions of projected damages.** County-level median values for average 2080 to 2099 RCP8.5 impacts. Impacts are changes relative to counterfactual “no additional climate change” trajectories. County socio-economic risk potential (RCP8.5 projections)



Source: Hsiang, S., Kopp, R.E., Jina, A., Rising, J., Delgado M., Mohan, S., Rasmussen, D.J., Muir-Wood, R., Wilson, P., Oppenheimer, M., Larsen, K., and T. Houser. 2017. Estimating economic damage from climate change in the United States. *Science*, 356, 1362-1369

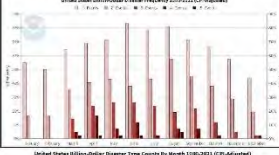
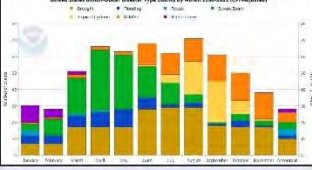


**Adam.Smith@noaa.gov**



For interactive data, charts, mapping, and disaster summaries (1980-2021):  
[www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions)

**New county hazard risk mapping:**  
[www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/mapping](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/mapping)

For more detail on disasters, county data, methodology, and uncertainty, see:

NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (2022). <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>, DOI: 10.25921/stkw-7w73

Zuzak, C., E. Goodenough, C. Stanton, M. Mowrer, N. Ranalli, D. Kealey, and J. Rozelle. 2021. [National Risk Index Technical Documentation \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/national-risk-index-technical-documentation). Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC.

Cutter, S., Ash, K., and C. Emrich. 2014. The geographies of community disaster resilience. *Global Environmental Change*, 29, 65-77.

Hsiang, S., Kopp, R.E., Jina, A., Rising, J., Delgado M., Mohan, S., Rasmussen, D.J., Muir-Wood, R., Wilson, P., Oppenheimer, M., Larsen, K., and T. Houser. 2017. Estimating economic damage from climate change in the United States. *Science*, 356, 1362-1369

U.S. Billion-dollar Weather and Climate Disasters – 2021 in Context //
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### 3.3.4 Climate Panel Discussion (Session 1C-4)

Moderator: Elena Yegorova, NRC/RES/DRA/FXHAB

**David Novak**, *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service*

**Judah Cohen**, *Atmospheric and Environmental Research*

**Adam Smith**, *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Centers for Environmental Information*

#### **Question:**

Adam, you mentioned that the compound extreme events can be greater than the sum of the parts, so which regions of the country are more prone to the compound extreme events and what kind of events?

#### **Adam Smith:**

A few regions of the country have really popped out in recent years and have been really persistent. One would be the Gulf of Mexico, particularly Louisiana, with tropical cyclones, heavy rainfall, flood events, severe convective storm events. Those regions and the economies have really been bombarded by so many events and that lengthens the recovery time. It makes it more difficult to regain the pre-disaster impact status of how efficient the economies and livelihoods were. Certainly that region, but also, as I mentioned in the talk, the Western States, particularly Washington, Oregon, California. There you have got this persistent drought that then links into wildfire seasons. One thing I did not mention during the talk is just the persistent and damaging effects of wildfire smoke as weeks and months pass. That impacts outdoor economies or sensitive health groups. So, you get these chain reactions of hazards and impacts. Those would be the two regions I think that are most profoundly impacted so far in recent analysis.

#### **Question:**

Adam, you discussed that the south central and southeast US are experiencing the higher costs of the billion dollar weather events. The paper that you cited is referring to the business as usual scenario - the high emissions scenario. So, should we expect this trend to continue in the changing climate?

#### **Adam Smith:**

We also want to put the RCP 4.5 in the mapping. We are working with the authors to get that down scaled to the county level like the RCP 8.5, but what you have seen the data is still the same directional trends in regard to the socioeconomic outcomes, positive or negative, across the same regions. It is just of course more profound at the high emission scenario and it is important to consider. We do not know how policy or technology is going to change over the coming decades, but these are projections that happened to really align surprisingly close to the weather and climate extremes over the last four and a half decades. So I thought that was worth mentioning.

#### **Question:**



Judah, in the beginning you showed a figure concerning confidence and attribution of extreme weather to anthropogenic climate change. I really like that figure. It really stresses the importance of not attributing a single extreme weather event to climate change. Can you comment on that?

**Judah Cohen:**

There is a group that tries to attribute climate change every single weather event. There are people out there who do that. But I do not. The paper that my talk was based on was not trying to argue that winters are getting more severe or were in this cooling trend. I am really trying to argue is that kind of the orthodoxy that global warming only leads to warmer temperatures and less snowfall is an oversimplification of the impact of climate change on our weather in the United States. I try to argue that there is a thermodynamic influence: increasing greenhouse gases lead to warmer temperatures, warmer oceans especially. So there is a huge heat reservoir that can be released in the winter that leads to warmer weather and, if it is warmer, there is less chance of snow. But there's also this dynamic influence that we as scientists did not consider 10-20 years ago. the pattern of climate change is not universal or homogeneous, but it is heterogeneous and can impact the circulation of the atmosphere. My talk really focused on the polar vortex that can lead to more severe winter weather. As I showed my talk, these stretched polar vortices, where they are elongated or take some of this oval shape, are occurring more frequently. And as I showed with the clustering analysis, that extreme cold is more likely, is more probable, when you have one of these stretch polar vortex events and those are increasing. The probability of getting one of these extreme winter weather events associated with these stretch polar vortex is increasing. Again, I'm not trying to argue, that's the only factor or influence to consider. But it's something that was, I believe, ignored or neglected or just not known about how it should be taken into account of in a more complete picture of how climate change can influence our weather. I do not attribute probabilities like saying the Texas freeze was 50% more likely because of climate change or anything like that. But I do think that because these stretched polar vortex events occur more frequently now than they used to, that it does increase the odds of these severe winter weather events.

**Question:**

Judah, have you looked at what will happen when all this sea ice melts in the Arctic?

**Judah Cohen:**

That's an interesting question. The juxtaposition of the anomalies is important. You want to create a wave, that means you cannot have the temperature change equal everywhere. If all the ice melted and the warming became almost like a donut, centered over the North Pole and pretty much the same magnitude, pretty equal cross the entire Arctic Ocean, then I think everything I described in my talk would become irrelevant pretty much. Because of all that ice melting you would have this constant warming across the whole Arctic Ocean like a donut, you would have no wave. Then again, my whole argument hinges on amplifying waves. The mechanism I am describing is really sensitive to sea ice melting in favorable or preferred regions and not throughout the entire Arctic Ocean. I am trying to argue winters are not warming as fast because we are getting this balancing or offsetting influence from the polar vortex. If all the sea ice melted, and that went away, there could be a real acceleration of winter warming.

**Adam Smith:**

There does not appear to be relief on the way as a nation, in terms of protecting the infrastructure and such. This is going to become more important as we go forward, and you cannot take your ball off the winter weather hazard either. Maybe there was hope that maybe a few of these different hazard extremes would fall off [with climate change], but these extreme weather events and the increased exposure that Adam was talking about have to be taken seriously. On the front lines of the National Weather Service we are working on these extreme events every couple of weeks, it seems like. This is just something we are going to have to work into the national infrastructure.

**Question:**

David you mentioned that extreme weather forecasts are uncertain. What is the low hanging fruit for reducing this uncertainty?

**David Novak:**

There was recently a study, commissioned by Congress, called the Priorities for Weather Research Study. It was a one-year study looking at the next 10 years. The unsatisfying answer is there is no silver bullet. There is no one thing that is going to make it all better. That report mentions data assimilation, I think, 251 times. That is taking observations and putting them in a format that numerical weather prediction models can see and use well so that you have a better understanding of the initial state. And then the models can project that out into the future. So, getting the observations right and integrating that into the models is very important, but it does not stop there. Post processing, taking into account the different biases that the models have is also super important. Human forecasters understanding the different biases of the models. Human forecasters working with public safety officials to understand their critical thresholds and providing information in a way that's actionable is also important. So, all along this value chain, we need to make improvements to really prepare for extreme weather events.

### **3.4 Day 2: Session 2A – Precipitation**

Session Chair: Kevin Quinlan, NRC/NRR

#### **3.4.1 Presentation 2A-1: Uncertainty in Precipitation Frequency Estimates Under Current and Future Climate**

*Authors: Azin Al Kajbaf, Michelle Bensi, Kaye Brubaker, University of Maryland, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering*

*Speaker: Azin Al Kajbaf*

##### **3.4.1.1 Abstract**

Over the past decades, the intensity of precipitation events in the Northeast of the United States has shown an increasing trend. As climate change continues to affect the characteristics and frequency of rainfall events, it is important to account for these changes in the Intensity/Depth Duration Frequency (IDF/DDF) curves used in engineering design and planning. This study develops model-based precipitation frequency estimates under current and projected future climate in Maryland. Specifically, IDF/DDF curves for selected durations from 15 minutes to 48 hours are developed from statistical analyses of synthetic data from the North American Regional Climate Change Assessment Program (NARCCAP) suite of models. In the NARCCAP suite, 6 regional climate models covering most of North America at a spatial resolution of 50 km are driven by different atmosphere-ocean general circulation models, for a total of 12 climate simulations, both historic and future. NARCCAP synthetic time-series are available at a 3-hour temporal resolution. Machine learning models are used to temporally downscale the NARCCAP time-series to durations as short as 15 minutes. Using the developed time-series, suites of IDF/DDF curves are developed that account for a range of modeling decisions associated with climate model selection and other statistical assumptions. The suites are then used to produce averaged IDF/DDF curves. Graphical tools are developed to comparatively assess the uncertainty associated with climate model selection and the other modeling decisions used to develop IDF/DDF curves. A particular focus is placed on understanding differences in drivers of uncertainty under current and future climate conditions.

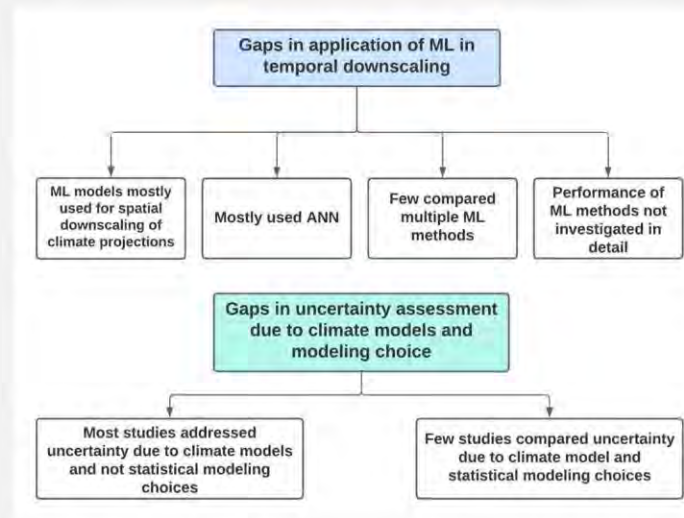




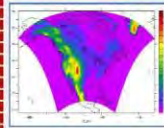
This study explores sources of uncertainty associated with the development of IDF curves considering climate change conditions under two main categories:

Uncertainty arising from application of machine learning for temporal downscaling of climate model projections

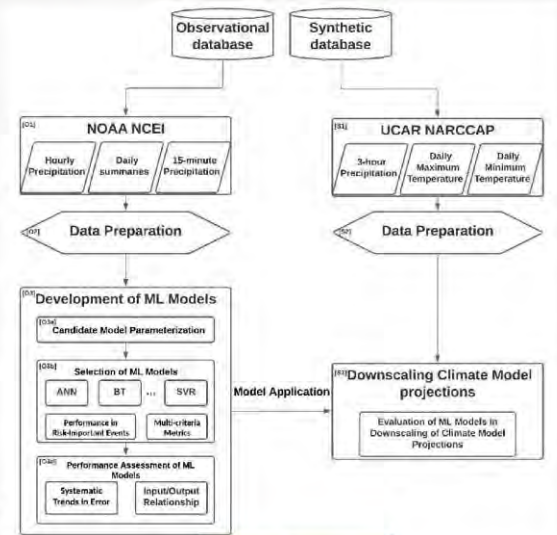
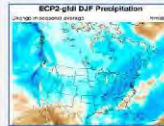
Uncertainty arising from choice of climate models and statistical modeling choices made in development of IDF curves



**Application of Machine Learning for Temporal Downscaling of Climate Model Projections**



**Assessment of Uncertainty in Precipitation Frequency Under Current and Future Climate**

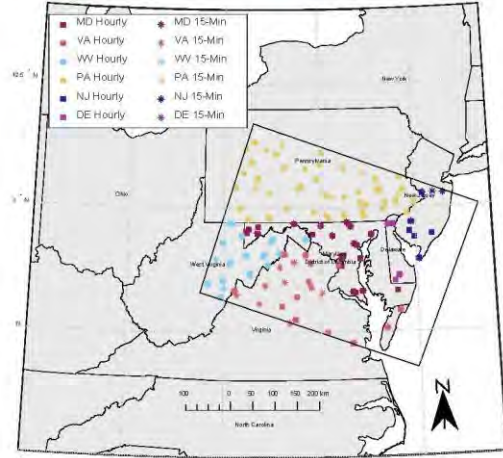
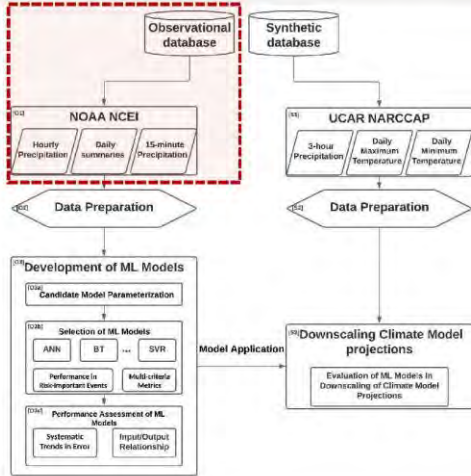


NOAA = National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
 NCEI = National Centers for Environmental Information  
 BT = Boosted Trees  
 UCAR = University Corporation for Atmospheric Research  
 NARCCAP = North American Regional Climate Change Assessment Program

**Study Framework**



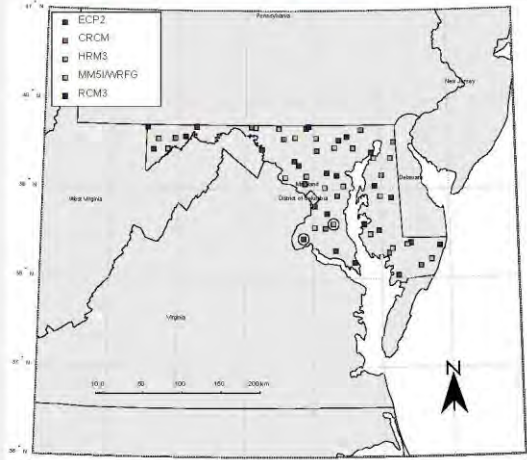
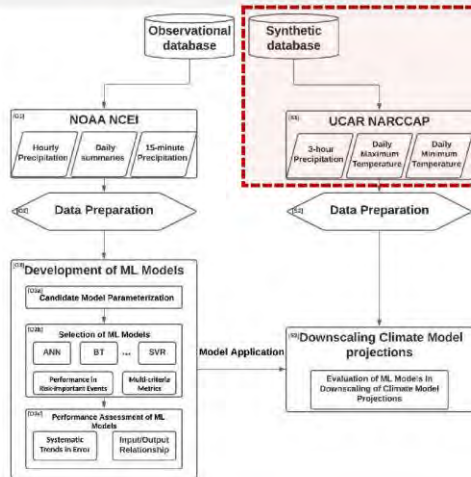
## Application of ML for Temporal Downscaling of Climate Model Projections



Location of hourly and 15-minutes stations in the study area

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## Application of ML for Temporal Downscaling of Climate Model Projections

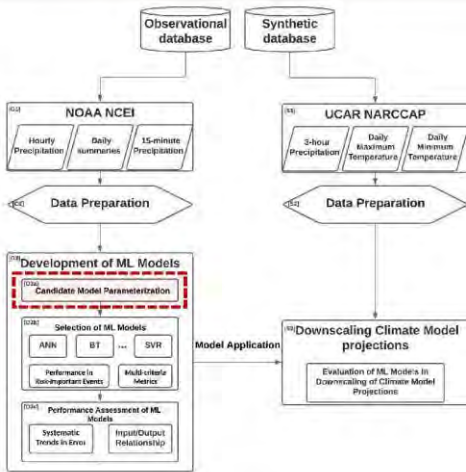


Location of grid centers within Maryland for the six NARCCAP regional models.

CRCM-gfdl	ECP2-gfdl	HRM3-gfdl	MM5I-ccsm	RCM3-cgcm3	WRFG-ccsm
CRCM-cgcm3	ECP2-hadcm3	HRM3-hadcm3	MM5I-hadcm3	RCM3-gfdl	WRFG-cgcm3

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## Application of ML for Temporal Downscaling of Climate Model Projections

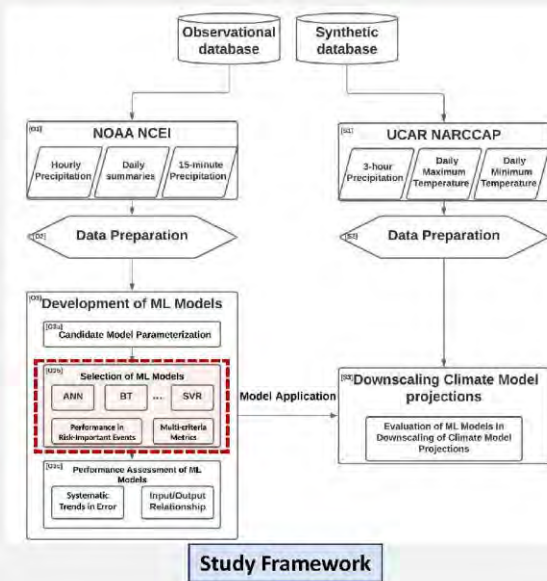


$$P_t = f(P_{i+1}, P_d, T_{max d}, T_{min d})$$

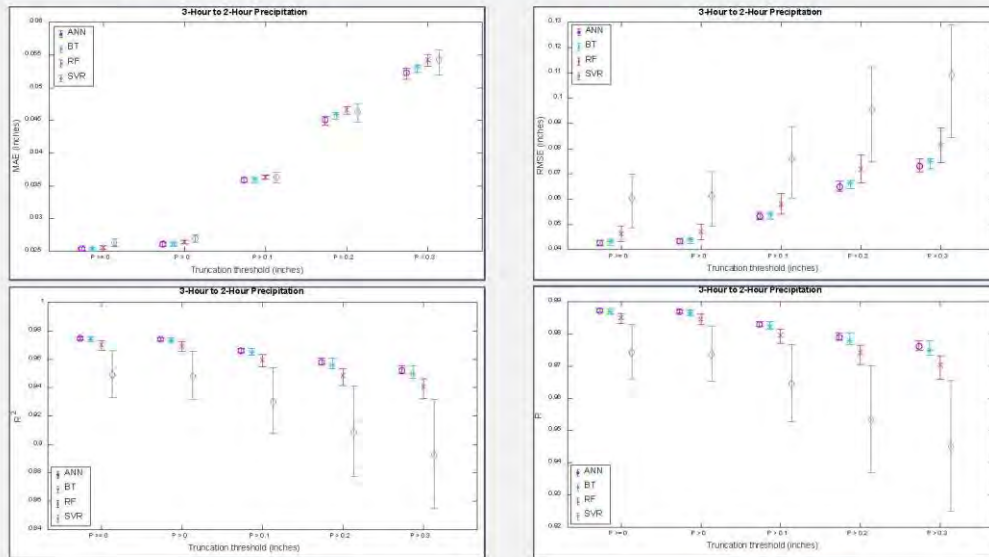
Input parameters	Target precipitation duration
$P_{3h}, P_d, T_{max d}, T_{min d}$	$P_{2h}$
$P_{2h}, P_d, T_{max d}, T_{min d}$	$P_{1h}$
$P_{1h}, P_d, T_{max d}, T_{min d}$	$P_{30min}$
$P_{30min}, P_d, T_{max d}, T_{min d}$	$P_{15min}$

$P_t$  = Downscaled target precipitation  $T_{max d}$  = Maximum daily temperature  
 $P_{i+1}$  = Longer duration precipitation  $T_{min d}$  = Minimum daily temperature  
 $P_d$  = Daily precipitation

## Application of ML for Temporal Downscaling of Climate Model Projections



### Application of ML for Temporal Downscaling of Climate Model Projections



Performance metrics of MAE, RMSE, R and R<sup>2</sup> at different precipitation truncation levels

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### Application of ML for Temporal Downscaling of Climate Model Projections

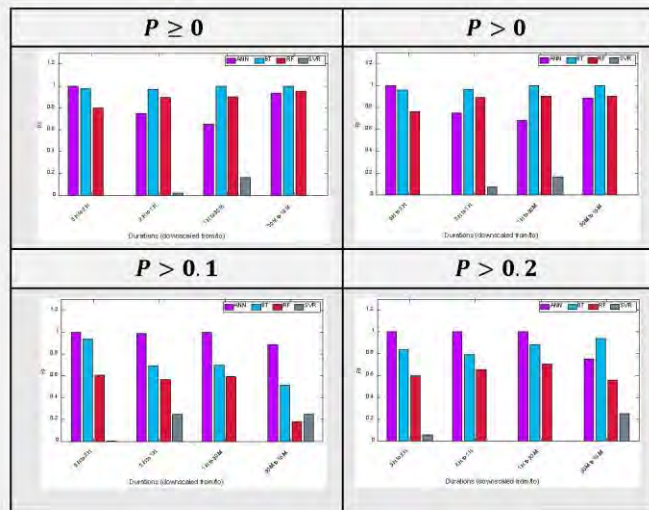


$$x_{norm} = \frac{(x_{max} - x_i)}{(x_{max} - x_{min})}; x = MAE, RMSE$$

$$x_{norm} = \frac{(x_{min} - x_i)}{(x_{min} - x_{max})}; x = R, R^2$$

$$RI = \frac{MAE_{norm} + RMSE_{norm} + R_{norm} + R^2_{norm}}{4}$$

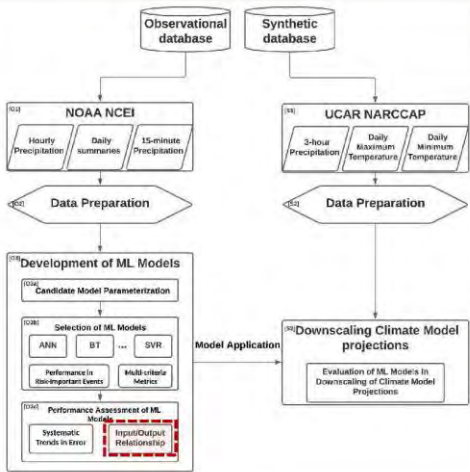
MAE = Mean Absolute Error  
 RMSE = Root Mean Squared Error  
 R = Correlation Coefficient  
 R<sup>2</sup> = Coefficient of Determination  
 RI = Reference Index



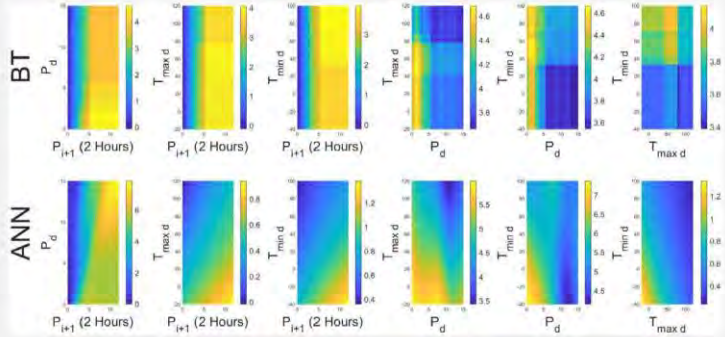
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## Application of ML for Temporal Downscaling of Climate Model Projections



### 2-Hour to 1-Hour Precipitation



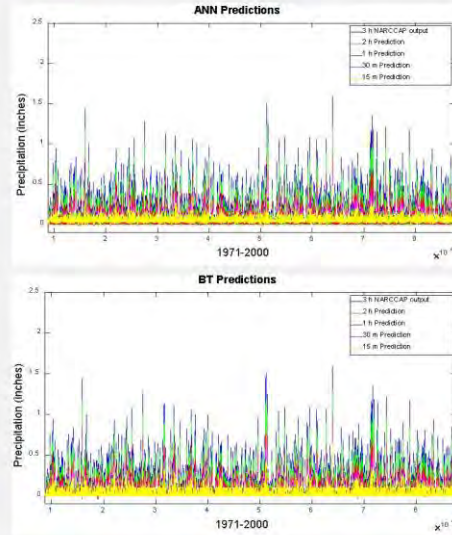
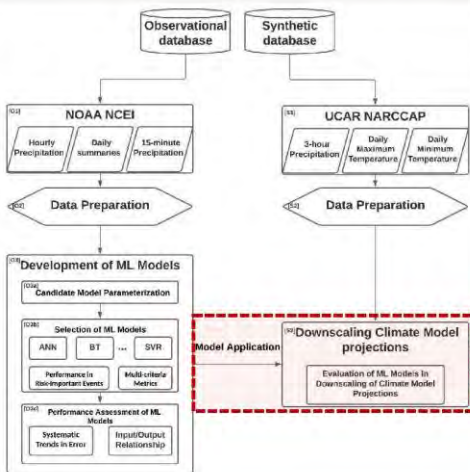
### Response Functions

$$P_i = f(P_{i+1}, P_d, T_{max d}, T_{min d})$$

$P_i$  = Downscaled target precipitation  $T_{max d}$  = Maximum daily temperature  
 $P_{i+1}$  = Longer duration precipitation  $T_{min d}$  = Minimum daily temperature  
 $P_d$  = Daily precipitation

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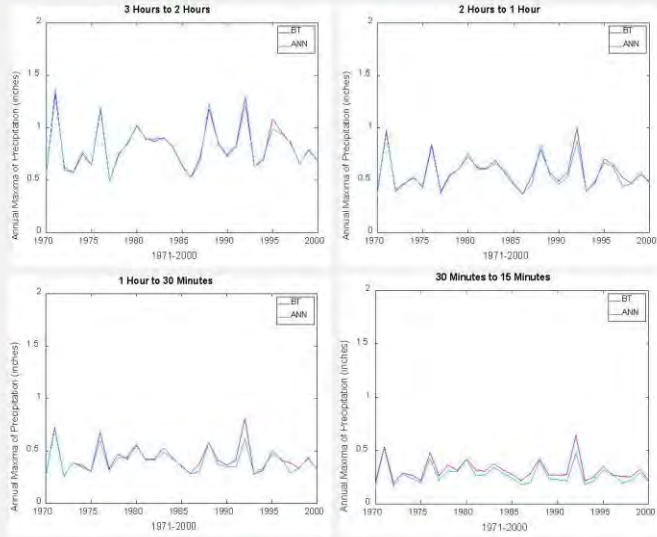
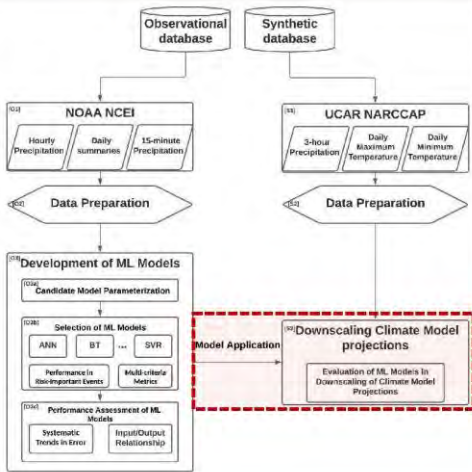
## Application of ML for Temporal Downscaling of Climate Model Projections



### Time-series Predictions

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## Application of ML for Temporal Downscaling of Climate Model Projections



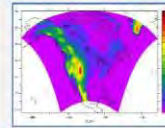
AMS Predictions

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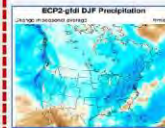
## Introduction

## Research Components

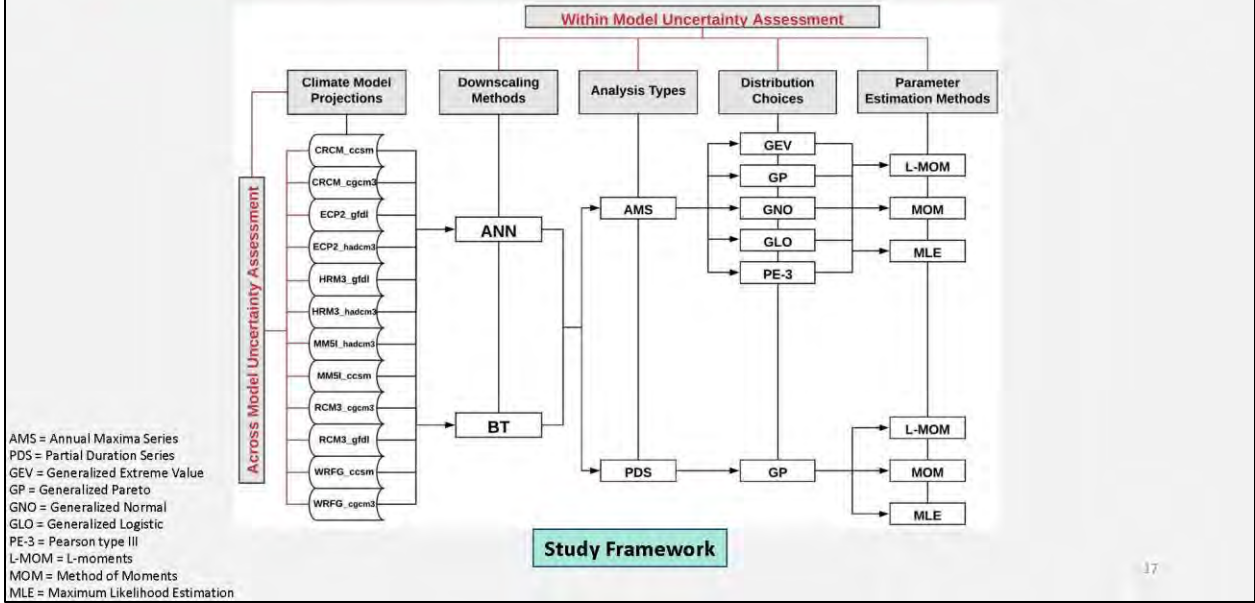
Application of Machine Learning for Temporal Downscaling of Climate Model Projections



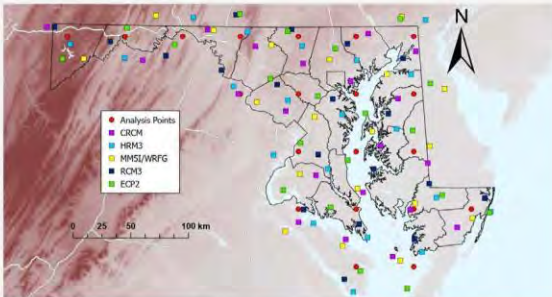
Assessment of Uncertainty in Precipitation Frequency Under Current and Future Climate



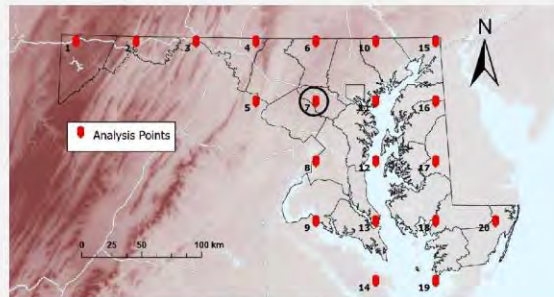
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Synthetic data



Location of grid centers within Maryland for the six NARCCAP regional models

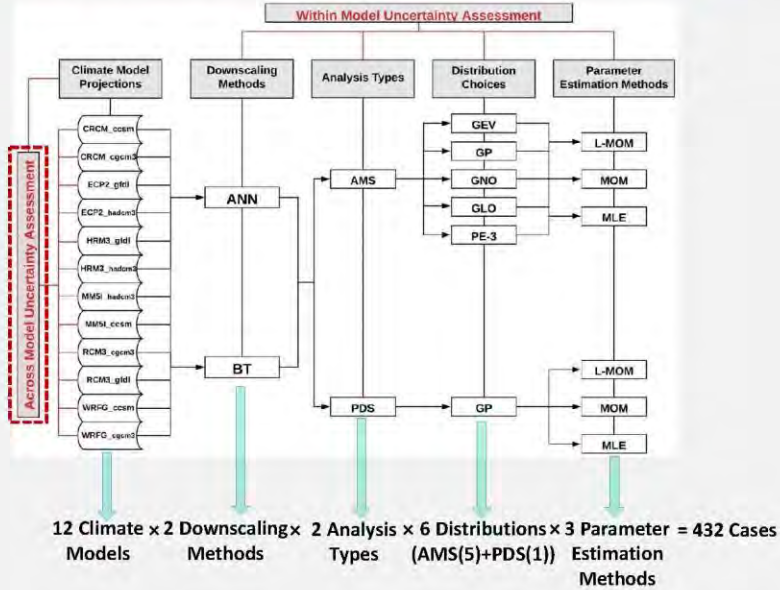


Nearest neighbor analysis points

Data Source:  
NARCCAP

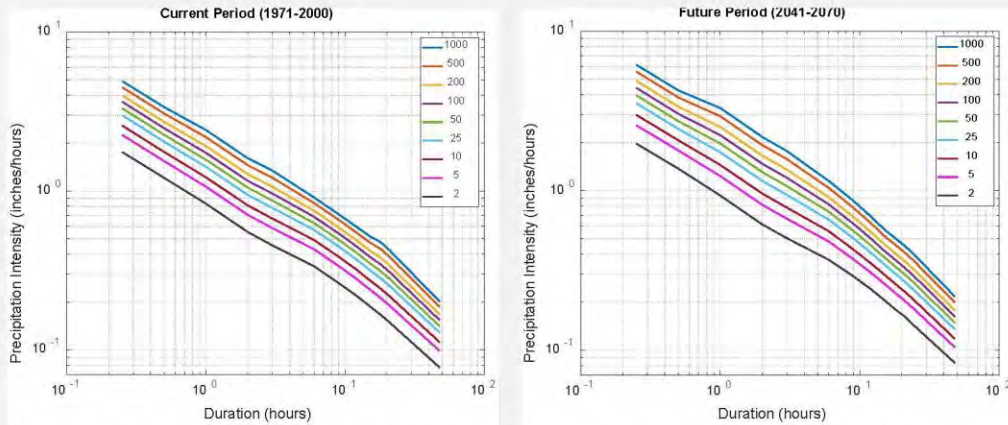


Assessment of Uncertainty in Precipitation Frequency Under Current and Future Climate



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Assessment of Uncertainty in Precipitation Frequency Under Current and Future Climate

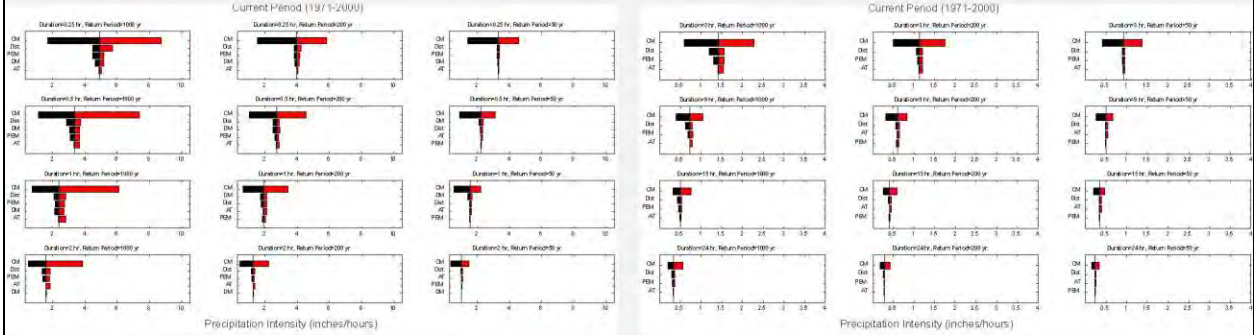


Averaged IDF curves in the current (left) and future (right) periods considering all eligible branches of logic trees for grid point 7

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Tornado Plots



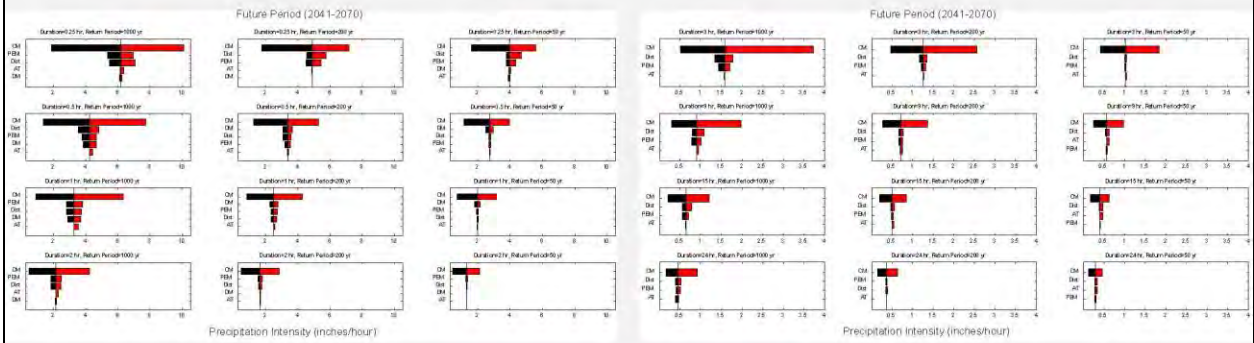
Current Period (1971-2000)

CM= Climate Model, DM=Downscaling Method, Dist=Distribution, PEM=Parameter Estimation Method

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Tornado Plots



Future Period (2041-2070)

CM= Climate Model, DM=Downscaling Method, Dist=Distribution, PEM=Parameter Estimation Method

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## Conclusions

### Insights



1. Aggregated error metrics can be modified to provide a more realistic evaluation of the performance of ML models through focusing on important events.
2. Response functions provide valuable insight regarding the behavior of ML models in predicting target response over a wide range of input variables.
3. The choice of the climate model is the dominant contributor to the uncertainty under both current and future climate conditions.
4. The order of importance of the other sources of uncertainty, including distribution, PEM, temporal downscaling method, and analysis type, differs from one duration and return period to the others. The order of the source of uncertainty also differs from the current to the future period.

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## Acknowledgement



The authors gratefully acknowledge the support of the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) under Statewide Planning and Research (SPR) Task Number SHA/UM/5-36 and the Maryland Water Resources Research Center (US Geological Survey Award #G21AP10629).

The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the funding agency

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Thank you



### 3.4.2 Presentation 2A-2 (KEYNOTE): Gridded Surface Weather Data with Uncertainty Quantification - Daymet V4

Authors: *Peter Thornton, Oak Ridge National Laboratory*

Speaker: *Peter Thornton*

#### 3.4.2.1 Abstract

Observation-based estimates of surface weather are necessary inputs for many environmental studies and assessments. When uncertainties associated with surface weather estimates can be quantified, researchers and applications specialists can make informed decisions about the utility and appropriateness of data products to meet project requirements. The purpose of the Daymet gridded daily surface weather products is to provide necessary inputs to a broad range of environmental and ecological applications, while also providing the best possible quantification of uncertainty in those products. This presentation will briefly review the history of Daymet development, and will explore the improvements in algorithm and data processing that led to the recently released Daymet v4. The cross-validation metrics for precipitation and temperature will be described, with a focus on statistics for the spatial and temporal distribution of precipitation frequency and event size distributions. The relationship between surface weather and hydrological processes relevant to flooding hazards will also be discussed.

#### 3.4.2.2 Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A126)

**OAK RIDGE**  
National Laboratory

## Gridded surface weather data with uncertainty quantification: Daymet v4

Peter Thornton, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
Co-authors: Rupesh Shrestha, Michele Thornton, Shih-Chieh Kao, Yaxing Wei, Bruce Wilson, Melissa Dumas (ORNL)

ORNL is managed by UT-Battelle, LLC for the US Department of Energy

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

## Overview

- Filling a need for gridded surface weather data
- Following the observations: interpolation and extrapolation
- Truth in advertising: Cross-validation statistics
- Improvements in Daymet v4
- Discussion: applications in hydrology and flood hazard assessment

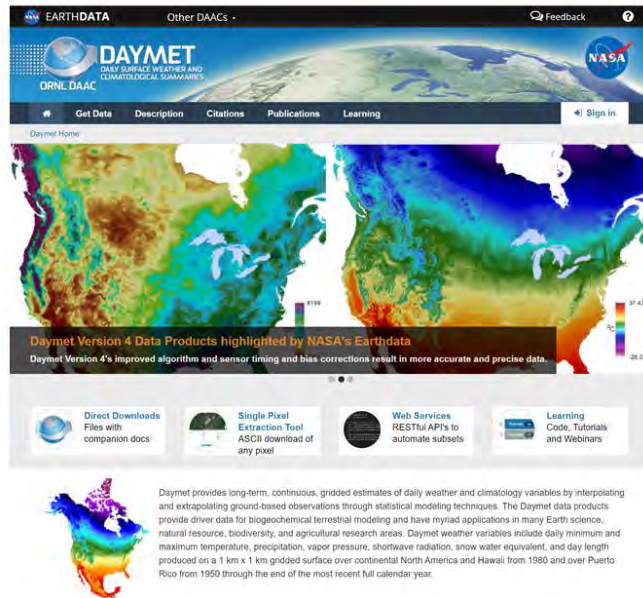
## Filling a need for gridded surface weather data

- Developed as driver for gridded land ecosystem model
- Daily temperature, precipitation, radiation and humidity
- Free online access to the entire database
- Multiple data access methods
- ~6000 unique users and ~30 million data deliveries per year



## daymet.ornl.gov

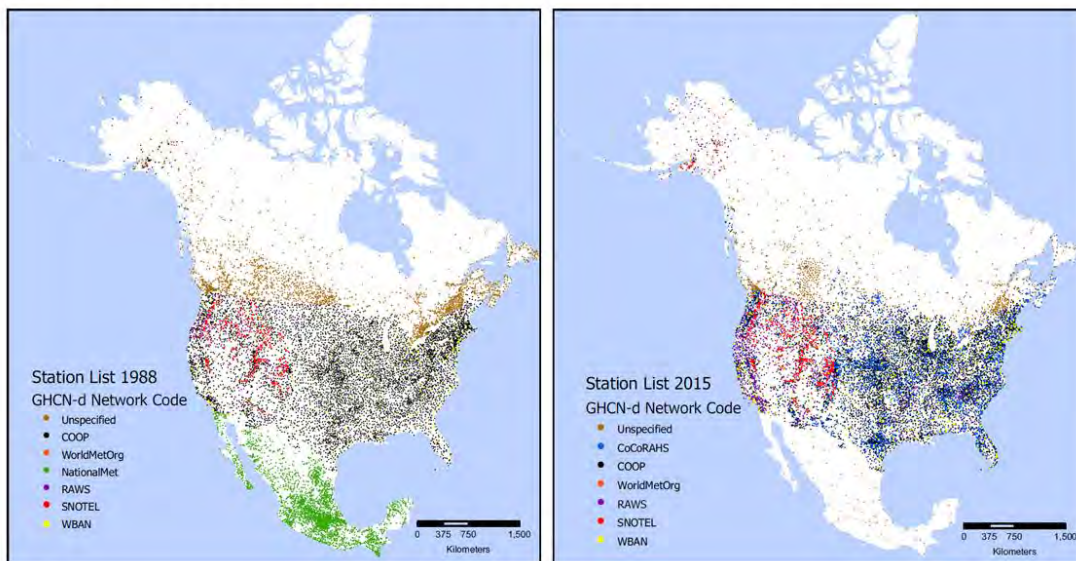
- Bulk data access for regional analysis
- Single point data access in CSV file for site-level analysis
- Restful API for automated access to large data subsets
- Deep collection of tutorials, webinars, and user-developed analysis tools



## Following the observations: Interpolation and extrapolation

- Use the data as-observed, but try to eliminate instrumentation biases
- Input from multiple station networks, relying heavily on GHCNd (Menne et al. 2012)
- Objective assessment of vertical and horizontal gradients in temperature and precipitation (3d regression)
- Retain precipitation frequency-intensity distribution
- Retain spatial and temporal structure of extremes

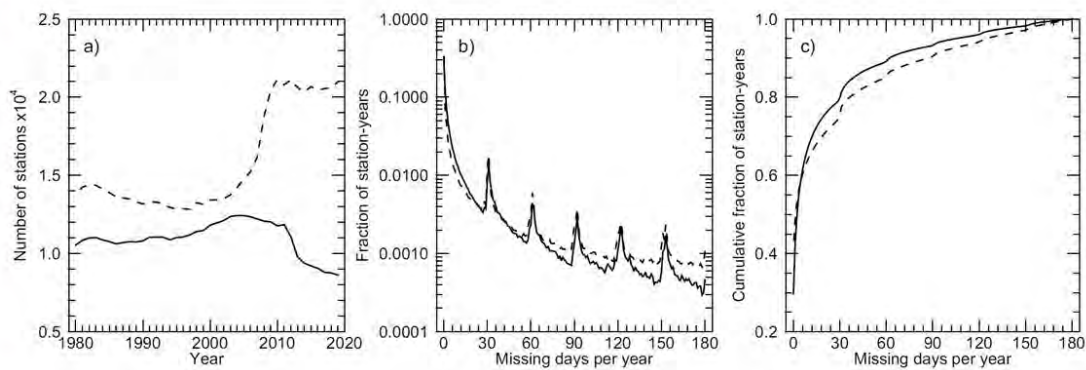
## Station networks highly variable in space and time



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Open slide master | 6/21/2017

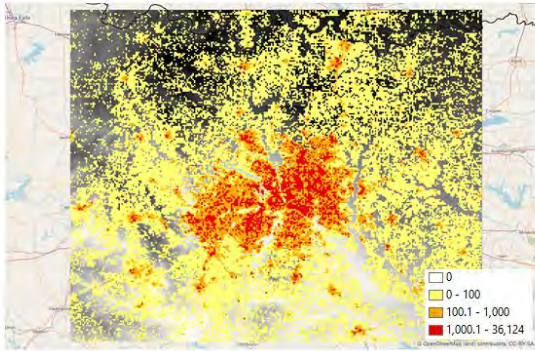
## Generous inclusion of stations with missing data



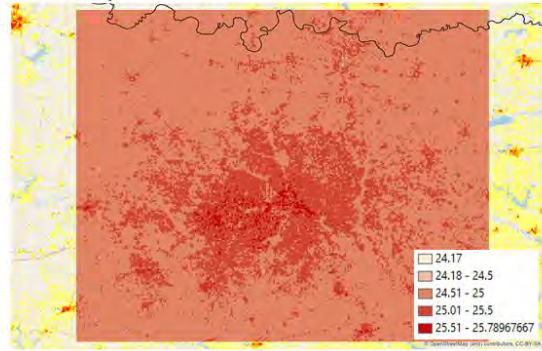
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## Using the data as-observed reveals real patterns

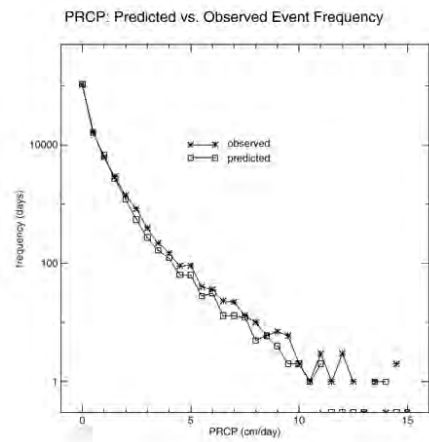
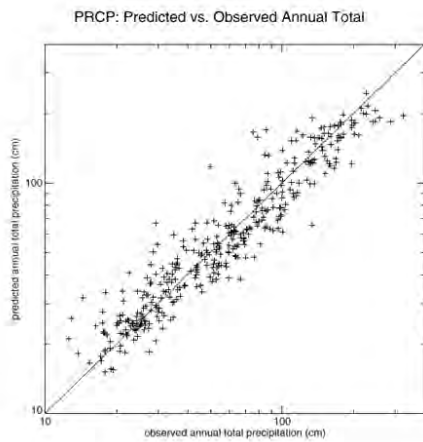
- Population



- Average Annual Max Temperature

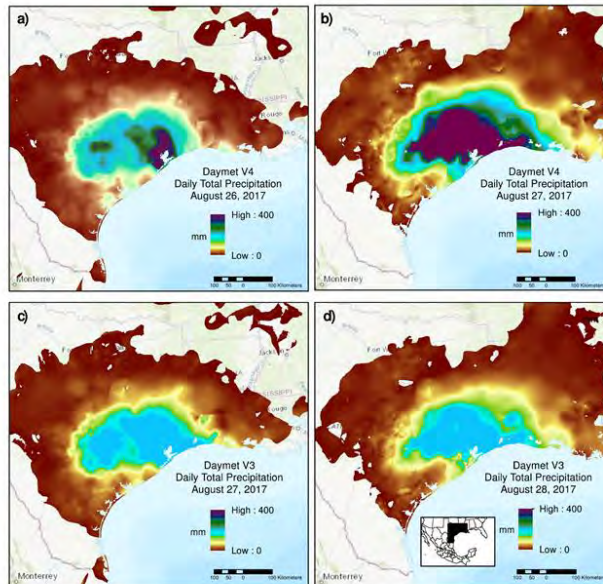


## Daymet methods preserve climatology and events: Precipitation examples...





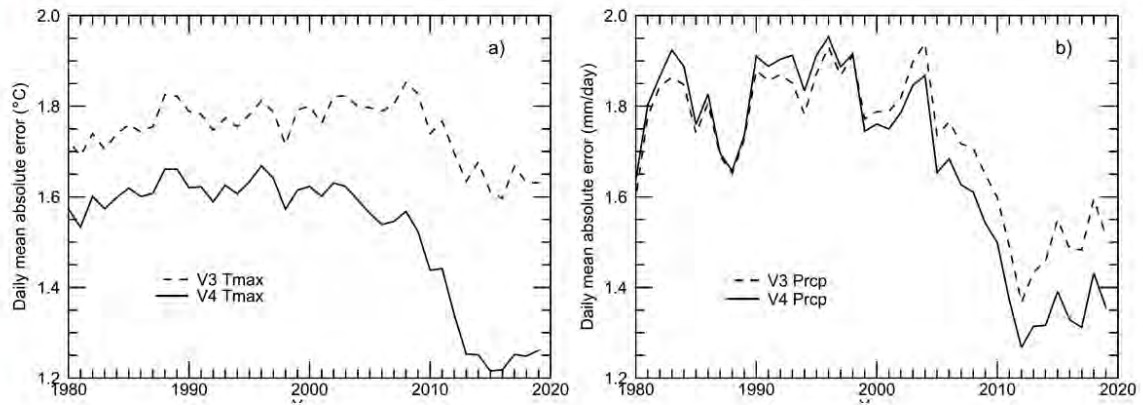
## Daymet methods preserve extremes



## Truth in advertising: cross-validation statistics

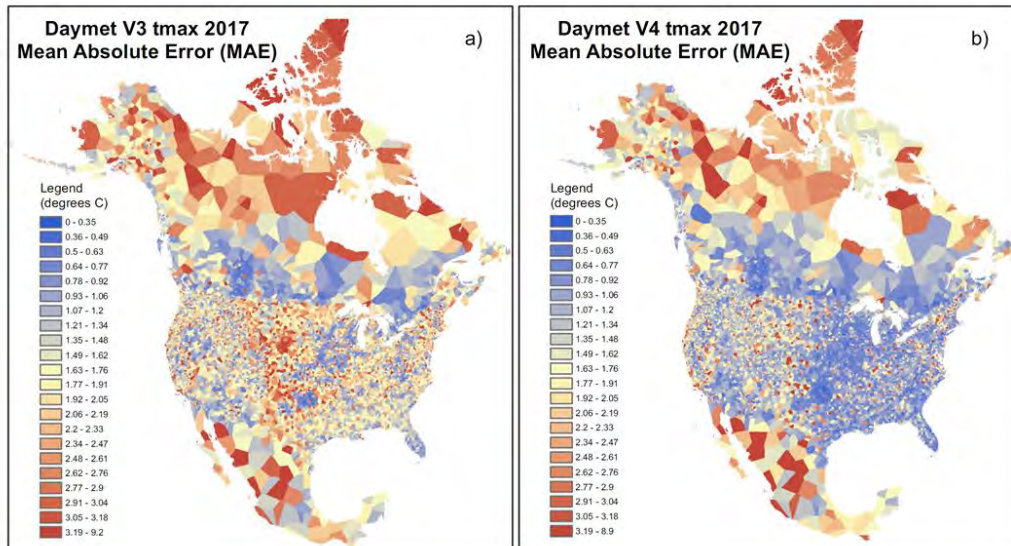
- Available online for every observed station-day
- Not every dataset is useful for every application: Users encouraged to assess suitability for their specific application
- Provides an objective basis for algorithm improvements
- Can be useful in assessing and correcting instrumentation biases

# Spatial mean cross-validation data for temperature and precipitation



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# Temporal mean cross-validation statistics for Tmax

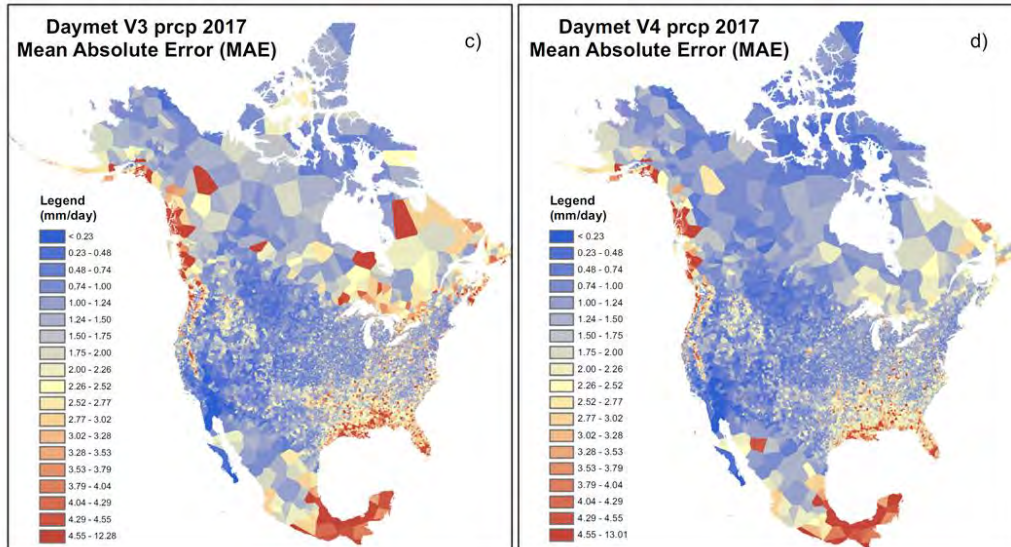


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## Temporal mean cross-validation statistics for precipitation



## Improvements in Daymet v4

- Identify and correct time-of-observation biases
  - Affected maximum temperature and precipitation
- Identify and correct SNOTEL temperature sensor bias
- Removed some previous constraints on extremes



# Correcting time-of-observation bias

year	maximum temperature*			precipitation		
	station days	%TOO before noon	% nodata	station days	%TOO before noon	% nodata
1988	1,729,277	49.53	2.26	2,914,822	56.70	11.90
1989	1,742,252	50.46	2.61	2,942,135	56.94	12.42
1990	1,746,314	51.24	2.91	2,937,209	57.26	12.89
2015	1,693,990	74.90	2.03	6,877,546	83.57	5.50
2016	1,676,722	74.90	2.23	6,860,087	84.68	7.87
2017	1,63,5940	74.90	2.40	6,892,927	84.38	7.40

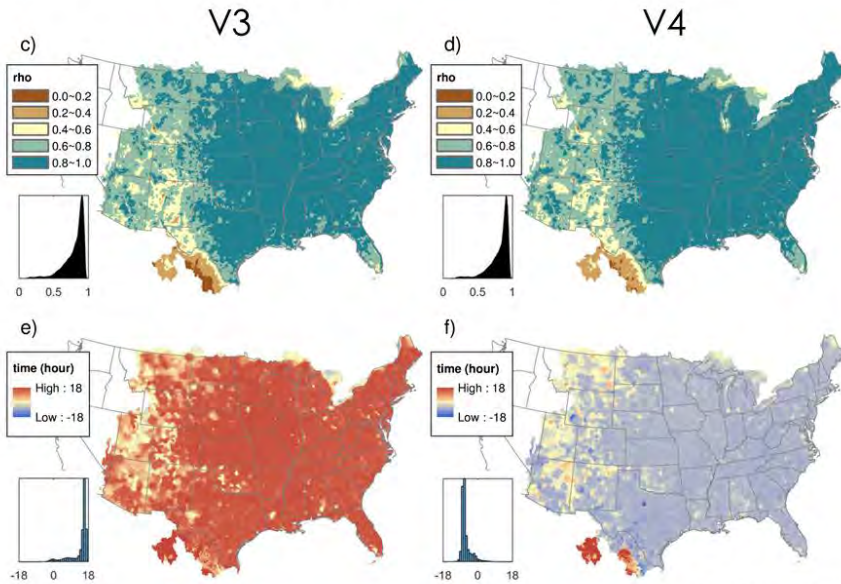
Artefact in V3 cross-validation errors for maximum temperature suggested a problem with the input station data



# Improved precipitation timing, with a compromise...

Best possible comparison with radar-based Stage IV QPE

Time shift required for best fit to Stage IV QPE

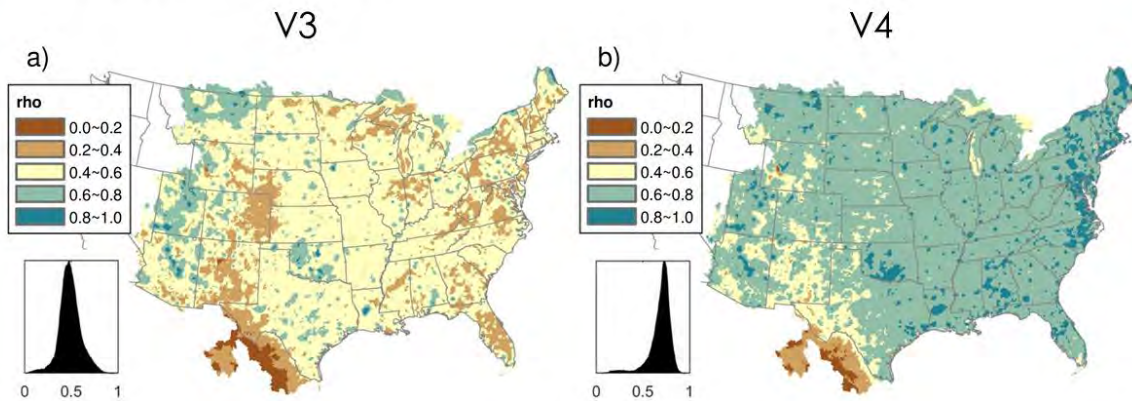


# The compromise:

Splitting precipitation across days is better for daily error metric, but ruins the event frequency and raises bias

Precipitation (Prpc): Total daily value shift			
year	%change mean dayMAE	%change mean porMAE	%change bias
1988	2.8483	0.6154	0.0000
1989	3.2680	0.9585	4.1667
1990	3.9652	0.8721	4.6512
2015	-8.3990	0.0000	4.5455
2016	-7.9365	0.3861	8.0000
2017	-9.2350	-0.3774	5.1282
Precipitation (Prpc): Fractional daily value shift			
year	%change mean dayMAE	%change mean porMAE	%change bias
1988	-7.6780	2.4615	87.1795
1989	-8.4967	3.1949	64.5833
1990	-8.0391	2.9070	81.3953
2015	-19.0945	2.6515	14.7727
2016	-17.8744	3.8610	32.0000
2017	-19.2281	2.6415	25.6410

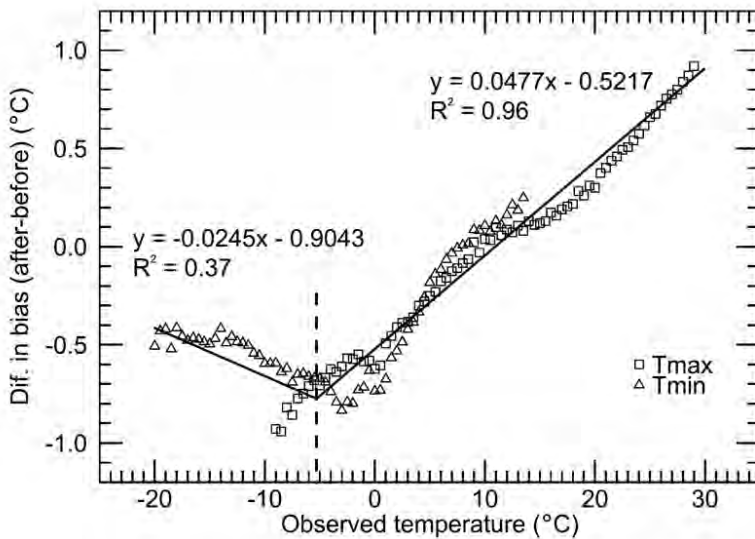
Solution, keep observed daily precipitation intact, but shift by a whole day



End result is improved correlation with Stage IV QPE

## Corrected bias related to change in temperature sensors at SNOTEL sites

- Used cross-validation framework to identify bias and design a correction
- Carried out a synthetic bias analysis to verify approach



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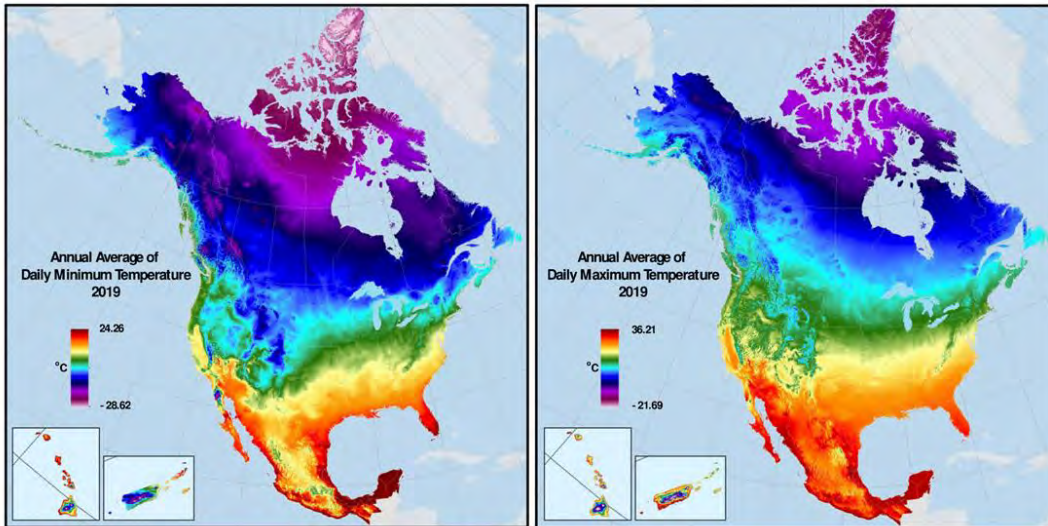
## Example data and applications

- Continental-scale data resource
- Downscaling climate model output
- Hydrologic modeling

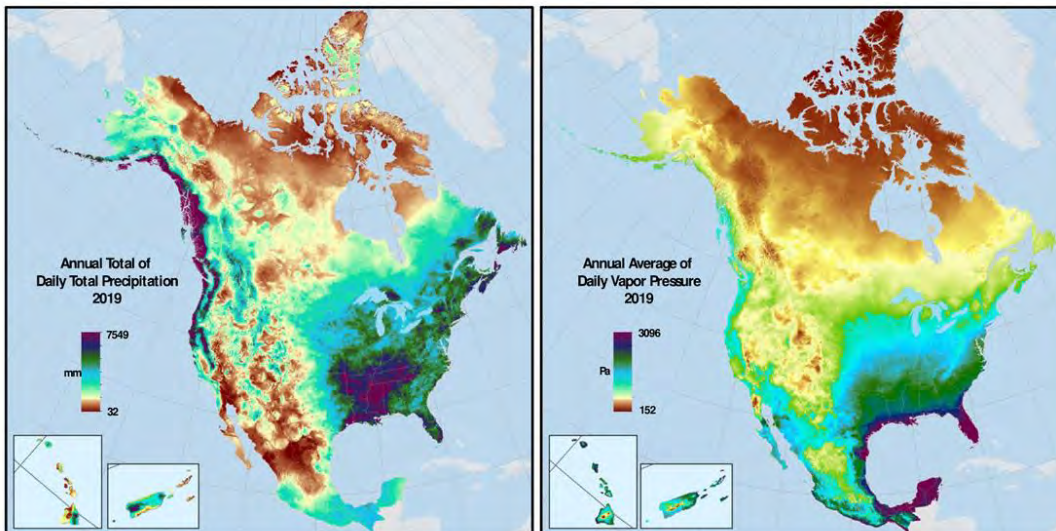
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## Example continental-scale outputs: temperature

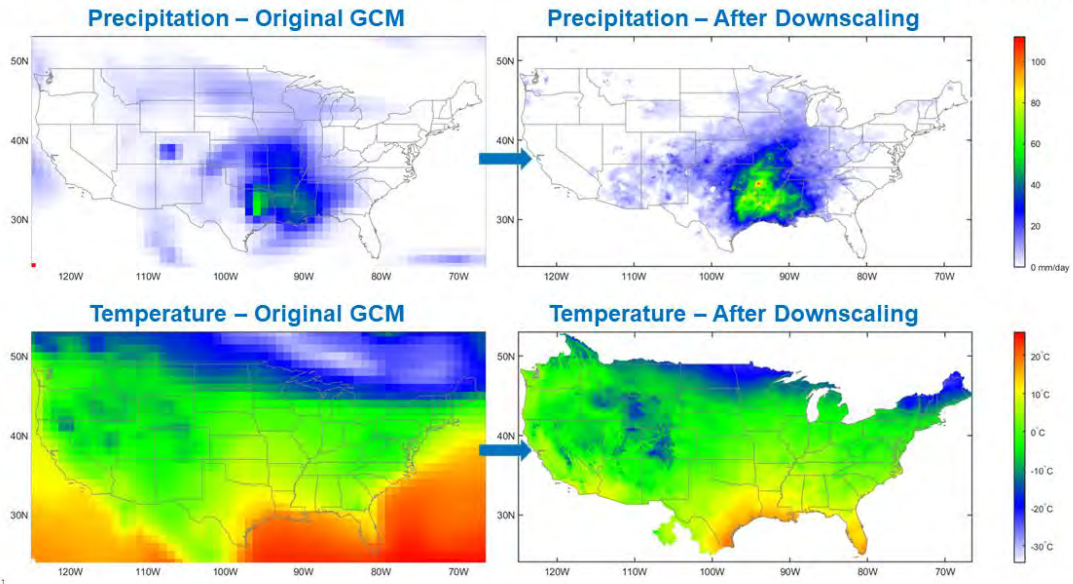


## Precipitation and humidity...



# Support climate model downscaling

ACCESS-CM2, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2037  
DaymetV4 Training Data

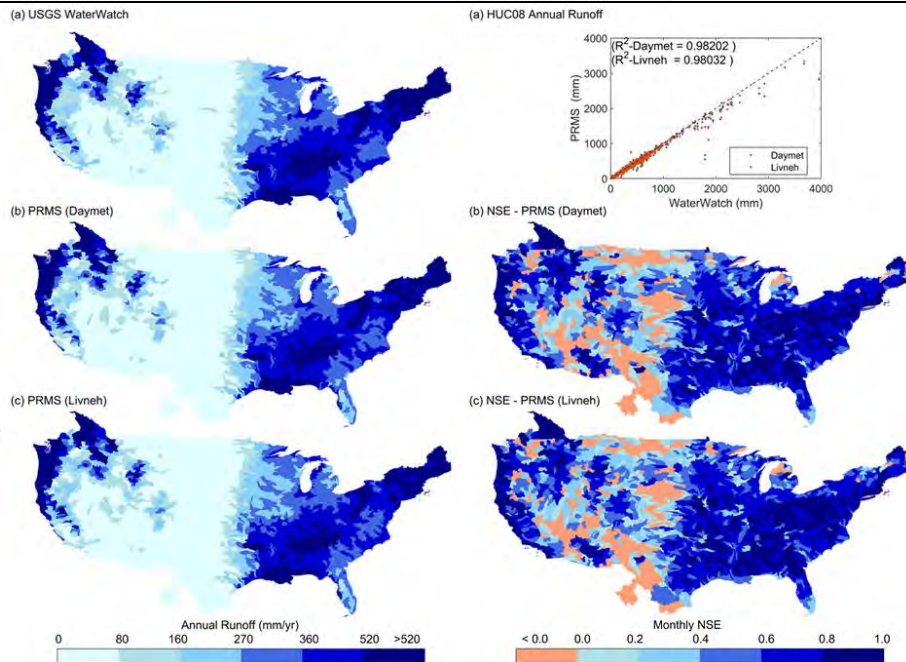


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# Support hydrologic modeling

- Serve as the driving meteorologic forcing to support hydrologic modeling.
- Can be used to calibrate hydrologic models, and eventually produce historic reanalysis hydrology and streamflow.



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# Questions?

### **3.4.3 Presentation 2A-3: Utility of Weather Types to Improve Nonstationary Frequency Analysis of Extreme Precipitation**

Authors: *Giuseppe Mascaro\**, *Arizona State University*

Speaker: *Giuseppe Mascaro*

#### **3.4.3.1 Abstract**

Theoretical arguments suggest that extreme precipitation (EP) will increase in a warmer climate. Climate projections and, in part, observational studies support these arguments, indicating the need to incorporate nonstationarity in EP frequency analysis. Here, a statistical framework is presented that addresses this need through changes in weather type (WT) occurrence. The framework is based on mixed populations of peak-over-threshold (POT) series of EP associated with the dominant WTs in a given region. The Poisson distribution with time-varying parameters is used to model the WT occurrence, while the Generalized Pareto distribution with constant parameters is adopted to model POT series of EP. The value of the proposed method is demonstrated by focusing on the U.S. Midwest, where it has been recently showed that the occurrence of a dominant WT related to heavy precipitation has been increasing since 1949. It is first showed that the statistical uncertainty of the nonstationary framework is comparable to a stationary approach based on the Generalized Extreme Value distribution fitted to annual precipitation maxima, often used in current engineering design. Next, historical and future climate simulations of a set of general circulation models from CMIP6 are used to quantify projected changes in EP frequency in the region, along with the associated uncertainty.



## Utility of Weather Types to Improve Nonstationary Frequency Analysis of Extreme Precipitation

Giuseppe Mascaro, Arizona State University  
*gmascaro@asu.edu*



*Session 1A: Precipitation*  
*7th Annual NRC Probabilistic Flood Hazard*  
*Assessment (PFHA) Research Workshop*

### Outline

1. Motivation
2. Nonstationary statistical model of extreme precipitation (EP) based on weather types
3. Application in East North Central U.S.
  - a. past climate (reanalysis)
  - b. future climate (climate models)
4. Conclusions and future work

## Outline

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3

## Motivation

### Extreme precipitation (EP) is one of the most impactful natural hazards

- Primary input of **floods** and **flash floods** —> In U.S.A., \$137 billion damages and 2640 fatalities from 1990 to 2019 (*Smith, 2020*)
- Impact on **public health** by degrading water quality (*Gershunov et al., 2018*) and increasing outbreaks of waterborne diseases (*Cann et al., 2013*)
- Reduced **crop production** (*Li et al., 2019*)

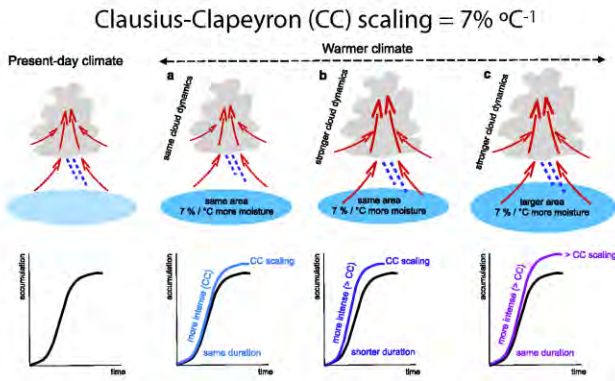


*Characterizing EP frequency is key to mitigate these impacts  
and design infrastructure*

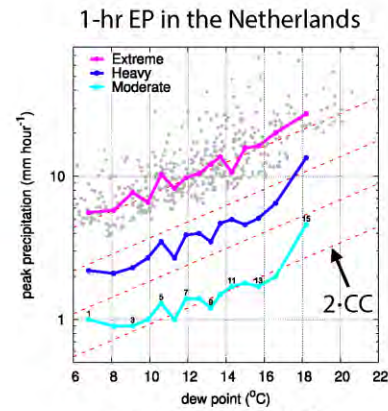
4

# Motivation

Theoretical arguments suggest that EP frequency and magnitude will change in a future climate



Conceptual diagram from Westra et al. (2014)



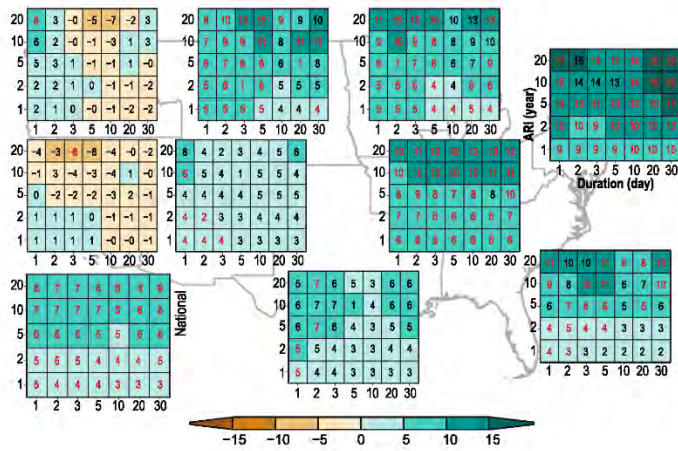
Lenderink et al. (2017)

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# Motivation

Observed increases in global temperature would suggest intensification of observed EP

(a) Annual Trend (% per decade), 1949–2016



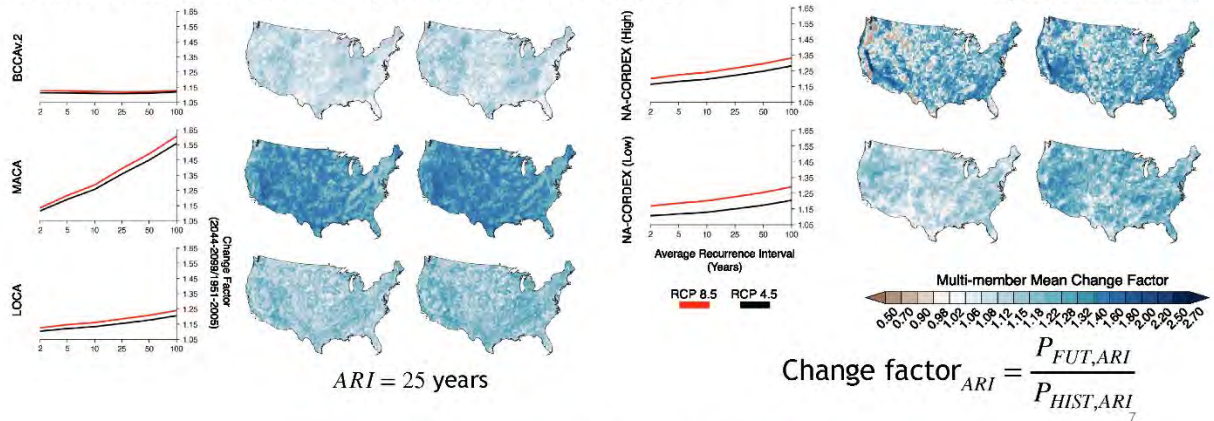
- Increasing frequency of EP in the Midwest and north east
- Constant or decreasing trends in the west
- Link with trends in precipitable water

Kunkel et al. (2020)



# Motivation

GCMs project increases in EP, but uncertainties at local scales are still high, even when using statistical or dynamical downscaling



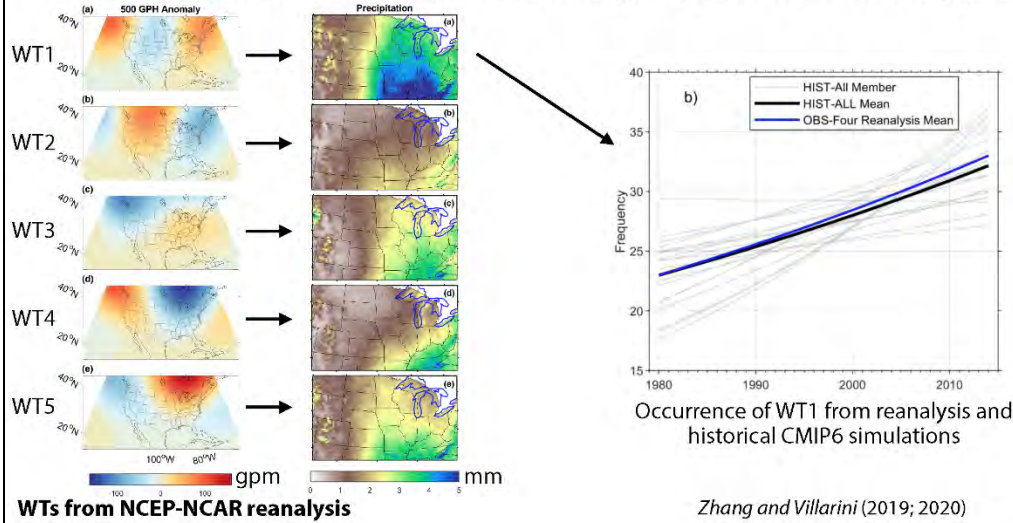
*The direct use of P outputs from GCMs is challenging.  
How can we more effectively use information from GCMs to characterize EP?*

# Outline

1. Motivation
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# Utility of General Circulation Models (GCMs)

GCMs have been shown able to adequately reproduce occurrence of weather types (WTs) or dominant large-scale meteorological patterns controlling weather



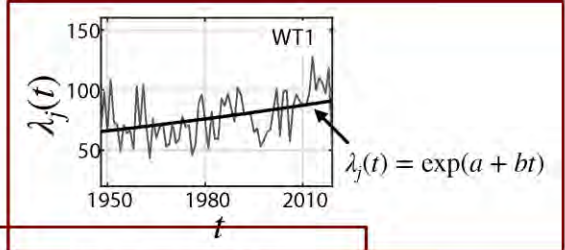
# Nonstationary frequency analysis of EP based on WTs

Mixed model of peak-over-threshold (POT) distributions with time-varying frequency

$$F(x) = \sum_{j=1}^M p_j \cdot F_j(x | \vec{\theta}_j)$$

$M$  : number of generating mechanisms (or WTs)

$$p_j = \frac{n_j}{\sum_{k=1}^M n_k} \quad n_j \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_j(t))$$



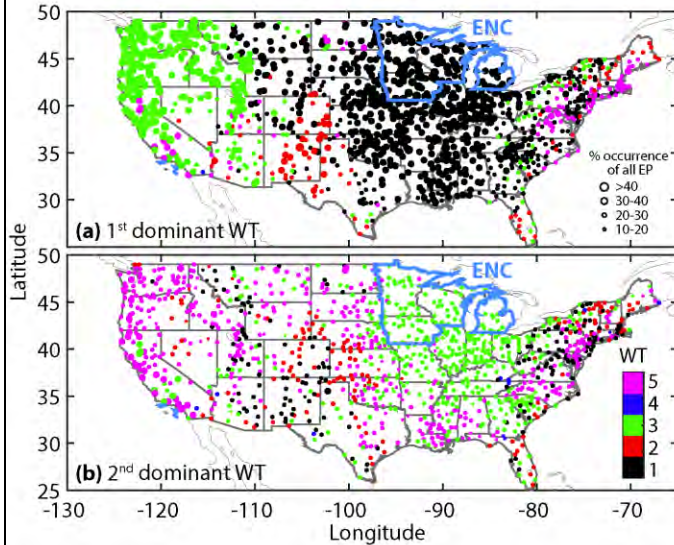
$\vec{\theta}_j = [\alpha_{0,j}, \xi_j, \zeta_{0,j}]$  : parameters of generalized Pareto distribution (GPD) reparameterized for  $u = 0$  (Deidda, 2010) - Constant in time

# Outline

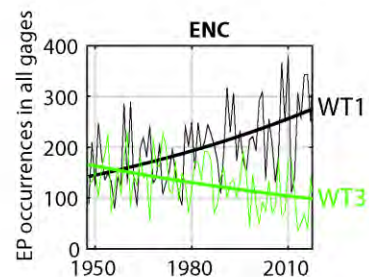
1. Motivation
2. Nonstationary statistical model of extreme precipitation (EP) based on weather types
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## Application in East North Central U.S.

We computed the 5 WT of Zhang and Villarini (2019) from 1949-2015



- *K*-means cluster analysis on 500 hPa Geopotential height from NCEP-NCAR
- GHNC daily P records
- EP = POT series above 95<sup>th</sup> quantile
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dominant WT in EP



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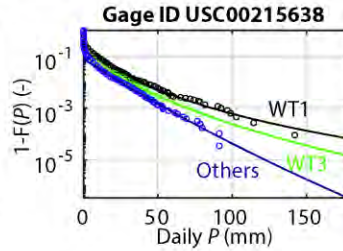


# Application in East North Central U.S.

We applied the mixed model to 3 populations

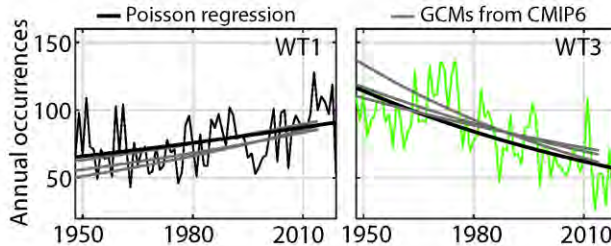
$$F(x) = \sum_{j=1}^3 p_j \cdot F_j(x | \vec{\theta}_j)$$

$$p_j = \frac{n_j}{\sum_{k=1}^3 n_k} \quad n_j \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_j(t))$$



$$F_j(x | \vec{\theta}_j)$$

	$a_{\theta, j}$	$\xi_j$	$\xi_{\theta, j} = \Pr\{P > \theta_j\}$
<b>1: WT1</b>	8.55	0.20	0.26
<b>2: WT3</b>	11.07	0.12	0.11
<b>3: Others</b>	11.78	0.03	0.08



$$\lambda_j(t) = \exp(a + bt)$$

	$a$	$b$
<b>1: WT1</b>	-4.9	0.0047
<b>2: WT3</b>	24.5	-0.01

- statistically significant at 0.01 level
- $t = 1949, \dots, 2015$

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# Application in East North Central U.S.

Statistical simulations to compute return levels

1. For each year,  $t = 1949, \dots, 2015$

WT1  $\rightarrow n_1 \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_1(t))$

WT3  $\rightarrow n_2 \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_2(t))$

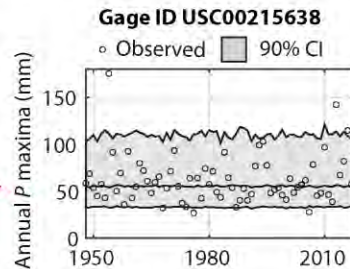
Others  $\rightarrow n_3 = 365 - n_1 - n_2$

2. Randomly draw  $n_1, n_2$  and  $n_3$  variates from respective GPDs (these include zero P)

3. Repeat for 1-2 all years  $\rightarrow$  time series of annual P maxima from 1949 to 2015

4. Repeat 1-3 for 10,000 times  $\rightarrow$  10,000 time series of annual P maxima

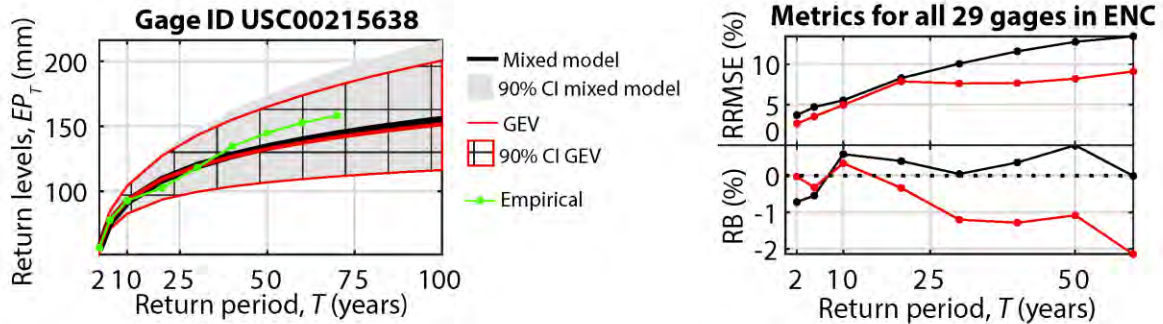
5. Compute return levels,  $EP_T$ , from empirical distribution of annual P maxima, along with associated sampling uncertainty



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## Comparison with models based on annual maxima

We compared return levels of mixed model and Generalized Extreme Value (GEV) distribution



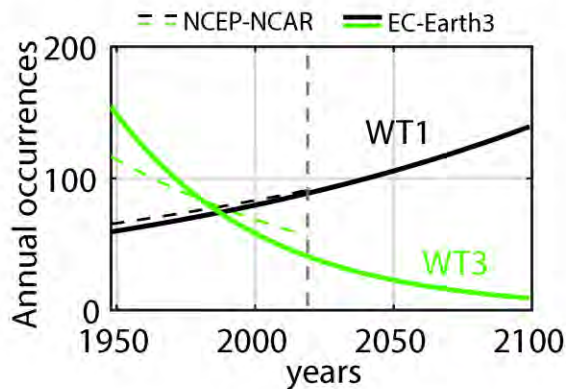
*Similar performance with the GEV used in current design standards*

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## Application of the mixed model in future climate

We applied the mixed model with ScenarioMIP simulations of EC-Earth3 for SSP8-8.5

1. We quantified temporal changes in WT's occurrences and applied the mixed model



- We have applied the mixed model with EC-Earth3-derived:

$$\lambda_j(t) = \exp(a + bt)$$

- Constant GPD parameters
- We have tested other two GCMs with similar results

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# Application of the mixed model in future climate

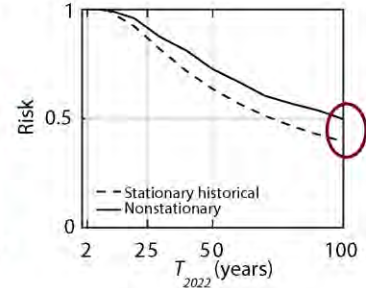
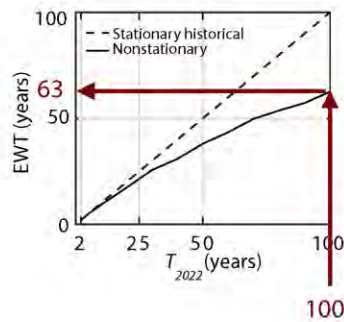
## We applied the mixed model with ScenarioMIP simulations of EC-Earth3 for SSP8-8.5

- We computed metrics accounting for nonstationary frequencies of EP
  - We assumed an infrastructure is built in 2022 with a design life  $m = 50$  years  $\rightarrow T_{2022}, EP_{T_{2022}}$
  - We calculated expected waiting time (EWT) and risk of failure  $\rightarrow$  nonstationary geometric distribution

$$EWT = 1 + \sum_{x=1}^{X_{out}} \prod_{t=1}^x (1 - p_t)$$

$\uparrow$   
 time varying exceedance  
 probability of  $EP_{T_{2022}}$  from  
 the mixed model

$$Risk = 1 - \prod_{t=1}^m (1 - p_t)$$



Salas et al. (2018)

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## Outline

- Motivation
- Nonstationary statistical model of extreme precipitation (EP) based on weather types
- Application in East North Central U.S.
  - past climate (reanalysis)
  - future climate (climate models)
- Conclusions and future work

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## Conclusions and future work

- We have developed a **nonstationary statistical model of EP** based on **mixed populations**:
  - \*Populations identified by WT, whose occurrence varies with time and is adequately simulated by GCMs
  - \*GPD with constant parameters modeling P in each population
- **Statistical simulations** are needed to apply the model. Performances and uncertainty are similar to current approaches based on annual maxima and the GEV distribution
- Preliminary model applications with future climate projections of CMIP6 GCMs suggest **increasing intensity of EP** in East North Central U.S.
- **Future work**: thoroughly test the approach in other regions and include a large ensemble of GCMs to characterize the uncertainty of future climate projections.

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## Conclusions and future work

# Thanks!

For questions: [gmascaro@asu.edu](mailto:gmascaro@asu.edu)

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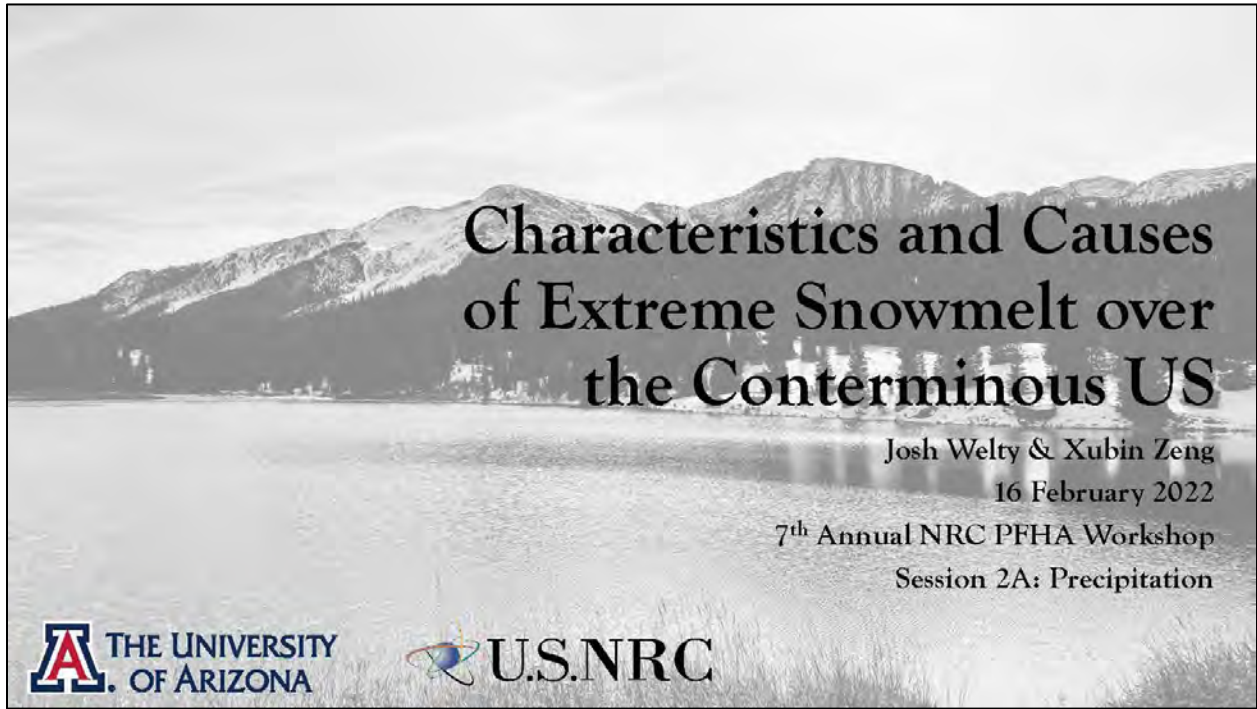
### **3.4.4 Presentation 2A-4: Characteristics and Causes of Extreme Snowmelt over the Conterminous United States**

Author: *Joshua Welty*<sup>\*1</sup>, *Xubin Zeng*<sup>2, 1</sup>*U.S. Navy Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center*, <sup>2</sup>*University of Arizona*

Speaker: *Joshua Welty*



#### **3.4.4.1 Abstract**

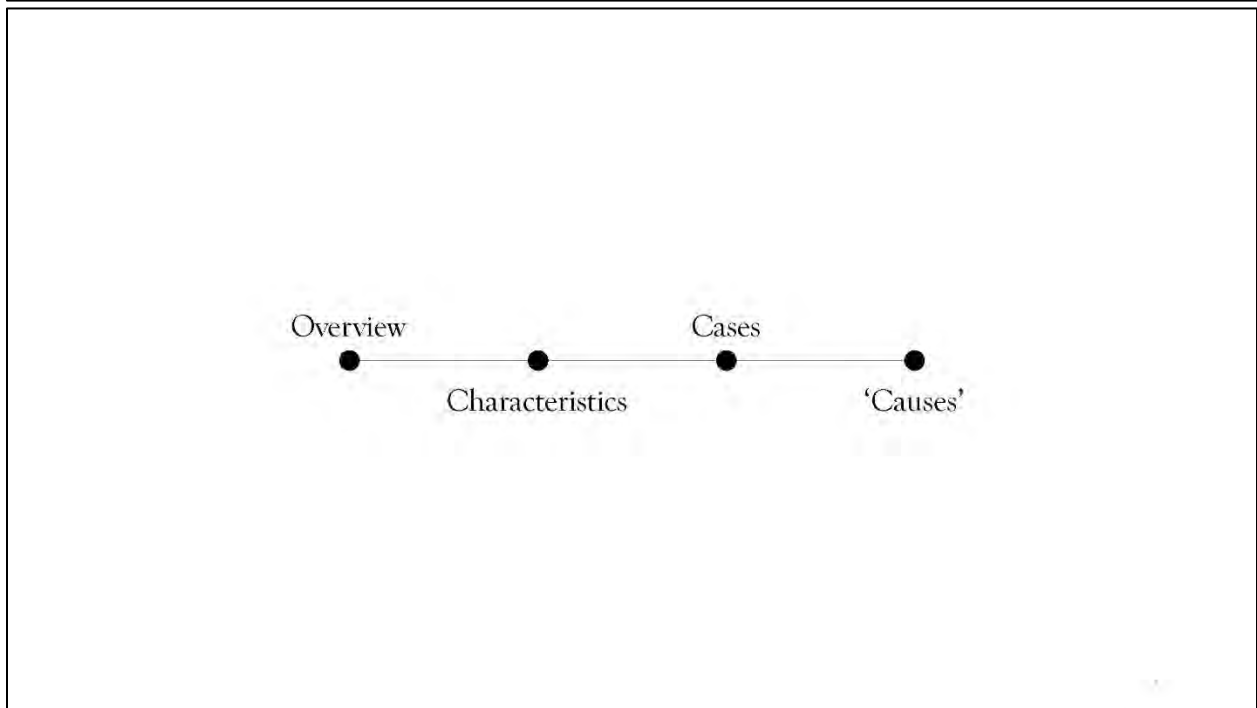
Snowmelt is an essential process for the health and sustenance of numerous communities and ecosystems across the globe, though it also presents potential hazards when ablation processes are exceedingly rapid. Using 4-km daily snow water equivalent, temperature, and precipitation data for three decades (1988–2017), here we provide a broad characterization of extreme snowmelt episodes over the conterminous United States in terms of magnitude, timing, and coincident synoptic weather patterns. Larger-magnitude extreme snowmelt events usually coincide with minimal precipitation and elevated temperatures. However, certain regions, particularly mountainous regions and the northeastern United States, exhibit greater likelihood of extreme snowmelt events during pronounced rain-on-snow events. During snowmelt extremes, snowmelt rate often exceeds precipitation in many regions. Meteorological patterns and associated water vapor transport most directly connected to extreme events over different regions are classified via a machine-learning technique. Over the 30-yr study period, there is a weakly increasing trend in the frequency of extremes, though this does not necessarily signify an increase in snowmelt magnitudes.



**Characteristics and Causes  
of Extreme Snowmelt over  
the Conterminous US**

Josh Welty & Xubin Zeng  
16 February 2022  
7<sup>th</sup> Annual NRC PFHA Workshop  
Session 2A: Precipitation

 THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  U.S.NRC



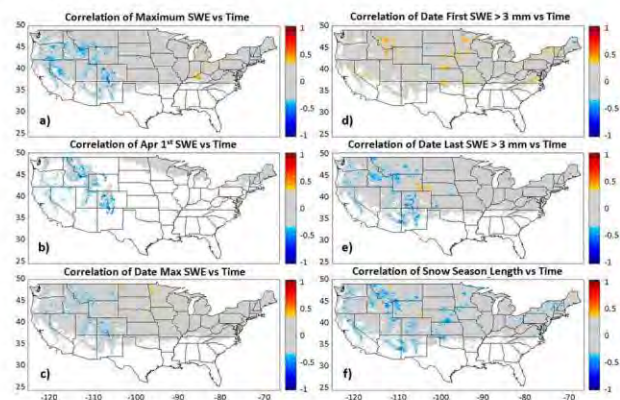


## Why is snowpack important?

- Reflects potentially long-term changes in temperature and/or precipitation
- Represent 'water towers' for regions like the drought-prone western CONUS
- Conversely, can prove hazardous when melting process is rapid

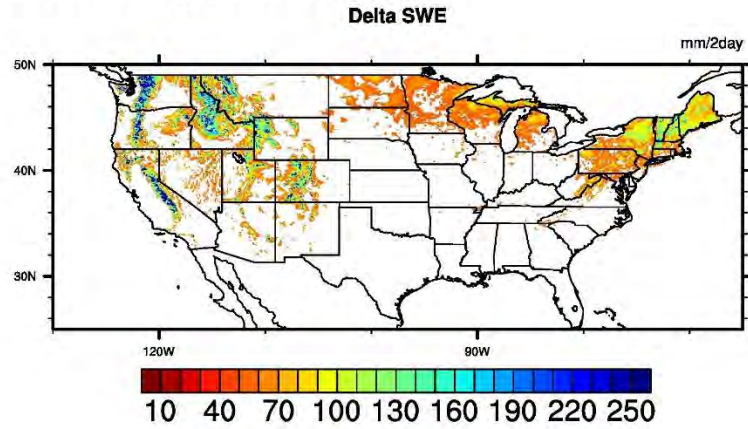
## What can be done with snowpack data?

- Spatial representation / heterogeneity of snowpack over the US<sup>1</sup>
- Long-term trends in snowpack<sup>2</sup>
- Evaluation of model representation of SWE relationship w.r.t. temperature and precipitation<sup>3</sup>
- Post-processing of near-surface variables for soil moisture and drought monitoring<sup>4</sup>
- Characterization of ablation in terms of magnitude, timing, and synoptic weather conditions<sup>5</sup>



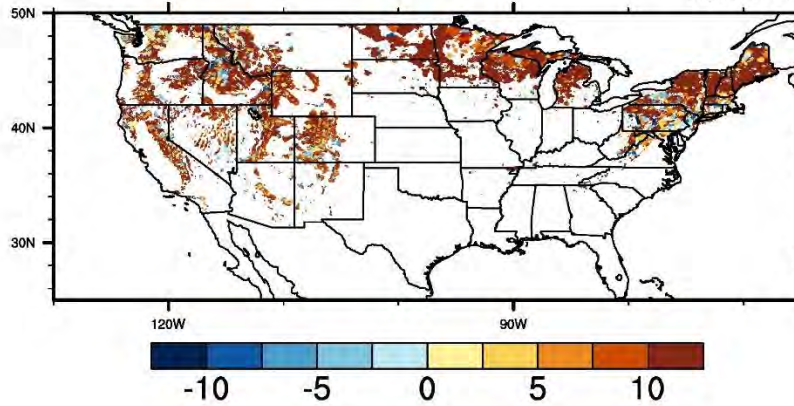
## Maximum snowmelt magnitude

- Delta SWE: largest 2-day snow loss for the 30-year period at each pixel
- Largest over high elevations in the western CONUS and portions of eastern CONUS



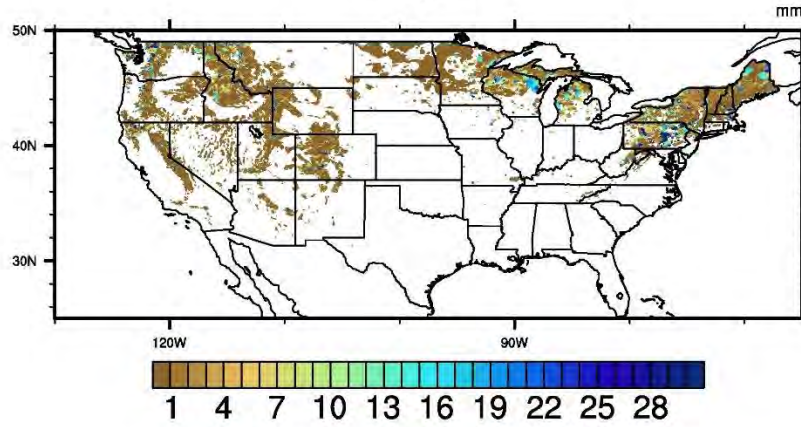
## Temperature

degrees celsius



Above-freezing temperatures are most pervasive

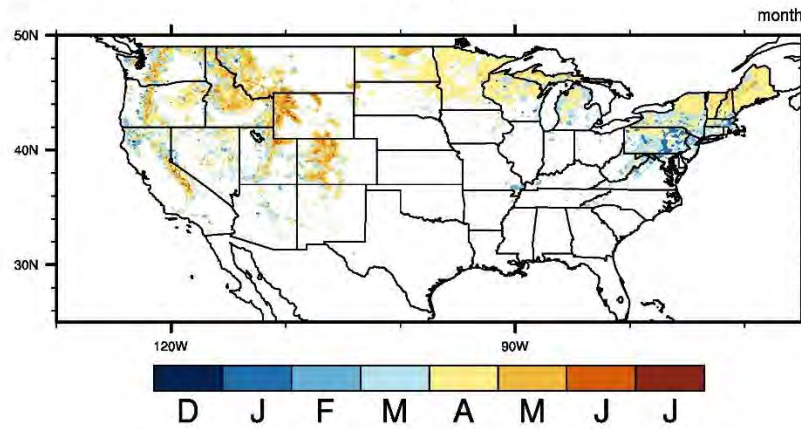
### Precipitation



Limited precipitation is associated with snowmelt in most regions

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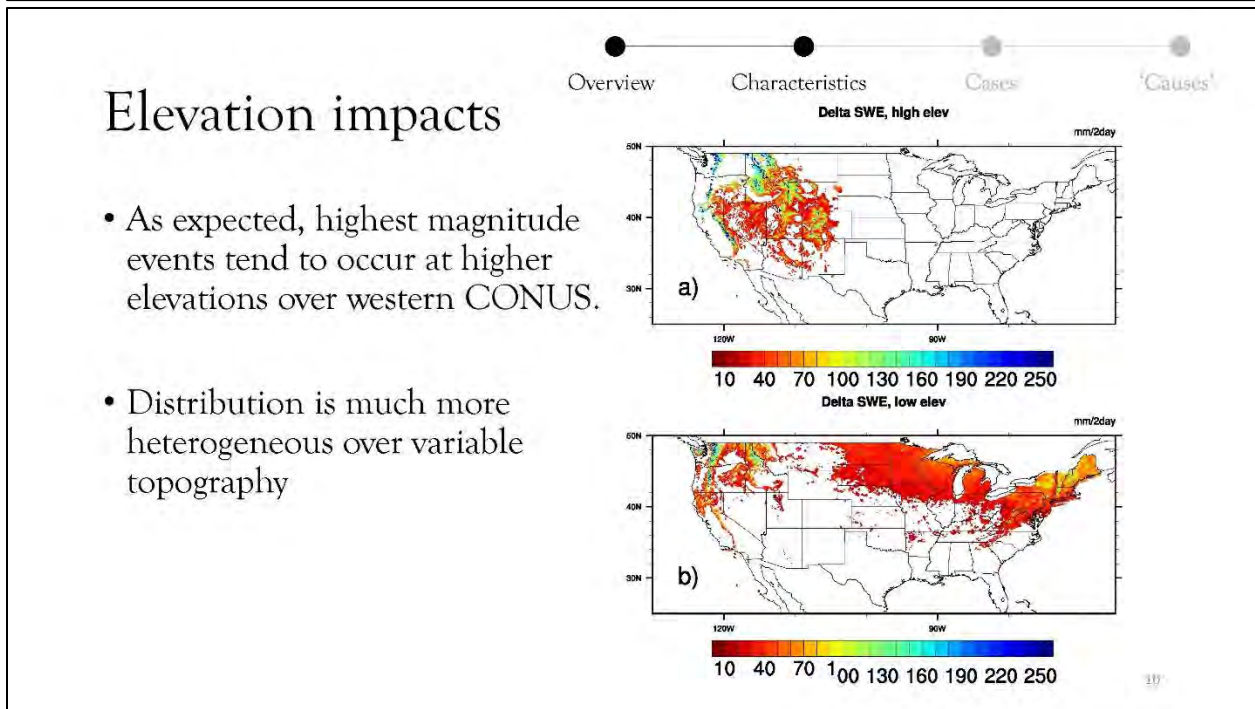
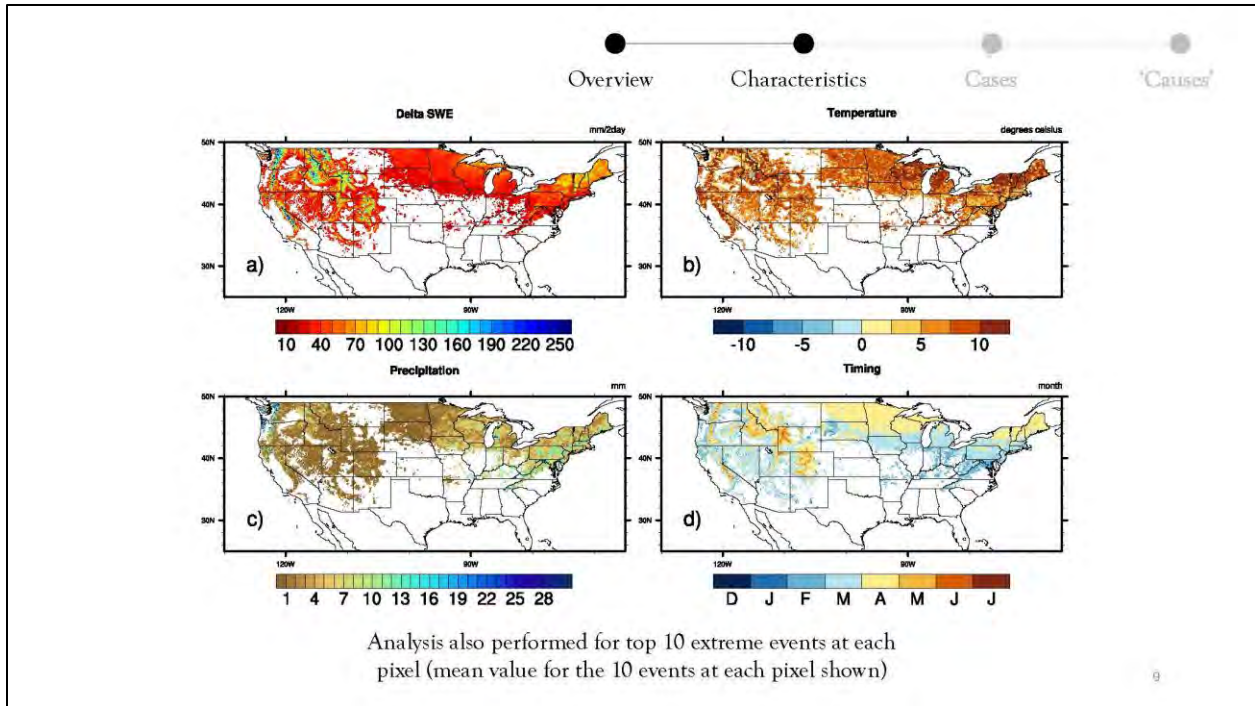
### Timing

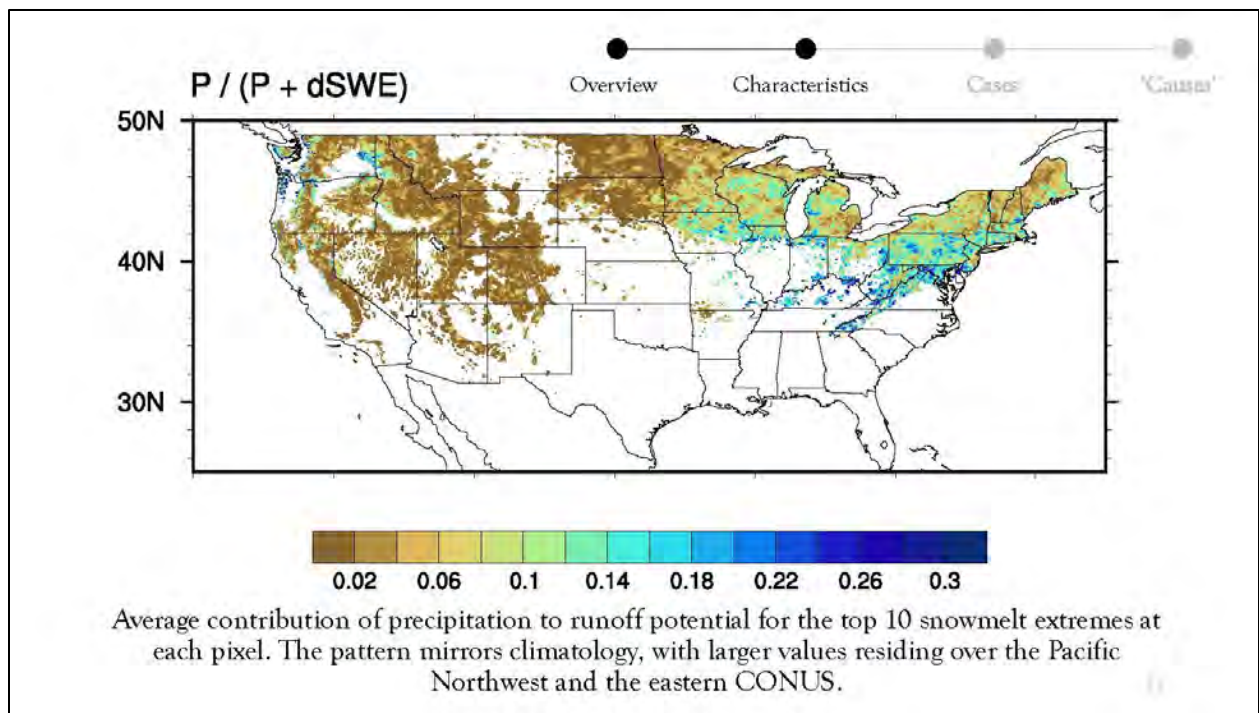


Timing usually during mid- to late spring, though more southerly regions and windward sides of mountains exhibit earlier timing

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●      ●      ●      ●

Overview      Characteristics      Cases      Causes

## Trends

- There is a positive trend ( $p=0.25$ ) in the occurrence of snowmelt extremes over the CONUS throughout the period, particularly during the month of May ( $p=0.03$ ). Also, a positive trend in rain-on-snow occurrence ( $p=0.19$ )
- Though there is a weakly positive trend in frequency, no notable pattern for magnitude

a) CONUS

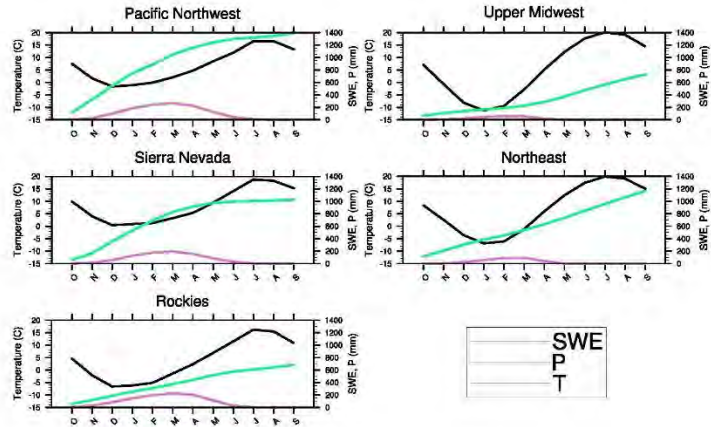
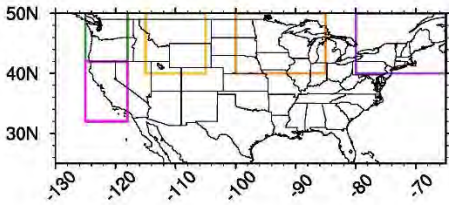
Average annual cycle of extreme snowmelt occurrence (pixel number) by decade

g) CONUS

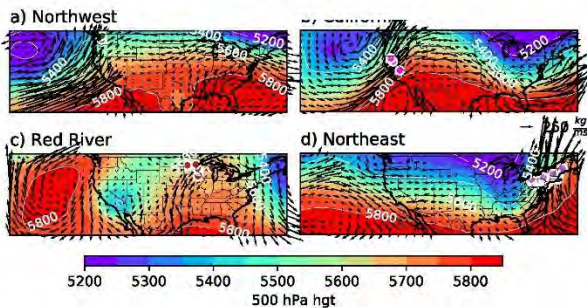
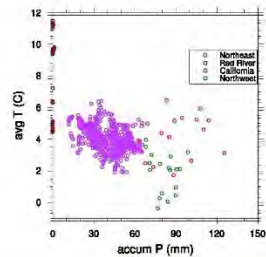
Average annual cycle of extreme snowmelt magnitude by decade

12

# How do snowmelt extremes vary by region?



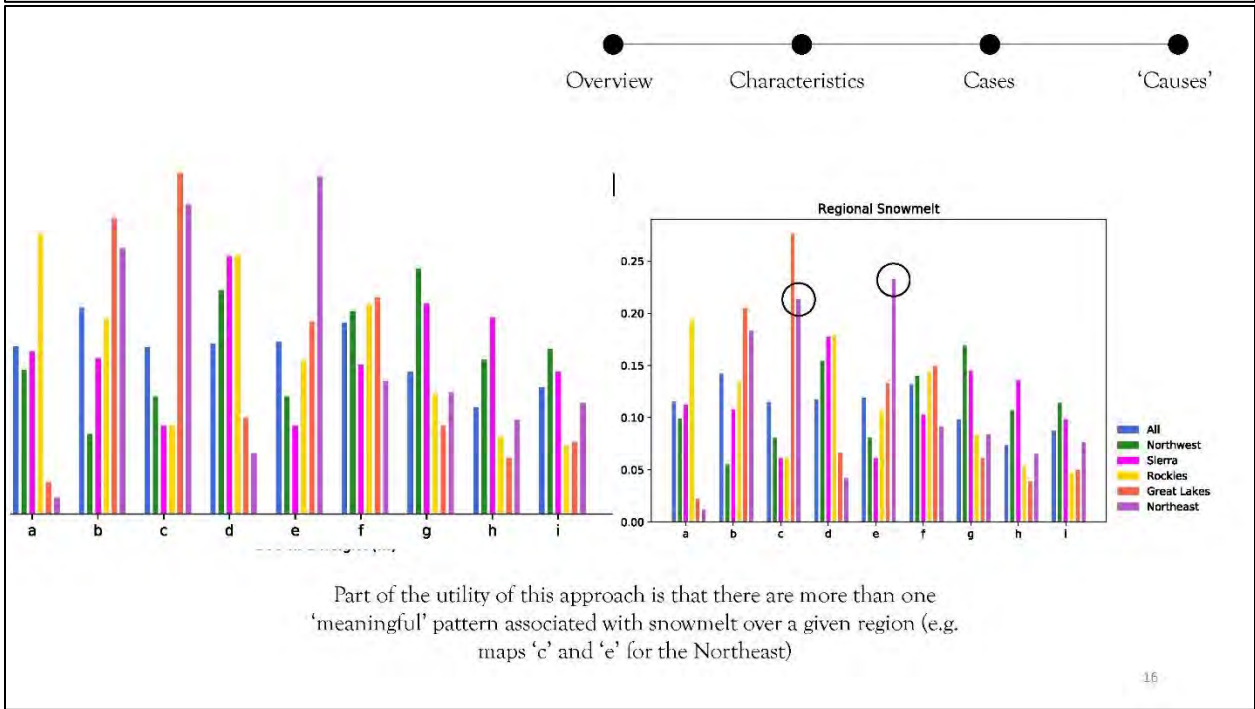
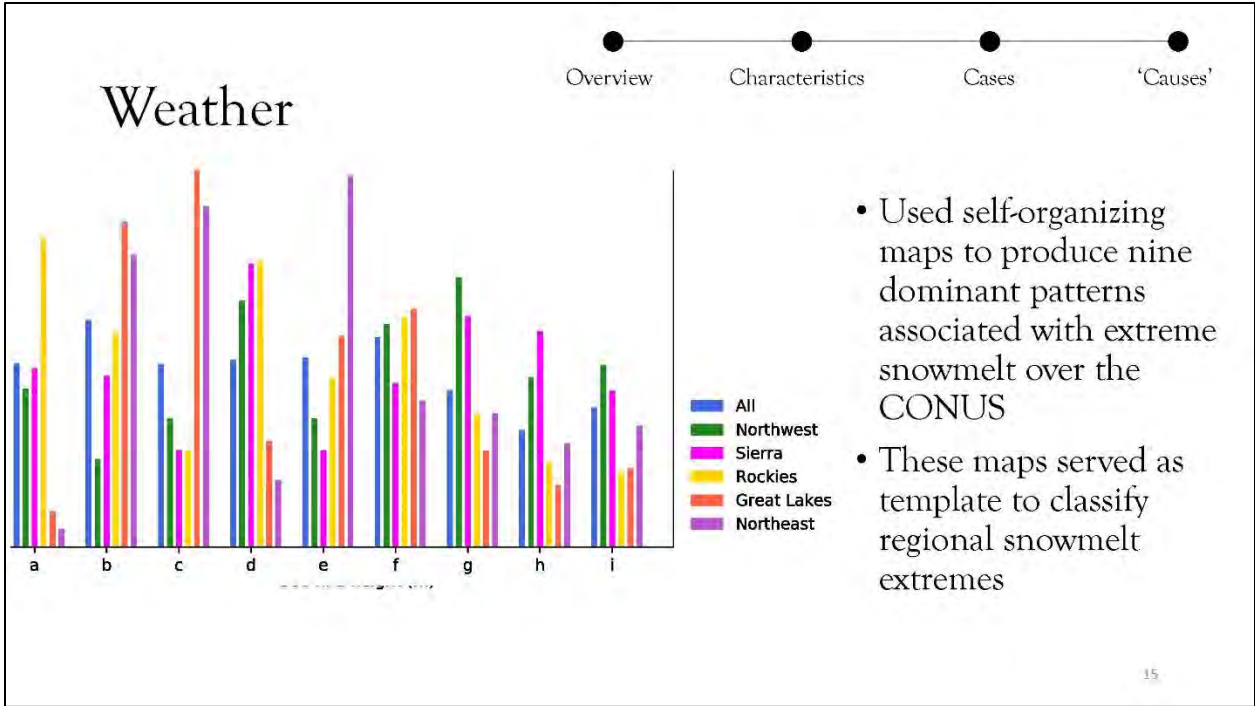
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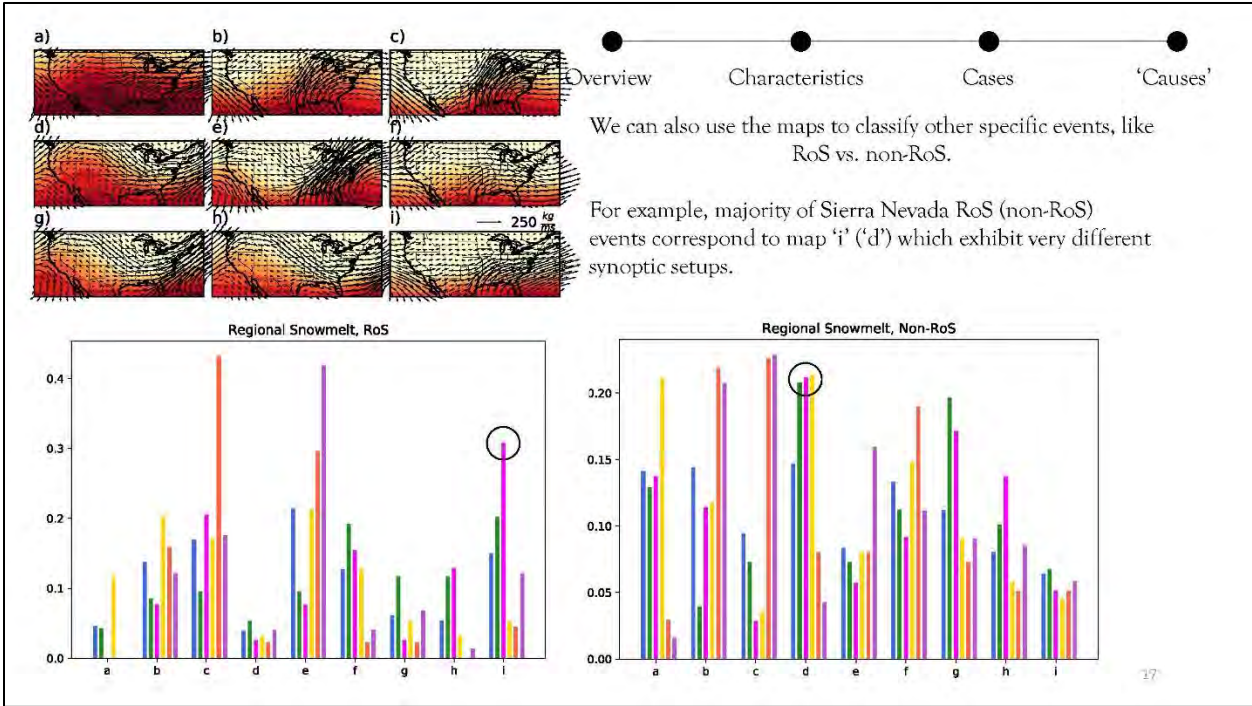


- Four high-impact flooding events over different regions
- In three out of the four case studies (exception being Northwest),  $dSWE > P$  contribution to runoff
- In some cases (e.g. Red River, burgundy dots in top, figure 'c' in bottom),  $dSWE \gg P$

14







## Takeaways

- Large variation in the meteorological conditions associated with regional events
  - Over the western CONUS, anomalous high pressure and upstream AR activity
  - Over the eastern CONUS, frontal passage, Gulf warm air advection, and precipitation
- In many cases, SWE loss exceeds the precipitation contribution to runoff
- There is a weakly increasing trend in the frequency of extreme snowmelt events over the US

## Acknowledgments/References

- UA SWE data are available from the National Snow and Ice Data Center (<https://nsidc.org/data/nsidc-0719/versions/1>). PRISM data can be downloaded from the PRISM Climate Group (<https://prism.oregonstate.edu/>). MERRA-2 data are available from the Goddard Earth Sciences Data and Information Services Center (<https://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/>).



<sup>1</sup>Broxton, P. D., N. Dawson, and X. Zeng, 2016. Linking snowfall and snow accumulation to generate spatial maps of SWE and snow depth. *Earth Space Sci.*, 3, 246-256, <https://doi.org/10.1002/2016EA000174>

<sup>2</sup>Zeng, X., P. Broxton, and N. Dawson, 2018. Snowpack change from 1982 to 2016 over conterminous United States. *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 45, 12 940-12 947, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2018GL079621>

<sup>3</sup>Brunke, M., Welty, J., & Zeng, X. (2020) Attribution of snowpack error sensitivities to simulated temperature and precipitation in E3SMv1 over the contiguous United States. <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2021MS002640?af=R>

<sup>4</sup>Arévalo, J., Welty, J., Fan, Y., & Zeng, X. (2021) Implementation of Snowpack Treatment in the CPC Water Balance Model and Its Impact on Drought Assessment. <https://journals.ametsoc.org/view/journals/hydr/aop/JHM-D-20-02011/JHM-D-20-02011.xml>

<sup>5</sup>Welty, J., & Zeng, X. (2021) Characteristics and Causes of Extreme Snowmelt over the Conterminous United States. <https://journals.ametsoc.org/view/journals/bams/aop/BAMS-D-20-01821/BAMS-D-20-01821.xml>



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**



### 3.4.5 Presentation 2A-5: LIP PFHA Pilot Study

Authors: *Rajiv Prasad\**, *Arun Veeramany*, *Rajesh Singh*, *Pacific Northwest National Laboratory*

Speaker: *Rajiv Prasad*

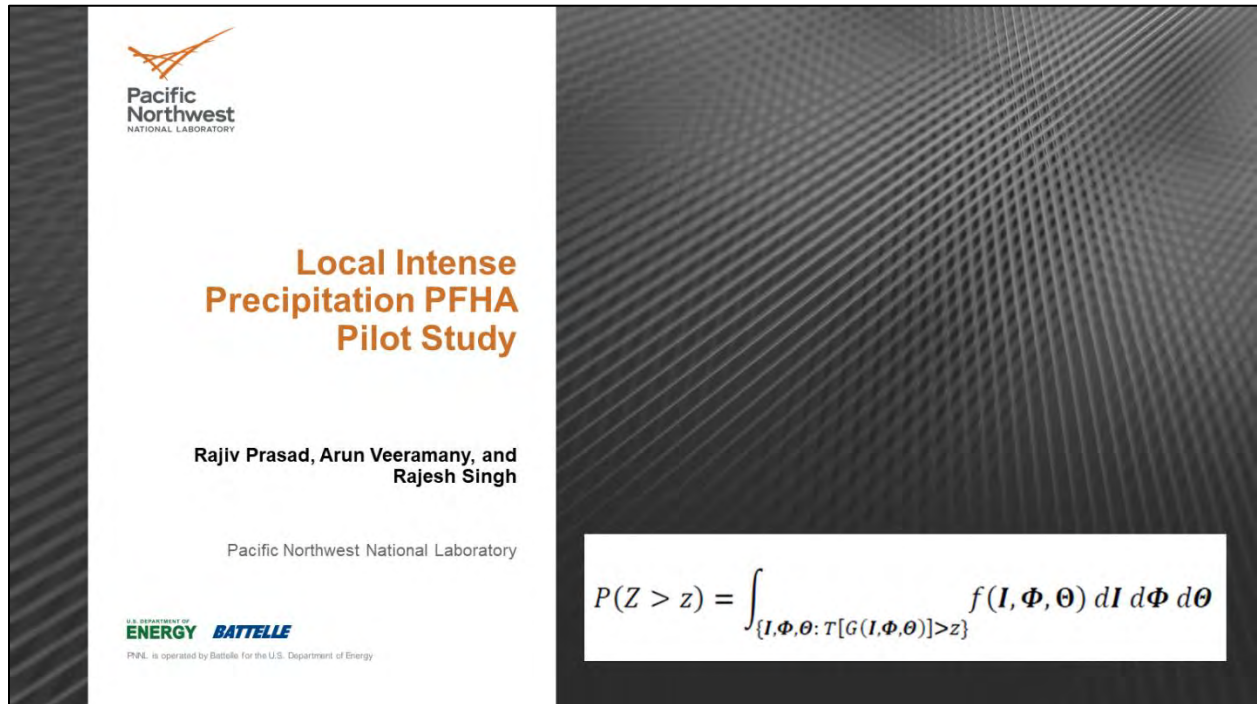
#### 3.4.5.1 *Abstract*

As part of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment (PFHA) Research Program, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) is currently performing a pilot study for probabilistic assessment of local intense precipitation (LIP) flood hazards at nuclear power plants (NPPs). The project includes (1) reviewing existing software packages used to perform LIP flood hazard assessments, (2) reviewing aleatory variability and epistemic uncertainty that influence LIP flood event modeling, (3) performing a LIP probabilistic flood hazard assessment (PFHA) for a hypothetical NPP site, and (4) transferring knowledge to the NRC.

PNNL has completed Tasks 1 and 2 of this project. The findings from these tasks were presented in previous PFHA Workshops. In Task 3, a PFHA was performed for a NPP site. The LIP flood model developed for the post-Fukushima flood hazard reevaluation was leveraged for this study. The LIP flood model was implemented using the FLO-2D™ flood simulation software package. The model was first subjected to a sensitivity analysis to determine the major sources of uncertainty in model predictions. The flood hazards were found to be sensitive to two sources: (1) input precipitation (aleatory variability) and (2) surface roughness (epistemic uncertainty). The flood hazards did not show significant variation with respect to initial soil moisture content, saturated hydraulic conductivity, and presence of storm drains.

LIP PFHA simulations are being performed using a stratified sampling approach. The input precipitation is obtained from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) precipitation frequency data server. Point precipitation frequency estimates for annual maximum precipitation at the site were obtained and extrapolated to an annual exceedance probability of  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ . Storm temporal distributions from NOAA Atlas 14 were used to construct storms of 6, 12, 24, and 96-h durations. The relative frequencies of temporal distribution types (peak intensity in various quartiles) were preserved. The NPP site's spatial distribution of surface roughness (represented by Manning's surface roughness coefficient) were preserved. The epistemic uncertainty in surface roughness was represented by a uniform distribution of multipliers applied to the original spatial distribution.

The model runs for the PFHA simulations are being performed on PNNL's high-performance supercomputer. To this end, the FLO-2D™ software was tested and modified to run under a Microsoft Windows™ emulator on the Linux system. A set of Python scripts are used to sample input parameters, populate input files, perform flood simulations, collect predicted results, and estimate the flood hazard curves. The total probability theorem is applied to estimate the flood hazard curves.



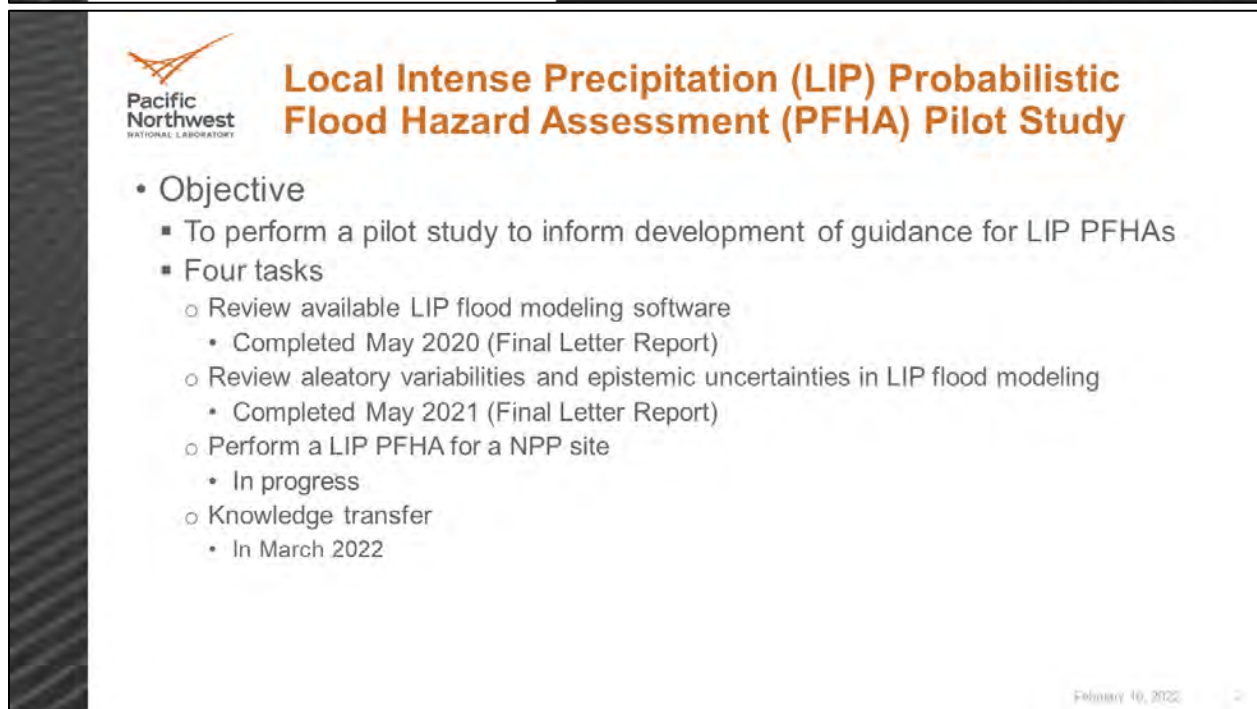
Pacific Northwest  
NATIONAL LABORATORY

## Local Intense Precipitation PFHA Pilot Study

Rajiv Prasad, Arun Veeramany, and  
Rajesh Singh

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY **BATTELLE**  
PNNL is operated by Battelle for the U.S. Department of Energy

$$P(Z > z) = \int_{\{I, \Phi, \Theta: T[G(I, \Phi, \Theta)] > z\}} f(I, \Phi, \Theta) dI d\Phi d\Theta$$


Pacific Northwest  
NATIONAL LABORATORY

## Local Intense Precipitation (LIP) Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment (PFHA) Pilot Study

- Objective
  - To perform a pilot study to inform development of guidance for LIP PFHAs
  - Four tasks
    - Review available LIP flood modeling software
      - Completed May 2020 (Final Letter Report)
    - Review aleatory variabilities and epistemic uncertainties in LIP flood modeling
      - Completed May 2021 (Final Letter Report)
    - Perform a LIP PFHA for a NPP site
      - In progress
    - Knowledge transfer
      - In March 2022

February 16, 2022

## LIP PFHA for a NPP site

- Task 3: Perform a LIP PFHA for a NPP site
  - Real NPP site selected
  - Characteristics of NPP site used in simulation
    - Buildings, vehicle barrier system, subsurface drainage system
    - Surface characteristics (soil types), surface roughness
  - Scope did not include performing a precipitation frequency analysis
    - Used NOAA Atlas 14 (limited to Annual Exceedance Probability [AEP] of  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  and higher) for precipitation
    - Extrapolated depth-area-duration curves to AEP  $1 \times 10^{-6}$
  - FLO-2D as the flood simulation software package
    - Implemented on a regular 2-D grid
    - Combined hydrologic and hydraulic model
    - Solves full dynamic wave formulation of 1-D Saint-Venant equations
      - One flow direction at a time
      - Explicit, central finite difference scheme

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## PFHA

- AEP for a flood hazard

$$P(Z > z) = 1 - P(Z \leq z) = 1 - F(z) = \int_z^{\infty} f(u) du$$

↑ ↑  
 A flood hazard  
 A particular magnitude of  
 the flood hazard

↑  
 The cumulative distribution  
 function for the flood hazard

$$Z = T[G(I, \theta, \Phi)]$$

$Z$  = the set of flood hazards,  
 $G$  = the flood simulation model,  
 $I$  = the set of hydrometeorologic input variables,  
 $\theta$  = the set of the model parameters,  
 $\Phi$  = the set of initial and boundary conditions, and  
 $T$  = any further transformations or analyses needed to estimate the flood hazards from the simulated flood parameters.

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## PFHA (cont.)

- AEP

$$P(Z > z) = \int_{\{I, \Phi, \theta: T[G(I, \Phi, \theta)] > z\}} \overbrace{f(I, \Phi, \theta)}^{\text{Joint PDF of } (I, \Phi, \theta)} dI d\Phi d\theta$$

multi-dimensional integration is taken over this set of  $(I, \Phi, \theta)$

- Numerical integration for  $P(Z > z)$

$$\hat{P}(z) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N H(z_i - z)$$

$H(z_i - z) = 1$  for  $z_i = T[G(I_i, \Phi_i, \theta_i)] > z$ , and  $H(z_i - z) = 0$  otherwise

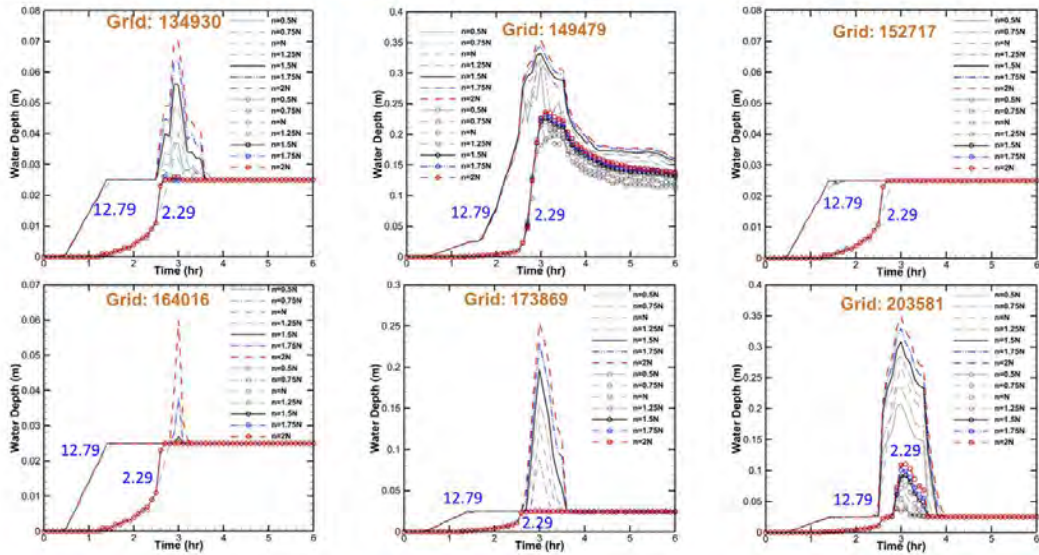
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## PFHA – Dimensionality and Sensitivity Runs

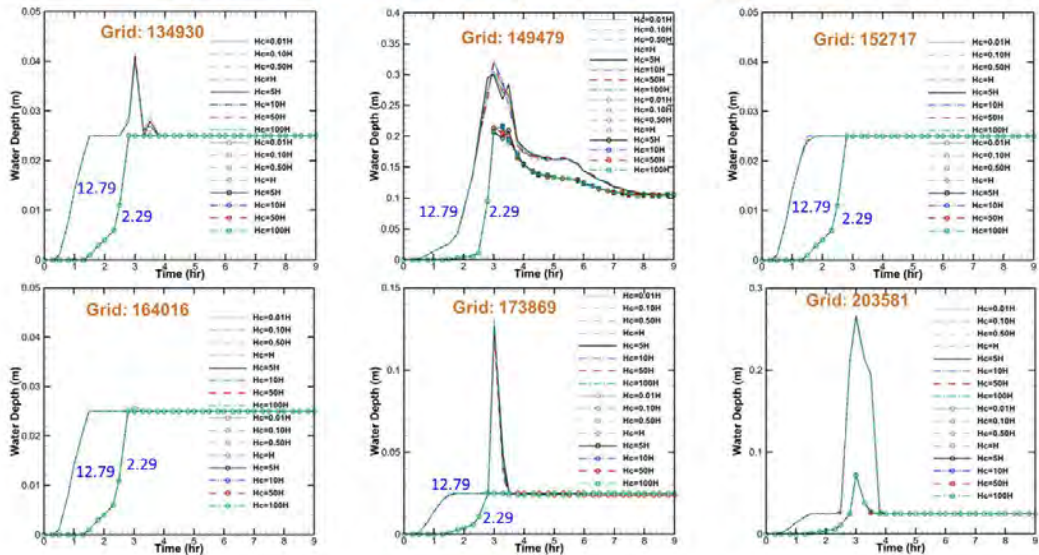
- Sample from joint PDF of  $(I, \Phi, \theta)$
- $I$ : input
  - precipitation (for LIP, primarily rainfall)
- $\Phi$ : initial and boundary conditions
  - initial soil moisture content
- $\theta$ : model parameters
  - Manning's roughness coefficient, saturated hydraulic conductivity
- Site configuration
  - Subsurface storm drains

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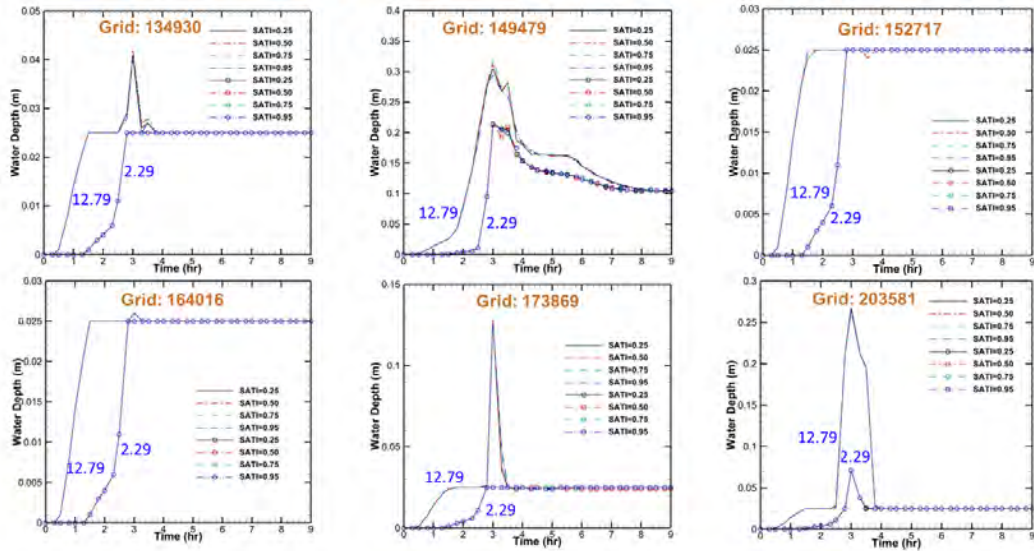
## Results of Sensitivity Runs – Manning's n



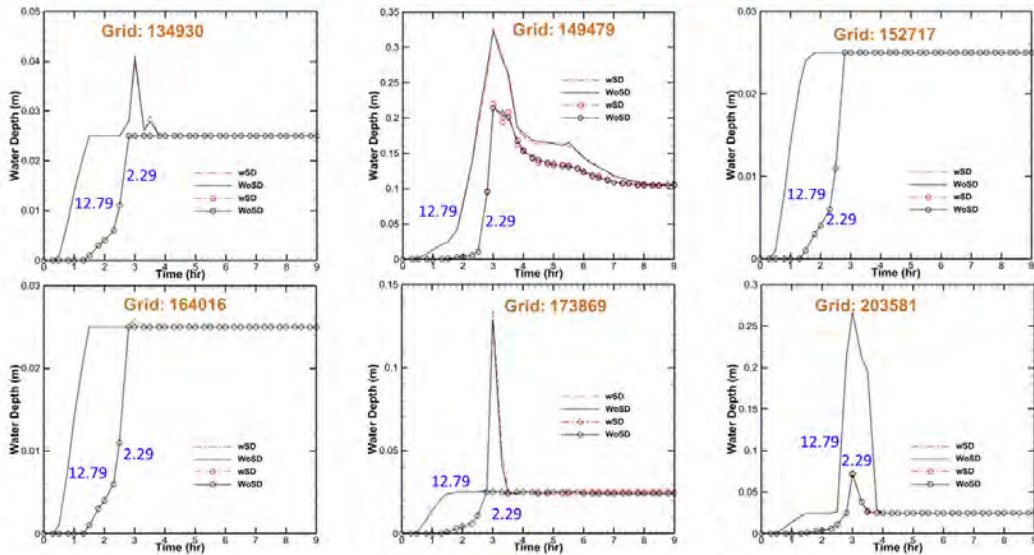
## Results of Sensitivity Runs – $K_{sat}$



## Results of Sensitivity Runs – Initial Soil Moisture



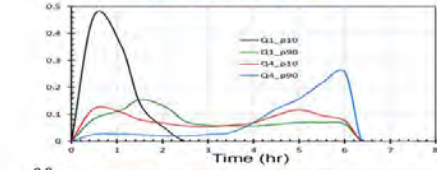
## Results of Sensitivity Runs – Storm Drains



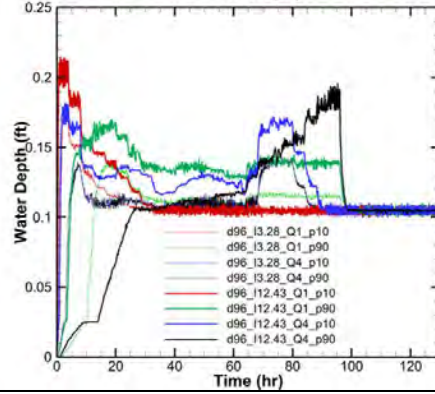
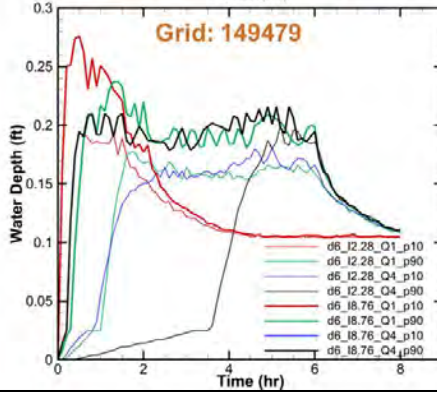
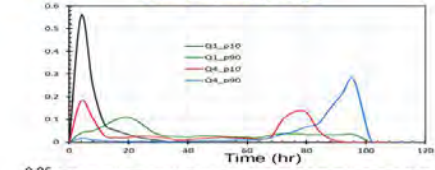


## Results of Sensitivity Runs – Storm Duration

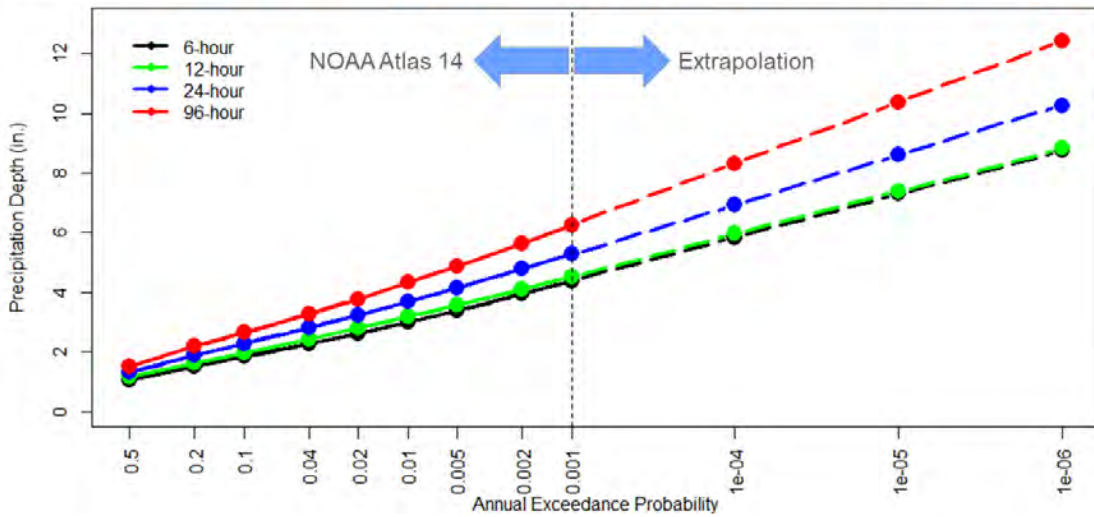
Rain Duration: 6hrs



Rain Duration: 96hrs



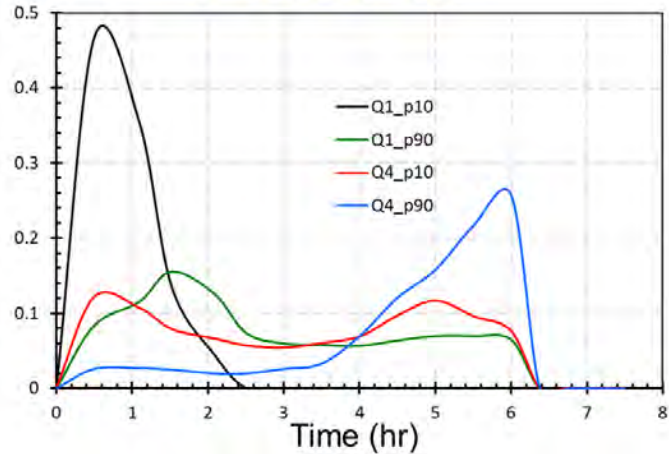
## LIP Input – Probabilistic Precipitation Magnitude



## LIP Input – Probabilistic Storm Duration and Temporal Distribution

Rain Duration: 6hrs

Duration	Percentage			
	First Quartile	Second Quartile	Third Quartile	Fourth Quartile
6 hr	52	23	16	9
12 hr	51	22	17	10
24 hr	50	19	17	14
96 hr	53	19	14	14



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## Next Steps

- Python coding
  - Sampling
    - Aleatory: precipitation magnitude, duration, and storm temporal distribution
    - Epistemic: Manning's n
  - Preparing input files
  - Simulation management
  - Numerical integration to estimate hazard curves
    - Flood depth/water surface elevation, flood duration, flood velocity
- Reporting
  - NUREG/CR describing LIP PFHA
  - Webinar – tech transfer
- Archiving
  - All simulations saved

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**Thank you**

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[Rajiv.Prasad@pnnl.gov](mailto:Rajiv.Prasad@pnnl.gov)  
(509) 375-2096



### 3.4.6 Precipitation Panel Discussion (Session 2A-6)

Moderator: Kevin Quinlan, NRC/NRR

**Azin Al Kajbaf**, *University of Maryland*

**Peter Thornton**, *Oak Ridge National Laboratory*

**Giuseppe Mascaro**, *Arizona State University*

**Joshua Welty**, *U.S. Navy Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center*

**Rajiv Prasad**, *Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)*

#### Question:

To what degree is the QA/QC of different data sources evaluated and accounted for in Daymet?

#### Peter Thornton:

For the temperature station observations, we go through a preliminary round of cross validation analysis. We have found that if a station has some questionable quality issues, it tends to stick out as an anomaly in that cross validation approach. So, we have set a pretty generous threshold and we will throw out a station if it exceeds mean absolute error or bias issues in that preliminary cross validation. That ends up being a small fraction of stations that get rejected that way, like less than 1%. We'd like to do something similar for precipitation, but there's so much variability and the daily mean absolute error rates are pretty high for individual precipitation events, which I think anybody familiar with this business is going to understand. So it's been hard to define what those statistics might look like. If you look in our paper, I showed this map of the precipitation mean absolute error as a Thiessen Polygon sort of approach for each station. There are stations even in the heavily instrumented regions in the US that stick out as having particularly high mean absolute error. We have not yet tried to go in and identify those stations and their particular problems. I'm sure that there are some quality issues with individual stations that, NCEI, hasn't found yet that we might be able to identify that way. We haven't gone through that level of analysis yet. We do summarize our statistics by network and so we can see, on average, whether the different networks are providing absolute errors that are higher or lower. That's complicated for precipitation as well, because snow observations are just inherently more uncertain.

#### Question:

How does the Daymet interpolation method for precipitation relate to PRISM?

#### Peter Thornton:

The Daymet and PRISM methods have both in the literature and in use widely in the community for a long time. They're fundamentally different, and I think there's real value in having both of those methods out there and in use. The PRISM stands for precipitation regressions on independent slopes, and they tend to have an a priori clustering of the observations on topographic facets. They get some real value out of doing that. We, on the other hand, have this Gaussian kernel filtered approach that includes the X-, Y-, and Z-dimension for the 3D regression that gives us a similar kind of answer. A lot of different analysis have shown that there's a lot of similarity between the two approaches. But there are definitely places with extreme precipitation gradients, in particular along the crest of the Cascades, where PRISM is doing a better job. And there are other places where various analyses have shown that the

Daymet approach is doing better. So, it is kind of a mixed bag there. But I think there is real value in having both approaches out in the community.

**Question:**

Joshua, for the extreme snow melt was a theoretical maximum melt determined? It would be very interesting to see how close some of those maximum SWE reductions are to a maximum limit.

**Joshua Welty:**

The simple answer is no, we didn't. I have relatively strong confidence that anywhere approaching the theoretical maximum limit is probably somewhere in the Cascades. If you look at the simple maps we made, a lot of the largest delta SWE magnitudes were generally in the Pacific Northwest, maybe Cascades. That would be the place to start. But no, we didn't identify theoretical maximum limit based on our observational study. But I appreciate the question, that would be really interesting to look at.

**Question:**

Rajiv, was there any consideration for separating the precipitation aleatory and epistemic uncertainty in the model?

**Rajiv Prasad:**

A short answer is no. We are only looking at NOAA Atlas 14, for better or worse, for now. But there are epistemic uncertainties related to precipitation. NOAA Atlas 14 basically looks at model parameter estimation errors only. You could extend that in a more comprehensive precipitation frequency analysis that looks at alternative models. For example, you could include alternative statistical distributions that fit extreme precipitation data and then try to look at those in collection as part of the epistemic uncertainty. You could bring that in. Because we are limiting the analysis scope to just the flood at the moment, we did not look at that.

**Question:**

Regarding precipitation estimates to drive flood hazard assessment modeling, there are several choices: (1) statistical analysis of historical information; (2) mechanistic synthetic approaches such as numerical weather prediction or climate models; and (3) statistical synthetic approaches such as point or multipoint weather generators. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each approach?

**Rajiv Prasad:**

The way we approach it right now, at least in this project, is to look at NOAA Atlas 14, extrapolated. That is not really satisfactory because NOAA Atlas 14 pretty explicitly says do not do that. Another thing with historical information is that we are, at least in the U.S., limited by record lengths. You can get around that by doing regionalized analysis. The question becomes do we rely on a regional analysis? And how do we translate that back to, at least in the case that we are doing, really, local scale modeling? Are we losing anything in that sense? If we do regionalization, do we lose local features? And how much confidence do we have in those approaches? Synthetic approaches, in terms of weather generators and things like those are

becoming more popular. We did review a few of them in our earlier reports. They could be a good approach to get to some of those things. Until we actually do an intercomparison of all of these data sources, I don't know. Maybe putting together a flood model and then try to evaluate the predictions from each of those for sites or watersheds where all of these [precipitation estimates] are available might be a good way of seeing what the strengths and weaknesses might be.

**Azin Al Kajbaf:**

I just wanted to add that with the historical information there are a lot of challenges. In my work there were a lot of missing data. I think each of the things that you have mentioned have their own weaknesses and challenges to work with. With the historical information there is this uncertainty due to missing data or uncertainty that can come from other sources such as the problems with recordings and things like that. Also, the synthetic models are associated with other sources of uncertainty because they are simplifications of natural processes. So, my opinion is that there are strengths and weaknesses to each one and it should be looked at comprehensively to decide in what situation which one is better to work with based on the limitations that we have.

**Question:**

What is the latency of the Daymet data? How quickly after the valid date/time is it available? Are the different versions made clear?

**Peter Thornton:**

Historically we've done this annually and it's taken a few months after the end of the year to get it updated. We've recently moved to a monthly experimental low latency data product which is bringing in updates from NCEI GHCNd dataset monthly and turning that around within, usually, a week of the end of the month. A good question about the marking of those changes in the data set. I might get the details here slightly wrong, but typically, we're storing each of those monthly updates so you can go back and see individual months and then at the end of the year we do a complete reprocessing of the entire year and do an update that would be marked as an extension of the main annual time series data set. So yes, in short, you can track that but there's certainly a lot more iterations with those monthly latency updates.

**Question:**

Joshua, could one take a climate model or an ensemble of models and using your methods develop future SWE maps? And what would be one of the major challenges to do this?

**Joshua Welty:**

Presumably, yes. Our approach is flexible, so as long as you have a large enough set of inputs, on the order of maybe 1000+ maps, to train the model this is conceivably an option. I think another benefit of the approach is obviously with self-organizing maps. There's some flexibility in that you can try different number of inputs, different neighborhood functions. You can use 500-millibar heights or 500-millibar height anomalies. So, I think the simple answer to the question is yes. I think the main challenge would be how accurate is the model or suite of models you choose. But I think to answer the question is, conceivably, yes. It's a relatively flexible approach, so that would be the hope.



## Question:

Rajiv, there was a question that came in during your presentation about Manning's coefficient and has there been any thought to how that may change with the flood depth, and how that may impact your results?

## Rajiv Prasad:

The short answer, when you think about it mechanistically and hydraulically, is yes it can. There are ways in which FLO-2D actually deals with it. They have some empirical ways of adjusting Manning's  $n$  when that happens, but I would really like to have a better theoretical understanding of it. The other thing that I haven't seen done, particularly at these local scales industrial Sites, is that you can have the water surface butt up against building walls, etc. So the wetted area as well as the friction on the walls might change, depending on where you are getting inundation. So yes, I think that can be something that we should think about. Surface roughness in this case really applies to all surfaces that the water touches. How do we deal with it? For now, the flood models are implemented in terms the momentum equation formulation that uses Manning's  $n$ . Could it be better, or at least can we think about calibrating it better? Yes, we could, but the challenge there is where do you get datasets that allow you to come up with some form of either calibration to look at your site or understanding theoretically how some of these resistance to flow changes might happen? So open question, good question. I don't have a great answer for that.

## 3.5 Day 2: Session 2B – Riverine Flooding

Session Chair: Joseph Kanney, NRC/RES

### 3.5.1 Presentation 2B-1 (KEYNOTE): Flood Typing and Application to Mixed Population Flood Frequency Analysis: An Interagency Collaborative Effort

Authors: *Nancy Barth*<sup>\*1</sup>, *Michael Bartles*<sup>2</sup>, *John England*<sup>2</sup>, *Jory Hecht*<sup>1</sup>, *Gregory Karlovits*<sup>2</sup>, *William Lehman*<sup>2</sup>; <sup>1</sup>U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), <sup>2</sup>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Speaker: *Nancy Barth*

#### 3.5.1.1 *Abstract*

An improved understanding of the frequency and magnitude of floods is critical for the design of transportation and water-conveyance structures as well as insurance studies and floodplain management. Methods for estimating annual exceedance probabilities (AEPs) (or return intervals) in the United States were recently updated in Bulletin 17C. These methods assume homogeneous flood distributions but acknowledge that floods at a given location can be generated by multiple causal mechanisms, such as snowmelt, intense convective rainfall events, or tropical cyclones, representing a mixed population. Mixed population flood events may not only impact the fit of the flood frequency curve in the range of the observed floods but may also impact the quality of AEP estimates in the upper tail of the flood frequency distribution. The 'Future Studies' section in Bulletin 17C acknowledges shortcomings in the handling of mixed-population

datasets and highlights the need for additional studies before guidance for conducting mixed-population flood frequency analysis can be confidently developed. Classification of individual events by flood generating mechanisms, or flood type classification, might enable a mixed population analysis. The flood type classifications can be defined in terms of both proximal atmospheric causal mechanisms, such as different storm types, as well as antecedent watershed conditions, such as soil moisture storage and snowpack water content. Currently, the largest national database of annual peak flows, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Water Information System (NWIS) database, contains little information about the flood type classification for each annual peak-flow event. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and USGS have begun a multi-year collaborative effort to develop methods for efficiently categorizing flood data stored in NWIS by causal mechanisms. In addition, this collaboration includes the design of a database framework for storing peaks-over-threshold (POT) events. This would ensure that all floods taking place in years with multiple large flood events would also be recorded in the database, including information on the mechanisms that generated them. The POT data could be used for mixed population analyses that includes frequency, duration, and volume.

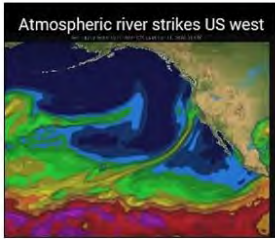
# Flood Typing and Application to Mixed Population Flood Frequency Analysis: An Interagency Collaborative Effort

## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual NRC Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment Research Workshop:

February 16, 2022

**Nancy A. Barth, Ph.D.**

Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey  
Dakota Water Science Center  
nabarth@usgs.gov



Immediate Evacuation Order – Officials: Oroville Dam Emergency Spillway in California Expected to Fail Any Moment  
-UPDATE- Live Stream Added...

Printed on February 12, 2022 11:44:00 AM  
There is a Live Stream at the bottom of the updates.



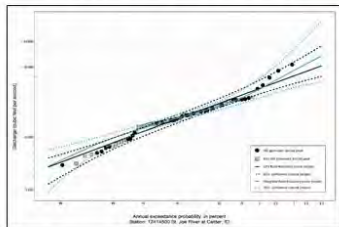
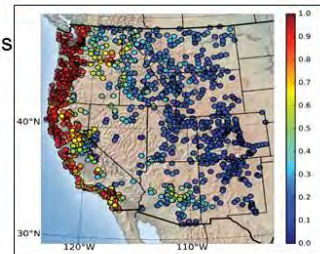
## Motivation and objectives



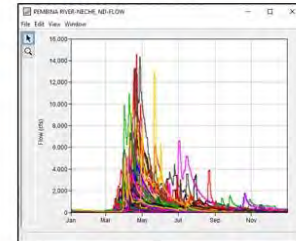
### Improving Hazard Assessment

Balancing flood control, water supply and reservoir operations with extreme meteorological events

Evaluating the impacts of **hydrometeorological processes** on flood frequency across the United States



Methodological developments to account for **mixed populations** in flood frequency analysis



Proposed workplan to update peak-flow databases and **flood frequency analysis to recognize multiple causal mechanisms of floods**

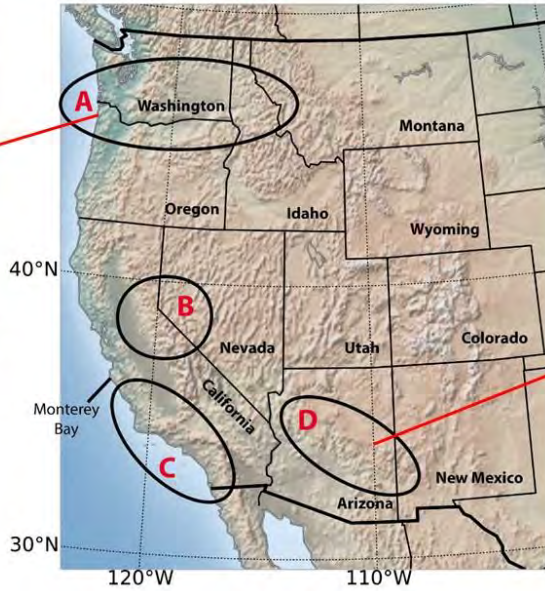




# Diverse flood hydrology throughout Western United States



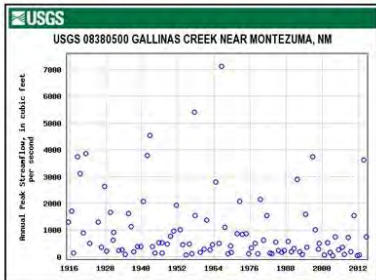
[http://www.flickr.com/photos/kevin\\_cortesi/1494842014/02/IMG\\_1449\\_Large.jpg](http://www.flickr.com/photos/kevin_cortesi/1494842014/02/IMG_1449_Large.jpg)



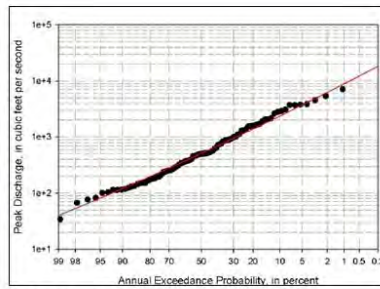
<http://vandnews.com/Grahmagis/Article/309644.jpg>



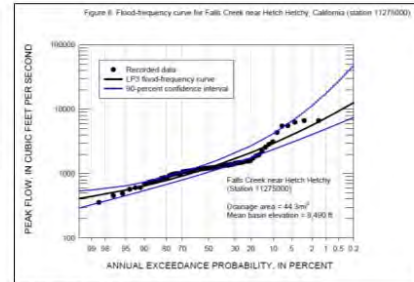
# Determining flood frequency at gaged sites—statistical analysis of annual peak discharge



Fit a probability distribution to the sample (recorded) data



Distribution used in the U.S. is the log Pearson Type III (LP3) (described in Bulletin 17B/17C)



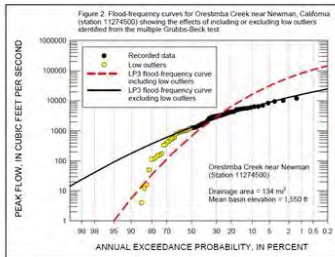
(Parrett et al., 2010)

Mixed population site in California

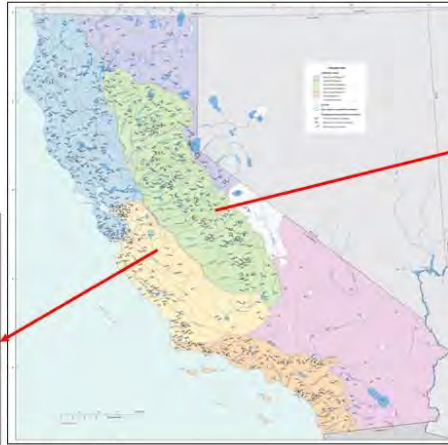


# Complicated at-site streamflow data and flood frequency estimates

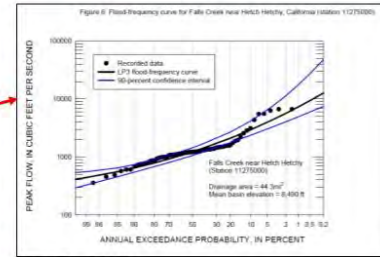
Mixed Populations:  
low flood peaks with influence



(Gotvald et al., 2012)



(Gotvald et al., 2012)



(Parrett et al., 2010)

Mixed Populations:  
rain-on-snow flood events



## “Future Work” (p.27) Bulletin 17B

1. Selection of distribution and fitting procedures. ✓
2. The identification and treatment of mixed distributions. ✓
3. The treatment of outliers both as to identification and computational procedures. ✓
4. Alternative procedures for treating historic data. ✓
5. More adequate computation procedures for confidence limits to the Pearson III distribution. ✓
6. Procedures to incorporate flood estimates from precipitation into frequency analysis.
7. Guides for defining flood potentials for ungaged watershed and watersheds with limited gaging records.
8. Guides for defining flood potentials for watersheds altered by urbanization and by reservoirs.



(IACWD 1982 B17B)

(England, Jr. et al., 2019)





## “Future Work” (p.35) Bulletin 17C

1. The identification and treatment of mixed distributions, including those based on hydrometeorological or hydrological conditions;

...

6. Guides for estimating dynamic flood frequency curves that vary with time, incorporating climate indices, changing basin characteristics, and addressing potential nonstationary climate conditions;

...



(England, Jr. et al., 2019)

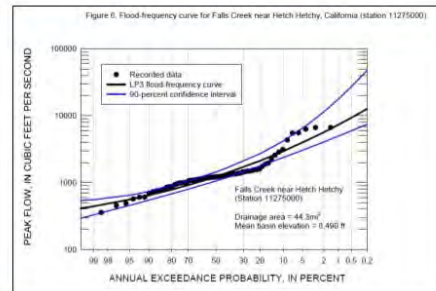


## Stochastic hydrology and physical processes

“In some circles, however, the obvious fact that **these [annual peak flow] values represent a response to varying processes in the physical world has tended to become less important than the urge to statistically model flood values** in search of the best fit of the observed data and therefore (ideally) the best predictive capability of future flows...” (Hirschboeck, 1988)

“[T]he main emphasis in stochastic analysis of hydrological processes...has been on the fitting of various preconceived mathematical models to empirical data rather than on arriving at a proper model from the physical nature of the process itself... **Thus what we usually find is not, in fact, statistical hydrology but merely an illustration of statistical and probabilistic concepts by means of hydrologic data.**” (Klemeš, 1974, p.2)

“Major floods occur from at least two independent causes, tropical hurricane storms and extratropical cyclones. Hurricanes are comparatively rare, but produce extreme flows, and therefore cause an upward curvature of the frequency curve of annual maximum flows. **Some improvement in frequency estimates in this region [New England] is attained by segregating hurricane and non-hurricane floods.** However, this apparently does not solve entirely the problem of upward curvature of the frequency curves” (Beard, 1962)





# The USACE / USGS / FEMA project proposal staff

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
(USACE)**



Mike Bartles  
John England, Jr.  
Greg Karlovits  
Will Lehman

**U.S. Geological Survey  
(USGS)**



Nancy Barth  
Jory Hecht  
Amy McHugh

**Federal Emergency Management  
Agency (FEMA)**



David Bascom  
Christina Lindemer  
David Rosa



# Current and previous studies with potential mixed populations



Prepared in cooperation with the South Dakota Department of Transportation

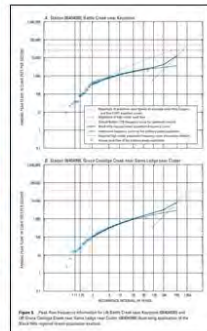
**Peak-Flow Frequency Estimates Based on Data through Water Year 2001 for Selected Streamflow-Gaging Stations in South Dakota**



Scientific Investigations Report 2008-5104

U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey

(Sando et al., 2008)



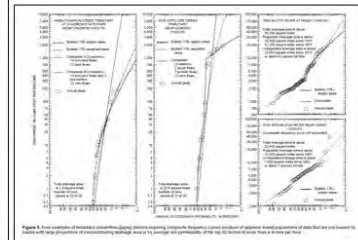
Prepared in cooperation with the  
Nebraska Department of Roads

**Peak-Flow Frequency Relations and  
Evaluation of the Peak-Flow Gaging Network  
in Nebraska**

Water-Resources Investigations Report 99-4032

U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey

(Sankaran et al., 1999)



## Recent USACE mixed population applications

### Portland District

- *Tides, storm surges, multiple runoff mechanisms*
- Lower Columbia River

### St. Paul District

- *Wet/dry cycles, multiple runoff mechanisms*
- Red River at Fargo, ND
- Upper Mississippi River (ongoing)
- Mississippi River / Minnesota River confluence (ongoing)

### Omaha District

- *Ice jams, multiple runoff mechanisms*
- **Lower Platte River**
- Elkhorn River (ongoing)
- Williston Levee
- Garrison Dam
- Oahe Dam (ongoing)

### Philadelphia District

- *Ice jams, tropical storms, rain-on-snow, rainfall-only*
- Lehigh River



FEMA



## Lower Platte River, Nebraska

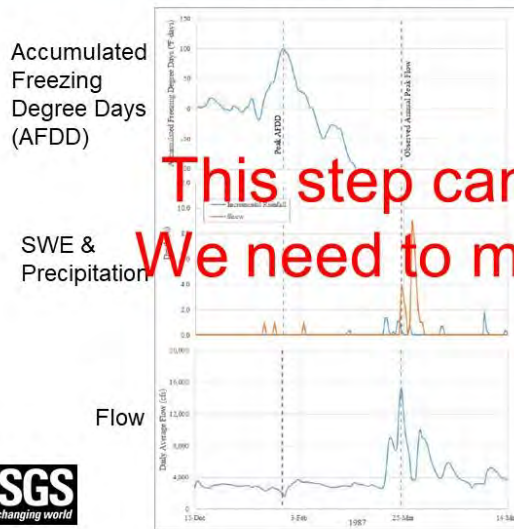


FEMA

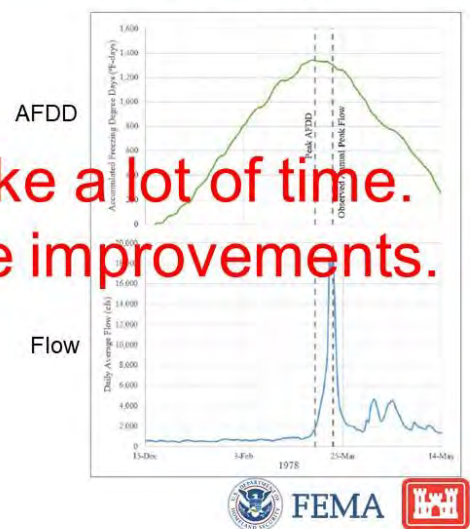


## Lower Platte River, Nebraska: Separating peaks by causal mechanism

*Peak caused by rainfall*



*Peak caused by snowmelt*



This step can take a lot of time.  
We need to make improvements.

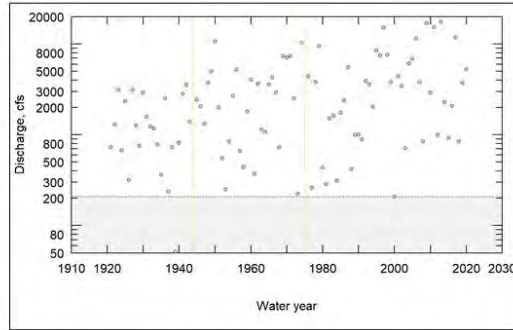
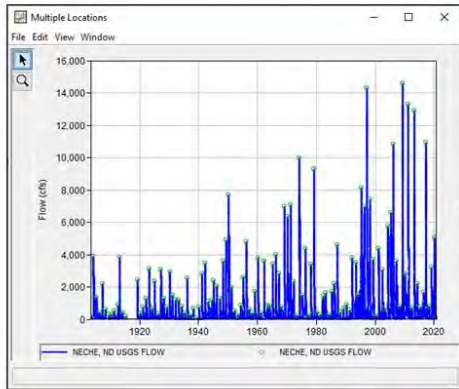
## USACE mixed population analysis steps

- Engineer Manual 1110-2-1415
- Visualize data
- Identify flood causal mechanisms, different populations, changes in trends, wet/dry periods, etc.
- Extract individual and identically distributed (iid) samples (usually annual maximum series)
- Fit distributions to each sample
- Combine using Probability of Union





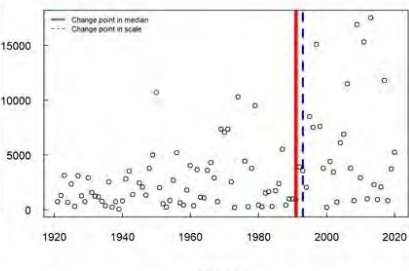
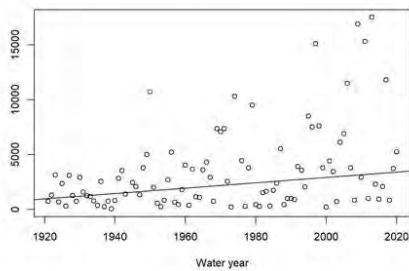
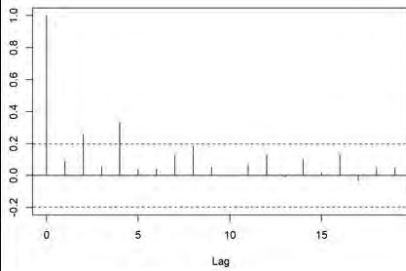
# Data visualization: Pembina River at Neche, North Dakota



— Gap in the annual (by water year) records  
 - - - - Low-outlier threshold, if present, from Multiple Grubbs-Beck test or user provided



# Data visualization: Bulletin 17C analysis--testing stationary assumptions (Pembina River at Neche, North Dakota)



### Autocorrelation AKA

- Serial correlation
- Persistence
- Memory
- Hurst phenomenon

### Monotonic trends AKA

- Gradual trends
- Nonparametric trends

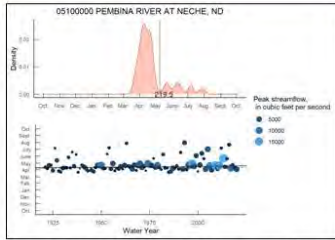
### Change points AKA

- Step trends
  - Median: 1991
  - Scale: 1993

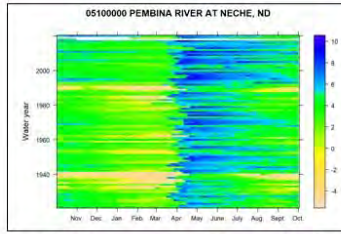
(Preliminary results, USGS from the Transportation Pooled Fund Program)



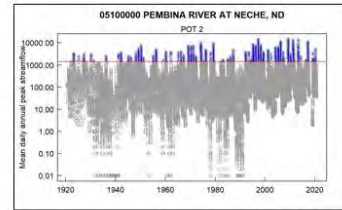
## Data visualization: Evaluating potential causal mechanisms of annual peak flow, maxima and peaks-over-threshold



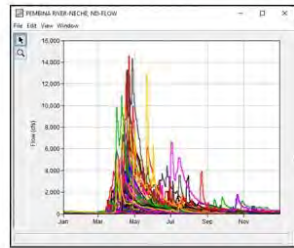
Annual peak-flow timing analysis



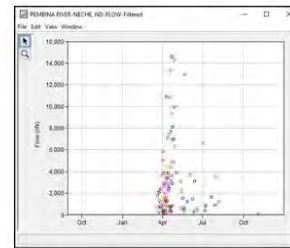
Raster-seasonality analysis



Peaks-over-threshold 2 (POT 2)



Daily average flow



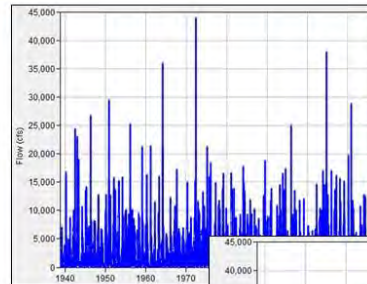
Annual maximum daily average flow



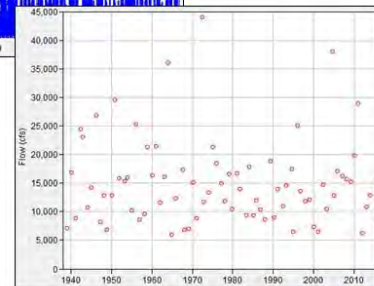
## Data filtering to recognize multiple causal mechanisms

### Filter data using:

- Time window
- Season
- Min/max threshold
- Duration
- Annual maxima
- POT
- Starting pool stage/elevation



USACE HEC-SSP

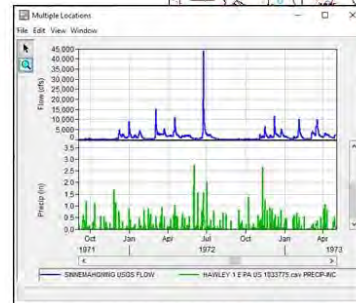




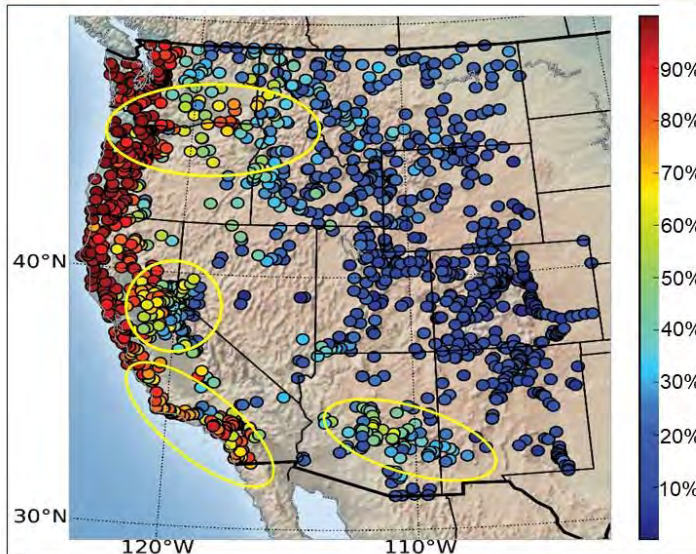
## Data filtering enhancements to recognize multiple causal mechanisms

### Improve the creation of iid samples

- Use more than just calendar date or magnitude:
  - pressure at one or more altitude,
  - integrated vapor transport (IVT),
  - precipitation (over a duration),
  - temperature,
  - antecedent soil moisture,
  - accumulated freezing degree days,
  - change in SWE, etc.



## Example of separating annual peak flows based on causal mechanism in the Western United States



Four smaller regions with a mixture of ~30-70% atmospheric river (AR) and non-AR-generated flood peaks



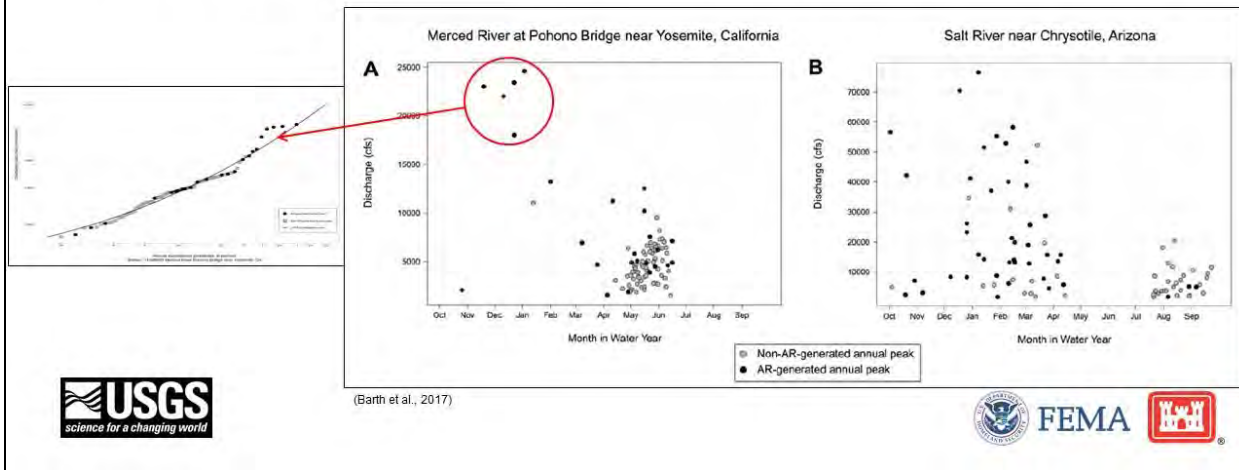
(Barth et al., 2017)





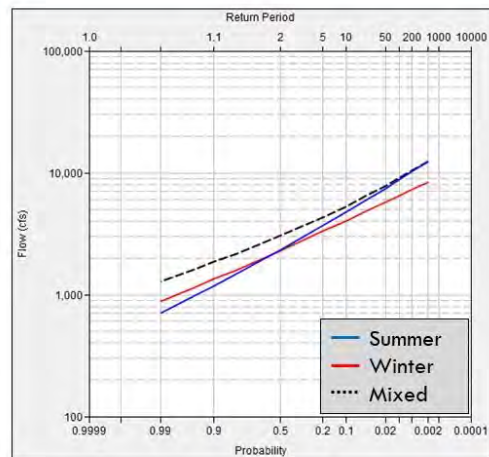
## Methodological developments to account for mixed populations in flood frequency analysis

- How do we perform flood frequency analysis by accounting for different flood generating mechanisms?
- What are the improvements in terms of quantile estimates obtained by accounting for mixed populations?



## Mixed population analysis

- Combine multiple frequency curves using Probability of Union concept
- $P_{combined} = P_1 + P_2 - (P_1 \times P_2)$
- Results in a frequency curve that correctly reflects the occurrence of more than one type of flood per year

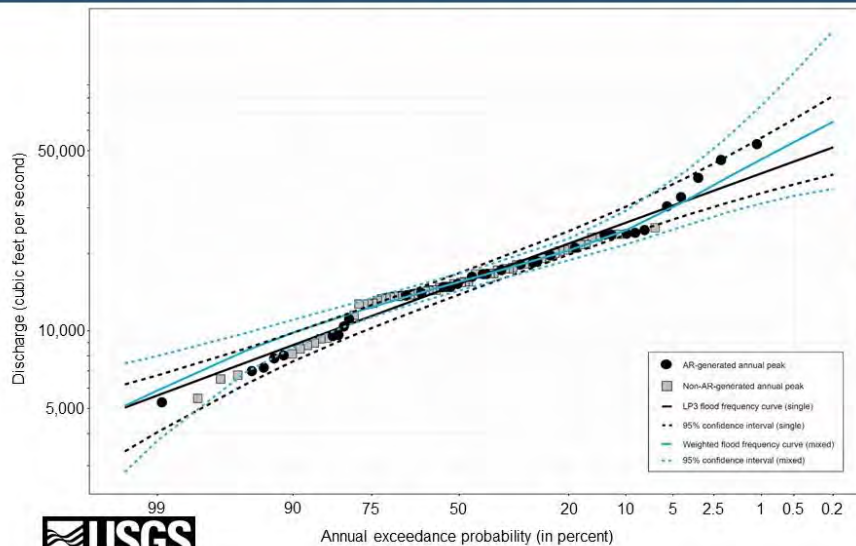


## Mixed population analysis: Additional enhancements

- **Compute uncertainty for mixed population curves**
  - (Current) Order stats
  - Probability of Union for input analytical distribution uncertainty
  - Stochastic generation
  - Mixture model
- **Convert from 1-day duration to instantaneous peak**
  - Most continuous, long-term records are daily average flow
  - Need instantaneous peak for most applications



## Mixed population analysis can better fit the observations



Station: 12414500  
St. Joe River in Calder, ID

Population	Record Length	At-site skew	No. PILF
Single	90	-0.02	0
AR	34	+0.04	0
NonAR	56	-0.25	9

\*Potentially influential low floods (PILF)



**Updating peak-flow databases to recognize multiple causal mechanisms of floods from a storm-typing approach**

**Identification of Storm Type (North America)**



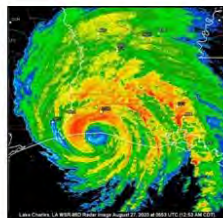
**Squall Line (MEC)**



**LS**



- Scale
- Seasonality
- Source of moisture
- Nature of uplift
- Location
- Local Storm (LS)
- Mesoscale Storm with Embedded Convection (MEC)
- Tropical Storm and Remnants (TSR)
- Mid-Latitude Cyclone (MLC)



**Hurricane (TSR)**



**MLC**



**Updating peak-flow databases to recognize multiple causal mechanisms of floods from a storm-typing approach**

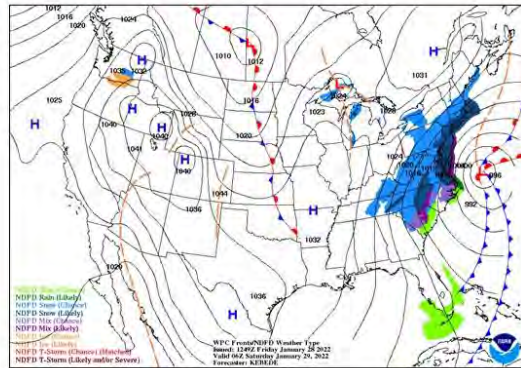
Property	LS	MEC	TSR	MLC
<b>Duration</b>	2 hours	6 hours	48 hours	48 hours
<b>Scale</b>	Mesoscale	Mesoscale	Synoptic	Synoptic
<b>Extent</b>	10 <sup>1</sup> -10 <sup>2</sup> km <sup>2</sup>	10 <sup>2</sup> -10 <sup>3</sup> km <sup>2</sup>	10 <sup>3</sup> -10 <sup>5</sup> km <sup>2</sup>	10 <sup>3</sup> -10 <sup>5</sup> km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Season</b>	All year	Spring-Summer-Fall	Summer-Fall	Winter-Spring
<b>Uplift/Moisture Source</b>	Convection	Orographic or Convection	Convection/Tropical	Frontal/Non-Tropical
<b>General Location</b>	Anywhere	Mid-Continent	Below 30°N	30°-60°N





## Data-driven identification for storm typing

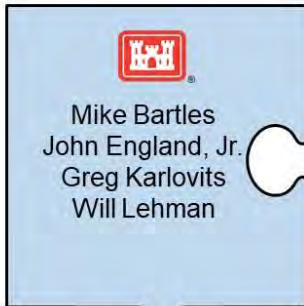
- Surface analysis/maps
  - Helpful when analyzing a storm type
  - Maps are not as straightforward to interpret by an algorithm
- Gridded precipitation
  - Useful for identifying spatial extent of storm and duration
  - Often first step to identify a storm event
- Reanalysis products
  - Provides information on wind fields, convective activity levels, gradient of pressure fields, etc.
- Track data (IBTrACS)
  - Archive of historical storms tracks primarily for identifying TSRs




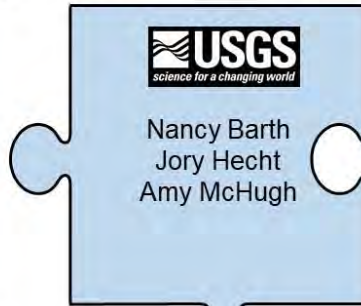
## The USACE / USGS / FEMA project proposal staff


### Proposed Workplan

**Updating peak-flow databases and flood frequency analysis procedures to recognize multiple causal mechanisms of floods**



  
 Mike Bartles  
 John England, Jr.  
 Greg Karlovits  
 Will Lehman



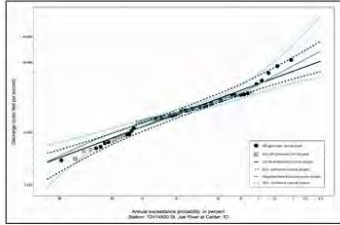
  
 Nancy Barth  
 Jory Hecht  
 Amy McHugh



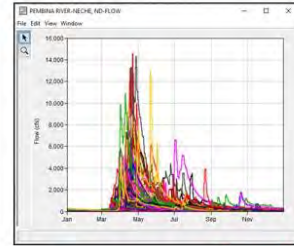
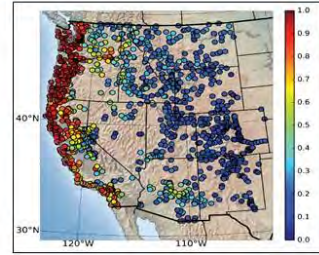
  
 David Bascom  
 Christina Lindemer  
 David Rosa



# Questions?



Thank you  
([nabarth@usgs.gov](mailto:nabarth@usgs.gov))



### **3.5.2 Presentation 2B-2: Applying Stochastic Weather Generation and Continuous Hydrologic Simulation for Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessments**

Authors: *Joe Bellini*<sup>\*1</sup>, *Bill Kappel*<sup>2</sup>, *Dennis Johnson*<sup>2</sup>, *Doug Hultstrand*<sup>2</sup>; <sup>1</sup>*Aterra Solutions*, <sup>2</sup>*Applied Weather Associates*

Speaker: Joe Bellini

#### **3.5.2.1 Abstract**

Applied Weather Associates teamed with Aterra Solutions to complete a stochastic weather modeling study to provide long term meteorological realization for hydrologic modeling, flood frequency analysis, and flood recurrence interval analyses. This utilized a multisite stochastic modeling approach using daily observations of precipitation, temperatures, and snow water equivalent (SWE) from 49 sites in the upper Midwest through the Multi-site Auto-regressive Weather GENerator (RMAWGEN)) framework. Stochastic weather generators are statistical models that simulate realistic or plausible random sequences of atmospheric variables. Resulting sequences provide meteorological realizations that can be used for risk evaluations and reliability assessments for various systems such as dams and nuclear generating facilities. Observed precipitation and temperature records were used to calibrate RMAWGEN for the 1949–2019 period. Validation was performed on the calibration period data. Results demonstrate that the model was able to capture spatiotemporal characteristics of observed precipitation and temperature. The model generated 12 iterations of 1,000-years of daily weather sequences of precipitation, temperatures, and SWE. Climate change projections were applied using RCP 4.5 and 8.5 to generate 12 iterations of 1,000-years of future sequences of precipitation, temperatures, and SWE. Weather outputs were used in a continuous simulation hydrologic model built using HEC-HMS. This was calibrated against 3 different years of daily flow data at locations throughout an 88,000 mi<sup>2</sup> basin. Normal, wet, and dry years were used for calibration. The final calibrated model was used to simulate runoff for each 12x1000-year simulations, including the three climate change projections. Uncertainty analyses, using a Monte-Carlo framework within HMS, bracketed potential outflow possibilities based on variability in hydrologic inputs identified in the calibration phase. Annual maximum flows were used to characterize probabilistic flood hazards (to as low as a 10<sup>-6</sup> annual exceedance probability), considering a wide range of event parameters such as snow accumulation, spring melt patterns, and rainfall. Results will be used in safety assessments and seasonal flood operation planning.





# Applying Stochastic Weather Generation and Continuous Hydrologic Simulation for Critical Infrastructure Design

Joe Bellini, PE, PH, D.WRE, Vice President/Principal Engineer, Aterra Solutions  
 Dennis Johnson, PhD, Senior Hydrologist, Aterra Solutions  
 Doug Hultstrand, PhD, Senior Hydrometeorologist, AWA  
 Bill Kappel, President/Chief Meteorologist, AWA

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1

## Background

- Purpose: Conduct a PFHA to characterize annual exceedance probabilities for a broad spectrum (to very low)
- Location: Site along the Upper Mississippi River
- Approach:
  - Stochastic weather modeling using daily observations of precipitation, min/max temperatures, snow-water equivalent, and two climate-change projections
  - Continuous hydrologic modeling for 12-1,000-year traces (seamed together) for 3 climate scenarios
  - Monte Carlo simulations performed to quantify uncertainty in hydrologic inputs
  - Other uncertainty factors considered



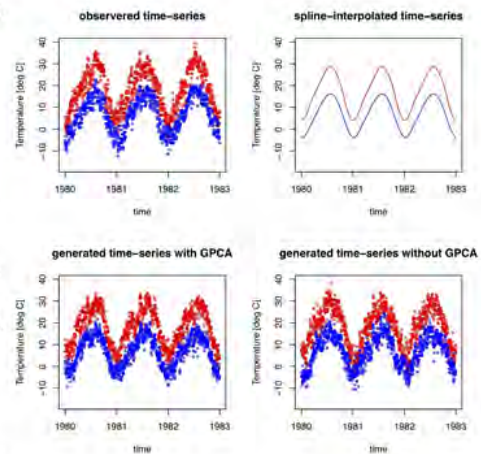
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2

# Stochastic Weather Generator

- A weather generator produces meteorological time series with the same statistical patterns of the observed
- Attempt to reproduce the spatial and temporal dynamics and correlation structures of the variables of interest
- Simulate realistic or plausible random sequences of atmospheric variables such as temperature, rainfall, wind speed, snow
- Synthetic sequences provide a set of alternate realizations that can be used for risk and reliability assessment



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# Stochastic Weather Model-RMAWGEN

- RMAWGEN because it can maintain temporal and spatial correlations among stations
- 49 locations selected to calibrate the model
  - Daily precipitation generated for the reference period 1949-2019
- Coupled with monthly mean weather variables to generate stochastic daily scenarios
- Account for seasonally changing weather variables, monthly or season time frame
- Calibrated model simulated twelve 1000-years of daily precipitation, maximum temperature, and minimum temperature
- Daily time series data used as input into SnowMelt model

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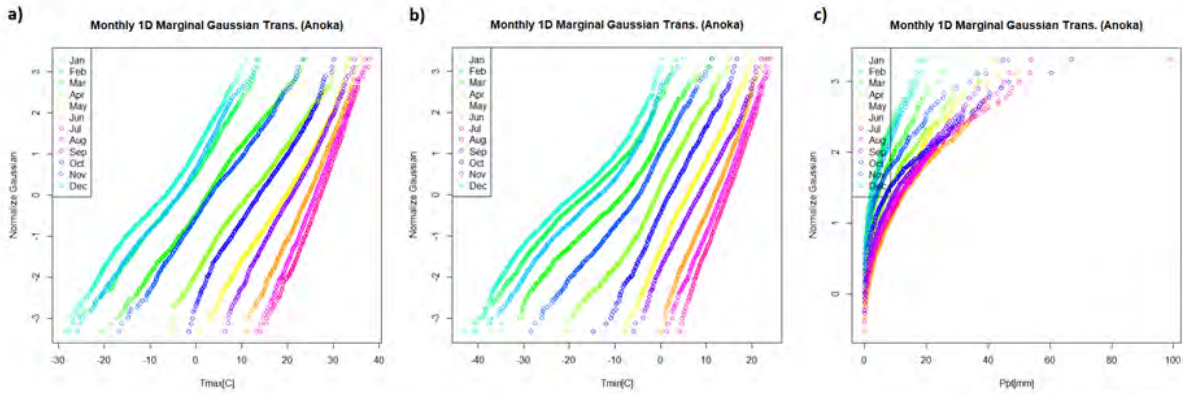
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4

# Precipitation and Temperature Seasonality

- Account for seasonally weather variables of precipitation, maximum temperature, and minimum temperature

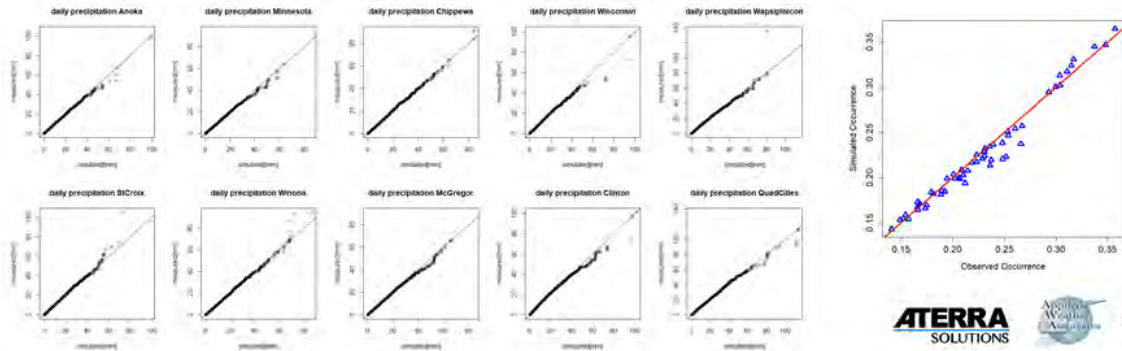


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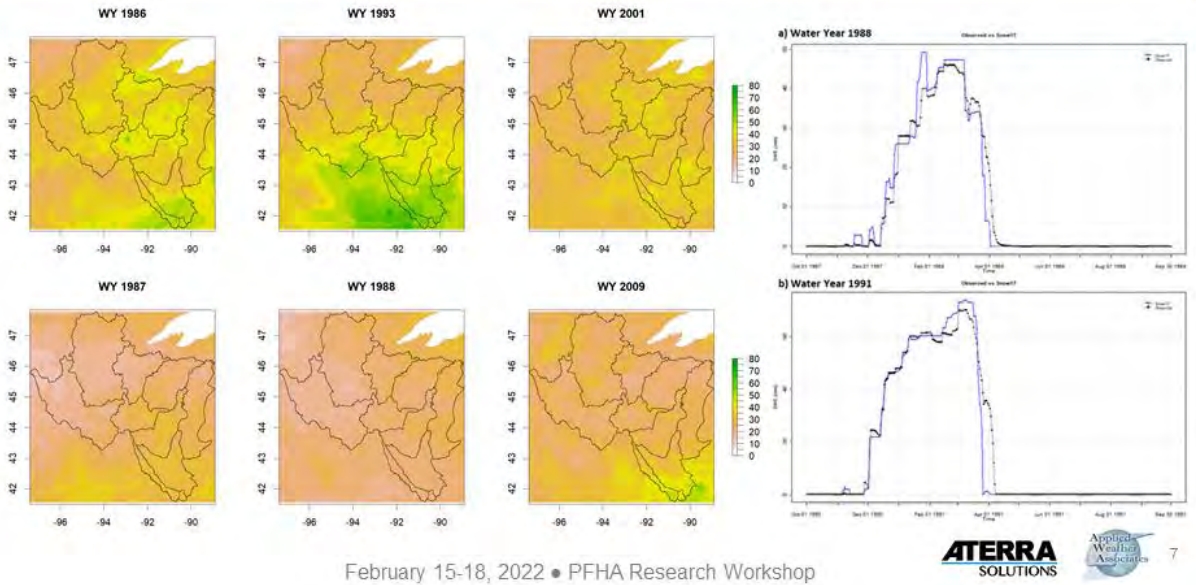
# Precipitation and Temperature Simulation

- Calibrated VAR precipitation, maximum temperature, minimum temperature models compared to the observed and simulated data
- Observed vs simulated data were compared at quantiles from 0.1 to 0.99
- Average correlation among the observed and simulated values were excellent with all station's correlation being greater than 0.98





# Snow Water Equivalent Simulation

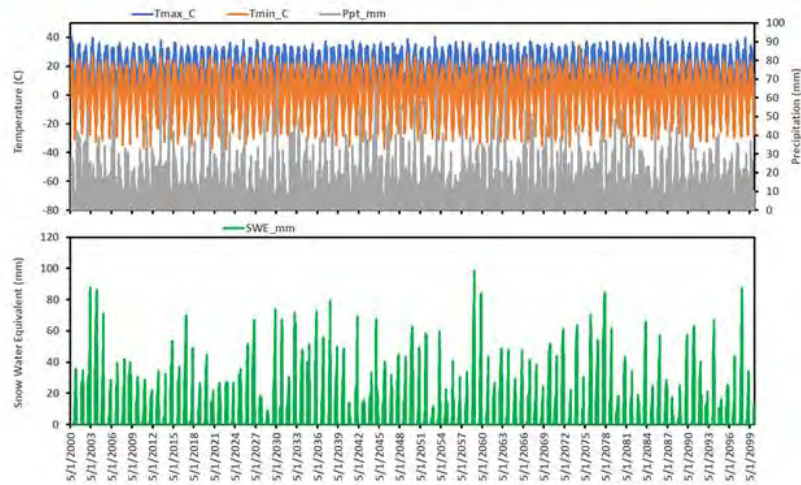


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7

# Example Daily Simulation for 100-year Period



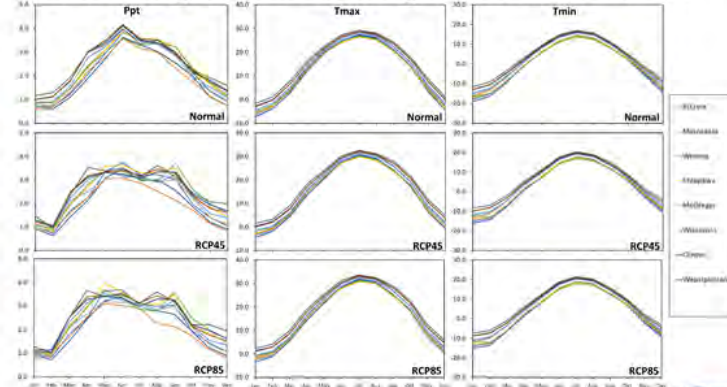
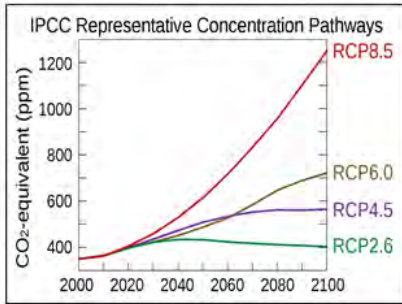
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8

# Climate Change

- Projections utilized regional downscaled model output driven by RCP45 and RCP85 from CMIP5 global climate model output
- RCP45 and RCP85; represent a mid-level mitigation and no mitigation to limit radiative



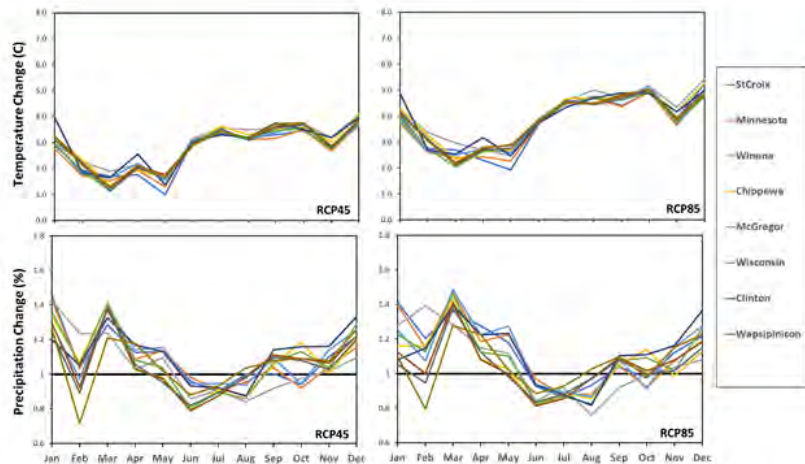
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# Climate Change

- Increase in monthly mean temperatures
- Increase and decrease in monthly mean precipitation



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# Hydrologic Modeling Overview

- Hydrologic model (HEC-HMS) developed for 8 sub-watersheds using the following modeling methods:

Element/Method	Chosen Method
Canopy Method	Simple Canopy
Surface Method	Simple Surface
Infiltration / Loss	Deficit & Constant
Transformation	Clark Unit Hydrograph
Baseflow	Linear Reservoir (3 Reservoirs)
Reach Routing	Muskingum

- Model calibrated for three 1-year continuous simulations (dry, normal, and wet) climatology – years chosen, 1988 (dry), 1991 (average), and 1993 (wet)
- Simulated daily data for three climate scenarios : i) current climate, ii) RCP45 climate projection, and iii) RCP85 climate projection

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# Study Area

Sub-Basin	Area (Sq. Miles)
Minnesota	17,065
Chippewa	9,079
St. Croix	7,727
Anoka	19,905
Wapsipinicon	2,333
McGregor	7,882
Winona	5,969
Clinton	7,892
Wisconsin	10,419



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# Hydrologic Modeling Approach

- Single vs **Continuous** Model
  - Deficit & Constant Method
  - Canopy, Surface, Infiltration, Transformation, Baseflow, Reach Routing
- Calibration
  - Select representative years
  - Develop MAP's & MAT's
- Apply to Long Term (1,000 year) Simulations
- Flow Frequency Analysis on computed annual maximum flows

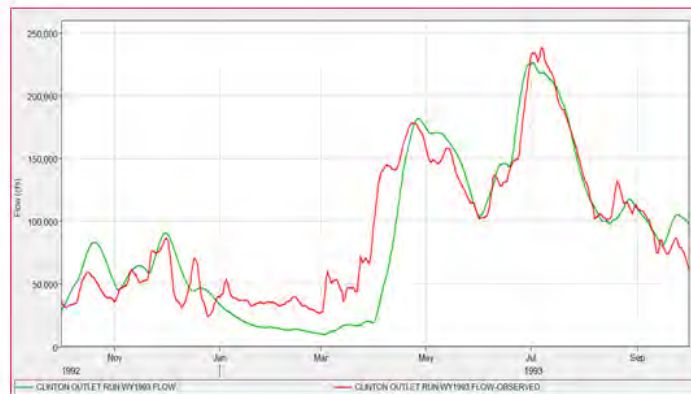


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# Typical Calibration – Wet Year



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# Long Term (1,000 year) Simulations

- 12 unique “traces” of 1,000 years generated
- 3 Different climate scenarios
  - Normal (or current) climate, RCP45, and RCP85
- 36 Unique traces

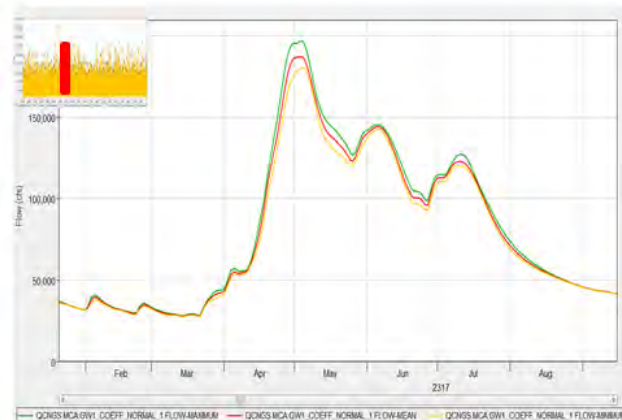


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# Hydrologic Model Uncertainty Analysis

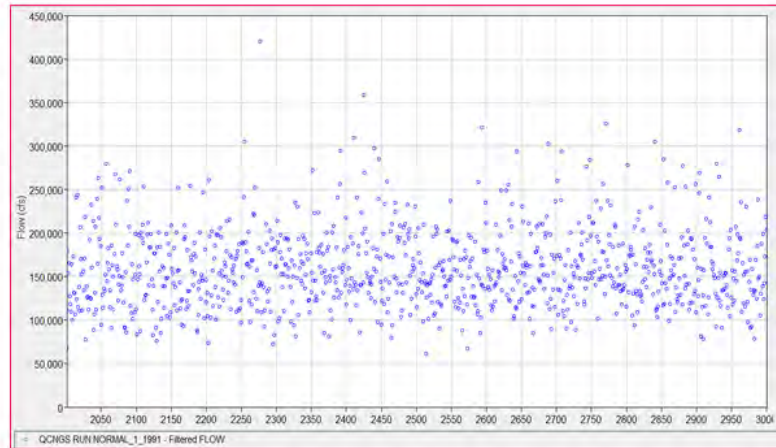
Parameter	Sub-Basin Component
Groundwater Coefficient 1	Baseflow
Groundwater Coefficient 2	Baseflow
Groundwater Coefficient 3	Baseflow
Constant Loss Rate	Loss (Deficit & Constant)
Maximum Deficit	Loss (Deficit & Constant)
Percent Impervious	Loss (Deficit & Constant)



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# Annual Maximum Flows for Each Trace Extracted

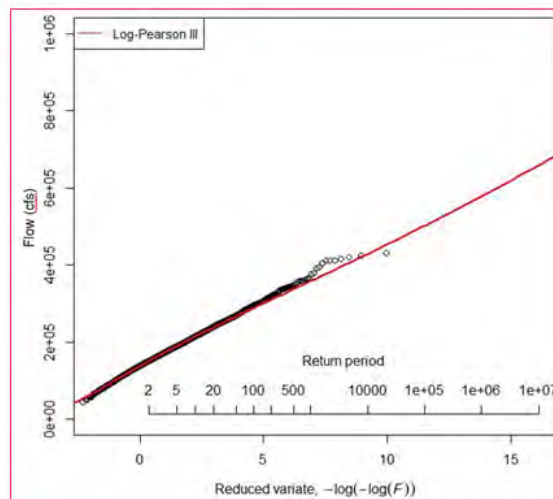


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## Log-Pearson III Output Normal Climate Scenario – 12,000 years

Return Period	AEP	Flow (cfs)
2	0.5	151,321
50	0.02	267,341
100	0.01	288,652
200	0.005	309,714
500	0.002	337,411
1,000	1E-03	358,376
10,000	1E-04	428,924
100,000	1E-05	501,931
1,000,000	1E-06	578,283



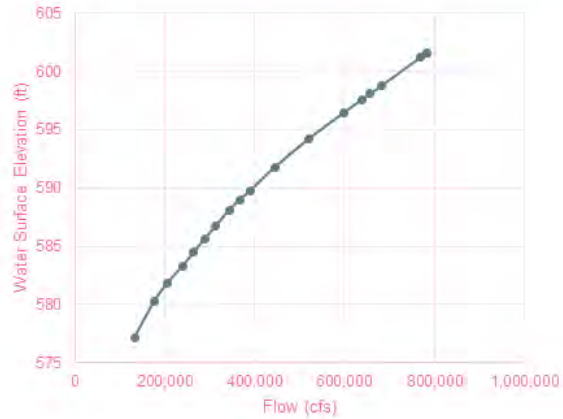
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# Unsteady River Flow Model – Rating Curve

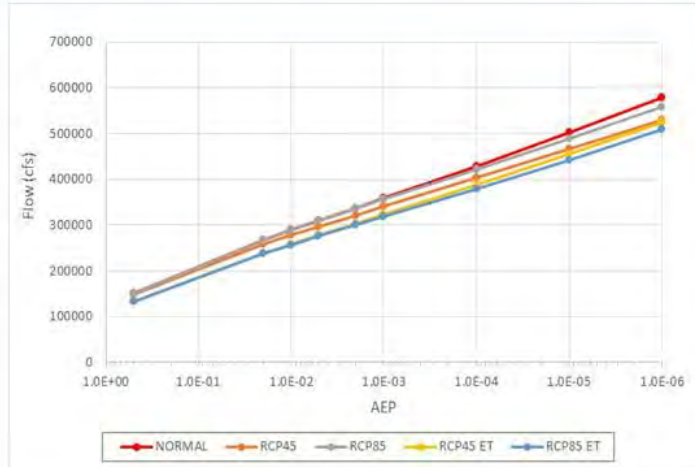
Return Period (YR)	AEP	NORMAL WSEL (ft)
2	0.5	578.4
50	0.02	584.6
100	0.01	585.6
200	0.005	586.6
500	0.002	587.8
1,000	1E-03	588.7
10,000	1E-04	591.2
100,000	1E-05	593.6
1,000,000	1E-06	595.9



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# Final Results – Enhanced ET Analysis



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## Comparison with 17C Analysis for Higher AEPs

Return Period	AEP	Flow (cfs) from Current Study	Flow (cfs) from Bulletin 17C Analysis	Difference (%)
2	0.5	151,321	143,000	5.5
50	0.02	267,341	257,000	3.9
100	0.01	288,652	274,000	5.1
200	0.005	309,714	290,000	6.4
500	0.002	337,411	309,000	8.4

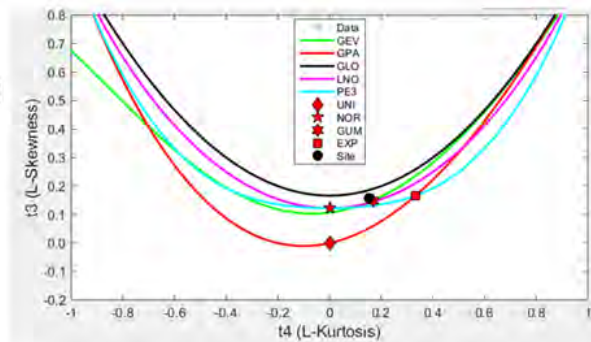
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## Summary of Uncertainties

- Climate change
- Variability in hydrologic inputs (Monte Carlo)
- Natural variation in river system
- Land use changes
- Probability distribution function (LP III)
- Potential error in stage-discharge
- Event combinations



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## THANK YOU



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719-488-4311

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Aterra Solutions  
300 Brookside Avenue, Building 18, Suite 160,  
Ambler, PA 19002

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### **3.5.3 Presentation 2B-3: IWRSS Flood Inundation Mapping for Flood Response**

Authors: *Robert Mason\*<sup>1</sup>, Julia Prokopec\*<sup>1</sup>, Adam Barker\*<sup>2</sup>, Cory Winders\*<sup>3</sup>, Darone Jones\*<sup>4</sup>*  
*<sup>1</sup>U.S. Geological Survey, <sup>2</sup>Federal Emergency Management Agency, <sup>3</sup>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, <sup>4</sup>National Weather Service*

Speaker: *Julia Prokopec*

#### **3.5.3.1 Abstract**

Traditionally, flood predictions and forecasts have focused on communicating near-term outlooks for flood-peak stages (water-elevations) and flow rates. But modern geospatial and hydrodynamic modeling techniques permit the rapid conversion of such information into flood inundation maps (FIMs) that communicate fair more effectively the expected area extent and timing of a flood and the physical resources and community populations that will be impacted. Many agencies at the Federal, State, and local levels have evolved these techniques such they are now deployed routinely, and the resulting maps distributed to emergency management agencies.

Sometimes a diversity of approaches, assumptions, or inputs made by the modelers can result in divergent maps that can confuse users. In 2018, the Integrated Water Resources Science and Services (IWRSS; a consortium of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)) was tasked with developing a process for coordinating Federal, event-based FIMs and establishing an authoritative source for communication of the coordinated FIM to FEMA. The process was codified in a draft “playbook” that has been exercised and further developed through several recent floods. This presentation will describe the iFIM vision, the evolving playbook, agency roles and products, and efforts to develop a truly integrated and authoritative FIM for the Federal emergency management community.

## Integrated Water Resources Science and Services (IWRSS) Integrated Flood Inundation Mapping (iFIM)

Julia Prokopec, USGS and Casey Zuzak, FEMA

NOAA / USACE / USGS / FEMA

February 16, 2022

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## Integrated Water Resources Science and Services

- 2011 - Established by MOU between the USACE, USGS, and NOAA
  - Originally focused on "Operational Hydrology"
    - Systems Interoperability and Data Synchronization
    - Flood Inundation Mapping
- 2016 - Renewed and expanded with the addition of FEMA
  - Support flood impact assessments
- 2018 - Hurricane Season
  - Multiple event-based inundation maps produced and distributed caused confusion
  - Science for Disaster Reduction (part of OSTP/CEQ/NSC committee structure) convened review that resulted in request to IWRSS to develop integrated playbook for coordinated production of Federal flood-inundation maps
  - **Integrated Flood Inundation Mapping (iFIM)**
- 2021 – New IWRSS MOU includes BOR, FWS, EPA, DOE, and USDA and expanded scope
  - **Agencies and iFIM development and buildout**
  - Flood Risk Data
  - Integrated science test basins and community model test beds
  - Drought
  - Waters of the US (WOTHUS)



2

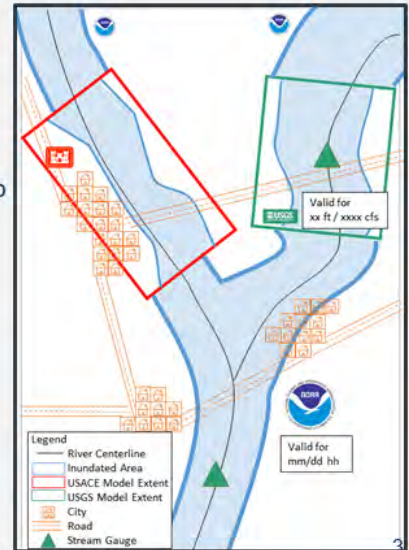
## IWRSS iFIM Concept

The proposed concept maintains NOAA/NWS National Water Model maps as a background layer across the CONUS, with other maps slotting in to form the integrated map

- Enabled through a decision tree to identify the best available map given a variety of factors

The iFIM could be enabled through investment in either shared cloud computing and storage environment or “bring your own” infrastructure model.

- Additional details on these technical solutions are being developed

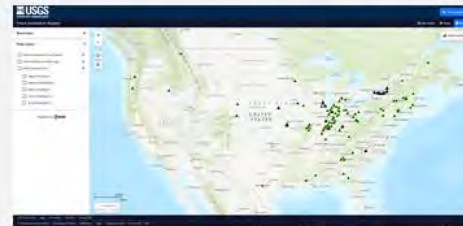


## Agencies Contribution to IWRSS iFIM (USGS)

### United States Geological Survey (USGS)

#### USGS Flood Inundation Mapping Program

- 140 of USGS streamgages have a FIM library
- Library polygons and depth grids available to download from the mapper
- Partnered with FEMA and have Hazus results for all current libraries

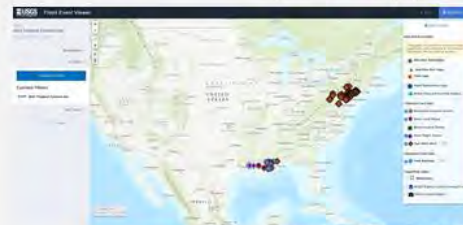


#### USGS Flood Event Viewer

- Short-term networks, rapid deployment gages, and high-water marks on event-based deployments

#### USGS Remotely Sensed Flood Inundation Maps

- Goal is to produce near-real time maps with enough spatial detail to be used in response
- In collaboration with NASA, NGA, University of Illinois and University of Alabama





## Agencies Contribution to IWRSS iFIM (USACE)

### United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

- Library with multiple products
  - 500+ dam break inundation products
  - 180+ watershed models
  - Inundation from major floods and hurricanes since 2011
  - Some misc. inundation products such as local Silver Jackets projects by Districts
- Available models include: 1D HEC-RAS, 2D HEC-RAS, HEC-HMS, HEC-ResSim
- Library contains both inundation shapefiles and depth grids
- Model reports available for some products
- Library of products publicly available through USACE FIM Viewer

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## Agencies Contribution to IWRSS iFIM (NOAA/NWS)

Static



**FIM Libraries** - Static maps at ~ 200 RFC forecast locations: [water.weather.gov](http://water.weather.gov). Maps derived from engineering scale hydraulic models. **< 1,000 miles**



**NWS Flood Categorical HAND FIM Libraries** - Static maps at ~3,000 RFC forecast locations. Maps derived from 10-m HAND solution. **~ 30,000 miles**

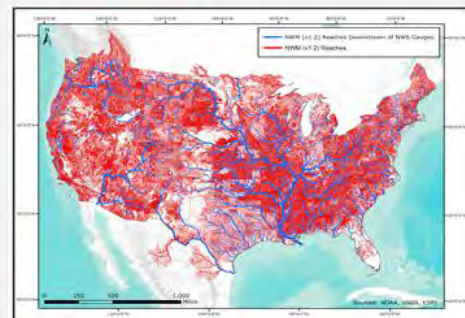
Dynamic



**Forecast NWS River Forecast Center Flood Maps** - Dynamic maps downstream of ~ 3,600 RFC forecast locations. Maps derived from RFC forecast and 10-m HAND solution. **~ 100K miles**



**Forecast National Water Model Flood Maps** - Dynamic maps along NHDPlus reach locations. Maps derived from NWM forecast and 10-m HAND solution. **~ 3.4M miles**



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## Agencies Contribution to IWRSS iFIM (FEMA)

### Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- Primary user of iFIM. Leveraged for integration and action for Event Response and Recovery
- Basis for flood inundation mapping through Risk MAP Program – including investing in LiDAR
- Call for actions for flood mapping community through Risk MAP Program Future of Flood Risk Data
- Risk assessment and loss estimation capabilities through FEMA's Hazus software and future OpenHazus application

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## iFIM Initial Development Strategy

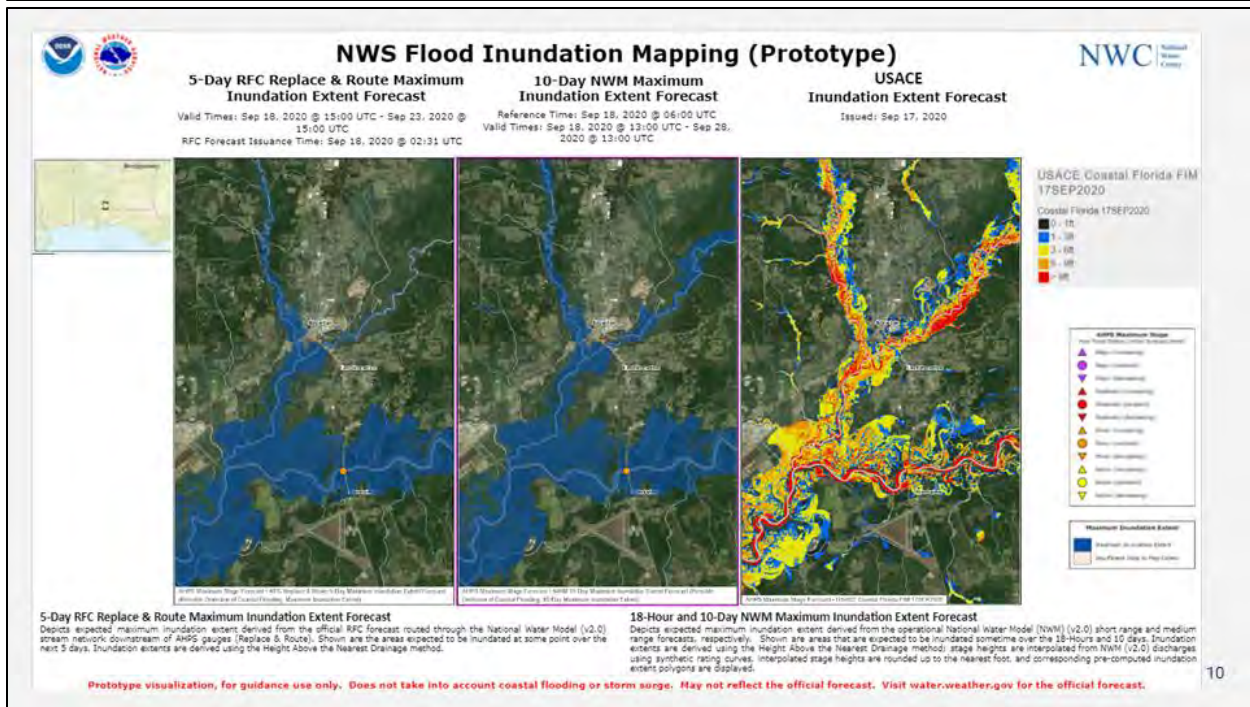
- Creation of iFIM at NOAA/NWS National Water Center
  - Provide user interface to NWC operations for review and selection of multiple-sourced FIM during events
  - Allows for NWC forecaster to be “in the loop”
  - Sources initially include USACE, USGS, and NWS FIM
  - Manual output of “best available” FIM after evaluation of multiple-sourced FIM
- Dissemination of iFIM
  - Establish basic service for integrated FIM visualization for near real-time events in 2023
  - Publish ad-hoc updates for internal IWRSS awareness

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## 2020 & 2021 Hurricane Seasons Coordination

- Record breaking Atlantic Basin 2020 season - 30 named systems
- Followed the iFIM Playbook both seasons to coordinate forecasts/activities to ensure understanding of FIMs being created and consistency of the message between agencies
  - Held iFIM Coordination Calls for 16 storms impacting CONUS
  - Call structure (15-30 minutes):
    - NWS provided situational awareness weather & water briefing, systems/service issues, NWS FIM considerations
    - FEMA provided mission updates and taskings
    - USACE provided project considerations and simulation information
    - USGS provided field deployment information and systems/service issues

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## IWRSS iFIM Next Steps

- IWRSS iFIM Team to draft an After-Action Report (AAR) on 2021 coordination (Q2 FY22)
  - Make adjustments to the iFIM Playbook ahead of 2022 season
- IWRSS iFIM Technical Team will be reinvigorated to explore data standards, management and accessibility to enable iFIM (data interoperability).
- Resume bi-weekly meetings, and conduct face-to-face workshops at the NWC
- Workshop Goals:
  - Review and exercise each IWRSS members data and services
  - Review and exercise the iFIM playbook
  - Provide a demonstration of how each IWRSS members data and services and the iFIM playbook culminate in a joint IWRSS inundation map.
  - Document the current iFIM capability, the necessary steps moving forward, and other pertinent information.

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## Questions?

- NOAA/NWS - Darone Jones (darone.jones@noaa.gov)
- USACE - Cory Winders (Robert.C.Winders@usace.army.mil)
- USGS - Julia Prokopec (jprokopec@usgs.gov) and Robert Mason (rrmason@usgs.gov)
- FEMA – Casey Zuzak (casey.zuzak@fema.dhs.gov) and Adam Barker (adam.barker@fema.dhs.gov)

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## Backup Slides

13

## NOAA/NWS FIM Development Opportunities

### NWM Enhancements (e.g. hydrology and hydraulics)

#### Terrain Models (e.g. HAND based solution)

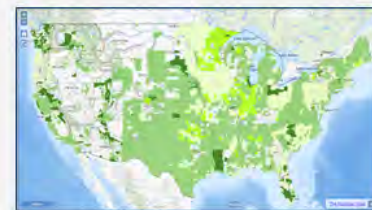
- LiDAR derived 1-m and/or 3-m Digital Elevation Models (DEMs)
- FY19 demonstration of LiDAR HAND FIM capabilities

#### Hydraulic Models

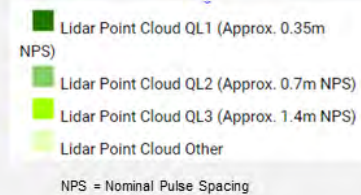
- HEC-RAS derived libraries at reach scale
- Additional model derived libraries at reach scale

#### Service Enhancements

- FIMpact: Intersection of forecast FIM with infrastructure
- Probabilistic: NWM ensembles, parameter sensitivity analysis



USGS 3DEP LiDAR Availability



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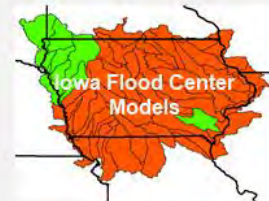
# NOAA/NWS Evaluation of FIM Capabilities

- **Benchmark Datasets**

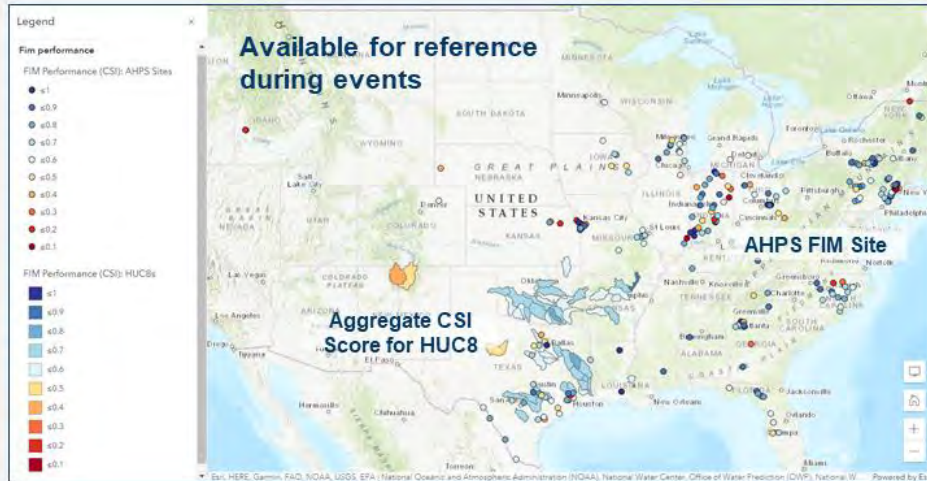
- **Point FIM Evaluations:** AHPS & USGS FIM library locations
- **Watershed FIM Evaluations:** FEMA Base Flood Elevation (BFE) models and Iowa Flood Center HEC-RAS models



InFRM = Interagency Flood Risk Management



# NOAA/NWS FIM Evaluation Services





## NOAA/NWS Opportunities to Expand FIM Evaluations

- **Benchmark Data**
  - Rating Curves
  - Depth
- **Event Verification**
  - High water marks
  - Remote sensing
  - UAV
  - NWS FIM Reviewer



### **3.5.4 Presentation 2B-4: Using HEC-WAT for NRC's PFHA Process**

Authors: William Lehman\*, Gregory Karlovits, David Ho, Leila Ostadrahimi, Brennan Beam, Sara O'Connell, Julia Slaughter

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hydrologic Engineering Center

Speaker: William Lehman

#### **3.5.4.1        *Abstract***

This presentation describes the application of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Probabilistic Flood Hazard Analysis (PFHA) process through the Hydrologic Engineering Center Watershed Analysis Tool (HEC-WAT). PFHA provides a quantitative relation between the probability of occurrence (or frequency) and magnitude for various flood hazards. The modeling framework includes hydrologic processes such as infiltration, runoff, discharge routing, reservoir operations, and near-field hydraulic processes. A comprehensive flood hazard assessment comprised probabilistic modeling of individual processes as well as composite modeling of coincident and/or correlated processes. The result is computed flood hazard frequency curves described with uncertainty bounds at various sites across the watershed for many informative variables. HEC-WAT was applied to a pilot watershed to provide a concrete demonstration of methodology to produce the outputs required for PFHA. This pilot project is focused on inland flood riverine flooding mechanisms including upstream dam breaching that may impact Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs).

#### **3.5.4.2        *Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A119)***

# Using HEC-WAT for PFHA

Will Lehman

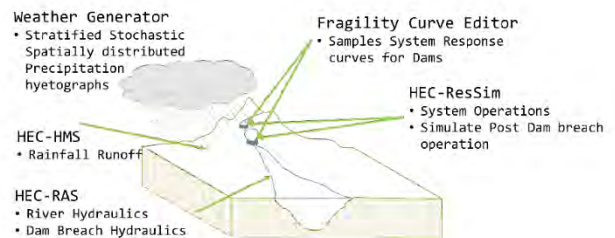
USACE Hydrologic Engineering Center



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

## Overview of HEC-WAT

- **Plugin Architecture**
  - Supports Integration of any water resources software
- **Watershed Systems Approach**
  - Model Linking
- **Risk Analysis**
  - Nested Loops



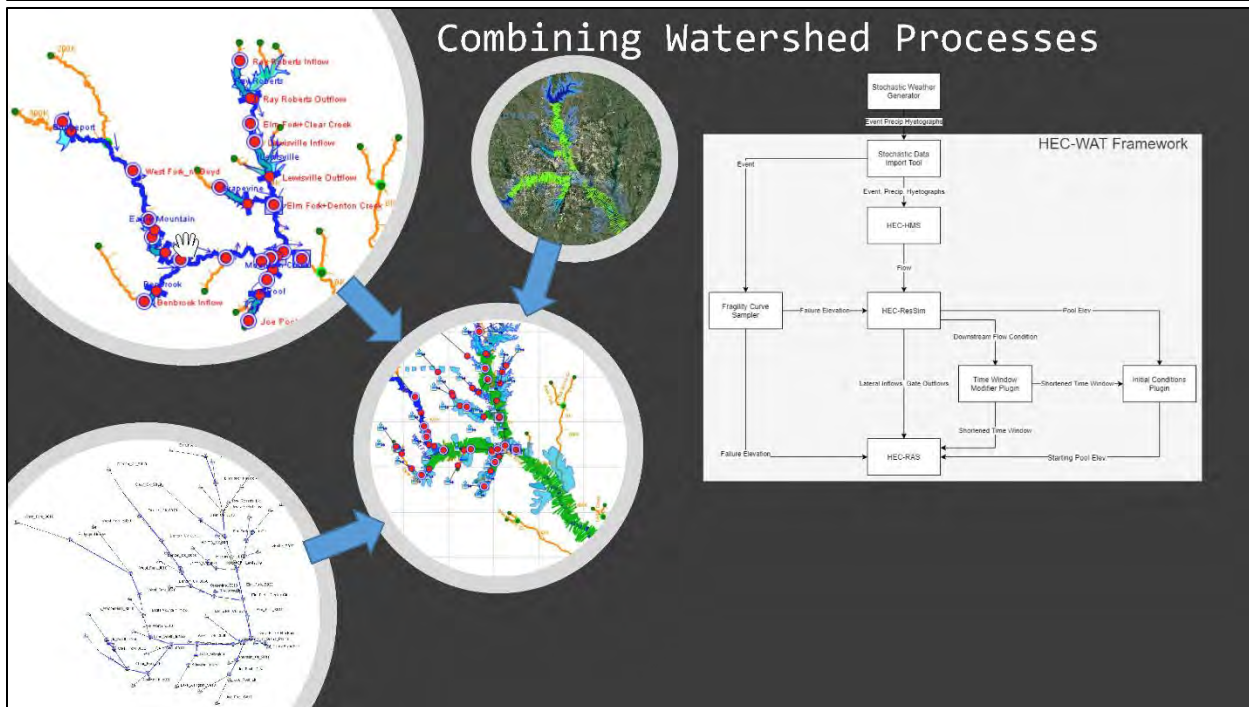


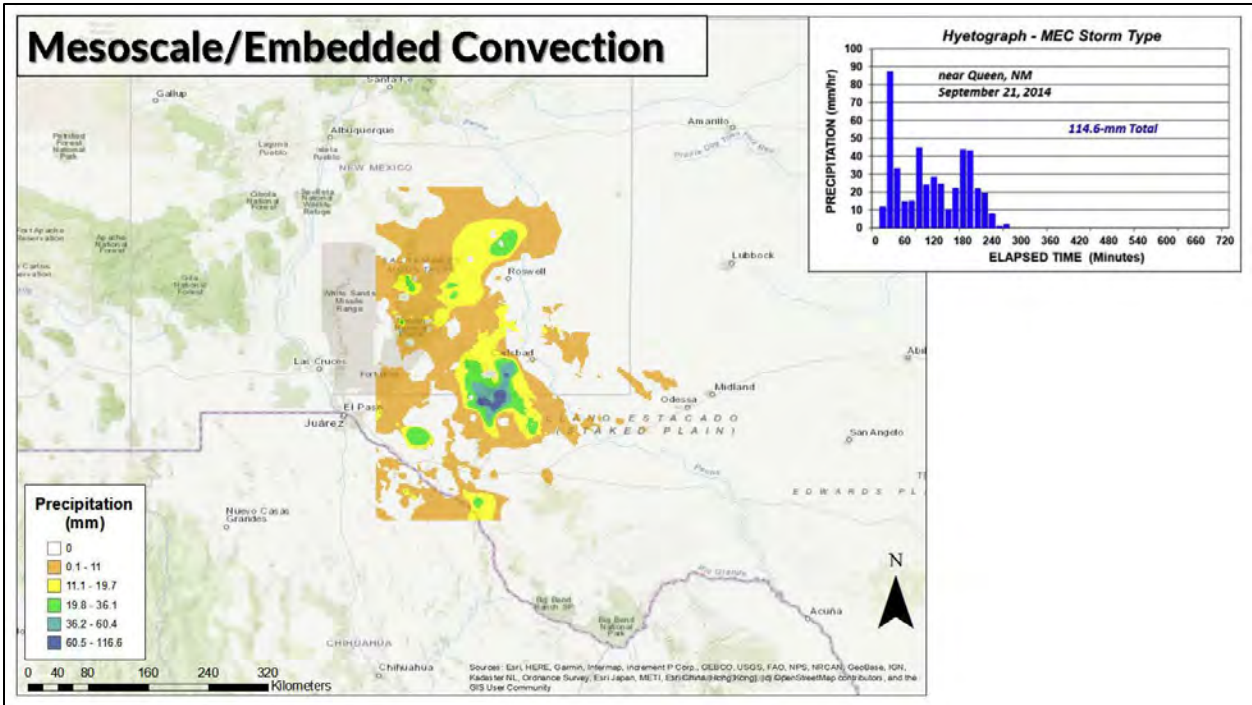
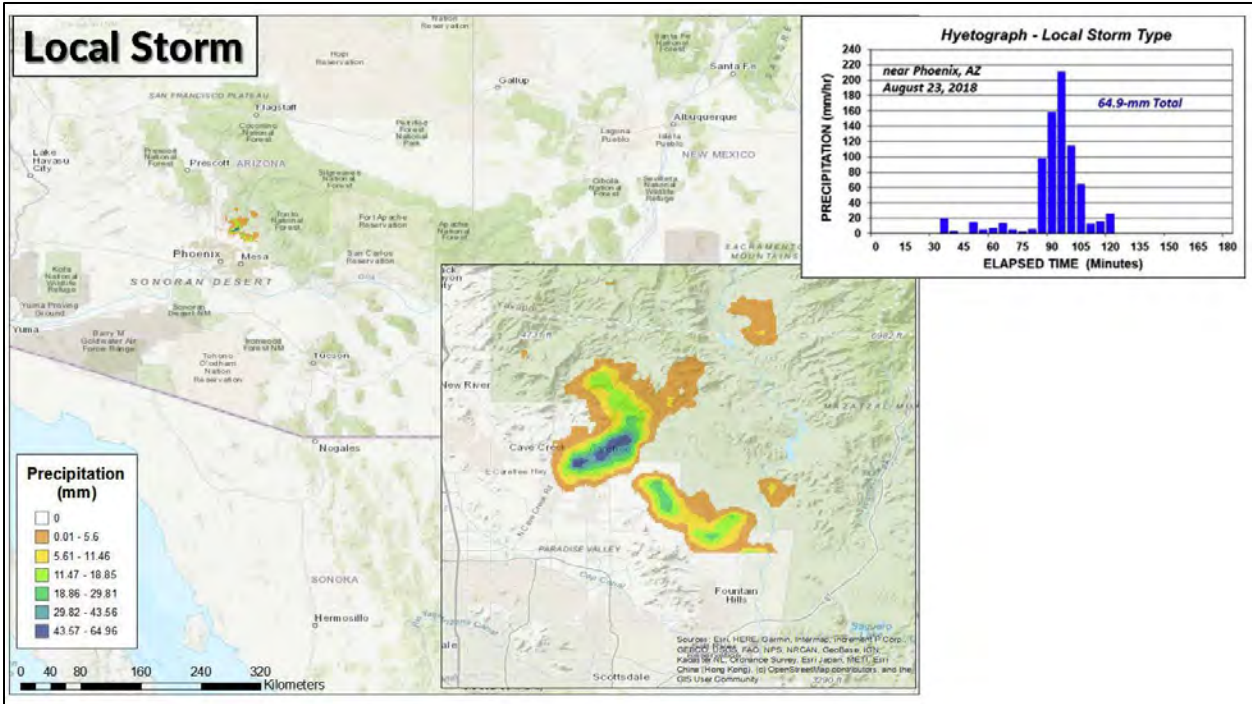
# Customized Plugins



A Plugin allows us to manipulate inputs and outputs during a simulation

- RAS Max XS plugin
- Confidence Builder Plugin
- Improvements to Initial Conditions Plugin
- Improvements to Fragility Curve Plugin
- Improvements to HEC-ResSim Plugin
- Improvements to Duration Plugin











# Reservoir Operation

Reservoir Editor - Network Upper\_Tinity\_WAT

Reservoir: Ray Roberts

Physical Operations Observed Data

Operation Set: Flood Ops\_FC

Zone Rules: Ret Alloc, Outage, Size Control, Dec-Switch, Projected Elev

Operates Release From: Ray Roberts

Rule Name: Run Of River Ops

Function of: Ray Roberts-Pool Inflow, Current Value

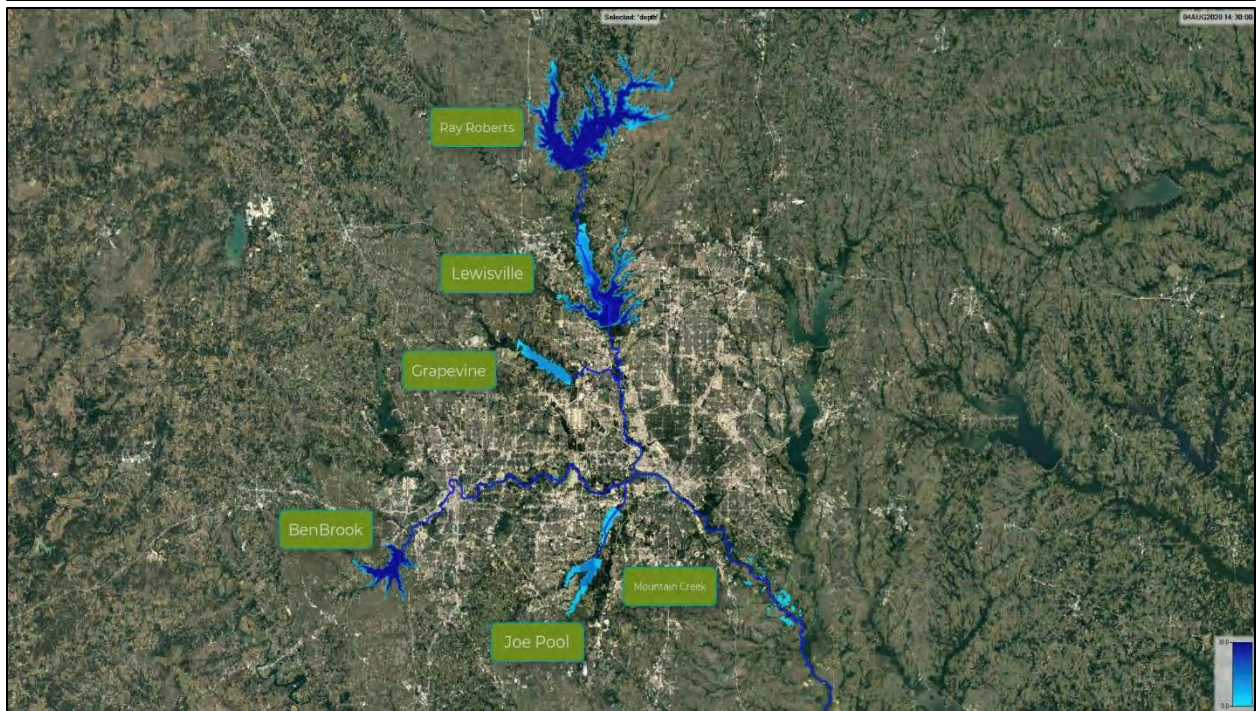
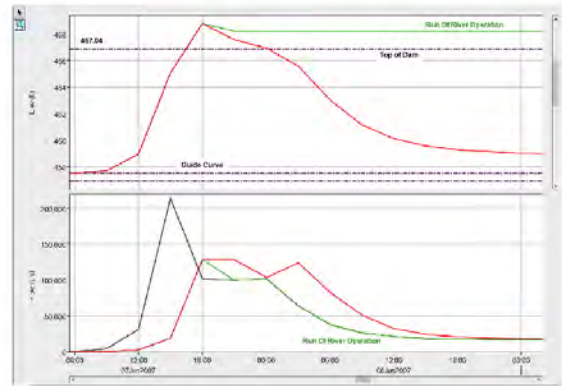
Limit Type: Minimum Interp: Linear

Flow (cfs)	Release (cfs)
0.0	0.0
100000.0	100000.0

Releases (cfs) vs Flow (cfs) graph showing a linear relationship.

Options:
 

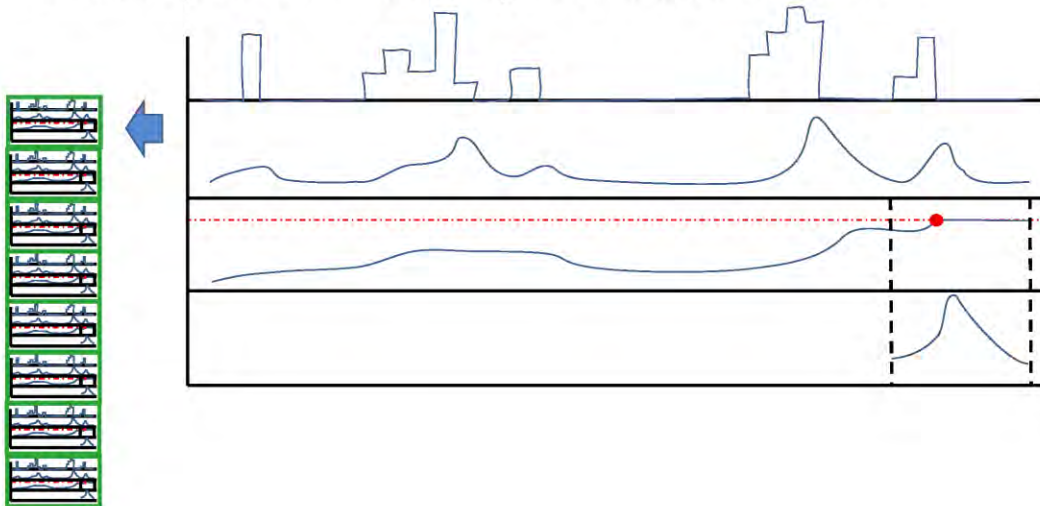
- Period Average Limit Edit
- Hour of Day Multiplier Edit
- Day of Week Multiplier Edit
- Rising/Falling Condition Edit
- Seasonal Variation Edit



# Data Flow Animation



# Events, Stratification, and Realizations





# Events, Stratification, and Realizations

Each Event in a Stratification bin has the same incremental likelihood (defined by the stratification bin).

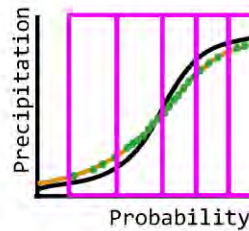
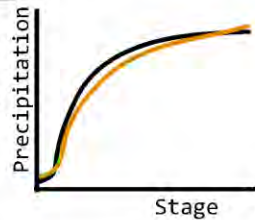


Each Stratification bin has a different incremental likelihood and represents a different range of frequency.

# Precipitation to Hazard Frequency

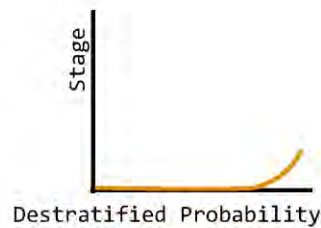
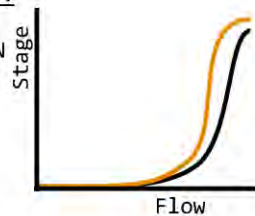
Uncertainties:

- Basin wetness
- Reservoir Operations



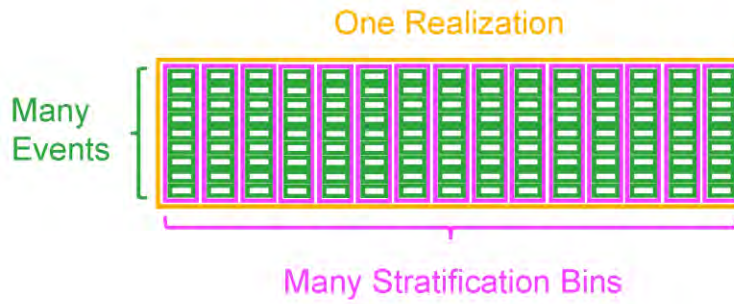
Uncertainties:

- Breaches
- Manning's N

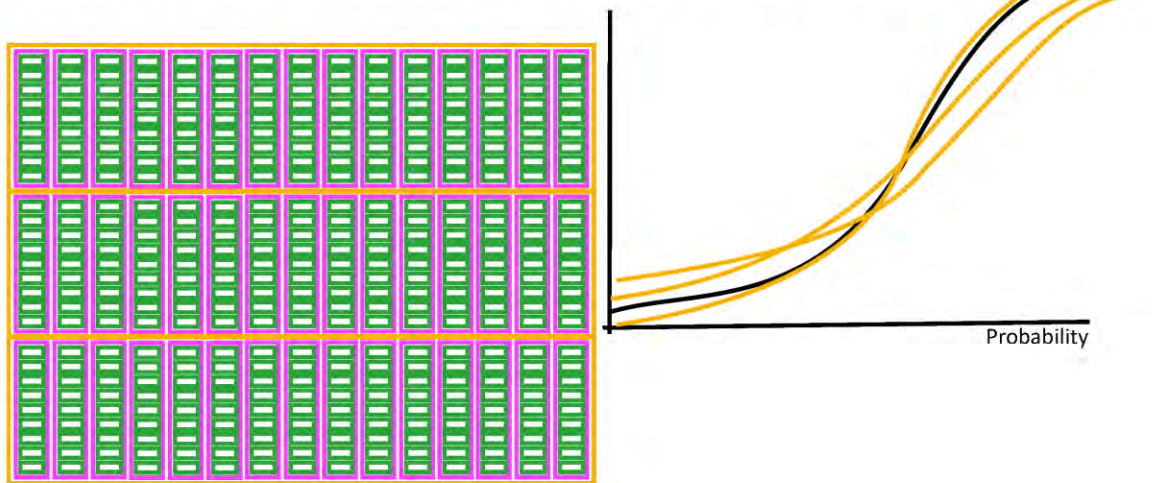




# Events, Stratification, and Realizations

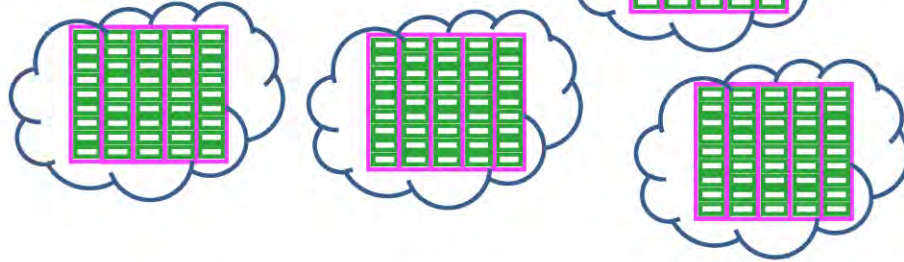


# Events, Stratification, and Realizations

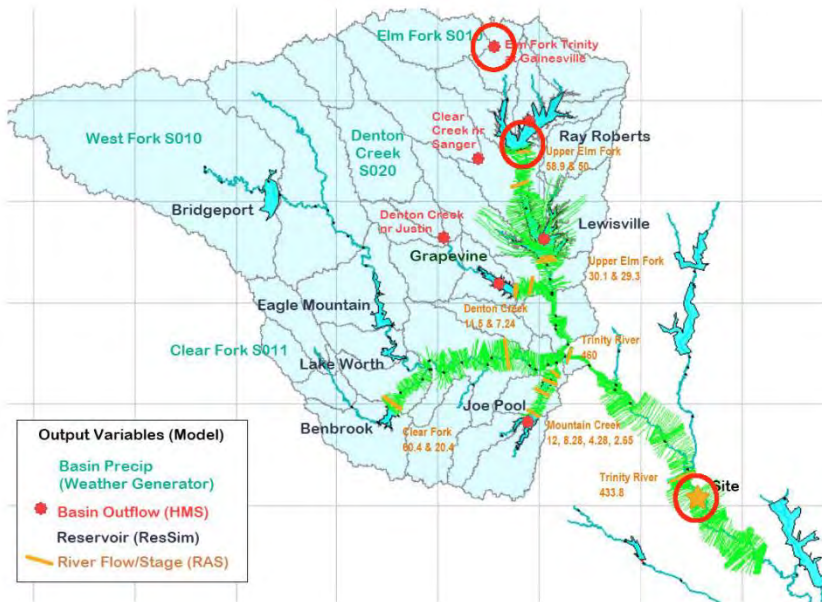


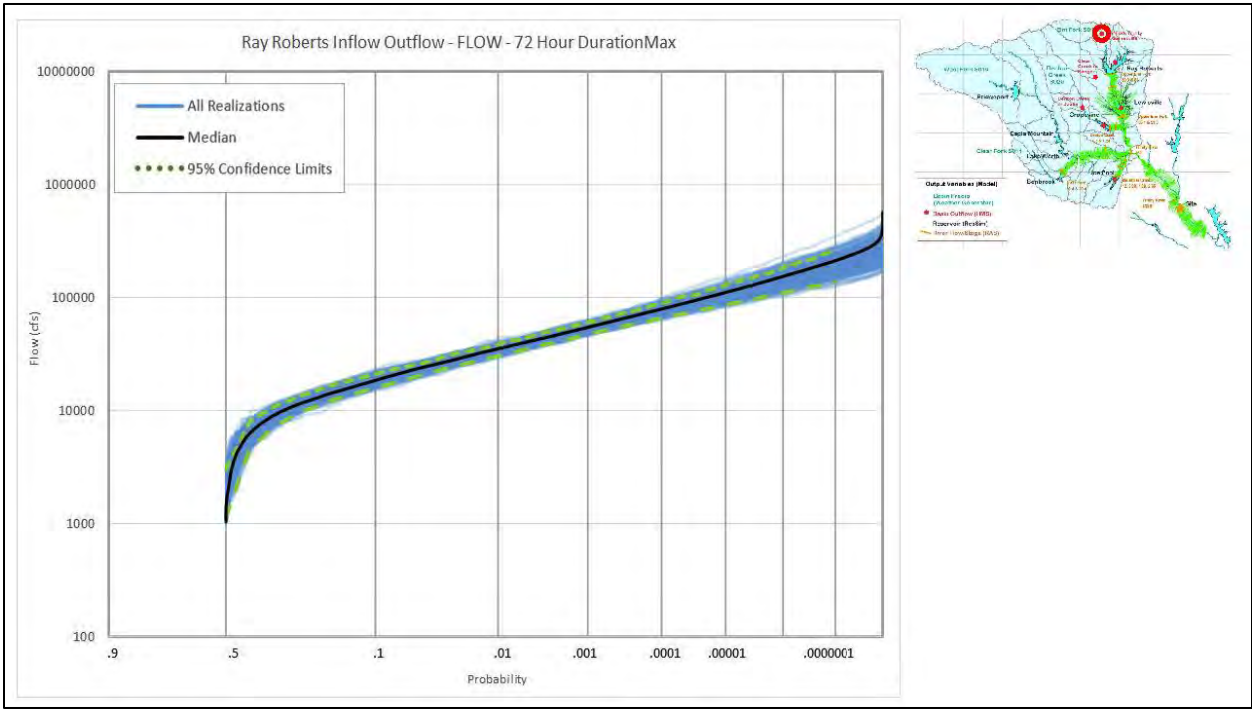
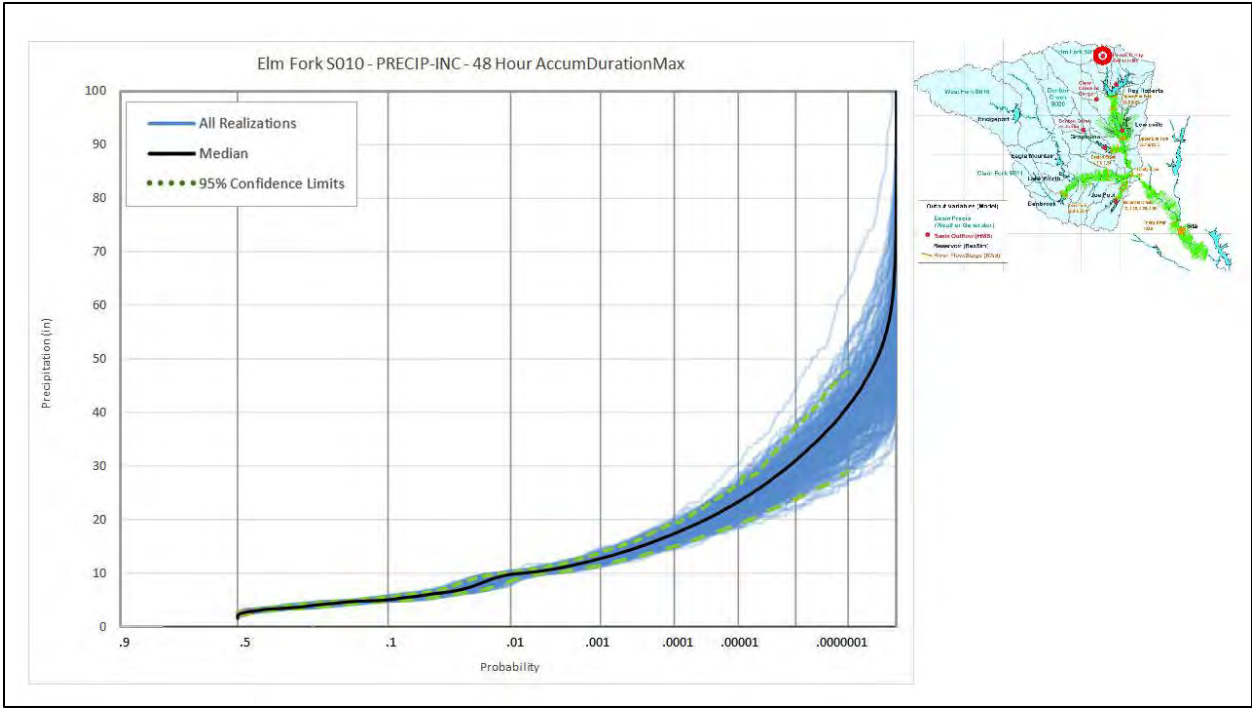
Each Realization represents a sample of Knowledge  
Uncertainty and can create a Frequency Curve

# Distributed Computing

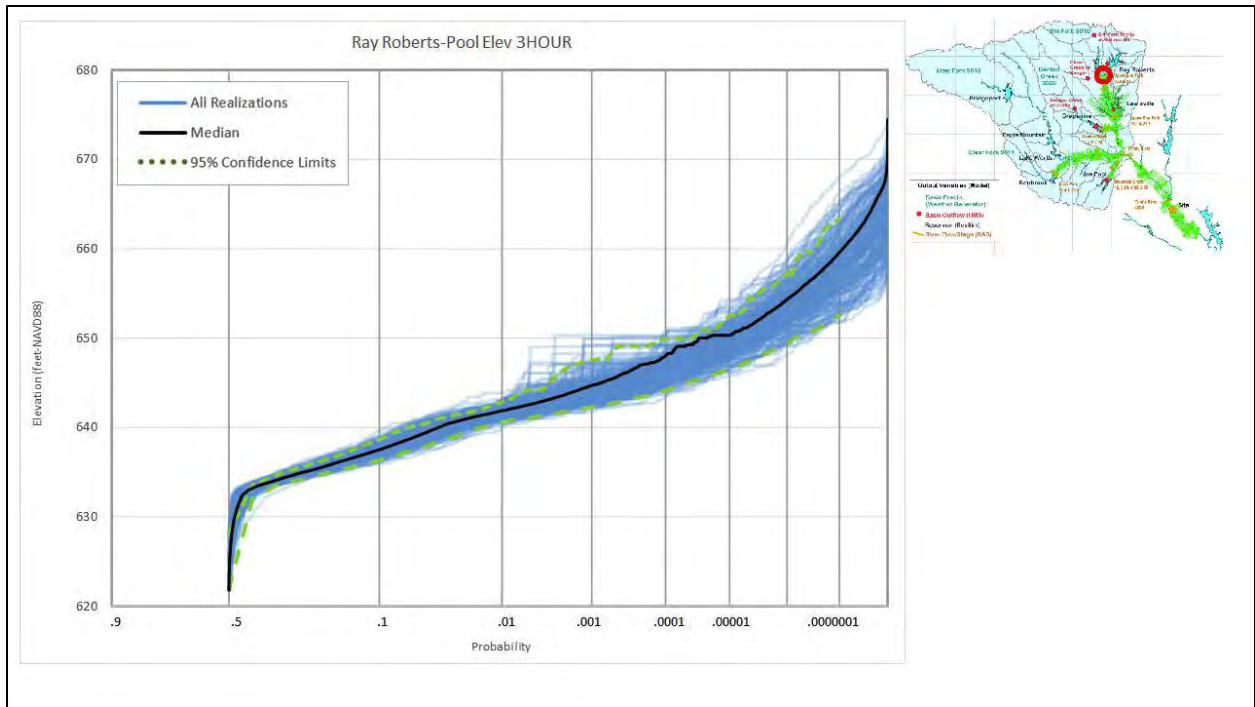
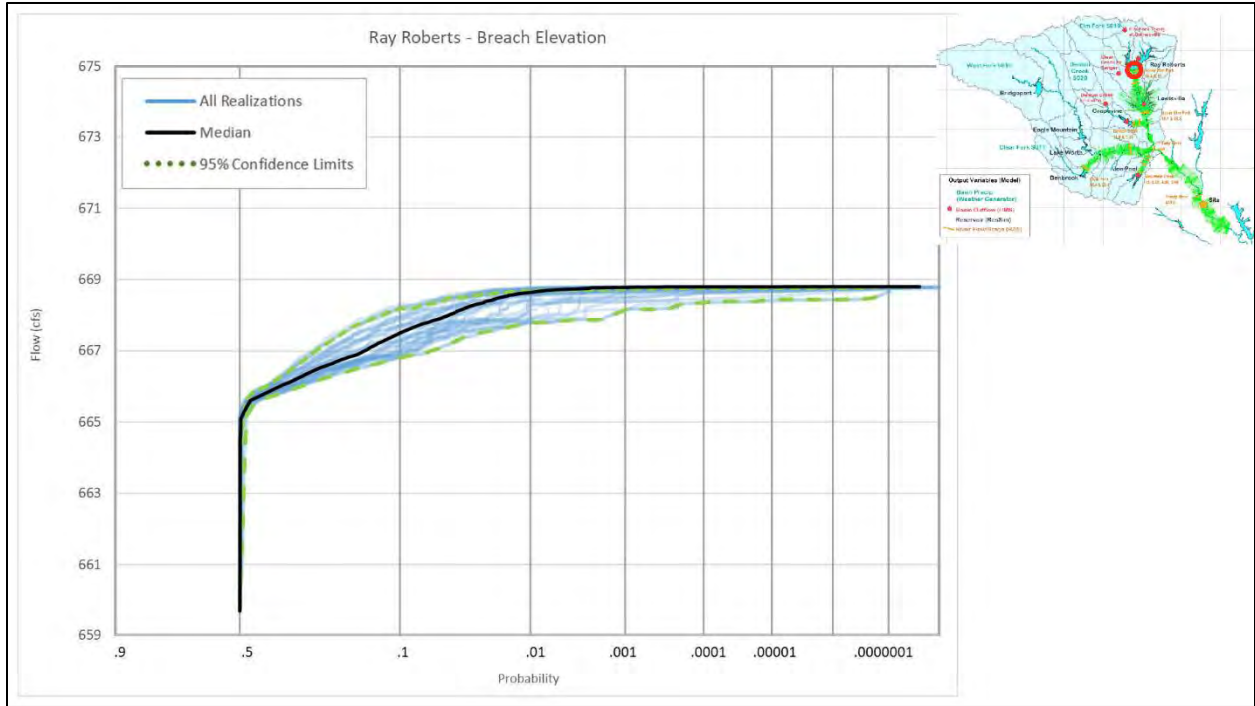


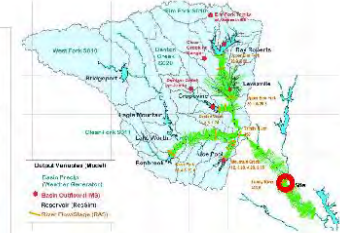
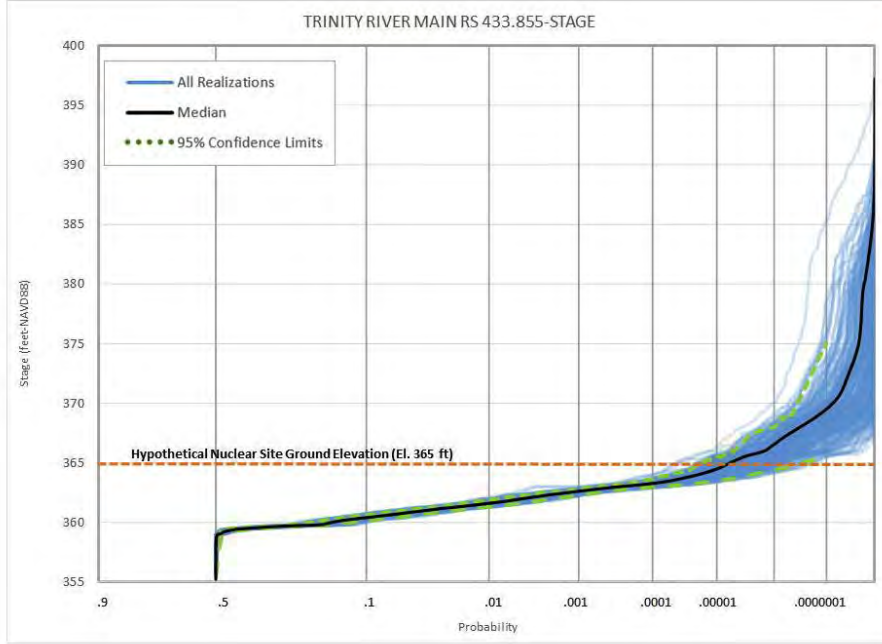
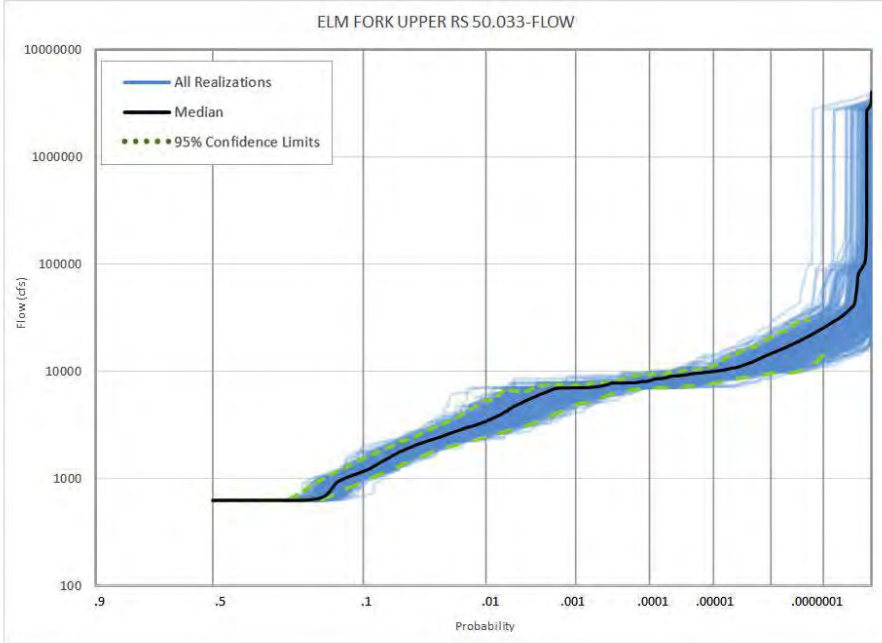
- We leveraged four compute clusters of 25 nodes each
- This could be done via AWS instead of on local infrastructure like we used.











Questions?



### 3.5.5 Riverine Panel Discussion (Session 2B-5)

Moderator: Joseph Kanney, NRC/RES/DRA/FXHAB

**Nancy Barth**, U.S. Geological Survey

**Joe Bellini**, Aterra Solutions

**Robert Mason**, U.S. Geological Survey

**William Lehman**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Bill Kappel, Doug Hulstrand**, Applied Weather Associates

#### Question:

Nancy, it seemed that from the scope of your presentation that the combinatorics could get out of hand very quickly when you start to combine nonstationarity and the idea of these mixed types. The mixed type could be from different types of storms or it could be coming from changes in the in the watershed over time even if the storm types are the same over a 40-year period. And if the watershed is changing, then you would also need some sort of a mixed model for that. How do you to prioritize or have some sort of target on the number of different mixed types that you think you might tackle?

#### Nancy Barth:

What we're trying to do is address the question from the highest-level flood attribution for causation. So, we look at those peaks that are directly attributed to atmospheric rivers or snowmelt, the more common primary attributions rather than getting muddled into challenges in the watershed changes. We are trying to keep to more primary causes, more attributable to actual storm typing to get to flood type attributions.

#### Question:

This question is for Joe Bellini and colleagues. What steps were taken to account for extremes? For example, such as physically possible storms that weren't seen in the record that was used for calibration. There are certainly plausible physical mechanisms for generating an extreme storm, but it just wasn't there on the record. What sort of steps were taken to account for things like that in the weather generator?

#### Doug Hultstrand:

To account for events that are not in the observed data itself, we rely on the probabilistic side in that we can sample a storm event, look at its rarity and artificially insert that into the time series. The methodology we follow is the SCHADDEX methodology, which is common in European countries, where you're taking storms that have occurred in and around the basin that are considered to be transpositionable, and transposing those storms based on a frequency realm from where they occurred to the new storm center location. So that's the method. We ultimately selected several big events with 1000+ year return periods, just south of the basins in the Canadian Rockies and transpositioned them just to the north for several locations.

And when I say transposition, we are transposing the storm in probability realm. Then we can artificially insert that precipitation timeseries into the observed timeseries for the proper season. In this case, they are all June-time events. You can insert those and use the calibrated stochastic model to simulate those upper tail frequency precipitation events. There it becomes an issue. How do you insert?

**Bill Kappel:**

The bottom line is that it is a plug and play. Of course there are a lot subjective choices that are made in what storms to move, what values to replace, and where in the time frame to replace. But in the end, it's basically replacing an observed event with a much larger event and rerun the time series with that the larger event as if it had occurred there versus what was observed.

**Question:**

This question is for all panelists. Have you ever been able to confirm the predicted extreme statistical events by some other independent data?

**Doug Hulstrand:**

In the realm of looking at extreme events, we do an independent analysis when we're trying to quantify the annual exceedance probability of PMP. We do the regional frequency analysis, which is one independent method, and the second is a storm stochastic storm transposition which is a different method. We do these independently and see how the two methods kind of come together to estimate that probability or exceedance probability.

**Joe Bellini:**

This may address part of the question, at least for the study we did. As I mentioned in the presentation, we did look at an observed annual maximum flows. We developed the frequency curve using Log-Pearson III, using observed data, not just stochastic data for higher probability frequencies. That might help address that question.

**Question:**

Any perspective on the use of paleoflood information in the types of flooding analysis that you're doing?

**Joe Bellini:**

For our study, prior to the stochastic analysis, we used the Bulletin 17 C method. There were some regional paleoflood studies. We incorporated them as basically historical floods. You set the flow ranges and apply the expected moment algorithm to add to the systematic record. In that case, we had about 150 years of systematic record, and we had some additional historical flood records. We used some regional paleoflood data to set some maximum flows for specific periods of time (approximately 600-1200 CE and 1200-1800 CE), before the historic and systematic record began. That informed the statistical analysis of the annual maximum series, which was independently compared to the stochastic analysis we presented on.

**Question:**

If someone looks at the different talks in this session in terms of riverine flooding, you notice that there are basically three broad use cases: (1) forecasting; (2) real time event response; and (3) prediction and design. Is there any way that we could sort of integrate these together and have a common set of tools that could be used for all these different use cases? Could you see a

community model that could address all these uses? Something analogous to the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model developed by the atmospheric sciences community.

**Robert Mason:**

I don't know that we have a community model that addresses all of the uses, but increasingly we're seeing more and more powerful models that can address multiple uses. It's entirely possible now to do simulations that are for design as well as prediction, and to really use essentially the same chassis, the same elements of the model may be run with slightly different data, but the models are very much the same. We're having conversations within IWRSS about trying to integrate agency models and to do that from two perspectives: one being sort of a design and the other being sort of focus on operations/ forecasting.

**William Lehman:**

I believe that the community will prevail at some point, and I hope and pray for that day. But you know, everybody has got their turf wars that they live and breathe by. I think that there will always be room for innovation, which means there might be branches and what we need to figure out is how to merge the trunk. The Army Corps of Engineers Watershed Analysis Tool (WAT) and the Corps Water Management System (CWMS) share a common framework for how we sequence events with the WAT being more for planning/design like you were saying and CWMS being more for the real-time response. One thing I will say though is that models are as good as the project that they're built for the reason that they are built. The level of scrutiny on a response or a map to help someone evacuate might be different than a map that is one of 300,000 in a very large uncertainty analysis. What I find is that the scale associated with getting enough events to describe uncertainty sufficiently may be different than getting a really good map for an evacuation. So, to some degree, the models/software themselves may be the same, but the resolution that the model is developed at may differ between applications.

**Bill Kappel:**

This is always something the public private partnership and being able to utilize and leverage the great work that each these individual agencies and private companies are doing and try to consolidate that into one usable format would be ideal. It's always a matter of how it's done. Everybody has different objectives and agendas, but there certainly should be an overarching framework that can consolidate all this into one aspect and usability. This is a multi-agency thing, right? You have meteorology, climatology and hydrology. All these different aspects trying to solve the same types of problems from different angles. It seems obvious that there should be some kind of overarching, all-encompassing aspect to put all these pieces together and to make them usable for everybody.

**Joe Bellini:**

In the private sector we've had a variety of entities that we support. It ranges from the dam safety community, to dam owners, to communities with levies, to insurers. Both forecasting and combined tools that can increase the ability for forecasting.

When we write an emergency action plan (EAP) or emergency operation plan for a levee system for operating gates and closure structure and so forth, we do link those plans to tools that are available from the federal agencies. And then also closing the gap between pluvial and fluvial (we work mostly in the realm of interior flooding), there's not a lot of tools available for localized flooding. So there are gaps to be filled, not only for design work, but also for helping



communities to improve their forecasting ability to take action well in advance of a flood occurring.

**Bill Kappel:**

We've obviously had lots of conversations and the conversations continue about how to make these things integrate. There's so much work being done, and in so many different areas. Sometimes there's overlap. Sometimes the work is done in "silos" where we're doing something and somebody else is doing something, and they might not know about it, and vice versa. If there was collaboration between those processes, it would be a much better outcome. For example, just a couple weeks ago during the American Meteorological Society meeting, I was listening to a presentation on some great work being done by UCAR on numerical modeling of PMP estimates and how to bring those together with the deterministic side and the things that have been done over the years by the Weather Service and the Corps of Engineers and private industry. It always comes down to having some leadership and the right people to recognize all the pieces that are out there and figuring out a way to put all the pieces together in a way that's most efficient and usable for the widest range of communities, versus a bunch of work being done individually, and not leveraging off of each other where it makes sense. I don't know the answer to that, but certainly we all recognize it and we have to figure out a way to put those pieces together.

**Robert Mason:**

I just wanted to mention that even on Monday we had a discussion with NOAA about coupling of our models. The PowerPoint was titled "Coupling Our Models" and the point of the discussion was not just to say we'll take NWS rainfall and add it to a USGS model. It was that we will take an element of a particular model and try to put that element, perhaps with another element from another agency or yet another supplier. I don't know that we will have a single model, but I think that we will see greater integration of them as we go forward.

**Moderator:**

So, if I paraphrase your answer to say that maybe interoperability is a more reasonable or maybe a preferable goal than a community model. Would that be a fair statement?

**Robert Mason:**

I won't say that it's preferable, but I say that it's achievable.

### **3.6 Day 3: Session 3A – Poster Session**

#### **3.6.1 Poster 3A-1: Flood Fragility Function Methodology for a Conceptual Nuclear Power Plant**

Authors: *Joy Shen\**, *Michelle Bensi*, *Mohammad Modarres*; *University of Maryland*

Presenter: Joy Shen

Abstract: Fragility functions quantify the probability that a structure or component will be damaged or fail at a certain intensity measure (IM) of hazard severity (e.g., flood height). Due to limited experience in external flooding probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) in the nuclear energy sector, flooding fragility function development has not been a practical priority for nuclear power plants (NPPs). As a result, there is a gap in the literature related to flooding fragility assessments to support NPP PRAs. However, recent flooding events at Fukushima Daiichi NPP, Fort Calhoun NPP, and other facilities have highlighted the importance of advancing this field. The poster will present a conceptual, illustrative example of an emergency diesel generator (EDG) building with flood barrier components that act as protective measures during an external flood. In addition, this poster will include a brief description of the fragility function development for flood barriers such as penetration seals, doors, floodgates, and louver covers. The data gathered from a literature review and the conservative deterministic failure margin (CDFM) method is used to derive fragility parameters. This information is then used to determine damage states and their associated leakage rate as the external flood enters the building as a result of varying degrees of flood protection damage. Leakage rates and internal flood heights are generated from illustrative geometry and representative hazard characteristics.

Poster Material (ML22061A118):

# Flood Fragility Function Methodology for a Conceptual Nuclear Power Plant

Joy Shen, Dr. Michelle Bensi, and Dr. Mohammad Modarres

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1 |



## Introduction

- Risks of external flooding events are increasingly relevant
  - Climate change affecting flooding patterns
- Flood fragility functions are not robustly developed in current literature
- External flood PRAs are conservative
- Objectives:
  - Develop external flood fragility methodology
  - Convert external to internal flood height

2 |





## Overview of Fragility

$$\Pr[g_k(\mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \leq 0 | S = s]$$

- $g_k(\mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$ : Limit State Function comprised of demand and capacity
- $\mathbf{X}$ : Vector of random variables representing capacity and demand
- $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ : Vector of parameters of limit state function
- $S$ : Hazard Intensity/Severity Measure

3 |



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## Overview of High-Confidence-Low-Probability-of-Failure (HCLPF)

- Assume lognormal distribution
- Mean fragility curve can be estimated using HCLPF capacity
  - HCLPF Capacity can find the median capacity of a component

$$C_{50\%} = C_{\text{HCLPF}} e^{2.326\beta_c}$$

- Composite standard deviation is the combination of aleatory and random uncertainty
- Given by ASCE standard for SSC design in NPPs for this case study

$$\beta_c = \sqrt{\beta_R^2 + \beta_U^2}$$

4 |

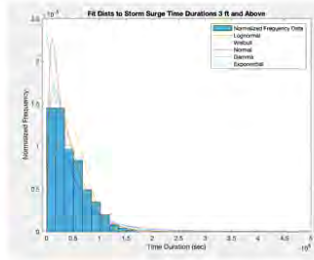


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# Converting External to Internal Flood Height

$$(h_{2in} - h_{1in}) = \frac{(\sqrt{2g(h_{2ext} - h_{1ext})}A_f) * (T(h_{2ext} > h))}{l_{in} * w_{in}}$$



Obtained flood duration from NACCS study

Example Conversion of External to Internal Flood Height		
External Flood Height	Volumetric Flow Rate	Internal Flood Height
$h_2 = 0ft$	$Q = 0 \frac{ft^3}{s}$	$0ft$
$h_2 < 3ft$	$Q = 0 \frac{ft^3}{s}$	$0ft$
$h_2 < 4ft$	$Q = 1.44 \frac{ft^3}{s}$	$61092 ft$
$h_2 < 7ft$	$Q = 2.89 \frac{ft^3}{s}$	$97869.85 ft$
$h_2 < 15ft$	$Q = 5.00 \frac{ft^3}{s}$	$61000 ft$
$h_2 < 18ft$	$Q = 5.60 \frac{ft^3}{s}$	$0 ft$

## Future Work

- Develop fragility functions for internal components
- Use fragility functions to inform Bayesian networks
- Develop 3D fragility and hazard surfaces with flood duration and flood height
- Correlations
  - Among components
  - Between flood height and flood duration

## Conclusion

### • Flood Fragility Methodology

- Demonstrated external flood fragility development using HCLPF capacity
- Developed a conversion of external to internal flood height

The authors acknowledge and appreciate research support received from the A. James and Alice B. Clark Foundation. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the funding organization.



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### **3.6.2 Poster 3A-2: Quantifying Uncertainty in Hurricane Warning Times to Inform Coastal Hazard PRA**

Authors: *Somayeh Mohammadi\**, *Michelle Bensi*; *University of Maryland*

Presenter: *Somayeh Mohammadi*

#### Abstract:

Nuclear power facilities and other critical infrastructure are often located in coastal regions exposed to the effects of tropical cyclones (e.g., hurricanes and tropical storms). These facilities may employ response strategies that involve actions to install temporary protection or mitigation features. The effectiveness of response strategies may be adversely affected by hardware failures. In addition, there is also a possibility that actions will be unsuccessful due to delayed organizational decision-making, human errors, and differences between the predicted and experienced coastal hazard characteristics. Accurate coastal hazard probabilistic risk assessments for critical infrastructure such as nuclear power facilities must include human reliability assessments that quantify the probabilities that protection and mitigation actions will be unsuccessful. These probabilities depend on the information available to support decisions and the environmental conditions under which actions are performed. A critical input to the human reliability assessment is the time available to perform actions. However, this estimated time is subject to uncertainty due to uncertainty in hurricane and tropical storm forecasts. This study seeks to quantify the uncertainty in the time available to execute actions that are triggered based on storm advisories. Uncertainty assessments are developed using NOAA GIS datasets related to advisory/forecast and observed storm track data from 2012 to 2020. Specifically, the differences between advisory forecasted track data (e.g., predicted landfall locations and times) at various time points are compared against the final observed track. This provides insights into the likelihood that the time available to perform proceduralized actions triggered by advisory information will be longer or shorter than assumed.

Poster Material (ML22061A117):

# Quantifying Uncertainty in Hurricane Warning Times to Inform Coastal Hazard PRA

Somayeh Mohammadi, Michelle Bensi

University of Maryland, College Park  
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering,  
College Park, MD, United States

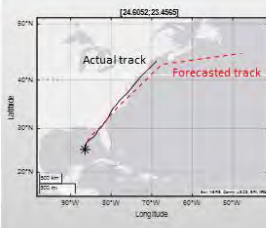
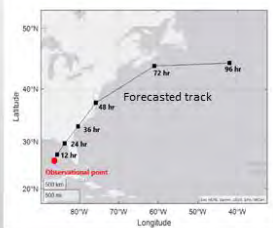
7th Annual NRC PFHA Research Workshop  
(February 15-18, 2022)

## Motivation

### Context/assumption:

When a hurricane is being monitored, plants will typically initiate proceduralized actions when a storm is forecasted to make landfall in the vicinity of a plant within  $x$  hours (e.g., 48 hours)

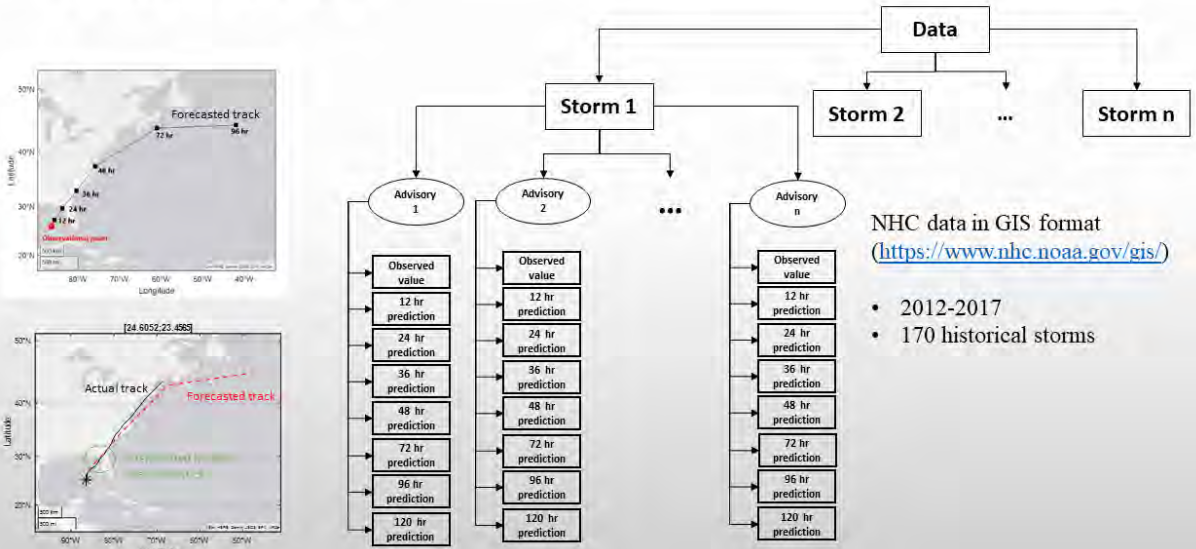
This "trigger" for action determines the assumed "time available" to complete actions (e.g., for use in HRA/PRA).



Storm is predicted to make landfall in 12/24/48/72/96/120 hours.

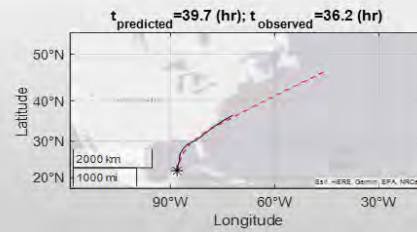
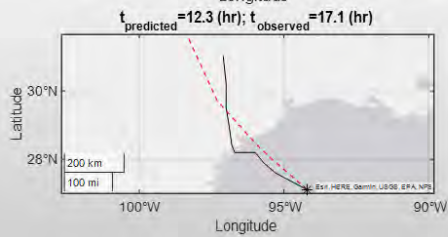
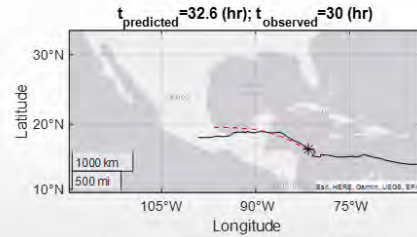
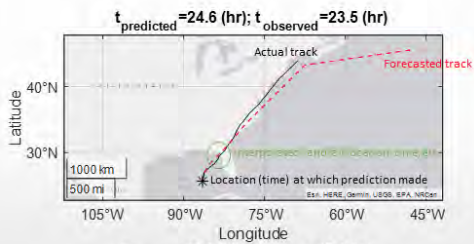
How does the forecasted landfall time differ from actual landfall time?  
What is the uncertainty in time available to complete actions?

# Data structure



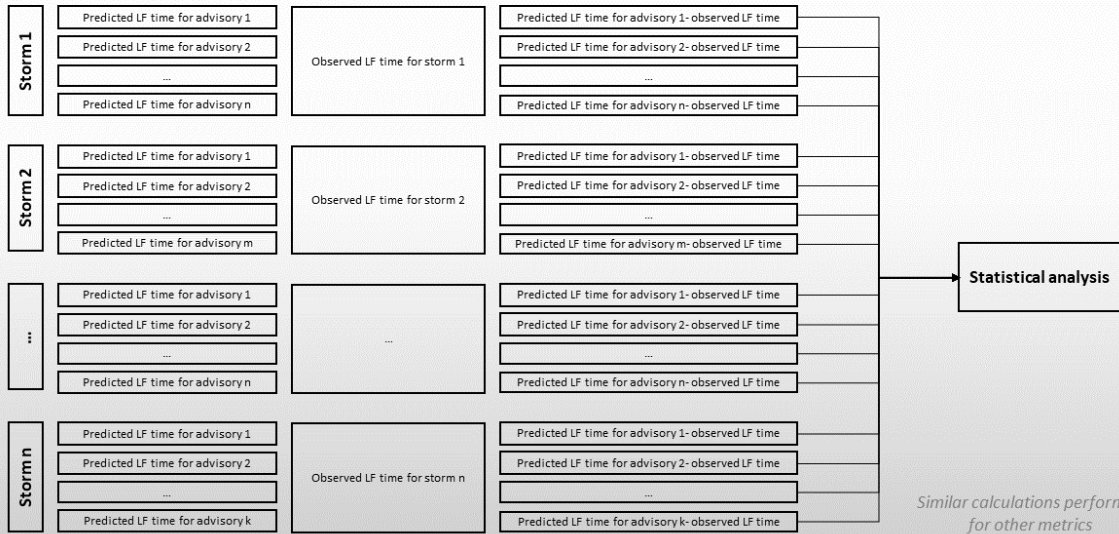
# Illustration of Method

Predicted and observed time differences

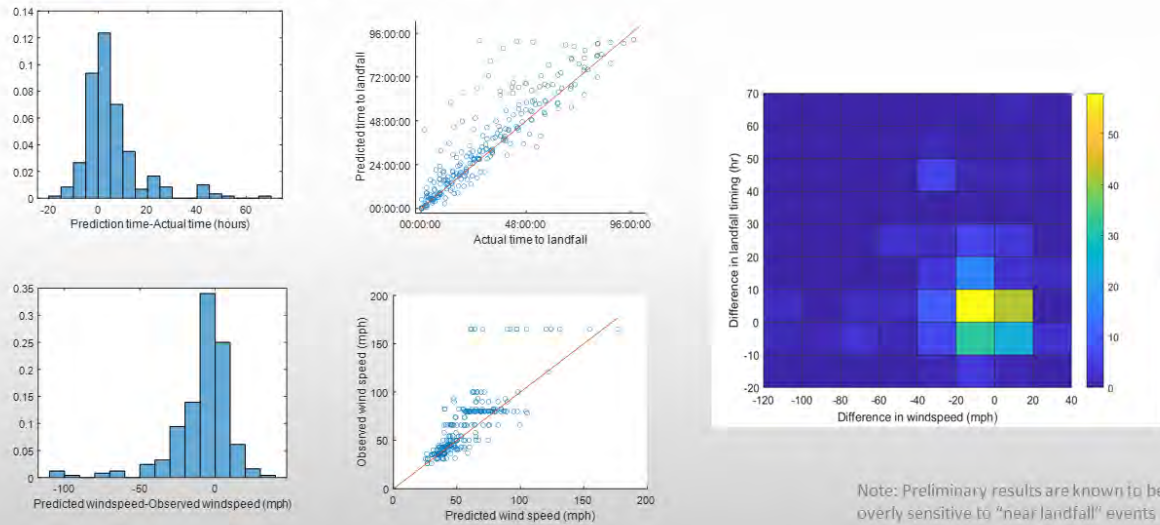




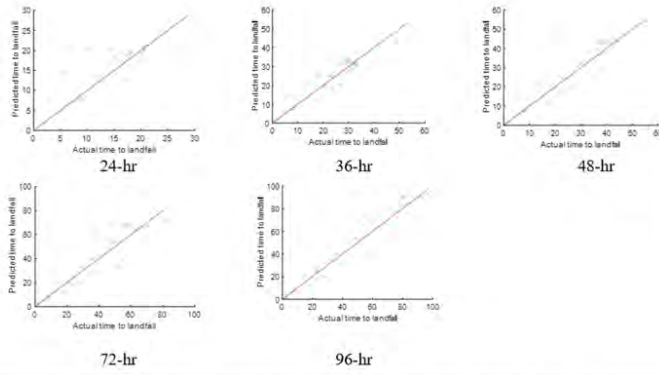
# Methodology



# Preliminary results



# Preliminary results

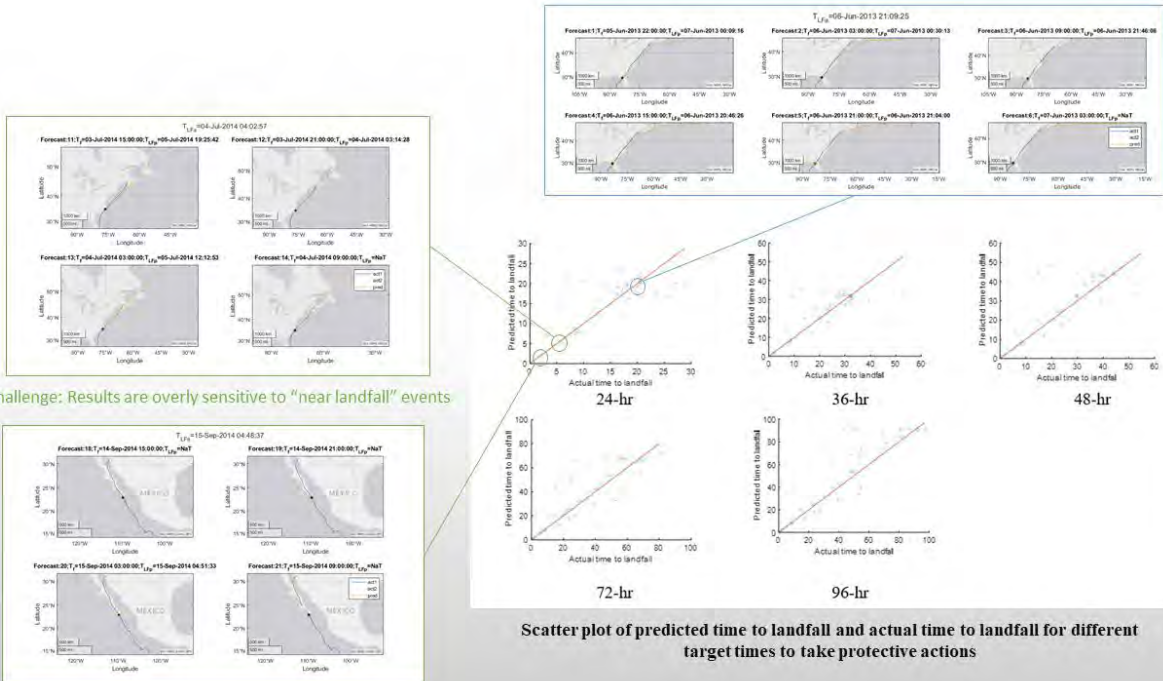


Target time periods	Correlations
24-hr	70%
36-hr	73%
48-hr	78%
72-hr	82%
96-hr	84%

Correlation between predicted time to landfall and actual time to landfall for different target times

Scatter plot of predicted time to landfall and actual time to landfall for different target times to take protective actions

Note: Preliminary results are known to be overly sensitive to "near landfall" events

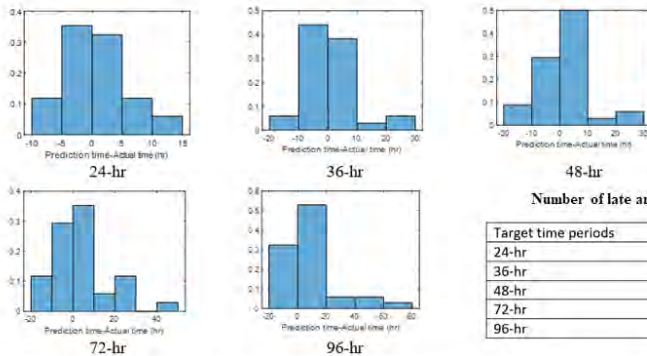


Challenge: Results are overly sensitive to "near landfall" events

Scatter plot of predicted time to landfall and actual time to landfall for different target times to take protective actions

# Preliminary results

Estimated difference between the first predicted and observed landfall times for different procedure "trigger" times



Number of late and early predictions for landfalling storms for different target times

Target time periods	Late predictions	Early predictions	Total predicted landfalls
24-hr	17 [51.5%]	16 [48.5%]	33
36-hr	16 [48.5%]	17 [51.5%]	33
48-hr	20 [60.6%]	13 [39.4%]	33
72-hr	19 [57.6%]	14 [42.4%]	33
96-hr	23 [67.6%]	11 [32.4%]	34

Histogram of time differences between predicted and observed landfalls for different target time periods

Note: Preliminary results are known to be overly sensitive to "near landfall" events

## Next steps

- Modify geospatial algorithm to address issues with sensitivity to "near landfall" events
- Extend the analysis beyond "centerline analyses" to consider wind radii and forecast cone of uncertainty
- Conduct the analysis for longer duration of data
- Develop distributions for the uncertainty in time available to perform actions as well as other storm characteristics
- Analyze the uncertainty related to other storm parameters including:
  - Central pressure deficit
  - Storm forward velocity
  - Heading direction



*Thank you*

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[mbensi@umd.edu](mailto:mbensi@umd.edu)

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### **3.6.3 Poster 3A-3: HEC-WAT Interface and Set Up for the Trinity River PFHA Pilot Project**

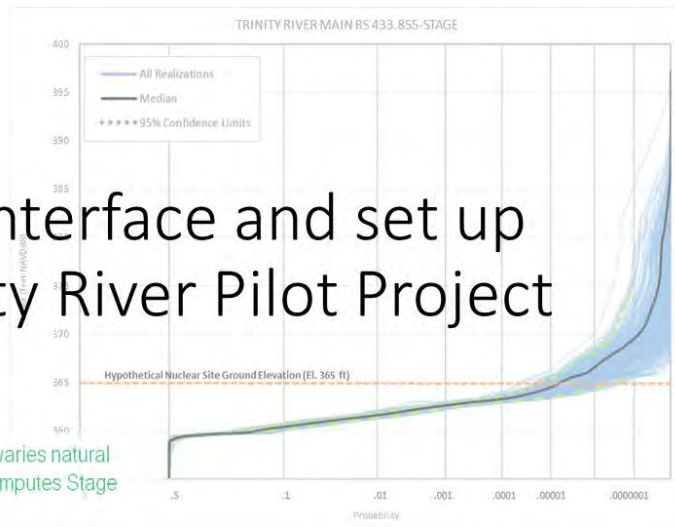
Author: David Ho\*, William Lehman, Brennan Beam, Sara O'Connell, Leila Ostadrahimi  
*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hydrologic Engineering Center*

Presenter: David Ho

Abstract: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Probabilistic Flood Hazard Analysis (PFHA) utilized Hydrologic Engineering Center Watershed Analysis Tool (HEC-WAT) to provide a quantitative relationship between the probability of occurrence (or frequency) and magnitude for various flood hazards. HEC-WAT was applied to the Trinity River watershed to demonstrate a method of producing stochastic outputs required for the PFHA. The modeling effort required a number of different applications or "plugins" to perform the PFHA analysis. This poster will show the Trinity River HEC-WAT interface, how the project was set-up for the modeling, which plugins were added, and how the model order was selected.

Poster Material (ML22061A116):

# HEC-WAT Interface and set up for the Trinity River Pilot Project



1 outer loop B =  
a realization



inner loop A varies natural  
variability, computes Stage  
Frequency,

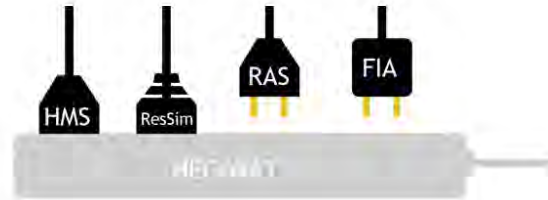
outer loop B varies  
knowledge uncertainty,  
computes distribution of  
Stage Frequency

## Story Map

- <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1f1242cf6f834cef9662aa420dc1b14e>

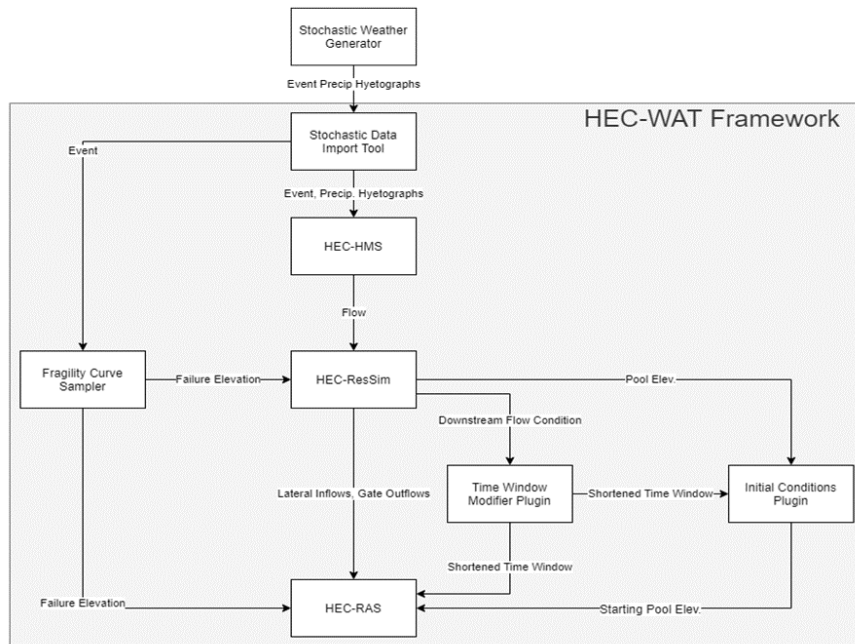


# Plugin Architecture



- Plugins during Compute
  - Stochastic Data Importer
    - Take in the weather generator data and pass to hydrologic model
  - HEC-HMS
    - Hydrologic Model to generate hypothetical flows
  - Fragility Curve
    - Probability of dam failure for a given elevation
  - HEC-ResSIM
    - Reservoir simulation model to compute regulated flows
  - Time Window Modifier
    - Changes the time window of the simulation for RAS model
  - Initial Conditions
    - Link the starting pool and outflows assumptions between HEC-RAS and HEC-ResSIM
  - HEC-RAS
    - Hydraulic Model for computing dam breaks, flood stages and river velocities
  - RASCAL
    - Troubleshooting RAS results
  - RasXSMAX
    - Extracted the maximum depth and velocity from RAS HDF output and set as an output variable
  - Duration
    - Computes max average duration, max accumulated duration, stage/flow/velocity over threshold

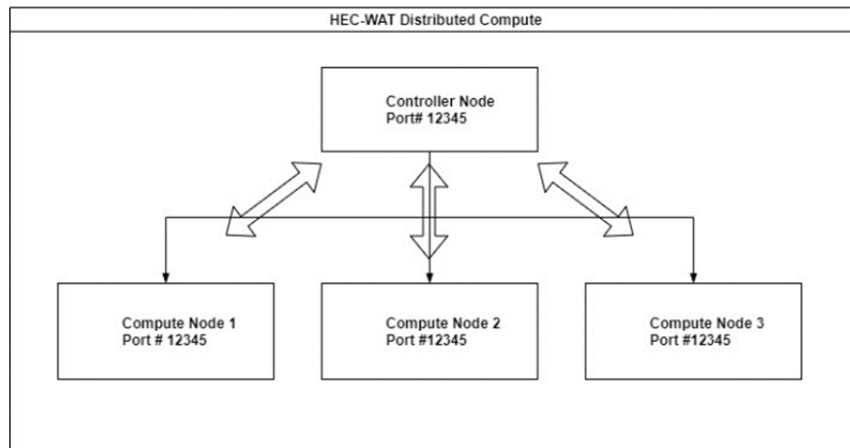
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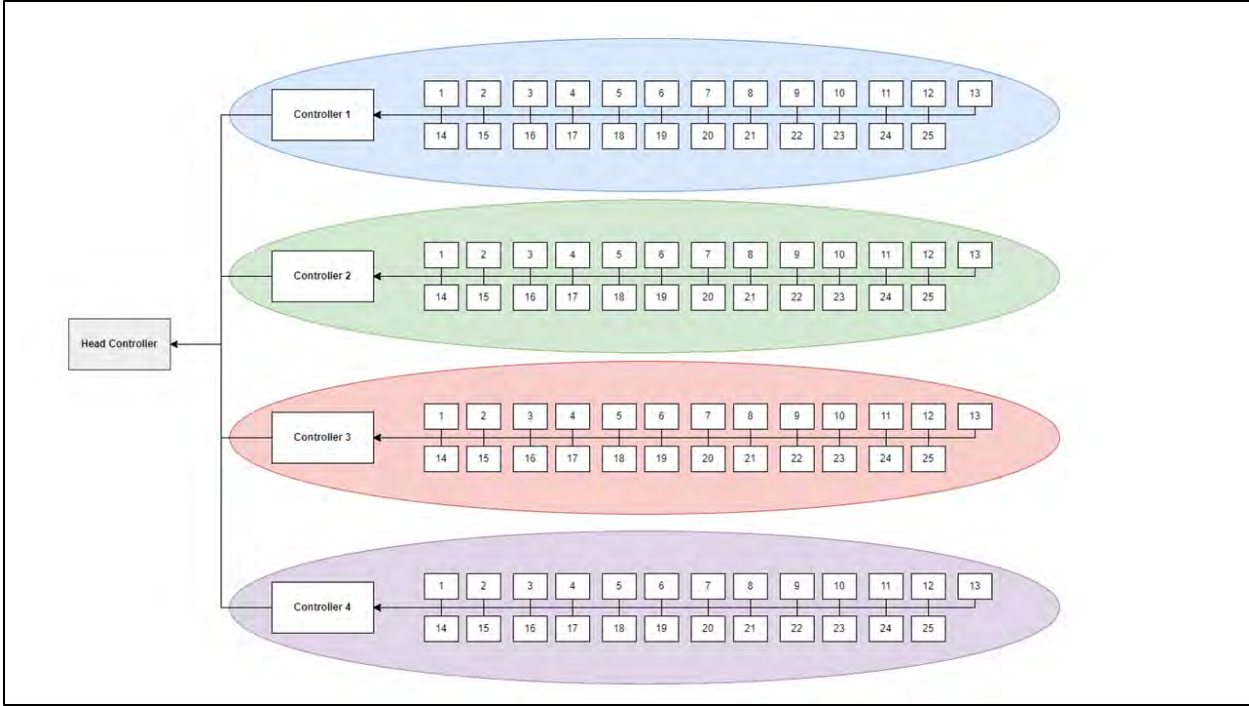


# Plugin Architecture

- Post Processing Plugins
  - Confidence Builder
    - Computes user defined confidence intervals, de-stratifies output variables, simplifies plotting using Ramer-Douglas-Peucker algorithm
  - DCInvestigator
    - Reviews computed simulation dss file for missing lifecycles and/or events
  - Merger
    - Merge files computed from distributed compute into a single dss

# Distributed Compute







### **3.6.4 Poster 3A-4: Riverine Flooding HEC-WAT Pilot Project Dam Break Modeling**

Authors: *Brennan Beam\**, *William Lehman*, *Sara O'Connell*, *David Ho*, *Leila Ostadrahimi*  
*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hydrologic Engineering Center*

Presenter: *Brennan Beam*

Abstract:

This poster describes how the Hydrologic Engineering Center's Watershed Analysis Tool (HEC-WAT) is being used to include dam failure in their probabilistic flood hazard assessment (PFHA) process. The technical details associated with viewing a system wide dam failure for a single event using HEC-RAS and HEC-ResSim is the primary focus of the poster.

Poster Material (ML22061A115):

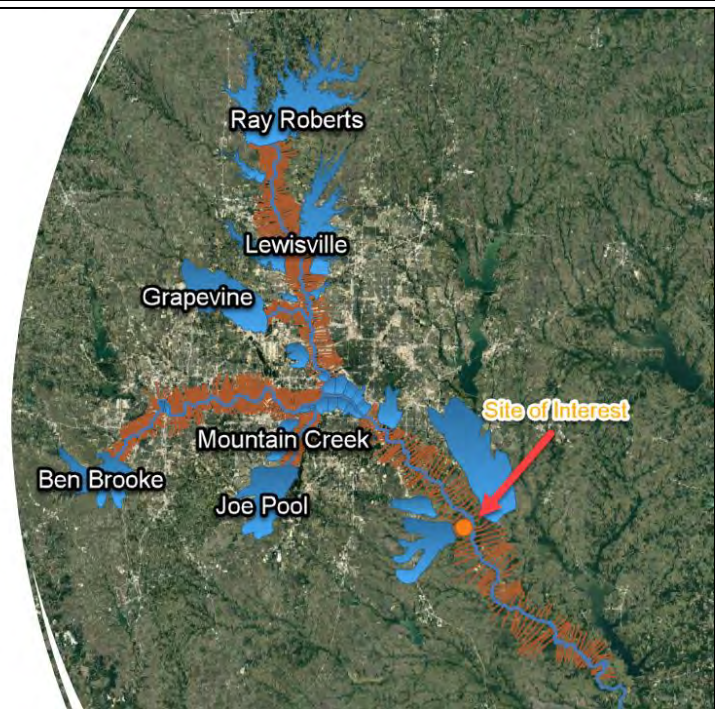
# HEC-WAT Hydraulics for PFHA

Brennan B. Beam PE, CFM  
USACE Hydrologic Engineering Center

## Hydraulic Model

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- Trinity River Watershed
- Dallas, TX
- Six Breaching Dams
- Two Sets in Series



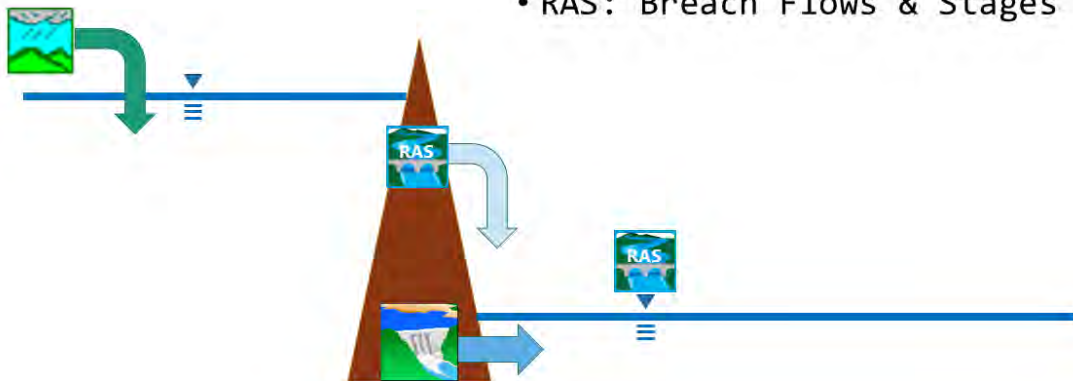
## Unique Challenges

- Reservoirs are modeled in two different software (ResSim & RAS)
- Model must remain stable, appropriate, and efficient for a wide range of events.

3

## The Overview

- HMS: Inflows
- ResSim: Operations
- RAS: Breach Flows & Stages



4



# Shared Modelling of Reservoirs

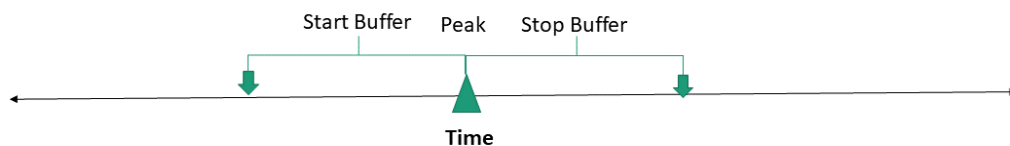
## ISSUES

- How do we set the Time window for RAS?
- How do we set the initial condition in RAS?

5

## Defining the Time window

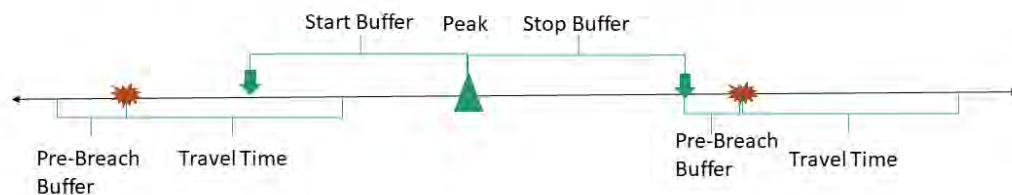
- Define the anchor point. We want to extend the time window out from the Peak Flow in Dallas calculated in the ResSim model.
- Define a generous window around this.
  - START: Capture pre-event flows
  - STOP: Account for the difference in ResSim routing flows, and RAS's hydraulic solution.



6

## Defining the Time Window (2)

- Ensure we capture all dam breaches
  - START: Capture any Dam Breach occurring prior to the peak, plus a buffer.
- STOP: Capture any Dam Breach after the peak, and it's travel time



## Setting Initial Conditions

- Set by the Initial Conditions Plugin
- Mines Values from the Starting timestep in the RAS Adjusted Time window.
- Need to set
  - Initial Flows out of Reservoirs
  - Initial Elevations of both US Cross Section and Storage Areas for Reservoirs
- The initial stream profile in the RAS Model is set by running the initial flows to steady state before beginning the actual timeseries simulation.

# Modelling Breaches in HEC-RAS

**Fragility Curve Editor**

Name: FinalFragility

Structure: Ray Roberts

PFM1 Name: PFM1

Breach Method: Overtopping

Randomize By: Event

Error Distribution Type: Uniform

Elevation (ft)	Minimum	Maximum
659.0	0.0	0.0
659.5	0.000000382	0.000000060
664.5	0.000000991	0.00258
665.1	0.00129	0.008
665.5	0.043	0.089
665.9	0.412	0.924
667.9	0.755	0.995
668.8	1.0	1.0

**Dam (Inline Structure) Breach Data**

Center Station: 5775

Final Bottom Elevation: 6319

Final Bottom Elevation: 657

Left Side Slope: 5

Right Side Slope: 5

Breach Viter Coef: 2.4

Breach Formation Time (hrs): 9.3

Failure Mode: Overtopping

Failure Coefficient: 15.3

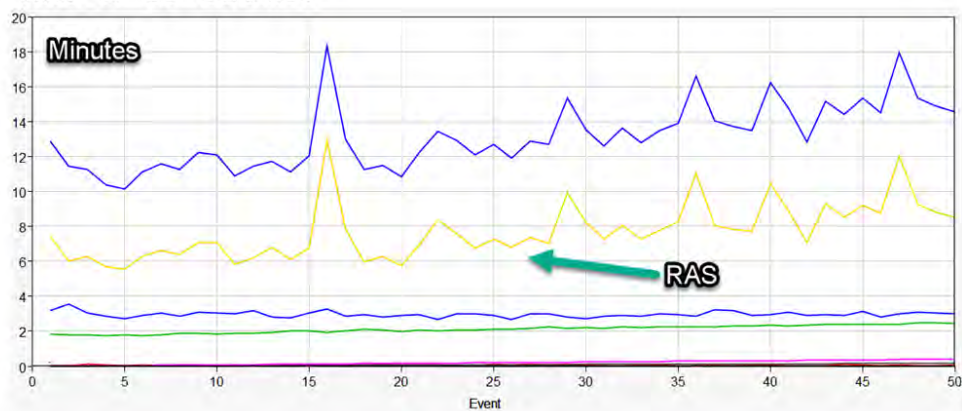
Total Board Elev: 667.45

Upper Failure at: 195 Elev

Starting WS: 667.45

## A Moment of Panic

- First 2 Realizations take 20hrs instead of 10.
- Who's to blame?





# Building for Stability

- Modelling Decisions
  - Represent overbanks as Storage Areas instead of 2D
  - Removing Bridge decks and represent as XS
  - Adjust XS Spacing / Computational Timestep
  - Ensure Smooth Volume Elevation Curves
- Computational Options
  - Adjust Output Timestep
  - Adjust Solution Tolerances
  - Adjust Stability Coefficients
  - Change Solver

11

# Paradiso vs Gaussian Solver

- Gaussian is the RAS default. Runs on a single core of your processor.
- Pardiso is less efficient but runs on multiple cores.

Solver	LC20-20 Compute Time	LC520-20 Compute Time
Gaussian	3:43	2:31
Pardiso (2-Core)	4:43	2:46
Pardiso (4-Core)	NA	2:49

12

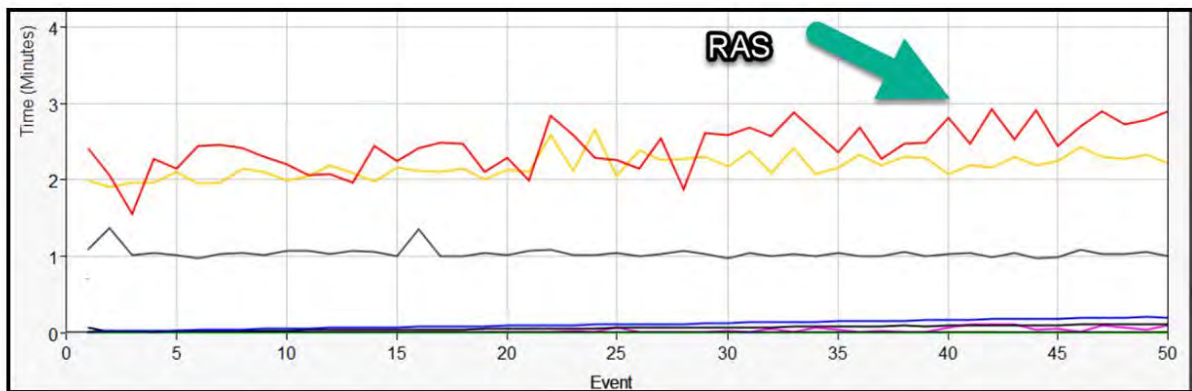
# Inline Structure Stability

As this coefficient increases, it dampens the first guess of the computation engine projecting an upstream energy slope. Increasing it theoretically increases computation time in stable locations, but can stabilize difficult inline structures, resulting in less instability.

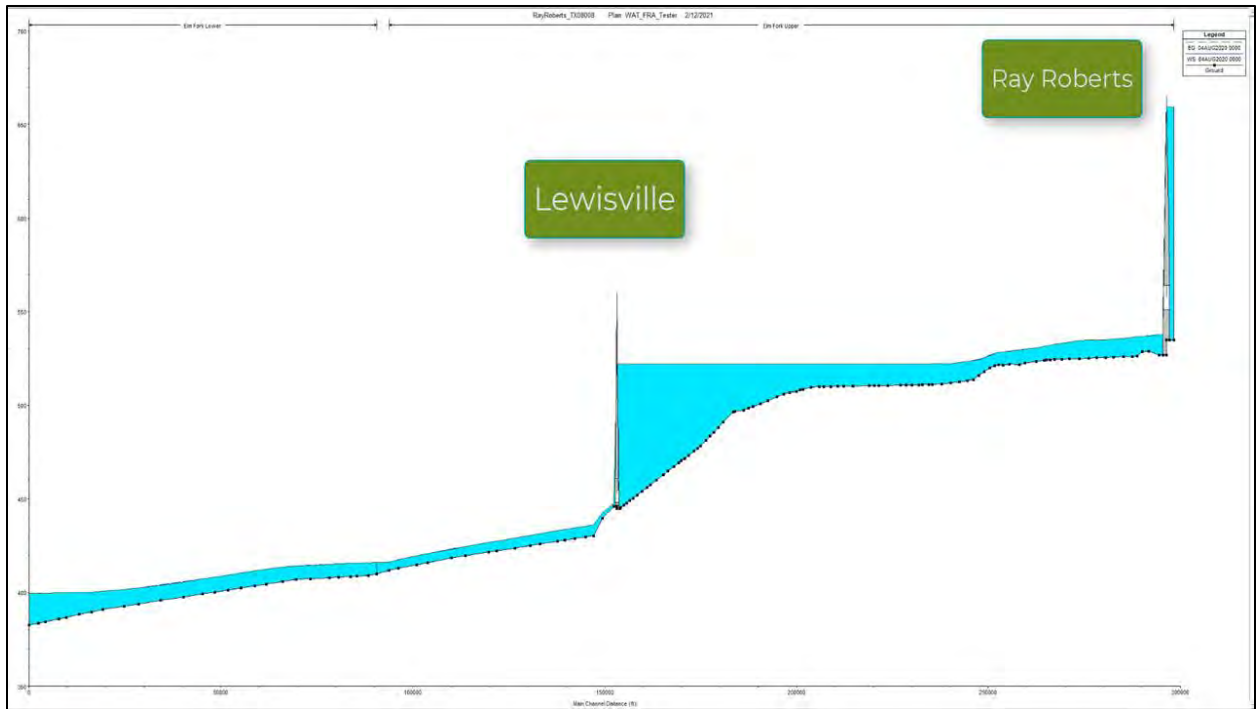
Stability Factor	LC20-1 Compute Time
1	8:57
3	5:58

13

## SUCCESS!



14







### **3.6.5 Poster 3A-5: Flooding from Below – The Groundwater Emergence Hazard**

Author: *Kevin M. Befus*<sup>\*1</sup>, *Patrick L. Barnard*<sup>2</sup>, *Peter W. Swarzenski*<sup>2</sup>, *Clifford Voss*<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*University of Arkansas*, <sup>2</sup>*U.S. Geological Survey*

Presenter: *Kevin M. Befus*

#### Abstract:

Shallow groundwater levels create hidden flood hazards via 'groundwater emergence'. In such areas, thin vadose zones could accentuate compound flooding events, and rising water tables could reach the ground surface and flood low lying areas. Even without groundwater emergence, a shoaling groundwater table can reduce the effectiveness and lifespans of coastal urban and rural infrastructure, such as storm drains, shoreline armoring, and other buried assets, as well as potentially remobilize soil contaminants. Wetter regional climate, more frequent and intense storms, focused urbanization and projected sea-level rise are just a few processes that will likely expand future zones of groundwater emergence in some regions. Downstream coastal communities and associated infrastructure are most at risk to the compounded effects of prolonged or chronic groundwater emergence. Numerical simulations of the California coastal region illustrate the expansive extent and nuances of shoaling and groundwater emergence hazards today and predict a substantial increase in groundwater-flooded areas with future sea-level rise. Low-lying areas are most vulnerable to flooding hazards from below due to groundwater emergence, as well as to episodic marine overland flooding and quasi-permanent inundation. Overall, societal exposure to shallow and emergent groundwater with rising sea levels was projected to be 6-9 times higher than overland flooding by the end of the century for coastal California. Thus, responsive flood protection policy and infrastructure should account for not only marine overland flooding but also for groundwater flooding from below. Ongoing work will extend these simulations to coastal aquifers across the southeastern United States.

Poster Material (ML22061A114):

# Flooding from below – the groundwater emergence hazard

PFHA 2022  
WS7

Kevin M. Befus<sup>1</sup>, Patrick L Barnard<sup>2</sup>,  
Peter W. Swarzenski<sup>2</sup>, and Cliff Voss<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Arkansas

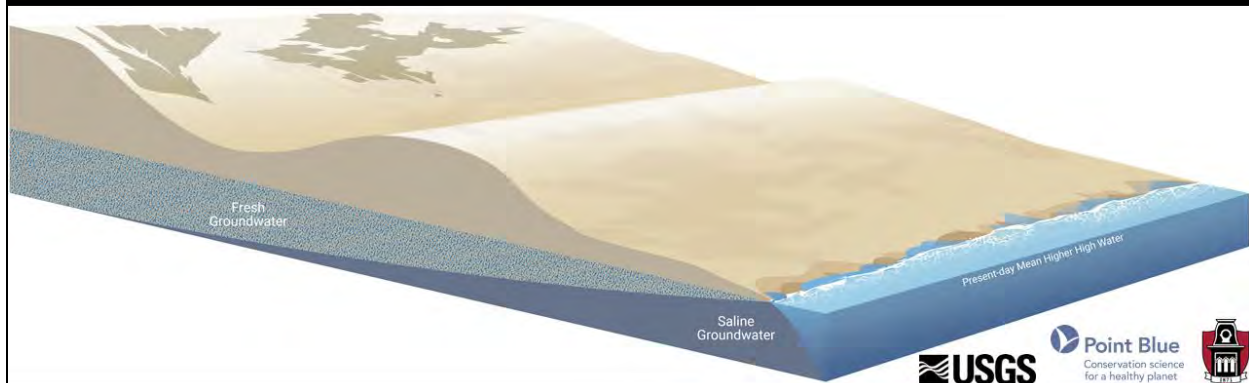
<sup>2</sup>USGS Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center

<sup>3</sup>USGS Water Science Mission Area, Emeritus



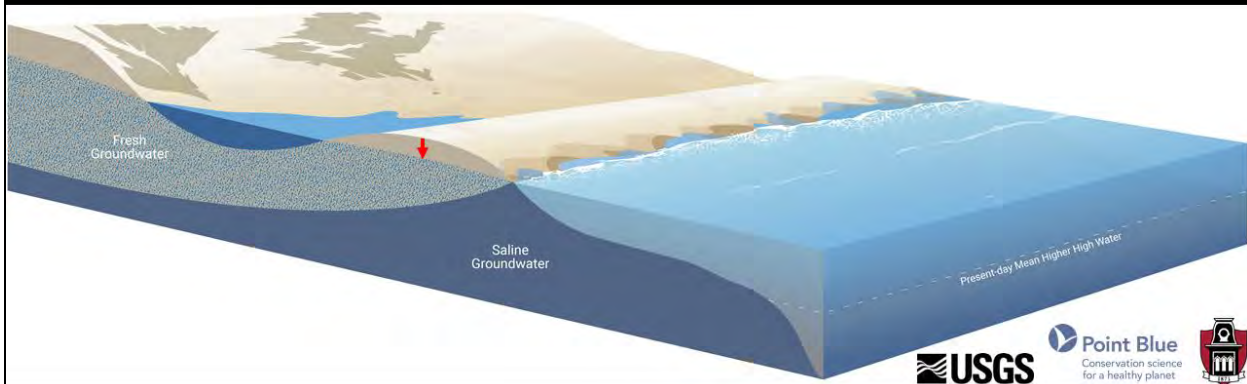
Photo by Nicole Y-C on Unsplash

How sea-level rise affects the groundwater table

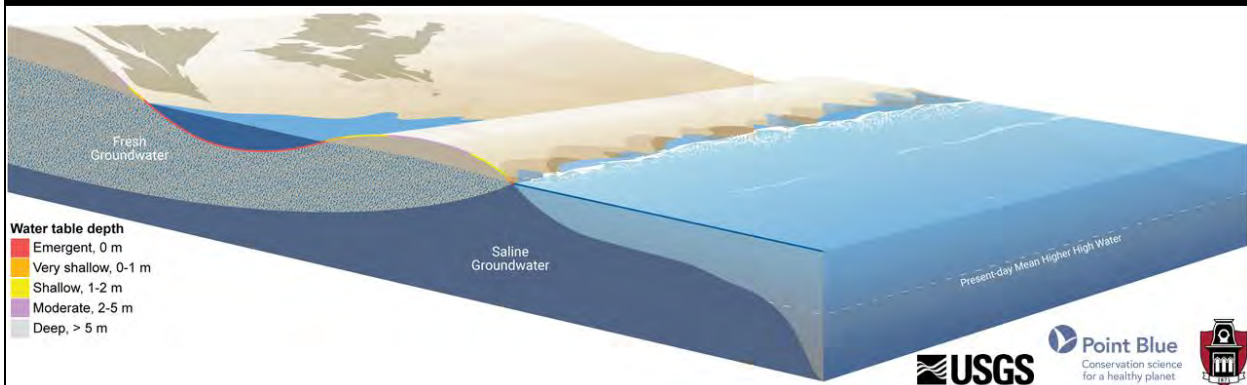




## How sea-level rise affects the groundwater table

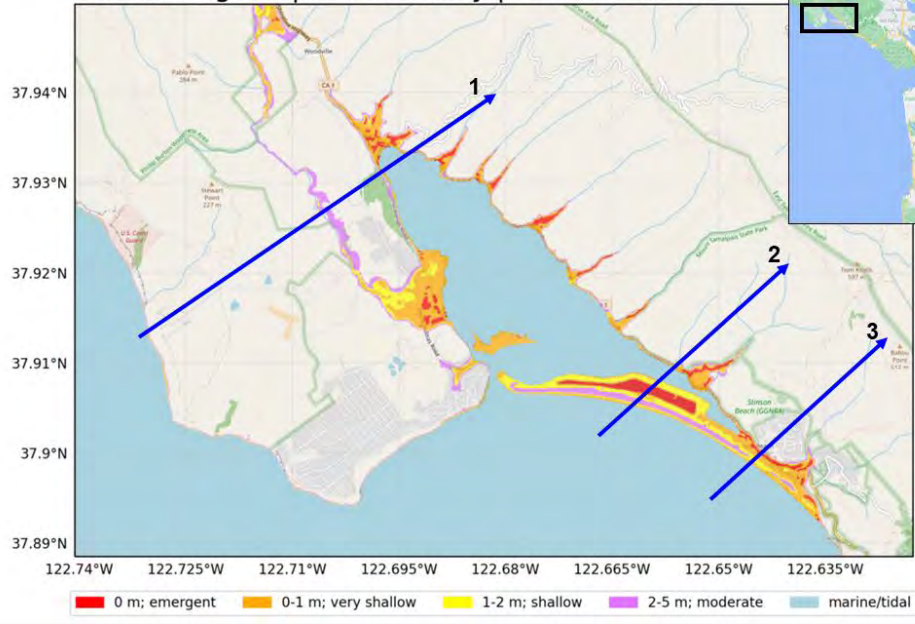


## Depth to the groundwater table

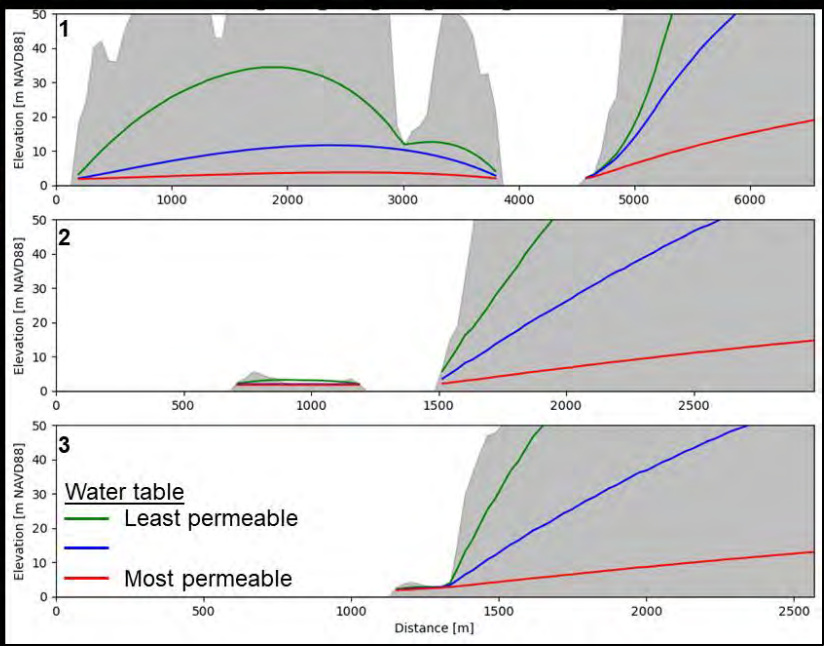


**Water table depths for Bolinas Lagoon/Stinson Beach,**

Bolinas Lagoon |  $K=1.0$  m/day | MHHW+0.0 m

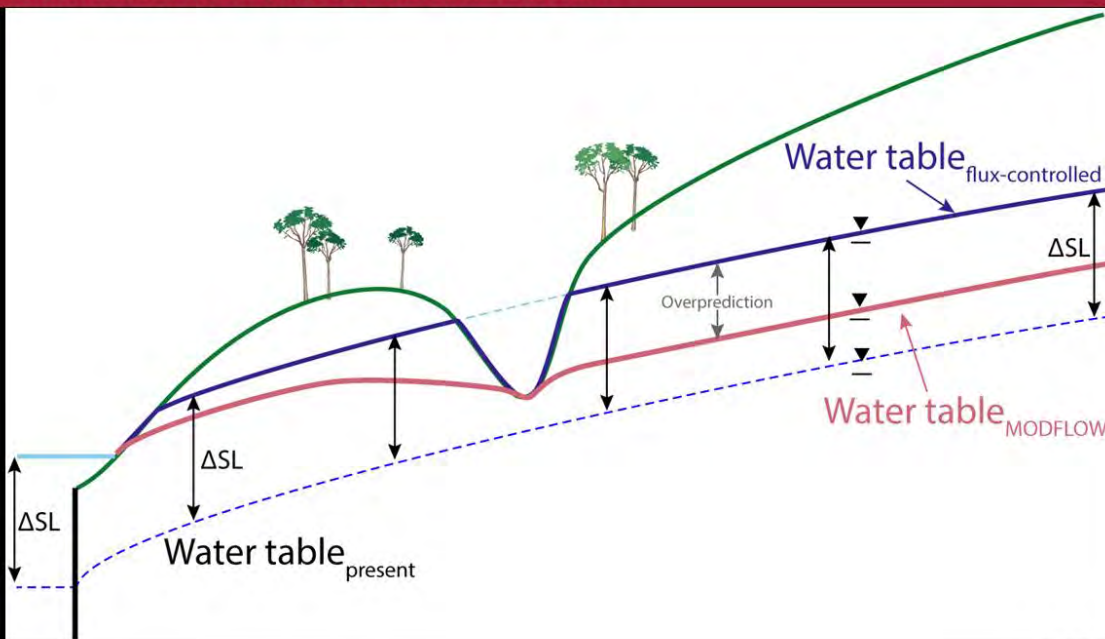


**Cross sections of water table responses to sea-level rise – Bolinas Lagoon**



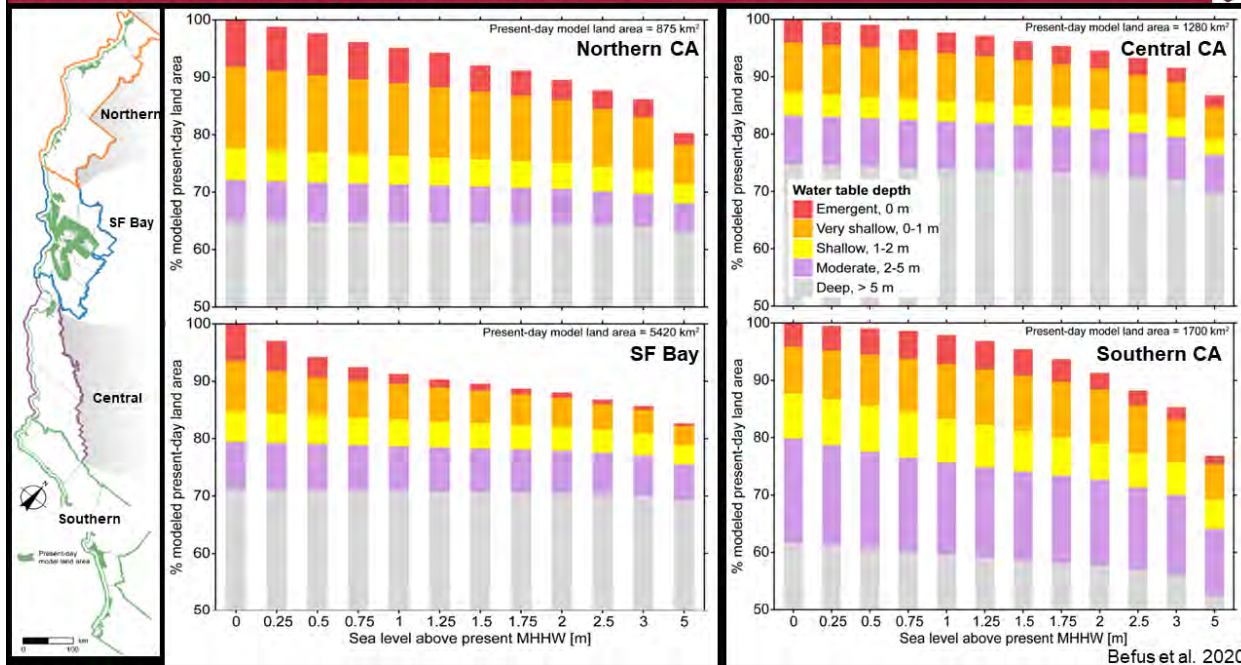
Befus et al. 2020

# How much does a water table rise with sea-level rise?



Befus et al. 2020

# Water tables become deeper with sea-level rise, K=1 m/day



Befus et al. 2020



## Groundwater hazard viewer with data downloads

HOME ABOUT HAZARD MAP CASE STUDIES SCIENCE AND MODELING

Explore Scenarios

Scenario Region: California Coast

Scenario Topic: Groundwater

**Scenario**

Sea Level Rise: 100 cm

Storm Frequency: Annual

Use It:

- 500 cm
- 300 cm
- 250 cm
- 200 cm
- 175 cm
- 150 cm
- 125 cm
- 100 cm
- 75 cm
- 50 cm
- 25 cm
- 0 cm

Sea Level Rise: Storm Frequency

Search location

Legend

**Groundwater Hazard**

- Blue: Marine Inundation (MHHW sea level)
- Red: Water Table at Surface (Emergent)
- Yellow: Water Table Between 0-1m Depth (Very Shallow)
- Orange: Water Table Between 1-2m Depth (Shallow)
- Purple: Water Table Between 2-5m Depth (Moderate)

Our Coast Our Future (OCOF) – [ourcoastourfuture.org](http://ourcoastourfuture.org)

## Groundwater hazard viewer and exposure analytics tool

Hazard Exposure Reporting and Analytics

Impact of Sea Level Rise on Groundwater Hazards

Choose Your Place(s):

- Alameda County
- Contra Costa County
- Del Norte County
- Humboldt County
- Los Angeles County
- Marin County
- Menlo Park County
- Monterey County

Choose Your Groundwater Hazard:

Sea Level Rise: 200

Groundwater Depth: Cumulative

Groundwater Geology: Moderate

Choose Your Asset:

Residents

Economy

Land Type

Infrastructure

Roads

Railroads

Water and Waste Management

Critical Facilities

Map Legend

- Water Table at Surface
- 0 to 1 Meter Deep
- 1 to 2 Meters Deep
- 2 to 5 Meters Deep

Length of All Roads in Block

VIEW PLACE SUMMARY COMPARE PLACES VIEW DATA TABLE

Carson (3 of 30)

Length of All Roads (Miles) in Hazard Zone

Length of All Roads (Miles) in Hazard Zone as Sea Level Rises

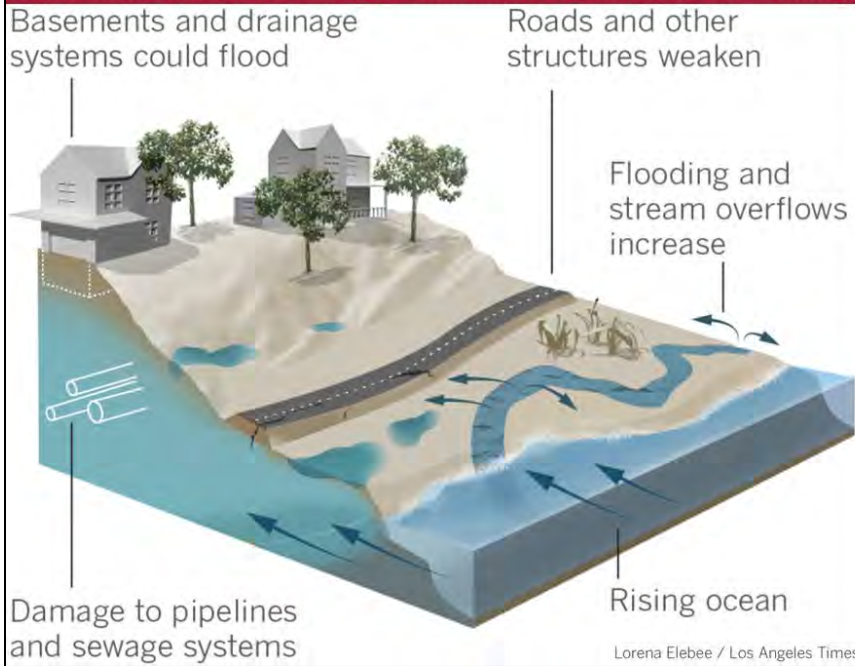
Sea Level Rise (cm)	Length of All Roads (Miles)
0	21
25	23
50	27
75	31
100	36
150	45
200	57

Length of All Roads (Miles) in Hazard Zone as Groundwater Geology Changes

Groundwater Geology	Length of All Roads (Miles)
More Permeable	6
Moderate	21
Less Permeable	213

Hazard Exposure Reporting and Analytics (HERA) - [www.usgs.gov/apps/hera/](http://www.usgs.gov/apps/hera/)

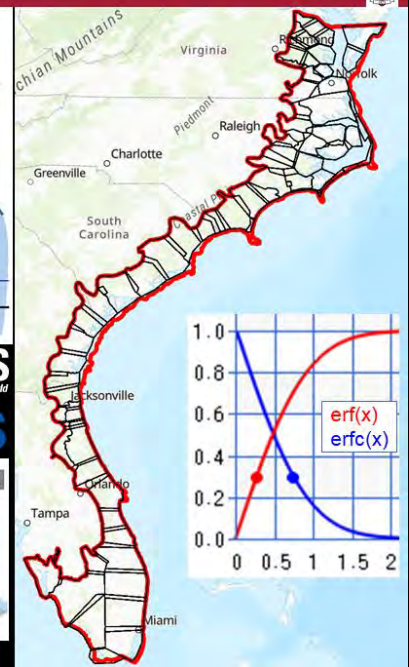
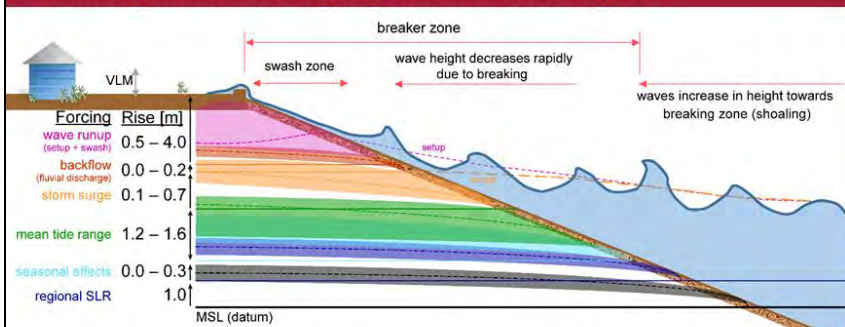
**Societal impacts from rising groundwater: exposure vs vulnerability**



- California (2 m of SLR)**
- 4 million residents
  - \$1.1 trillion in property
  - 33,000 km of roads
  - 3,000 critical facilities (e.g., schools, police stations, hospitals)
- \*6-9 times greater exposure than overland flooding**

Lorena Elebee / Los Angeles Times

**Extending understanding of groundwater emergence**



Logos for: USGS (science for a changing world), NCCOS (NOAA), Point Blue, Sea Grant (University of Southern California), green way, and CoSMoS (USGS).



after Sutton-Grier et al. 2015 & [www.fisheries.noaa.gov/insight/understanding-living-shorelines](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/insight/understanding-living-shorelines)



## Data and code availability

### 1. Paper

[doi.org/10.1038/s41558-020-0874-1](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-020-0874-1)

nature  
climate change

ARTICLES

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-020-0874-1>

Check for updates

### Increasing threat of coastal groundwater hazards from sea-level rise in California

K. M. Befus<sup>1,2</sup>, P. L. Barnard<sup>3</sup>, D. J. Hoover<sup>4</sup>, J. A. Finzi Hart<sup>5</sup> and C. I. Voss<sup>6</sup>

### 2. Water table depths and groundwater head data:

[doi.org/10.5066/P9H5PBXP](https://doi.org/10.5066/P9H5PBXP)



ScienceBase-Catalog

### 3. Saline groundwater wedge footprints data:

[hydroshare.org/resource/1c95059edcf041a0959e0b4a1f05478c/](https://hydroshare.org/resource/1c95059edcf041a0959e0b4a1f05478c/)



### 4. Python scripts: [github.com/kbefus/ca\\_gw\\_slr](https://github.com/kbefus/ca_gw_slr)



Funding provided by



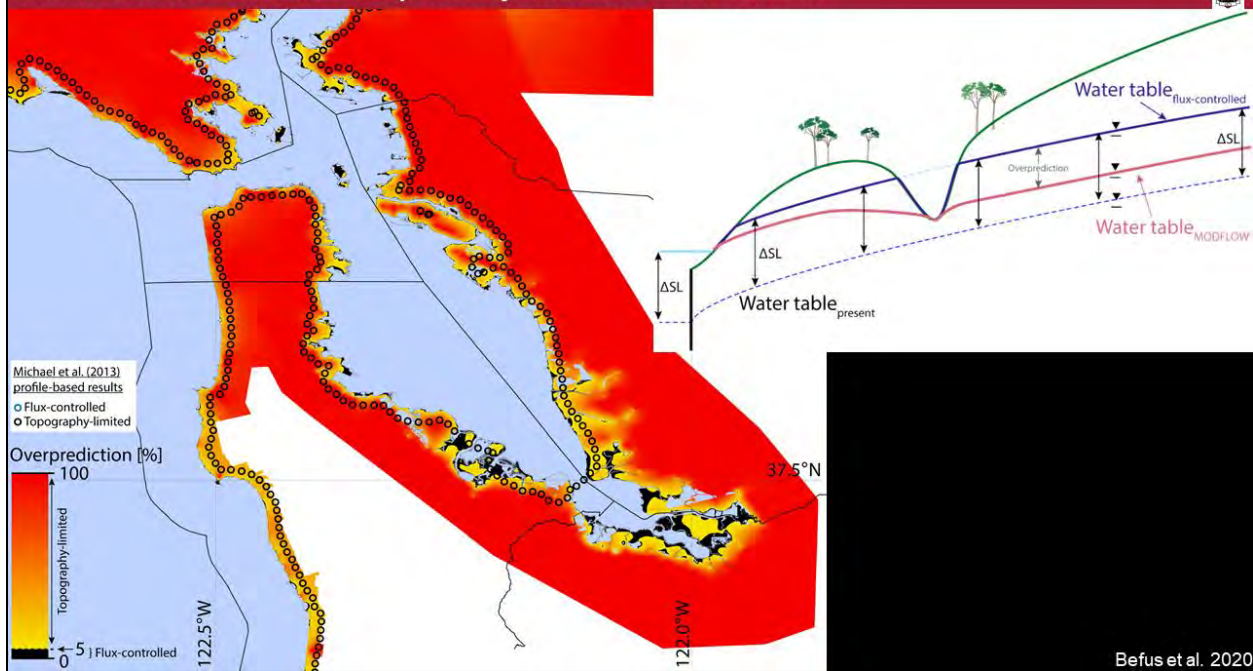
### 5. Interactive web maps and applications:

Our Coast Our Future (OCOF) – [ourcoastourfuture.org](https://ourcoastourfuture.org)

Hazard Exposure Reporting and Analytics (HERA) – [www.usgs.gov/apps/hera/](https://www.usgs.gov/apps/hera/)



## Inland extent of water table responsivity with 1 m of sea-level rise





### 3.6.6 Poster 3A-6: External Flooding PRA Guidance

Author: *Marko Randelovic\*<sup>1</sup>, Raymond Schneider\*<sup>2</sup>*  
*<sup>1</sup>Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), <sup>2</sup>Westinghouse Company*

Presenter: *Marko Randelovic*

Abstract:

EPRI is currently developing a guidance for performing an external flood PRA for use in the nuclear industry. The guidance establishes a structured framework for treating the spectrum of external flood hazards and provides background materials and examples for the PRA analyst to use. Specifically, the project aids the PRA analyst in:

- 1) Defining and characterizing the external flood hazard, considering event and plant-specific issues.
- 2) Estimating external flood hazard frequencies.
- 3) Developing external flood fragility curves for flood significant Systems, Structures, and Components (SSCs).
- 4) Preparing an external flood event tree, including consideration of actions preparing the plant for the flood, mitigating the flood hazard, and responding to random and flood-induced failures of initial flood mitigation strategies.

Guidance is being developed to be consistent with expected requirements of the ASME/ANS PRA Standard. To facilitate understanding simple hypothetical example applications illustrate the interface with the probabilistic flood hazard assessment (PFHA), parsing the flood analysis to characteristic event frequencies and the development of various PRA flood event trees and overall quantification overall process. This guidance also includes a potential screening approach for the flood related combined/correlated hazards.

Poster Material (ML22061A113):

# External Flooding PRA Guidance

## 7th Annual Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment Workshop

Marko Randelovic - Principal Technical Leader, EPRI  
Ray Schneider, Fellow Engineer, Westinghouse

February 17, 2022

    
[www.epri.com](http://www.epri.com)

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## Background

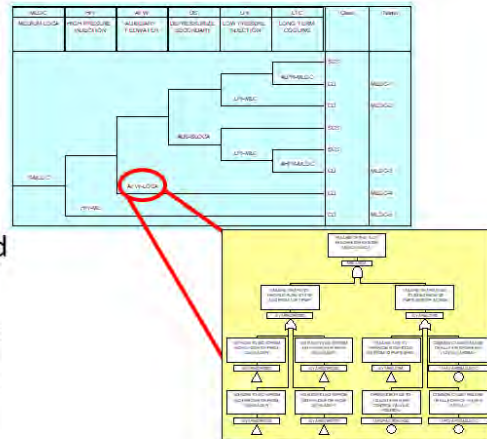
- Past EPRI projects have provided guidance supporting implementation of the ASME/ANS PRA Standard to assess risks of internal and external hazards.
- The current project expands the external flood PRA effort by integrating available information on external flood modeling to develop a practical methodology for the development of the external flooding PRAs
- Flood related combined/correlated hazards screening methodology is currently being developed and will be captured in the final draft of the External Flooding PRA guidance
- Lessons learned from the past external flood events will supplement the External Flooding PRA guidance and provide practical guidance in preparing for and mitigating external floods at NPPs

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## External Flood Guidance for Probabilistic Risk Assessment

- Provides a structured roadmap for performing an External Flood PRA (XFPRA) consistent with meeting requirements of the ASME/ANS PRA Standard.
- Includes guidance for:
  - Defining and characterizing the external flood hazard
    - Including estimation of external flood hazard frequencies, severity and associated uncertainties
  - Identifying flood induced failure modes and develop external flood fragility curves for flood significant Systems, Structures, and Components (SSCs).
  - Preparing and quantifying a PRA external flood event tree.



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## External Flood Guidance for Probabilistic Risk Assessment

- Guidance uses baseline internal events and internal flood PRAs as basis for developing relevant flood-induced failures for the External Flood PRA.
- Guidance is structured consistent with the ASME/ANS PRA Standard
- Guidance builds upon prior relevant EPRI references for hazard screening and example PFHA studies for representative NPPs
- Where available and appropriate USACE and NRC documents and methods are identified to support both PFHA and fragility assessments
- Methodology has been reviewed by EDF and found to be consistent with the EDF external flood PRA process



4

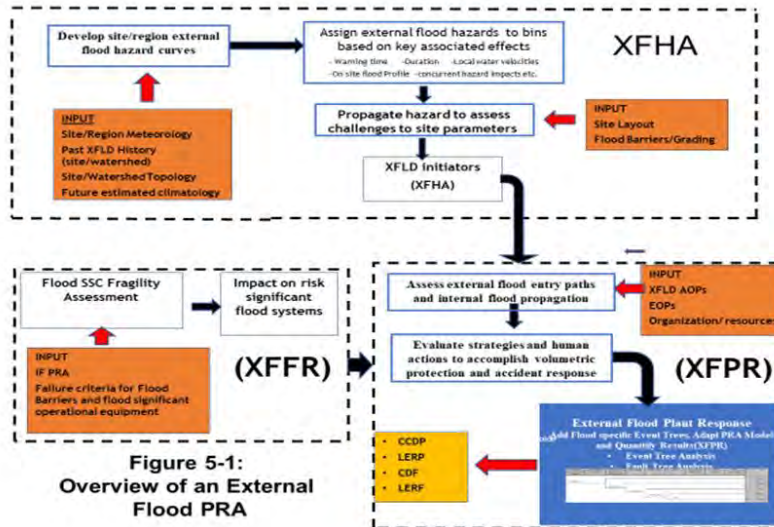
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## External Flood PRA Process



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## Flood Related Combined Hazards

- Process extends External Flood Hazard identification and characterization to consider impact of secondary flood and other coexistent hazards
- Provides basis for more realistic treatment of complex flood hazards for External Flood PRAs
- Process uses a framework that extends the EPRI Combined Hazard Screening Process (developed initially in EPRI TR 3002005287)
- Focus on characterization of complex flood hazards by identification of combined hazards and their respective impact on external flood PRA scenarios

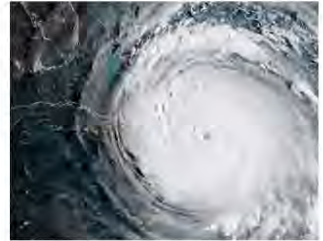


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## Flood Related Combined Hazards

- Approach includes potential for considering multiple coexistent hazards within the External Flood PRA model
- Identifies those coexistent hazards that should be considered within the site-specific external flood hazard including those that may be Correlated, Consequential or Random
- Structured process provides a vehicle for evaluating completeness of primary External Flood PRA characterization; supplemental matrix identifies treatment considerations identified within the matrix



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## Practical Insights from External Flood Events

- New task to present insights from operational experiences to support development of actionable guidance/ recommendations for developing flood hazard coping and mitigation strategies.
- Focus is on lessons learned from external flood events and findings at Fort Calhoun Station but will also consider insights from regulatory and international experience.
- Guidance supports development, validation, and improved procedural guidance and overall preparedness for responding to external flood challenges.



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## Major 2022 Project Activities

- Comparison between EPRI and EDF External Flooding PRA methodologies and combined hazards screening approach - In progress (target end of April)
- Final draft available for NRC-RES review – May 2022
- Draft EPRI white paper on the Operating Experience and Lessons Learned – July 2022



Together...Shaping the Future of Electricity



### **3.7 Day 3: Session 3B – Coastal Flooding**

Session Chair: Joseph Kanney, NRC/RES/DRA

#### **3.7.1 Presentation 3B-1: An Overview of CSTORM Model Development and Results for the South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACS)**

Authors: *Margaret Owensby\*<sup>1</sup>, Thomas Massey<sup>1</sup>, Tyler Hesser<sup>1</sup>, Mary Bryant<sup>1</sup>, Andrew Condon<sup>2</sup>*

*<sup>1</sup>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Engineer Research and Development Center, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, <sup>2</sup>USACE Jacksonville District*

Speaker: *Margaret Owensby*

##### *3.7.1.1 Abstract*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) South Atlantic Division and the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) have been engaged in a large, multi-year project called the South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACS). Following the precedent of other large coastal studies within the USACE, such as the North Atlantic Coastal Comprehensive Study (NACCS), the SACS study was designed to identify and assess coastal hazards risks in the domain of concern on a regional scale and to support future resilience and sustainability efforts in coastal communities. Probabilistic coastal hazards analysis using a state-of-the-art innovative statistical and probabilistic framework for the comprehensive characterization of storm climatology was applied as part of one component of this study. Modeling was performed using the high-resolution Coastal Storm Modeling System (CSTORM-MS), and advanced joint probability analysis of atmospheric forcing and primary storm responses, including associated aleatory and epistemic uncertainties, was conducted. The study was broken into three domains: 1) the southern U.S. East Coast ranging from the border of North Carolina and Virginia to the southern tip of Florida, 2) the Gulf Coast from the southern tip of Florida to the Mississippi and Louisiana state boundary, and 3) Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The focus of this presentation is on the South Atlantic (SA) and Gulf of Mexico (GoM) domains, for which 1700 unique synthetic tropical storm events, 15 historical tropical storms, and 70 historical extratropical events were simulated for present-day sea level as well as two sea level rise scenarios. An overview of the CSTORM model development and validation process for the two domains will be given, along with details about the storm suite and water levels. A summary of the modeled results and their inclusion in the Coastal Hazards System (CHS) will also be presented.

##### *3.7.1.2 Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A112)*

# AN OVERVIEW OF CSTORM MODEL DEVELOPMENT AND RESULTS FOR THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COASTAL STUDY

Margaret Owensby,  
Chris Massey,  
Ty Hesser, Mary Bryant, and Norberto Nadal  
USACE-ERDC  
Coastal & Hydraulics Laboratory

Andrew 'Drew' Condon  
USACE Jacksonville District

Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment Research Workshop  
February 17, 2022



## SACS

The South Atlantic Coastal Study was authorized by Section 1204 of WRDA 2016. Guidance was issued on Nov. 16, 2017, requiring the study to follow planning guidance for watershed assessments. Public Law 115-123 provided Federal funding in the amount of \$16M to cover 100% of the Study costs.

### Study Goals

- Provide a Common Operating Picture of Coastal Risk
  - ▶ Provide decision-makers at all levels with a comprehensive and consistent regional assessment of coastal risk.
- Identify High-Risk Locations/Focus Current and Future Resources
  - ▶ Enable resources to be focused on the most vulnerable areas.
- Identify and Assess Risk Reduction Actions
  - ▶ Assess actions that would reduce risk to vulnerable coastal populations.
- Promote and Support Resilient Coastal Communities
  - ▶ Ensure a sustainable coastal landscape system, considering future sea level rise scenarios and climate change. Provide information to stakeholders to optimize existing efforts to reduce risk.
- Promote Sustainable Projects and Programs
  - ▶ Develop and provide consistent foundational elements to support coastal studies and projects; regionally manage projects through Regional Sediment Management and other opportunities.



BUILDING STRONG<sup>®</sup>

Owensby, Massey, Hesser, Bryant, Nadal, Condon, USACE





**CSTORM-MS** COASTAL STORM MODELING SYSTEM

**SACS**

**SOUTH ATLANTIC COASTAL STUDY KEY PRODUCTS**

<p><b>RISK ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>Assessment based on exposure of population and infrastructure, environmental and cultural resources, and social vulnerability to inundation hazards.</p> <p>SACS Tier 1 Risk Assessment</p>	<p><b>REGIONAL SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT (RSM) OPTIMIZATION</b></p> <p>Identifies and quantifies total contribution of RSM principles to projects in the SACS study area that support long-term coastal resiliency.</p> <p>2014 USACE INNOVATION OF THE YEAR</p>	<p><b>SAND AVAILABILITY &amp; NEEDS DETERMINATION (SAND)</b></p> <p>Determines the need and availability of sediment to maintain beaches for the next 50 years.</p> <p>TYLER AND BRIDGE WICKING IN St. Augustine, Florida</p>	<p><b>COASTAL HAZARD SYSTEM (CHS)</b></p> <p>Provides current and projected water elevation data for the study area.</p> <p>WATER ELEVATION DATA</p>	<p><b>GEOPORTAL</b></p> <p>Provides the public access to study datasets, products, and documentation.</p> <p>HABITAT AND ENVIRONMENT DATASETS POPULATION INFRASTRUCTURE DATASETS HAZARD DATASETS FOCUS AREA DATA DERIVED PRODUCTS</p>	<p><b>MEASURES &amp; COSTS LIBRARY</b></p> <p>Detailed list of Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) measures and their costs developed to a screening level for use in USACE and stakeholder planning.</p>
<p><b>COASTAL PROGRAM GUIDE</b></p> <p>Outreach and information package to help communities better leverage needed resources on a disaster-wide, statewide, or community-wide basis.</p> <p>VULNERABILITY ON THE OVER BANK</p>	<p><b>STATE &amp; TERRITORY APPENDICES</b></p> <p>Specific information for each state and territory will be provided in stand-alone appendices to the main report.</p> <p>APPENDICES: South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands</p>	<p><b>PRIORITY ENVIRONMENTAL AREA IDENTIFICATION</b></p> <p>Priority environmental areas will be identified using Tier 1 data, the USFWS Planning Aid Report, and stakeholder tools. Resiliency to coastal storms and sea level rise will be evaluated and measures to increase resiliency will be recommended.</p> <p>TIER 1 ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL &amp; HABITAT EXPOSURE</p>	<p><b>PLANNING AID REPORT (U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE REPORT)</b></p> <p>Report of priority biological resource habitats in the South Atlantic region that are vulnerable to harm from coastal storms and sea level rise with a focus on areas used by federally listed species. Report will also include a description of risk to coastal national wildlife refuges.</p>	<p><b>INSTITUTIONAL &amp; OTHER BARRIERS REPORT</b></p> <p>Document identifies institutional and other barriers to providing comprehensive protection for affected coastal areas. The report will include information on the performance of existing federal CSRM projects and recommendations for improvement.</p> <p>FLORIDA BEACH AFTER 1982 INCREASED WITH/OUT FEDERAL CSRM PROJECT FLORIDA FEDERAL CSRM PROJECT POST TROPICAL STORM FAY 2008</p>	<p><b>FOCUS AREA ACTION STRATEGIES</b></p> <p>Focus area action strategies (FAAS) will use SACS products in combination with other resources to develop actionable risk reduction strategies with stakeholders. FAAS will serve as examples for how vulnerabilities in other high risk locations can be addressed.</p> <p>SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION HURRICANES</p>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE SACS WEBSITE: <https://www.sac.usace.army.mil/SACS/>

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**CSTORM-MS** COASTAL STORM MODELING SYSTEM

**Combined Joint Probability of Coastal Storm Hazards**

**Forcing**

- Tropical cyclones
- Extratropical cyclones
- River Flows

**Response**

- Water level (storm surge, astronomical tide, SLC)
- Currents
- Wave height, peak period, direction
- Wind speed, direction

Characterization of Storm Climate (Forcing)

Tropical Cyclones (Synthetic) → Development of JPM Storm Set

Extratropical Cyclones (Historical) → Development of Composite Storm Set

Wind/Pressure Model → WAM Model

ADCIRC<sup>®</sup> → STWAVE<sup>®</sup> (ESMF Compliant)

SMS Interface

ADH<sup>®</sup>/C2SHORE

Wind & Pressure + Waves + Surge + Morphology

Combined Joint Probability Analysis (Response)

Annual Exceedance Probability  
Average Recurrence Interval

Provides a robust, probabilistic, and standardized approach used for establishing the risk of coastal communities to future occurrences of storm events and evaluating flood risk management measures.

**ERDC**

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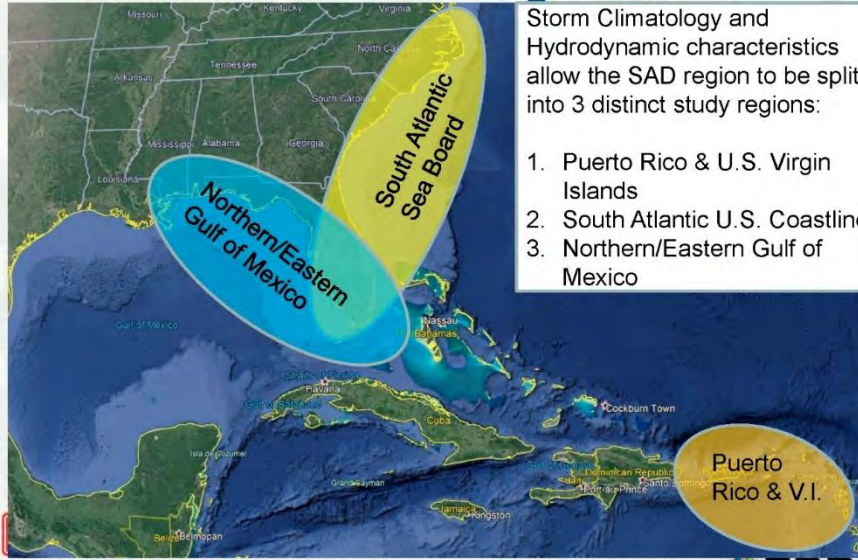
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# Three Distinct Study Regions for Modeling/Statistics



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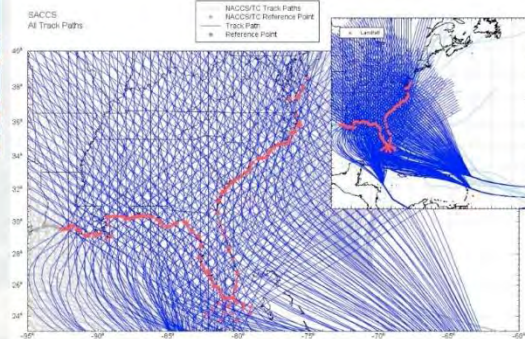
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# South Atlantic Storm Suite



South Atlantic / Gulf of Mexico  
1,700 TCs + 70 XCs



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# Modeling Scenarios



- Sets of Modeling and PCHA results for CHS South Atlantic:
  1. Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands ~ 300 Storms
    - Storm surge + waves
    - Storm surge + waves + SLC 1 (2.33 ft)
    - Storm surge + waves + SLC 2 (6.95 ft)
  2. South Atlantic (North Carolina to South Florida) ~1200 Storms
    - Storm surge + waves
    - Storm surge + waves + astronomical tides
    - Storm surge + waves + SLC 1 (2.73 ft)
    - Storm surge + waves + SLC 2 (7.35 ft)
  3. Gulf of Mexico ~ 1200 Storms
    - Storm surge + waves
    - Storm surge + waves + SLC 1 (2.72 ft)
    - Storm surge + waves + SLC 2 (7.35 ft)



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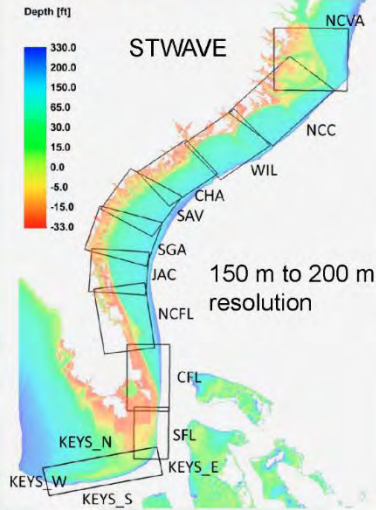
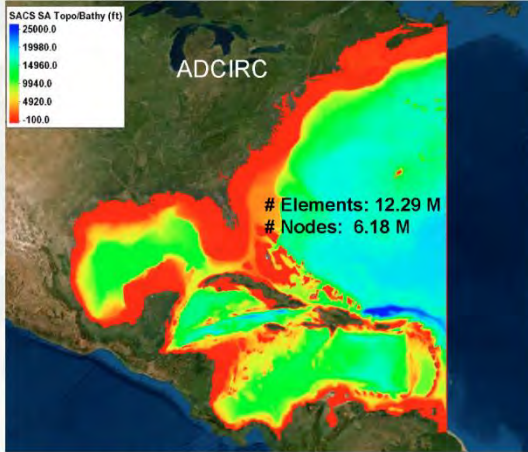
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# ADCIRC & STWAVE South Atlantic Domain



Dr. Joannes Westerink and team at Notre Dame constructed this mesh using Oceanmesh2D software

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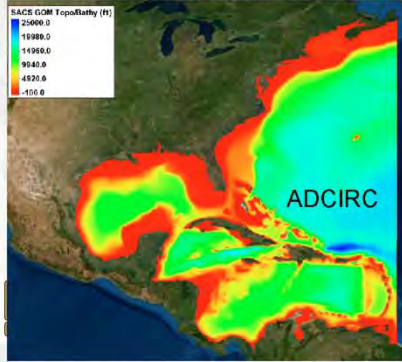


# ADCIRC & STWAVE Gulf of Mexico Domain

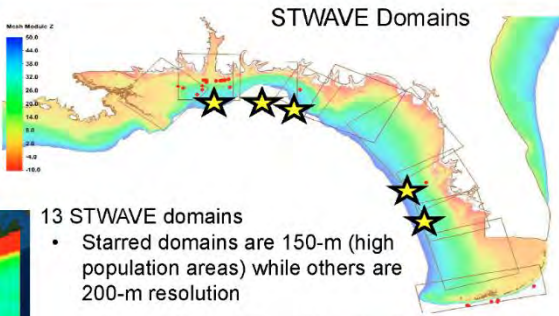


- ADCIRC mesh built by Scott Hagen and Matt Bilskie
- Approximately 7.8 M nodes, 15.6 M elements

Mesh Bathymetry/Topography



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13 STWAVE domains

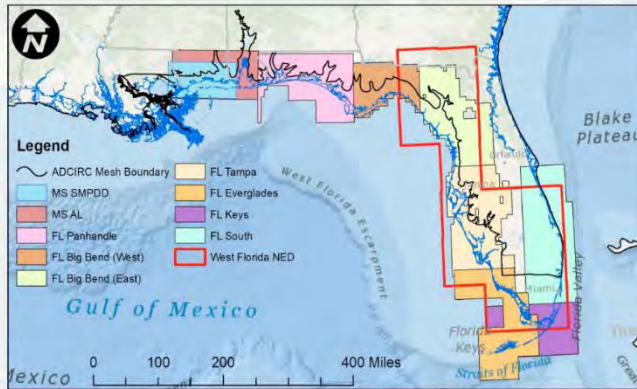
- Starred domains are 150-m (high population areas) while others are 200-m resolution
- extended from at least 35 m depth contour to 10 m topographic contour
- Red dots indicate location of buoys for validation



# Regional Topo/Bathy Data Sources



- Topography/bathymetry data taken from 3-m resolution DEM developed by JALBTCX (USACE), as well as SRTM, USGS, NOS, FEMA datasets



Example is from GoM area and is likewise for SA areas.

Image courtesy of Scott Hagen and Matt Bilskie



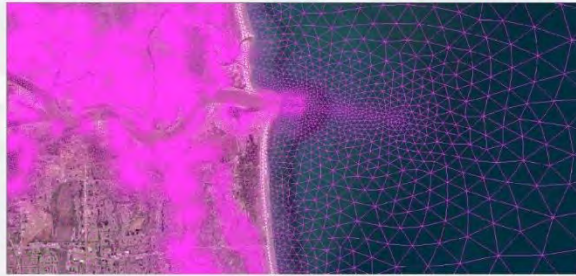
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## Clouser View of ADCIRC South Atlantic Domain



View of SACS SA ADCIRC mesh elements in the Jacksonville, FL area.

Similar inland resolution to FEMA RISK Map Mesh

Same view of ADCIRC mesh elements from NOAA's HSOFS mesh.

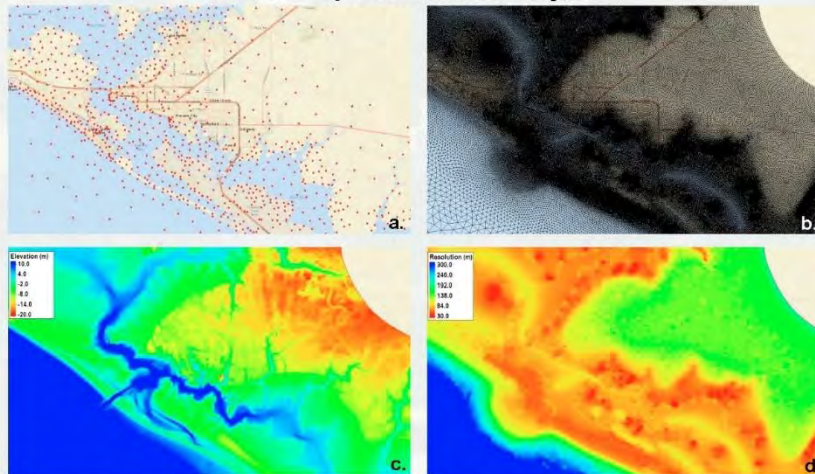


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## GOM Domain ADCIRC Mesh Close-ups of Panama City, FL



- a. Map with save point locations
- b. Image of mesh elements
- c. Image of mesh topography/bathymetry
- d. Color-map image of mesh resolution




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## Save Point Locations



38,300 Points


Gulf of Mexico

- Breakline at coast (WVS): ~2800 m spacing
- Coastline offset ~60,000 m inland: ~7,000 m spacing
- Breakline at 40 m contour: ~9,000 m spacing
- 40 meter contour breakline offset ~10,000 m out: ~10,000 m spacing
- Additional points from 0m contour added: ~1,000 m spacing
- Key locations of interest added manually




34,644 Points

South Atlantic Coast



Puerto Rico / US Virgin Islands

14,891 Points



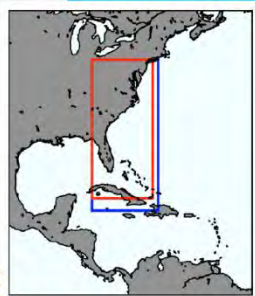
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## WaveWatch III v5.16: SACS South Atlantic Domain Setup


- Fully Parallel phase-averaged spectral wave model developed by the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction
- Runs in both structured and unstructured grids and has the option for explicit and implicit (not ready for primetime) solvers
- Presently being used by the Wave Information Study for the Atlantic and Pacific wave hindcasts.

WW3 will use two way coupling at the boundaries of 3 grids with nesting



Grid	Longitude (W deg)	Latitude (N deg)	Resolution (deg)
Basin_L1	-99.0, -55.0	5.0, 47.0	0.2 x 0.2
EC_L2	-84.0, -72.0	19.0, 41.0	0.1 x 0.1
EC_L3	-84.0, -73.0	21.0, 41.0	0.05 x 0.05

Similar setup used for Gulf of Mexico



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# Validation Storms for South Atlantic Domain



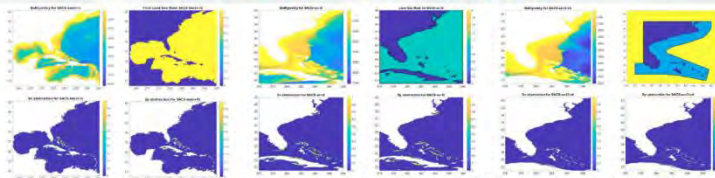
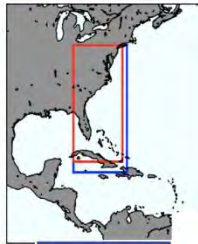
The paths of the seven historical storms used to calibrate and validate ADCIRC, STWAVE, and WaveWatch III simulations for the South Atlantic domain (Image Source: NOAA's Historical Hurricane Tracks website)



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# WW3 Validation for Historical Hurricanes: Atlantic



Bathymetry (UL) : Land-Sea Mask (UR) : Sx obstruction (LL) : Sy obstruction (LR)

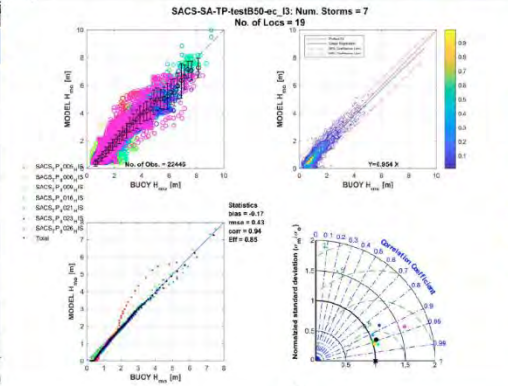
**Storms**

- Andrew
- Florence
- Fran
- Frances
- Hugo
- Irma
- Matthew



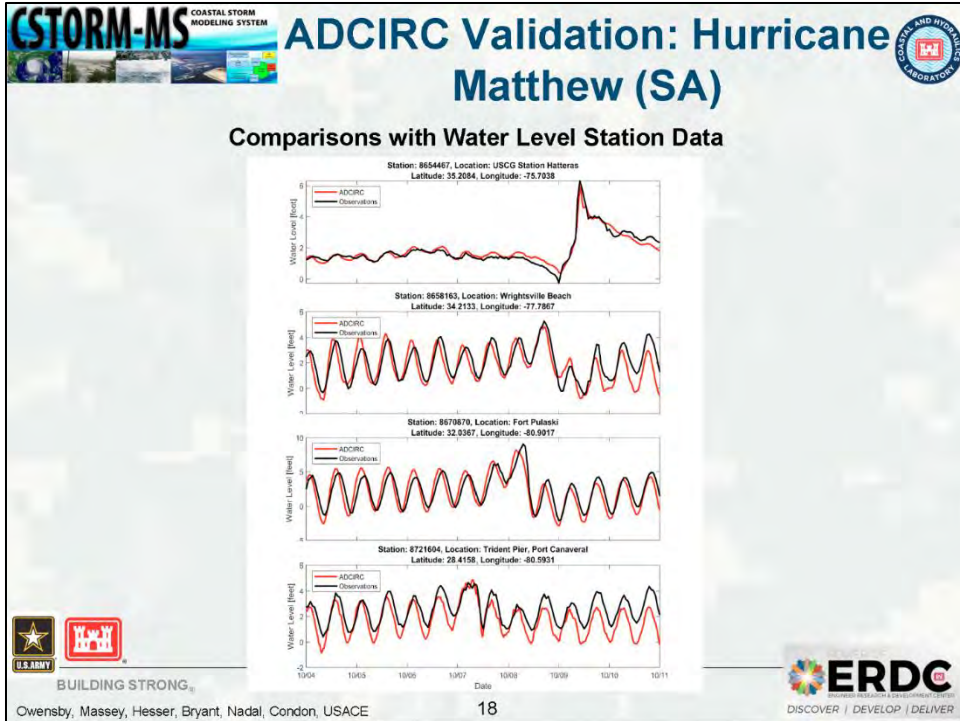
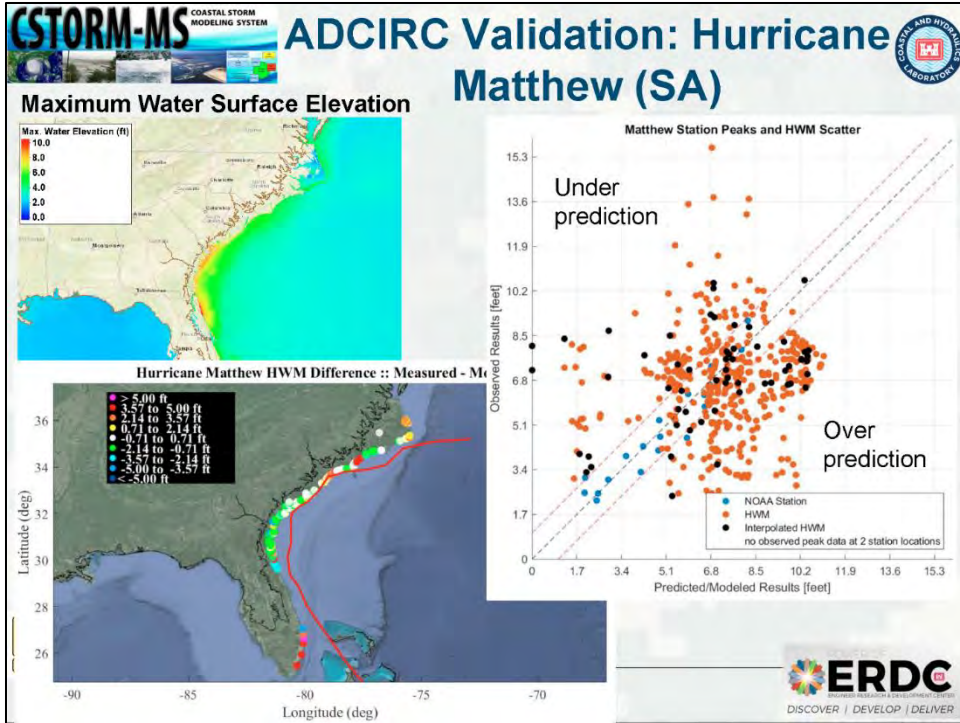
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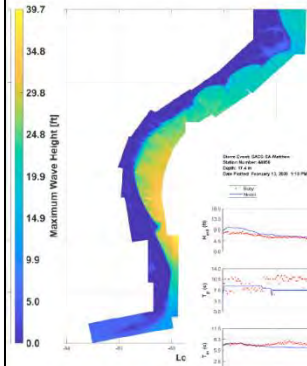
Statistic	TestB50 (meters)
Bias	-0.17
RMSE	0.43
Corr	0.94
Eff	0.85



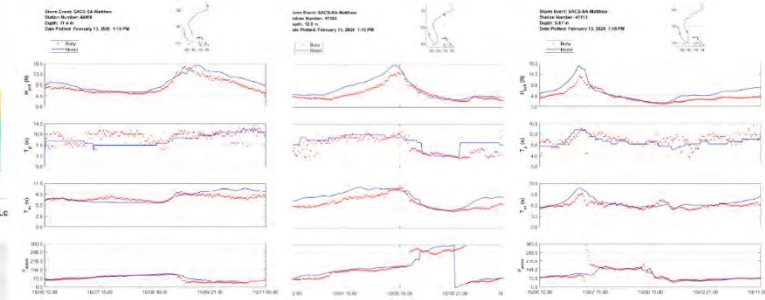


# CSTORM-MS STWAVE Validation: Hurricane Matthew

## Maximum Significant Wave Height



## Time Series at Wave Buoys



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Station 44056

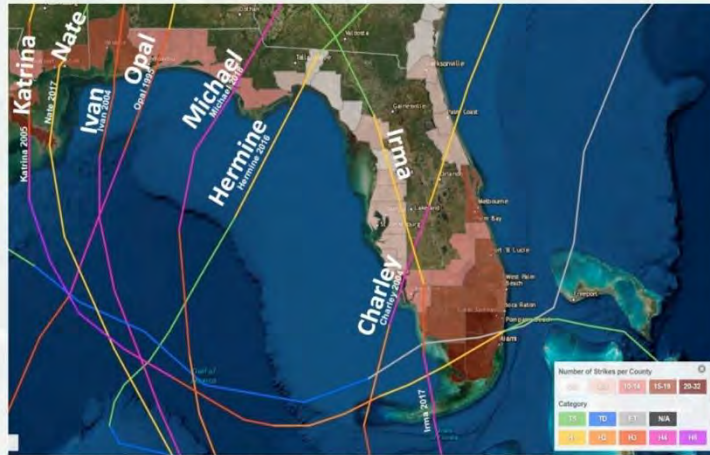
Station 41108

Station 41113



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# CSTORM-MS Validation Storms for Gulf of Mexico Domain



The paths of the eight historical storms used to calibrate and validate ADCIRC, STWAVE, and the CSTORM coupled ADCIRC+STWAVE simulations for the Gulf of Mexico domain (source: NOAA's Historical Hurricane Tracks website)



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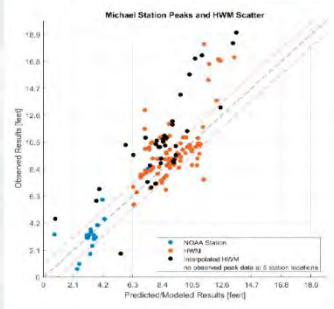




# Hurricane Michael Results

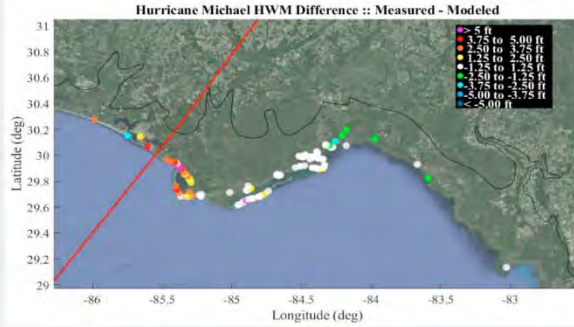


## HWM & Gauge Data vs. Model Scatter Plot



Model data comparison at gauges and for most high water marks is very good, although there is underestimation for the most extreme HWM's.

## HWM Difference Plot

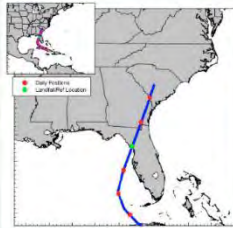


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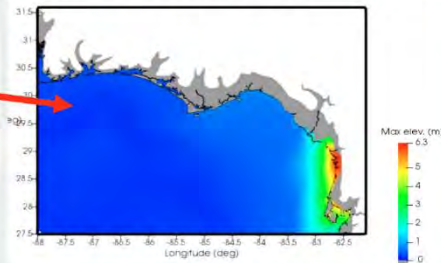


# Sample Results – Synthetic Tropical Storm 1230



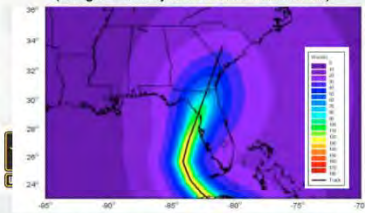
Storm Track  
(image courtesy of N. Nadal-Carballo)

Forward Speed: 5.52 mph  
RMW: 12.3 Nmi  
Max. Wind Speed at Landfall: 117.01 mph (Cat. 3)  
Min. Pressure: 865 mb

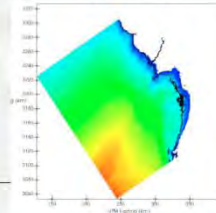


Maximum Water Surface Elevation

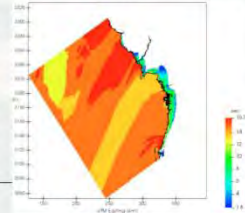
Max. Wind Speed  
(image courtesy of N. Nadal-Carballo)



Max. Significant Wave Height



Peak Wave Period



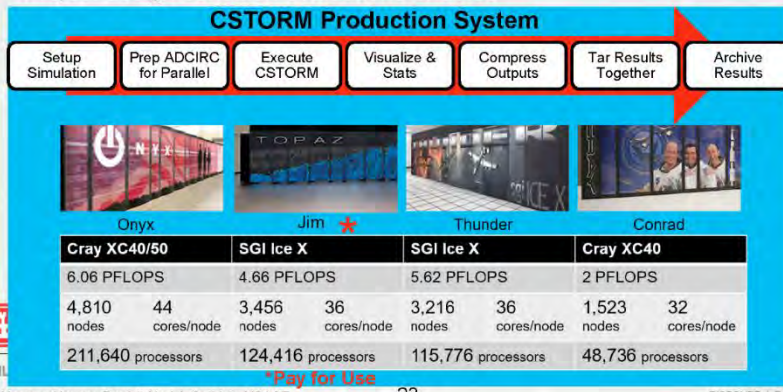
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# CSTORM Production System

- The **CSTORM Production System** (CSTORM-PS) makes use of standard Linux/Unix tools (bash scripting) and readily available open source software, Python
- The production system allows for
  - Rapid preparation of input files (Reduces chances for human error)
  - Execution of the simulation and post processing (Optimized CPU usage)
  - Efficient hierarchical storage and archival of results
  - Project design condition evaluations enabled








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# Coastal Hazards System (CHS)

- The CHS is the only national database and web-based data mining and visualization tool for probabilistic coastal hazard analysis (PCHA) results.
- Based on high-resolution / high-fidelity probabilistic, atmospheric and hydrodynamic modeling of coastal storms.
- Directly supports:
  - ▶ SMART planning/feasibility studies (3x3x3 rule)
  - ▶ PED, stochastic-forcing structure design
  - ▶ Hazard analysis and risk assessments





<https://chs.erdcdren.mil>
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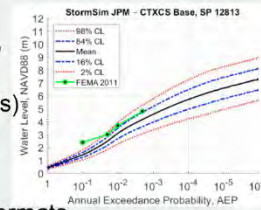


# Coastal Hazards System (CHS)



## PCHA results and deliverables:

- Response Hazard Curves: surge, water level, waves, wind, currents
- Annual Exceedance Probability values: 1 to 10000 (1/years)
- Confidence Limits: 2%, 16%, 84%, 90%, 98%
- Uncertainty quantification & SLC nonlinear residuals
- Peaks and time series files for all storms in NetCDF/CSV formats
- Atmospheric and hydrodynamic model inputs
- Model grids, technical reports



<https://chs.erd.c.dren.mil>



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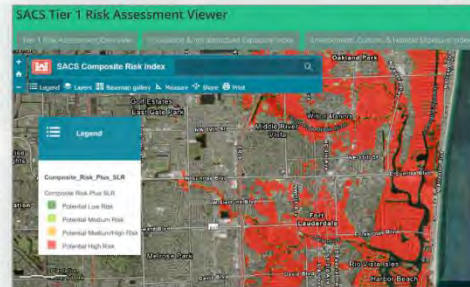


# SACS Findings To-Date



## Significant Risk

- Tier 1 & 2 identified 700+ high risk locations
- Back bay storm surge inundation is a key driver
- Sea level rise will non-linearly increase surge in some areas: San Juan vicinity, St. John, St. Croix, throughout the back bays of the Atlantic Coast
- Further understanding/application of compound flooding impact is needed
- Significant need for follow-on efforts to address complex risk related to combined inland/coastal flood risk and ecosystem restoration



## Support Joint Responsibility

- Follow-on Corps studies (feasibility, CAP, etc.)
- Actions within current authorities (RSM, EDRs, Planning Assistance to States, Silver Jackets, etc.)
- Shared tools support actions within expanding at-risk areas

"Coastal storm risk management is a shared responsibility, and we believe there should be shared tools used by all decision makers to assess risk and identify solutions."

Commanding Officer (2015)  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
North Atlantic Division



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Slide Courtesy of Drew Condon, USACE-SAJ

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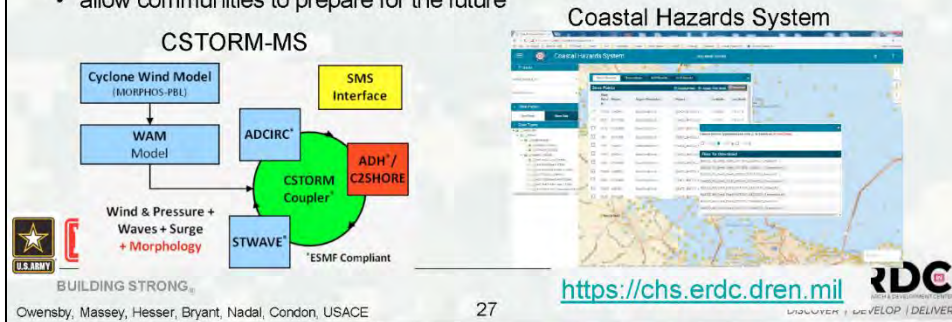


# Summary



The SACS CHS and CSTORM products will provide valuable data, both oceanographic and storms, in support of the Corp missions and those of other agencies and communities for many years to come, in order to:

- understand the likelihood and extent of present and future storm surge and storm waves
- design more reliable engineering projects and effective coastal storm damage solutions to **reduce wave attack**, **provide flood protection**, and **create robust environments (Eng. w/ Nature)** that can provide a buffer to coastal flooding
- allow communities to prepare for the future



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# Team Acknowledgements



- USACE South Atlantic Division (SACS) Project Team
- Chris Massey – (CSTORM Modeling Team Lead)
- Norberto Nadal-Caraballo – (CHS Team Lead)
- Tyler Hesser and Al Cialone – (Deep Water Waves)
- Mary Bryant and Catie Dillon – (Nearshore Waves)
- Margaret Owensby, Leigh Provost, Amanda Tritinger, John Goertz, Fatima Bukhari, Abi Wallace, and Yan Ding – (Production Modeling Team)
- Victor Gonzalez, Madison Campbell, Debbie Green, Efrain Ramos-Santiago, Marissa Torres, and Jeff Melby - (Hazards Team)
- ERDC DSRC – (HPC Access)
- JALBTCX – (DEMs)
- Andy Cox of OceanWeather Inc. - (Storm Climatology & Storms Support)
- Joannes Westerink and Team at Univ. of Notre Dame - (Mesh)
- Scott Hagen of LSU and Matt Bilskie of UGA – (Mesh)



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## SACS Questions? Contact Information



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### **3.7.2 Presentation 3B-2: Compound Flood Hazard Assessment using a Bayesian Framework**

*Somayeh Mohammadi\*<sup>1</sup>, Michelle Bensi<sup>1</sup>, Shih-Chieh Kao<sup>2</sup>, Scott DeNeale<sup>2</sup>, Joseph Kanney<sup>3</sup>, Elena Yegorova<sup>3</sup>, Meredith Carr<sup>4</sup>*

*<sup>1</sup>University of Maryland, <sup>2</sup>Oak Ridge National Laboratory, <sup>3</sup>U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, <sup>4</sup>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory*

Speaker: *Somayeh Mohammadi*

#### **3.7.2.1 Abstract**

Compound flooding is a topic that has received high attention recently. These types of flood events are caused by the occurrence of more than one flood mechanism, such as storm surge, precipitation, and tides. Compound flood events can cause more severe impacts on societies and the built environment than flood events caused by just a single flood mechanism. In this way, a probabilistic assessment of compound flood hazards is necessary for a realistic assessment of flood hazards. This study focuses on the probabilistic assessment of compound flood hazards caused by the simultaneous occurrence of hurricane-induced surge, precipitation, tide, and antecedent river flow. A Bayesian framework is developed to include these flood drivers in the probabilistic flood hazard assessment for a case study on the Delaware River in Trenton. The inputs to this model include storm parameters (i.e., central pressure deficit, forward velocity, heading direction, radius to maximum wind and landfall location), antecedent river flow, and predicted tidal levels. A series of predictive surrogate models are developed to estimate total river discharge accounting for hurricane-driven surge, antecedent flow, and tides. The proposed model can be used to generate a probability distribution for total river discharge at the time of the storm occurrence in the study area. Furthermore, the model can be used to generate a hazard curve representing the annual exceedance frequency of total river discharge caused by the hurricane-induced flood mechanisms mentioned earlier.

#### **3.7.2.2 Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A111)**

# Multi-Mechanism Flood Hazard Assessment in Coastal Areas



Somayeh Mohammadi<sup>1</sup>, Michelle Bensi<sup>1</sup>, Shih-Chieh Kao<sup>2</sup>, Scott DeNeale<sup>2</sup>, Elena Yegorova<sup>3</sup>, Joseph Kanney<sup>3</sup> and Meredith L Carr<sup>4</sup>

(1) University of Maryland College Park, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College Park, MD, United States

(2) Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge, TN, United States

(3) Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Rockville, MD, United States

(4) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ERDC/CHL, Vicksburg, MS, United States

7th Annual NRC PFHA Research Workshop  
(February 15-18, 2022)

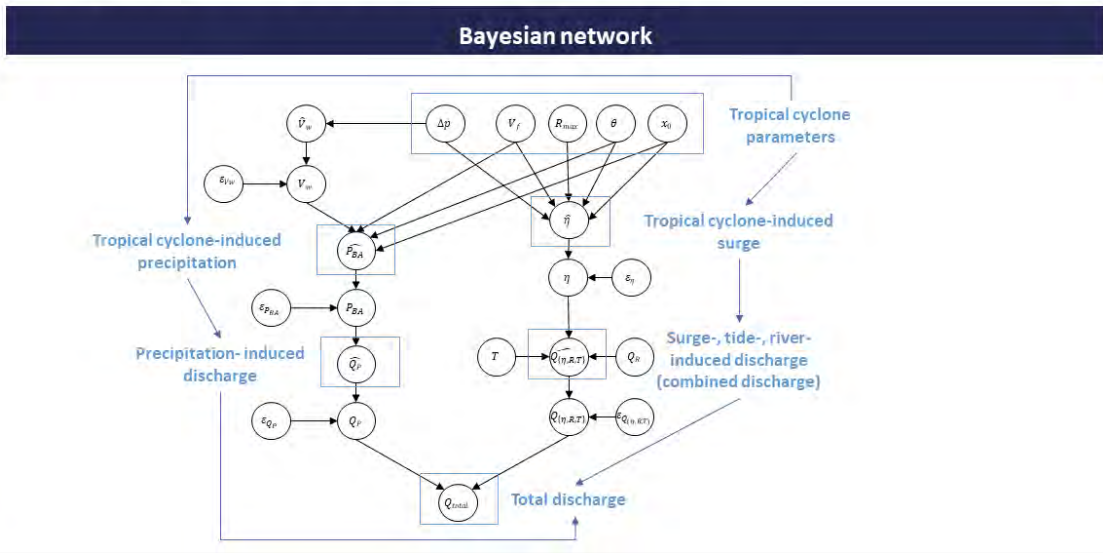


## Research objective

*Develop a Bayesian-motivated approach for probabilistic assessment of flood hazard due to simultaneous occurrence of storm surge, precipitation, tides and river flow.*



# Bayesian-Motivated Approach

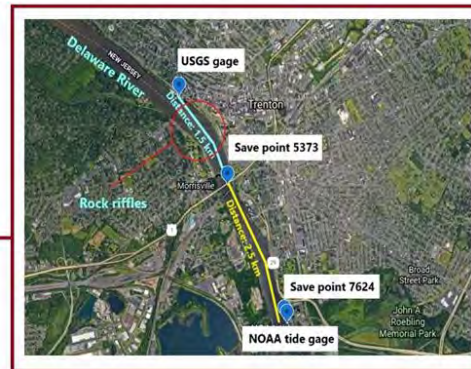
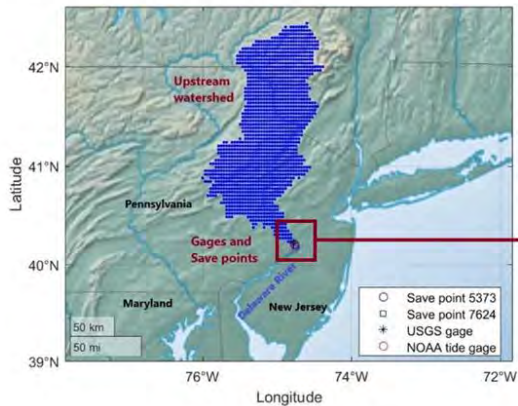


2

# Case study location and data sources

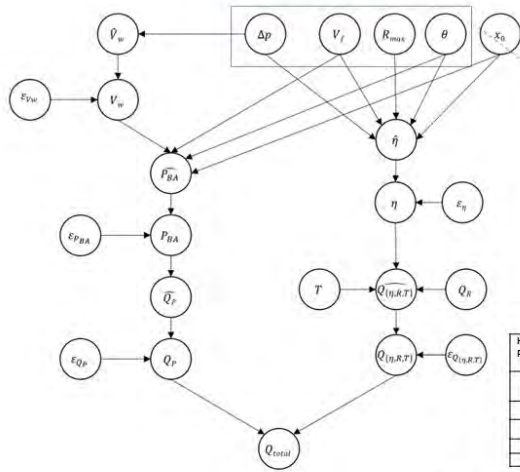
## Delaware River at Trenton

- USGS gage 01463500
- NOAA tide gage 8539993
- CHS Save points (5373 & 7624)

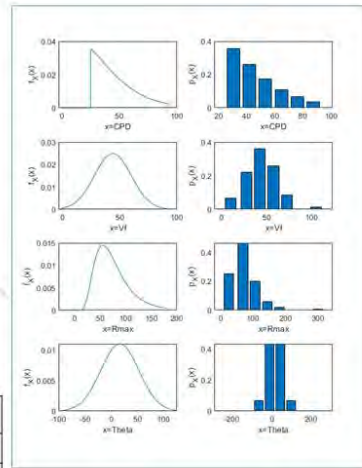


3

# Tropical cyclone parameters



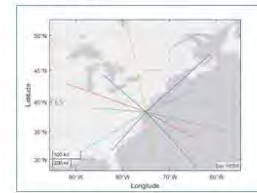
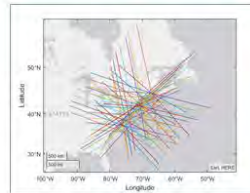
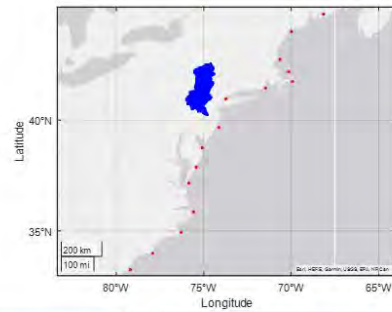
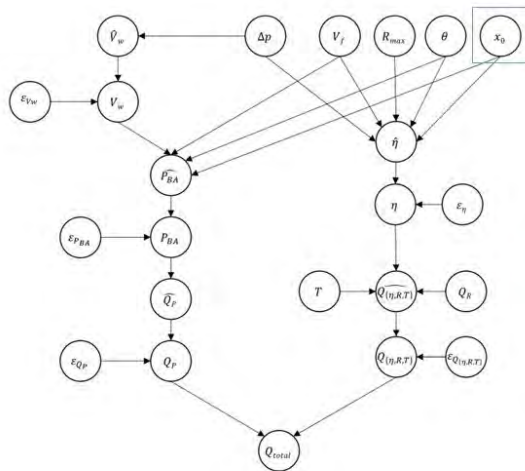
Hurricane Parameter	Distribution
$\Delta p$	Doubly truncated Weibull distribution (DTWD)
$R_{max}$	Lognormal distribution
$V_f$	Normal distribution
$\theta$	Normal distribution
$x_0$	Uniform distribution



4

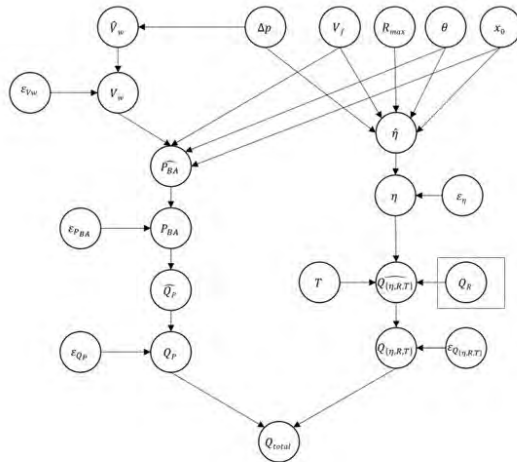
Source: North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS), Nadal-Caraballo et al. 2015

# Tropical cyclone parameters

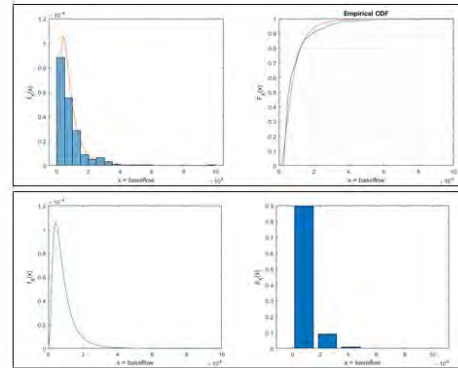


5

## Statistical analysis of river flow

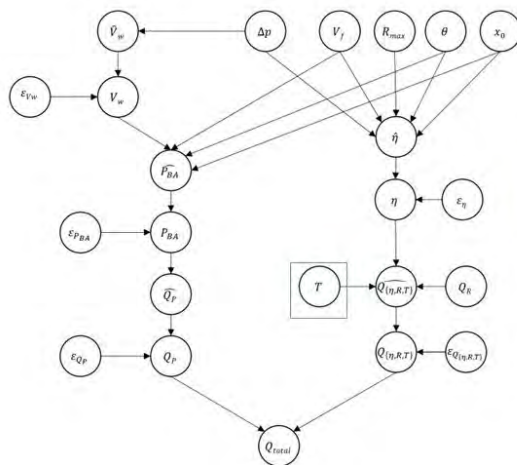


- Gather daily discharge time-series
- Remove hurricane event dates from record
- Randomly sample a subset of data
- Perform statistical assessment to define distribution
- Lognormal distribution as the best fit distribution

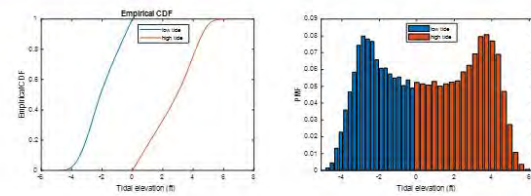


6

## Statistical analysis of tides



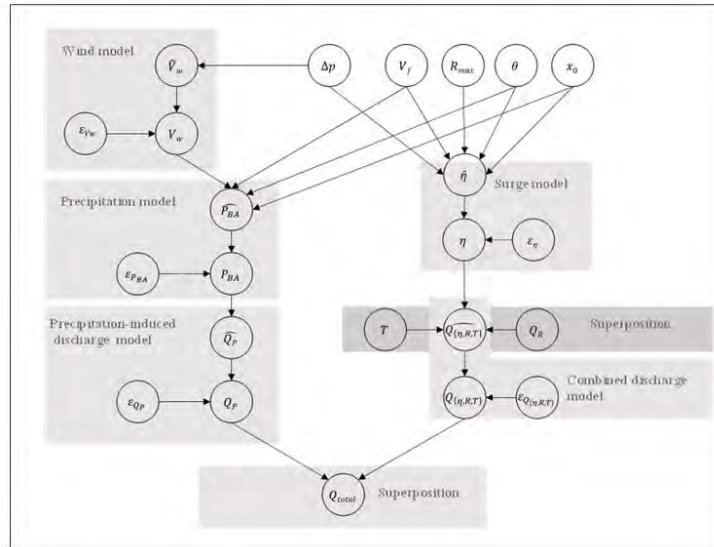
Data:  
NOAA tide gage 8539993



7

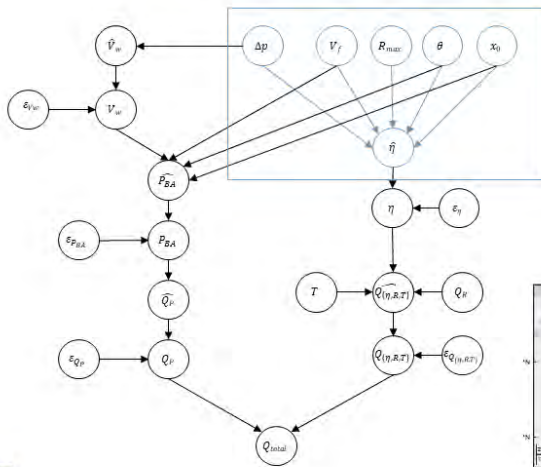


# Predictive models

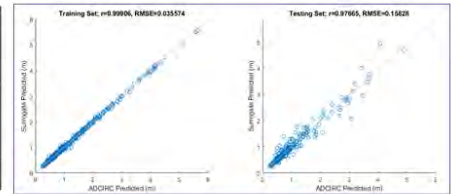
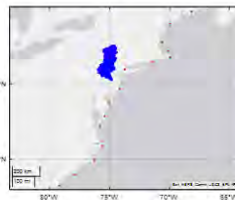


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# Surge model



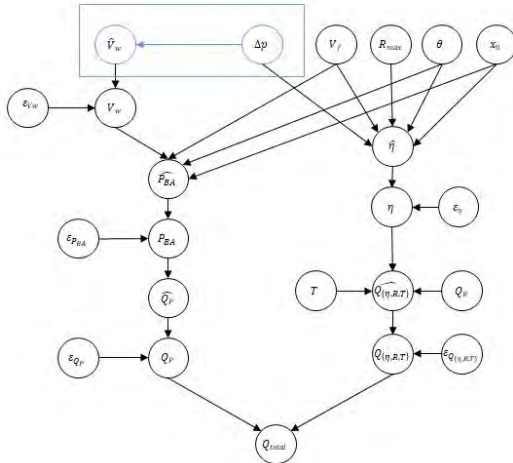
Hurricane Parameter	Distribution	Functional forms	Distribution Parameters
$\Delta p$	Doubly truncated Weibull distribution (DTWD)	$P[\Delta p > x] = \frac{\exp\left[-\left(\frac{x}{U}\right)^k\right] - \exp\left[-\left(\frac{\Delta p_1}{U}\right)^k\right]}{\exp\left[-\left(\frac{\Delta p_1}{U}\right)^k\right] - \exp\left[-\left(\frac{\Delta p_2}{U}\right)^k\right]}$	$\Delta p_1 = 2.5 \text{ hPa}$ $\Delta p_2 = 9.3 \text{ hPa}$ $U = 35.77$ $k = 1.41$
$R_{max}$	Lognormal distribution	$f(x) = \frac{1}{x \xi \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\ln(x) - \lambda}{\xi}\right)^2\right]$	$\lambda = 4.215 \xi$ $= 0.45$
$V_f$	Normal distribution	$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}\right)^2\right]$	$\mu = 44.05 \sigma$ $= 16.06$
$\theta$	Normal distribution	$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}\right)^2\right]$	$\mu = 16.48 \sigma$ $= 36.17$
$x_0$	Uniform distribution	$n/a$	$n/a$



Data source: <https://cshwebtkb01.erdg.dren.mil/> Savepoint: 5373

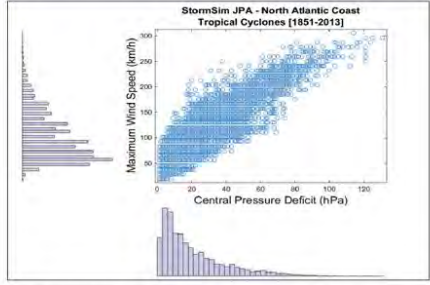
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# Wind model



$$V_w = 42.4807 - 0.0084CPD^2 + 2.9752CPD$$

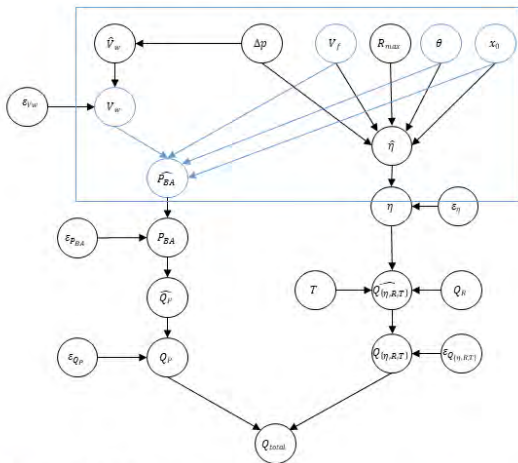
$$\sigma_{V_w} = 18.66$$



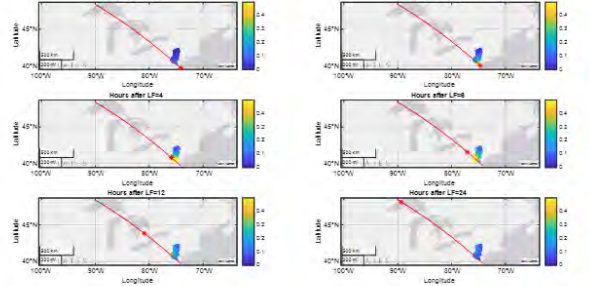
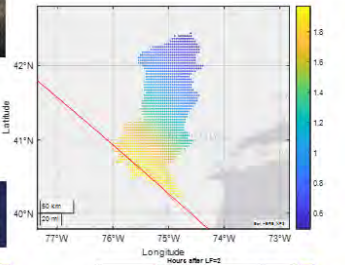
Source: North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS), Nadal-Caraballo et al. 2015

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# Precipitation model



Basin average daily rainfall  
1862 grid points in upstream watershed



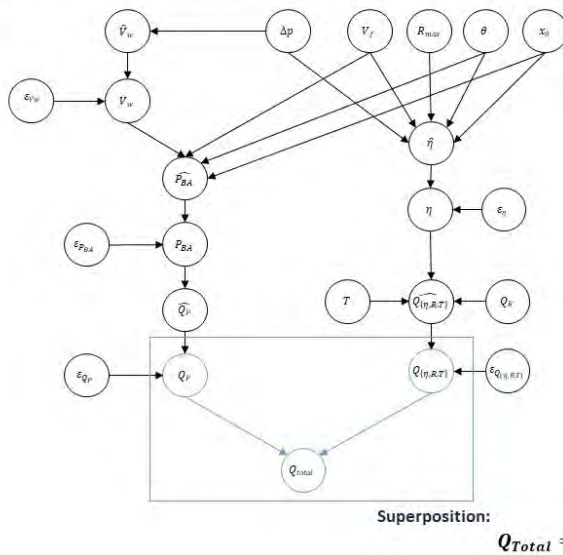
- Source:
- Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) rain rates (TRR) model ([https://journals.ametsoc.org/view/journals/wefo/22/1/waf972\\_1.xml](https://journals.ametsoc.org/view/journals/wefo/22/1/waf972_1.xml))
  - "On the Decay of Tropical Cyclone Winds after Landfall in the New England Area.", Kaplan, J., and Demaria, M. (2001).

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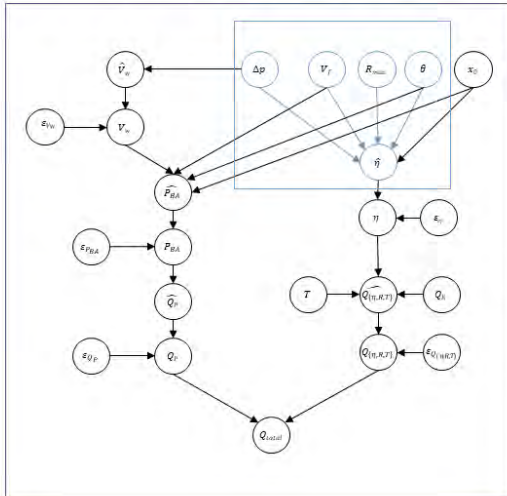


## Compute total discharge (Q)



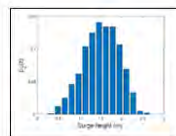
14

## Decrease discretization error

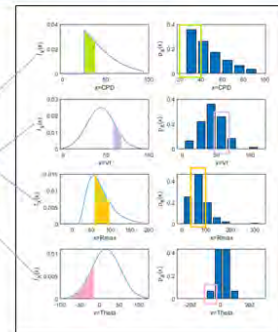


Monte Carlo simulation

- Generating conditional probability tables (CPTs)
- Reducing the impact of discretization error

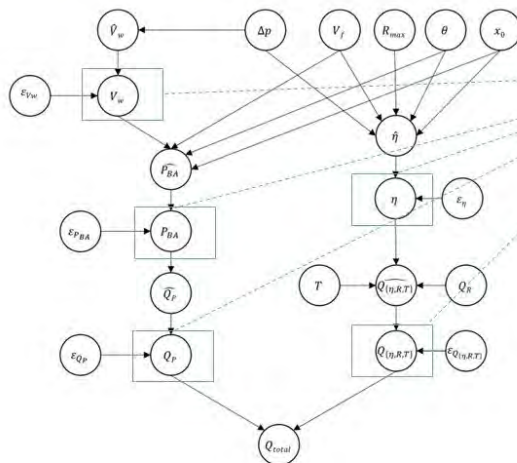


Surrogate Model



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## Inclusion of modeling error (epistemic uncertainty)



For all models:

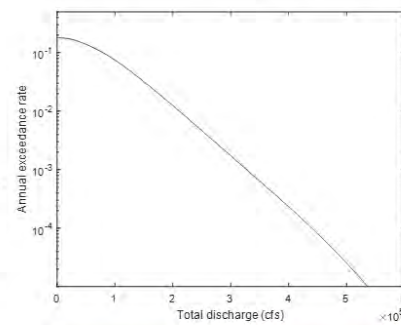
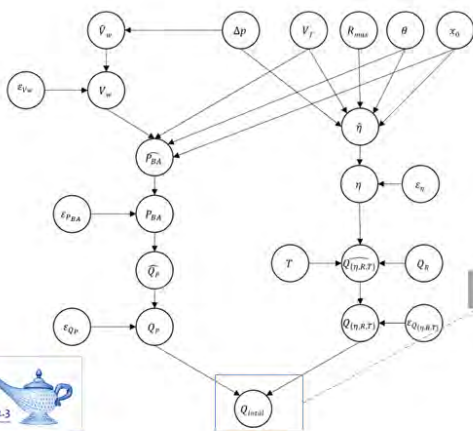
- Normal distribution assumed for error
- Error discretized into 9 bins

Correct predicted response variables:

$$X = X_{pred} + \epsilon_X$$

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## Estimate annual exceedance frequency

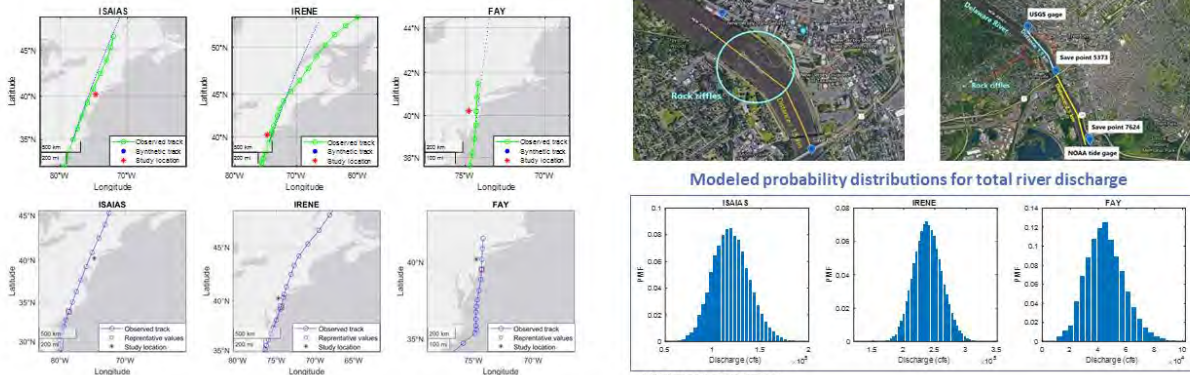


"Representative" hazard curve



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# Assessment of the model performance



Name of the storm	Time	LAT	LON	$\Delta P$ (hPa)	$V_m$ (km/h)	$\theta$ (degree)	$V_T$ (km/h)	$R_{max}$ (km)	Tide at peak Wk. (ft)	$Q_0$ (cfs)	USGS $Q$ (cfs)	Modal bin <sup>1</sup> of PMF for discharge (cfs)
ISAIAS	8/5/2020 0:00	33.7244	-78.5833	25.25	138	19	37	37	4.56	4,000	75,800	118,865-122,550
FAY	7/15/2020 18:00	39.5473	-74.3161	15.25	92	7	25	166	-2.86	4,500	19,000	44,835-48,020
IRENE	8/28/2011 9:00	39.1783	-74.48	55.25	111	20	42	185	5.25	15,000	146,000	236,930-241,015

<sup>1</sup> Bin associated with the highest probability mass

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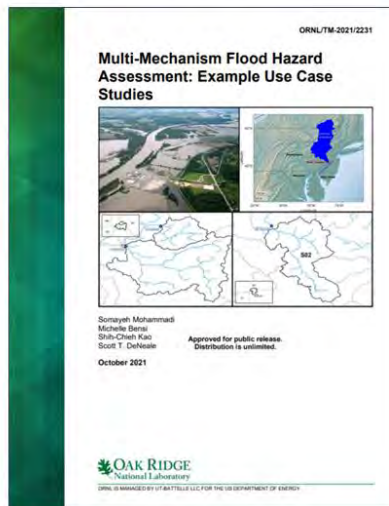
## Next steps

- Consider the non-linearity between surge induced and precipitation induced discharge in the analysis
- Conduct the analysis using other methods (for comparison)
  - Copula based
  - Direct estimation of the joint distribution
- Inclusion of uncertainty in storm parameters

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# Publications



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*Thank you*

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[mbensi@umd.edu](mailto:mbensi@umd.edu)

### **3.7.3 Presentation 3B-3: Coastal Flooding PFHA Pilot Study**

Authors: *Victor M. Gonzalez\**, *Meredith L. Carr*, *Karlie Wells*, *Norberto C. Nadal Caraballo* U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory (USACE/ERDC/CHL)

Speaker: *Victor M. Gonzalez*

#### **3.7.3.1 Abstract**

Inundation due to the compound effects of storm surge and rainfall associated with coastal storms can produce widespread damage to coastal infrastructure. A coastal probabilistic flood hazard assessment (PFHA) pilot study is being conducted to demonstrate the application of PFHA to external flooding at a hypothetical nuclear power plant (NPP) location on the Lower Neches River watershed in Texas. Compound flooding hazards being assessed in this study include storm surge, astronomical tide, waves, rainfall, and coincident riverine flooding along with associated uncertainties. The assessment requires the characterization of storm climatology for tropical cyclones (TCs) using the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Coastal Hazards System (CHS) data based on its Probabilistic Coastal Hazard Analysis (PCHA) framework. The PCHA is a probabilistic framework for quantifying coastal storm hazards that includes storm climatology characterization, high-resolution, high-fidelity numeric atmospheric, hydrodynamic, and wave modeling, and advanced joint probability analysis of atmospheric forcing to develop storm hazard curves and uncertainty. The compound probabilistic modeling approach being implemented here incorporates rainfall within the PCHA framework through the use of a physics-based parameterized tropical cyclone rainfall (TCR) model driven by the same atmospheric forcing, allowing concurrent characterization of the compound flooding hazard and associated uncertainties. Simulation of both coastal and riverine processes driven by TCs will be completed using hydrologic, hydraulic, and hydrodynamic models: synthetic TC rainfall will be applied to a HEC-HMS model of the Neches Watershed and the flow output routed through the inland-coastal boundary through the use of a 2D HEC-RAS model. The compound hazards will be assessed through the application of a loosely coupled HEC-RAS and ADCIRC modeling framework and quantified through the integration of the combined responses, including uncertainty. As the coupled inland and coastal models are being implemented, the impacts of several modeling options are being explored including: precipitation-based infiltration parameters, antecedent flow conditions, precipitation in the hydraulic model, boundary condition geometry and additional runs of hydrodynamic models for multiple riverine flow conditions.

#### **3.7.3.2 Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A110)**



U.S. ARMY

## 7th Annual Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment Research Workshop US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

### Coastal Compound Study PFHA Pilot Study

- Presenter: Victor M. Gonzalez, PE (USACE ERDC-CHL)
- Meredith Carr, PhD, Karlie Wells, Norberto C. Nadal Caraballo, PhD (USACE ERDC-CHL).
- 17 February 2022



US Army Corps of Engineers



DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DELIVER

UNCLASSIFIED

## Presentation Outline

- Project Objectives
- Probabilistic Storm Surge Hazard Modeling
- Compound Flooding Hazard Approach
- Synthetic Tropical Cyclone Rainfall Assessment and Bias Correction
- Hydrologic Modeling and Antecedent Flow
- Hydraulic Modeling Approach



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## Study Objectives

Demonstrate the application of PFHA to external flooding at a hypothetical location in a coastal setting.

- Leverage existing data and models characterizing the hydrology, hydraulics, and hydrodynamics of the region.
- Primary region: Texas Coast
  - Available H&H data and models offered through SWG.
  - CTXS<sup>™</sup> results through ERDC-CHL.
- Apply the Coastal Hazards System's (CHS) Probabilistic Coastal Hazard Analysis (PCHA) framework developed by ERDC-CHL.
  - Extended to include precipitation-induced riverine flooding.

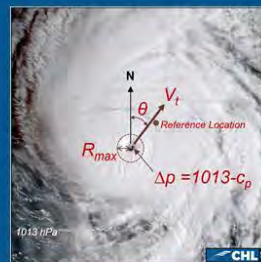


\*USACE Coastal Texas Study

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## Probabilistic Storm Surge Hazard Modeling

- Approach dependent on type of cyclonic exposure:
  - **Tropical Cyclones (TC):** Joint probability analysis of TC forcing parameters.
    - Development of synthetic TCs through sampling of joint probability distribution of TC parameters.
    - Development of synthetic TCs wind and pressure fields and hydrodynamic modeling of response.
  - **Extratropical Cyclones (XC):** extreme value analysis of atmospheric and hydrodynamic modeling response of historical XCs wind and pressure fields.



### Standard TC parameters

Track position  
(reference location,  $x_0$ ).  
Track angle  
(heading direction,  $\theta$ ).  
Intensity  
(central pressure deficit,  $\Delta p$ ).  
Size  
(radius of maximum winds,  $R_{max}$ ).  
Translational speed  
( $V_t$ ).



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# Probabilistic Storm Surge Hazard Modeling

## JPM Integral

$$\lambda_{r(\hat{x}) > R} = \lambda \int P[r(\hat{x}) + \varepsilon > r | \hat{x}, \varepsilon] f_{\hat{x}}(\hat{x}) f_{\varepsilon}(\varepsilon) d\hat{x} d\varepsilon$$

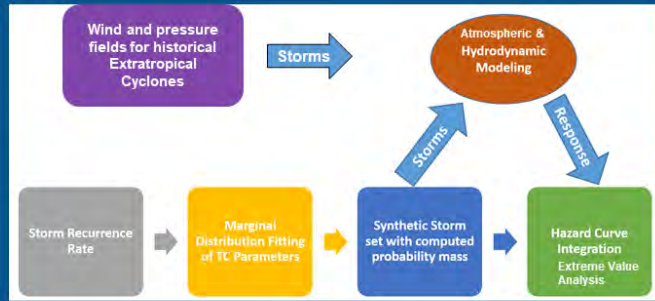
$$\approx \sum_i^n \lambda_i P[r(\hat{x}_i) + \varepsilon > r | \hat{x}_i, \varepsilon]$$

where:

$\lambda_{r(\hat{x}) > R}$  = AEF of TC response  $R$  due to forcing vector  $\hat{x}$   
 $\hat{x} = f(x_0, \theta, \Delta p, R_{max}, V_i)$   
 $\lambda$  = SRR (storms/yr/km)  
 $\lambda_i$  = probability mass (storms/yr) or  $\lambda p_i$ , with  $p_i$  = product of discrete probability and TC track spacing (km)  
 $P[r(\hat{x}) + \varepsilon > r | \hat{x}, \varepsilon]$  conditional probability that storm  $i$  with parameters  $\hat{x}_i$  generates a response larger than  $r$   
 $\varepsilon$  = unbiased error or aleatory uncertainty of  $r$



## Extratropical Cyclones

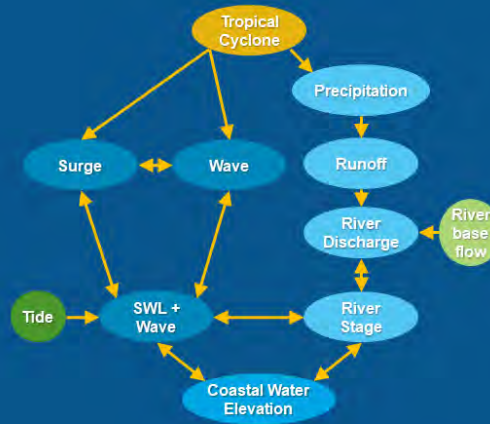


## Tropical Cyclones

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# Compound Flooding

- Until recently, coastal probabilistic flood hazard studies have mainly focused on surge and wave climate components of the flooding hazard.
- Concurrent riverine flooding effects have typically been addressed in the hydrodynamic modeling through assignment of baseline flows representing a particular level of hazard.
- Hurricane Harvey brought to the forefront the risk of compound flooding, in particular rainfall generated flooding.



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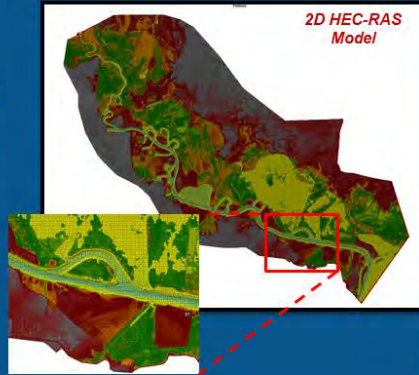






# Existing Site Information

- LiDAR Topography
  - 70 cm resolution (SWG)
- 2019: Fort Worth District completed the Lower Neches Riverine Flooding Analyses (LNRFA) (Mosser et al. 2019)
  - Evaluation of riverine flooding along both Sabine and Neches Rivers
- HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS models have been made available to ERDC-CHL through the SWG



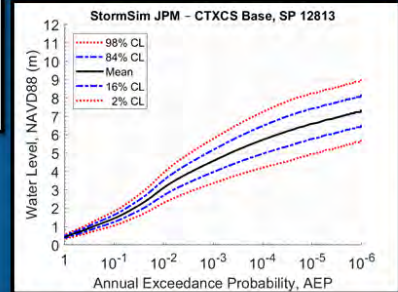
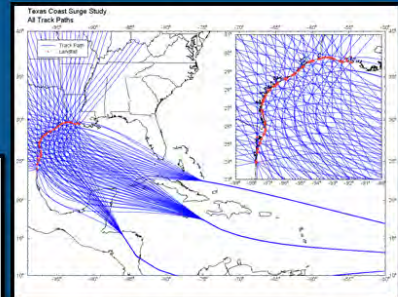
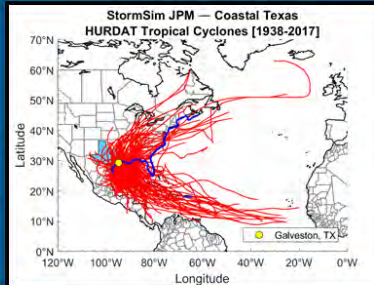
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# Existing Site Information

## Coastal Texas Study

### Storm response and statistical analysis for entire coastal Texas region

- Characterization of storm climate
- 660 unique storms
- High-fidelity storm surge and wave computations
  - 18,000 savepoints
- AEP and average recurrence interval



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# Compound PCHA Development



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## Compound PCHA

### Existing Models & Data

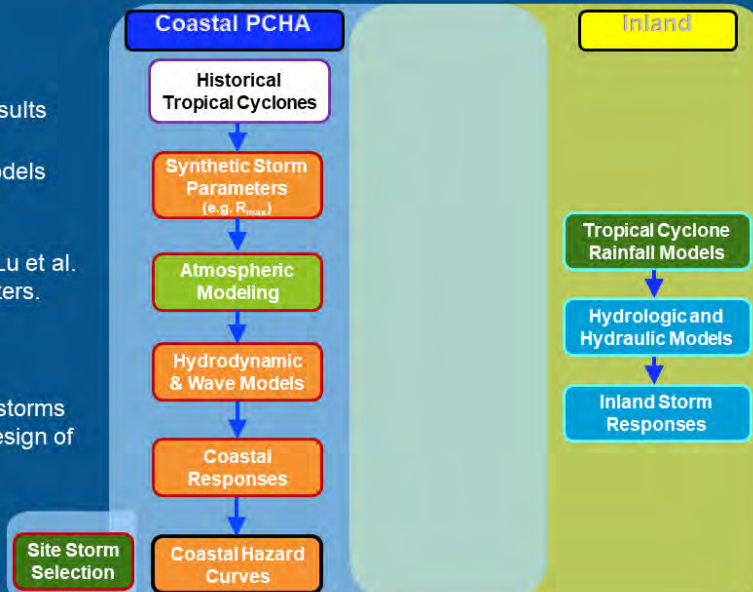
- PCHA based on Coastal Texas results
- ADCIRC and STWAVE models
- HEC-HMS & HEC-RAS inland models

### Link by Joint Effects

- Tropical Cyclone Rainfall Model (Lu et al. 2018) using synthetic TC parameters.
- Boundary conditions for inland hydraulic and coastal hydrodynamic models.
- Storm Selection of subset of 150 storms using Genetic algorithm-based Design of Experiments (DoE) approach.

### Uncertainty

- JPM
- H&H Modeling (e.g antecedent flows Manning n's)

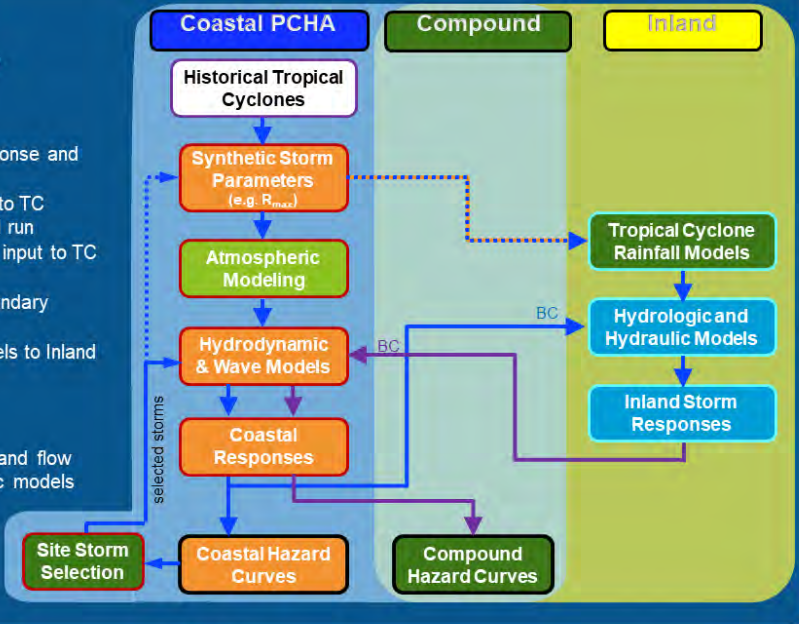




# Compound PCHA

*Loose Coupling under Review*

- **1<sup>st</sup> Loop in BLUE**
  - ▶ Step through PCHA to Coastal Response and Hazard Curves
  - ▶ Storm selection from PCHA Results to TC Rainfall Model and next surge model run
  - ▶ Synthetic storm parameters used as input to TC Rainfall Model
  - ▶ Coastal Response elevations as boundary condition (BC) for hydraulic model
  - ▶ Step through TC Rainfall, H&H Models to Inland Response
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Loop in PURPLE**
  - ▶ From hydraulic model, distributed inland flow used as BC for coastal hydrodynamic models
  - ▶ Coastal responses:
    - Used to develop compound hazard curves (or):
    - Coupling can be repeated



# Tropical Cyclone Rainfall (TCR) Analysis



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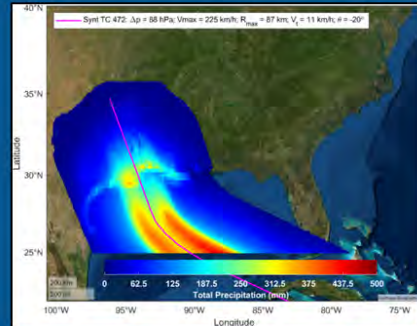
## Tropical Cyclone Rainfall

### Synthetic Rainfall Modeled from CHS Storms

- Parametric Tropical Cyclone Rainfall Model (TCRM, Lu et al. 2018)
  - Physics-based model with rainfall estimated by upward vapor flux
    - Accounts for major rainfall-generating mechanisms: frictional, topographic, baroclinic, vortex stretching
    - Produces gridded time-series data based on evolution of synthetic storm parameters ( $W_{max}$ ,  $R_{max}$ , lat/lon)
    - 0.1 x 0.1 degree spatial resolution (nominal 10 km); 1-hour temporal resolution
  - Limitations: Like other TCR models, does not well account for storm outer rainbands or interaction with other meteorological features.

### Collaboration for TC Rainfall

- Princeton University
  - Dazhi Xi, PhD student
  - Ning Lin, Associate Professor
- Natural hazards & risk analysis, focus on hurricanes



Example of TCRM Output  
(Event Total Rainfall)



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## Evaluation of TCRM results

- Assessment at three grid locations within the Neches River watershed representing lower, middle and upland areas and three rain gages (Beaumont, Rusk, and Jasper gages).
- Ability to model individual historical storms.
- TCRM precipitation frequency assessment at grid locations comparing with NOAA Atlas 14 and gage extreme value analysis.
  - IMPORTANT:** NOAA Atlas 14 consists of mixed storm populations.
  - TCs found to be a primary driver of precipitation at lower Neches.



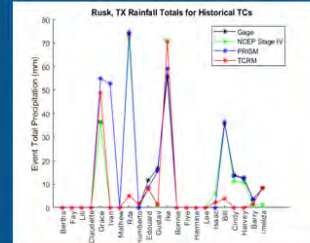
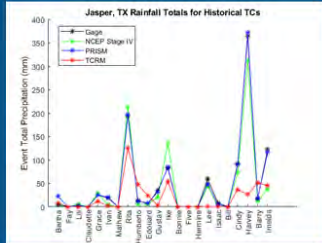
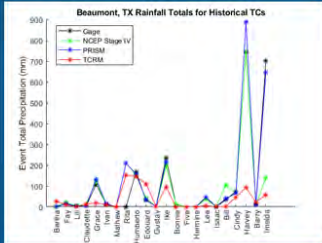
ARI (years)	NOAA Atlas 14 24-hr Rainfall (mm)	GPD fitted 24-hr TC rainfall (mm)
50	368	350.4
100	442	431.0
500	666	688.6



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## Evaluation of TCRM results

- Comparisons of TCRM results with gage, NCEP Stage IV, and PRISM data for the three gage locations.



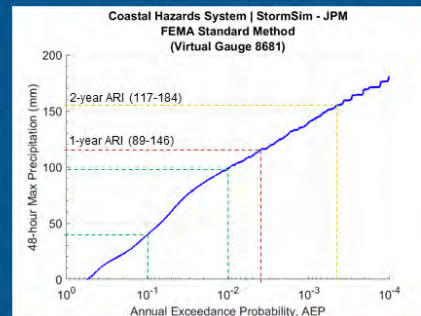
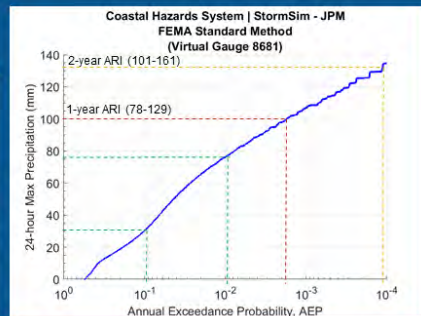
- The model underpredicted precipitation for various historical storms, particularly for storms with larger event total precipitation.



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## Comparing to NOAA Atlas-14 – Lower Neches River Watershed

- Lower Neches



PDS-based precipitation frequency estimates with 90% confidence intervals (in millimeters)

Duration	Average recurrence interval (years)									
	1	2	5	10	25	50	100	200	500	1000
24-hr	100 (78-129)	133 (101-161)	179 (139-226)	223 (172-289)	291 (218-390)	350 (255-482)	420 (296-590)	501 (343-722)	626 (413-935)	733 (472-1121)
2-day	114 (89-146)	154 (117-184)	209 (163-262)	263 (204-339)	347 (262-463)	422 (309-578)	510 (361-711)	611 (419-873)	764 (506-1133)	895 (578-1357)



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# TCR Bias Correction

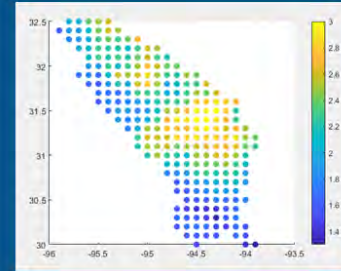
- Focused on tuning dominant physical parameters of the TCRM ( $q_s$ ,  $C_d$ )
- Bias correction using total rainfall:
  - Run TCRM for suite of historical storms
  - Compute observed rainfall totals for historical storms from PRISM dataset (when storm is within 300km of point of interest)
- For each point, minimize the error between the distributions of total rainfall for observations/TCRM simulations

Main Equation Driving the TCRM

$$P_{rate} = \epsilon_p \frac{\rho_{air}}{\rho_{liquid}} q_s (w_f + w_h + w_t + w_s + w_r)$$

Saturation specific humidity

Friction,  $w_f = f(C_d)$



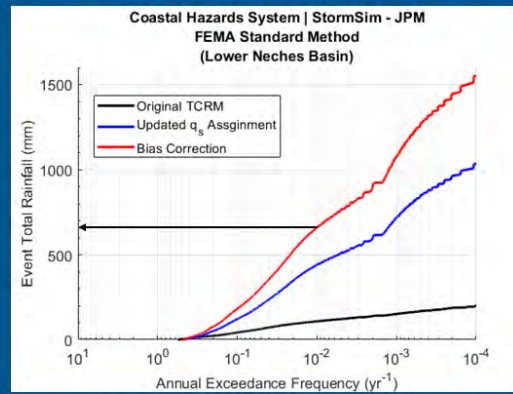
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# Results of Bias Correction

- Lower Neches



## Event Total Rainfall Hazard Curve



PDS-based precipitation frequency estimates with 90% confidence intervals (in millimeters)

Duration	Average recurrence interval (years)									
	1	2	5	10	25	50	100	200	500	1000
24-hr	100 (78-129)	133 (101-161)	179 (139-226)	223 (172-289)	291 (218-390)	350 (255-482)	420 (296-590)	501 (343-722)	626 (413-935)	733 (472-1121)
2-day	114 (89-146)	154 (117-184)	209 (163-262)	263 (204-339)	347 (262-463)	422 (309-578)	510 (361-711)	611 (419-873)	764 (506-1133)	895 (578-1357)

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# Hydrologic Modeling and Antecedent flow estimation for TCs

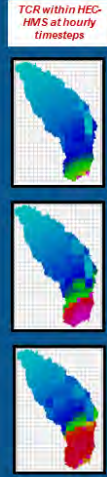
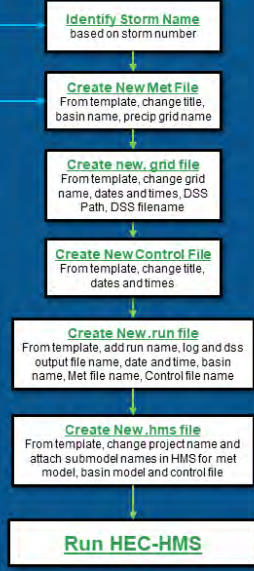
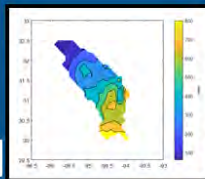
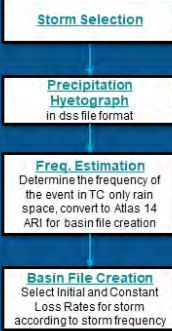


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## Automating HEC-HMS

- Dynamically create input files and run HMS (without the GUI) for desired storms
- Loss rates for each subbasin assigned based on storm frequency
  - Original HMS model used NOAA Atlas-14 rainfall estimates
  - Compare TCR totals from synthetics to NOAA Atlas-14 to assign storm frequency & calibrated loss

**Pre HMS calculations:**  
Prep Storms and ARI estimate



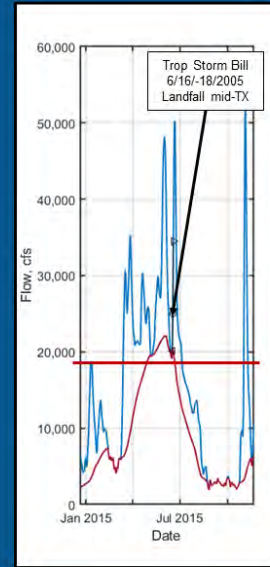
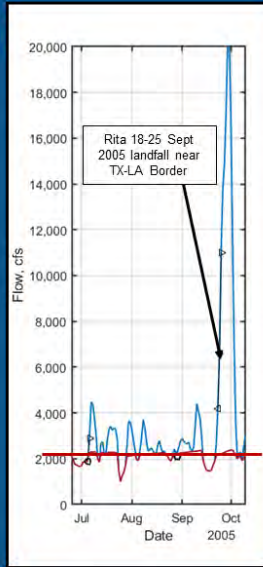
Flow Output for HEC-RAS



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# Antecedent Flow Approach

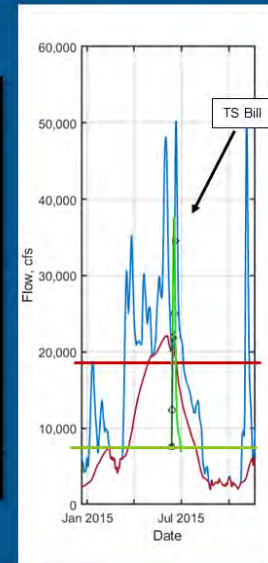
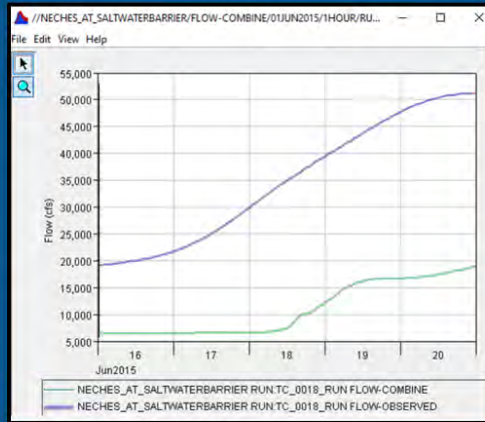
- Early parameter sensitivity analysis for hydrologic parameters were conducted early in the work
- Antecedent flow parameters were assessed for
  - increasing baseflow +/- 10% & +/- 50%
  - little change implied insensitivity
- Later, gage records for storm precursor flows demonstrated sensitivity
  - Tidally filtered data at USGS gage at the Neches River Saltwater Barrier
  - 2003-2021



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# Antecedent Flow

- HMS model runs showed we were often underestimating precursor flows
- Considered solutions to the apparent sensitivity to antecedent flows

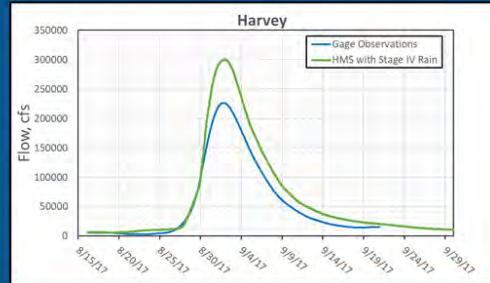
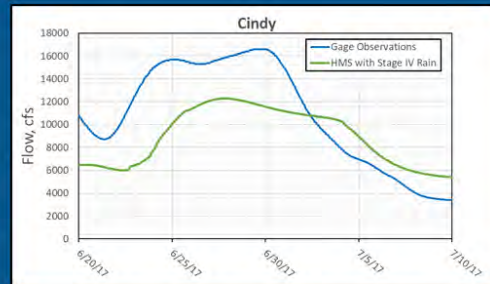
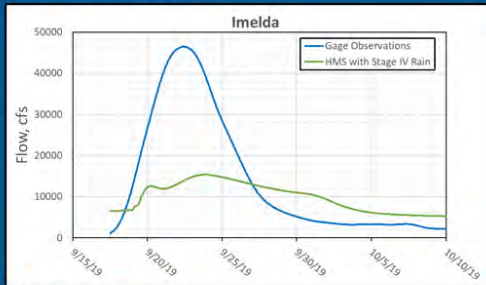


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## Antecedent Flow

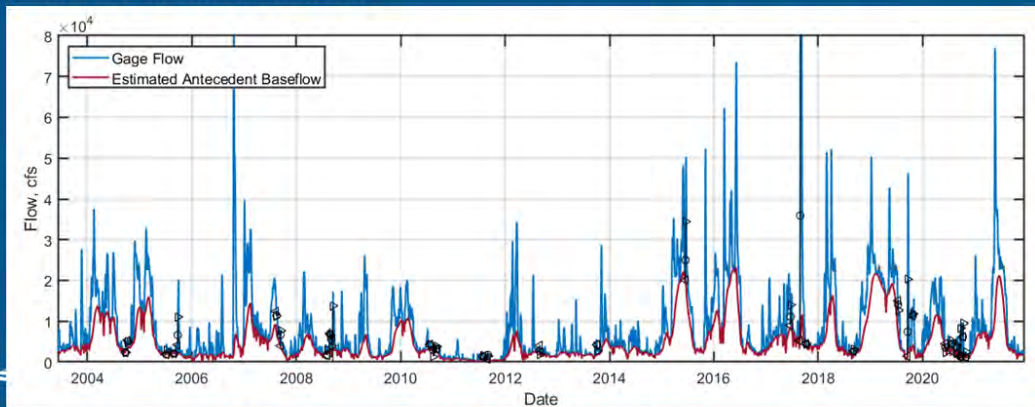
- The difference in antecedent flows was inconsistent, sometimes too large and sometimes too small
- To select values for the synthetic storms, we needed a probabilistic approach to selecting an antecedent flow



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## Developing an Antecedent Flow Approach

- First step was to determine an antecedent flow for the gage time series
- Used a simple baseflow filter (Lynn and Holick with  $\alpha = 0.955$  and 3 passes) to separate out the antecedent flow



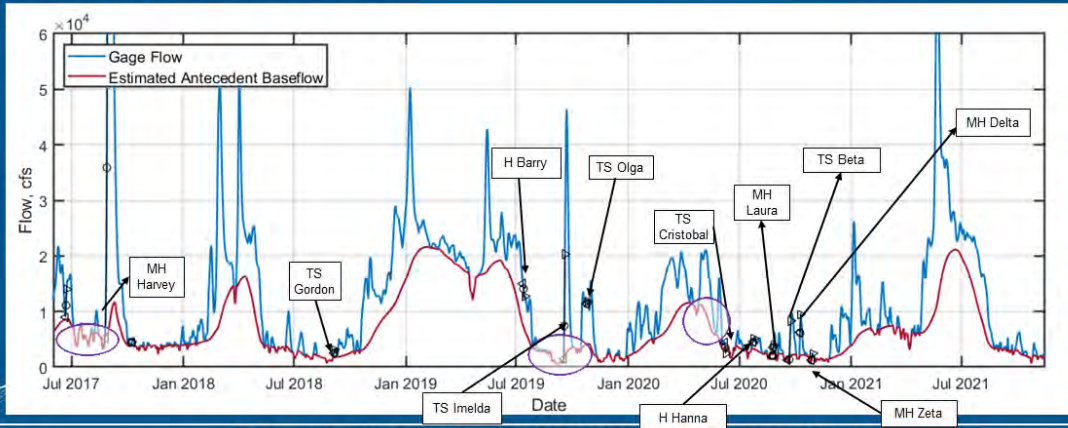
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Standard approach shown in Ladson, A. R., R. Brown, B. Neal and R. Nathan (2013). A standard approach to baseflow separation using the Lyne and Hollick filter. Australian Journal of Water Resources 17(1): 173-180.



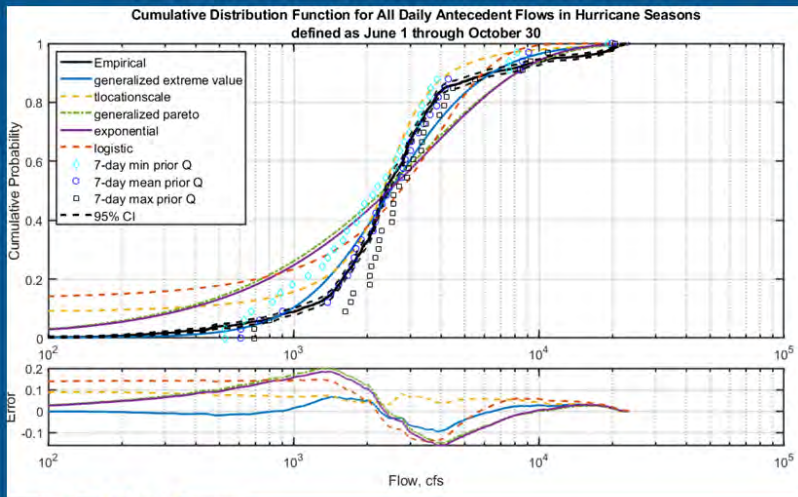
## Developing an Antecedent Flow Approach

- Reviewed Tropical Storms Events and Antecedent Flow Series at USGS Gage Saltwater Barrier Period: 2017-2022



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## Fit Distributions to the Daily Flows During Hurricane Seasons

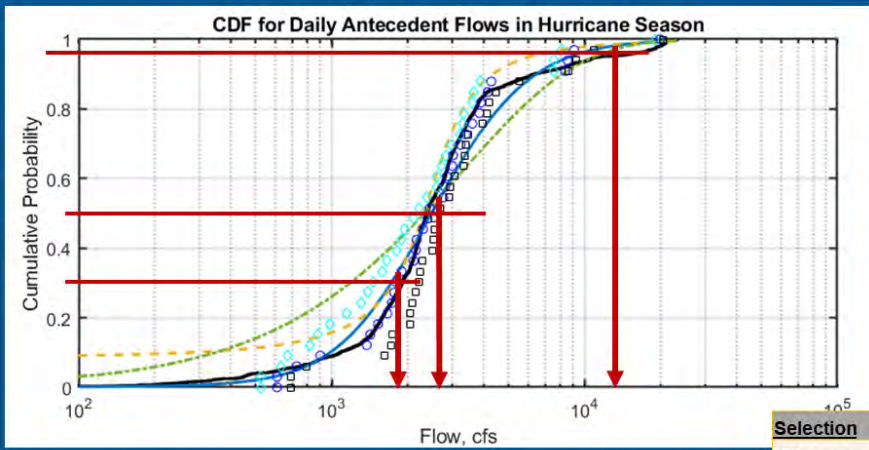


- The black curve is the mean fit of the daily summer flows.
- The point values are for the min, max and mean flows in the 7 day prior to historical TCs
- Curves were ranked by AIC (Aikake Importance Criterion), a goodness of fit parameter



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## Selecting Antecedent Flows from the Distribution for Pilot



- Estimate 3 antecedent flows to test to capture the range
- Will carry out a sensitivity analysis to make sure these antecedent flows are capturing effects
- Later, during model production, can decided how to weigh those flows

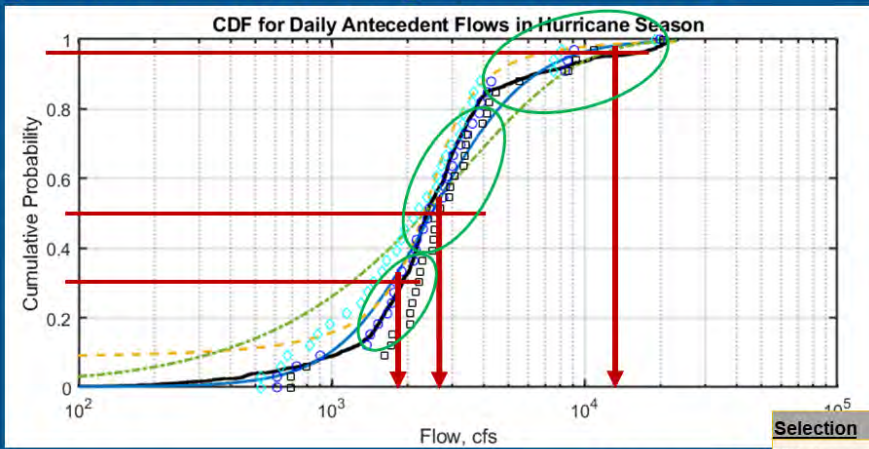
Selection	Reason	Approx Q (cfs)
32nd percentile	-1σ	1800
50% percentile	median	2500
95th percentile	+2σ	8.700

• Recommended Values



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## Distributions found for the selected antecedent flow parameters and during Hurricane Season



- Estimate 3 antecedent flows to test to capture the range
- Will carry out a sensitivity analysis to make sure these antecedent flows are capturing effects
- Later, during model production, can decided how to weigh those flows

Selection	Reason	Approx Q (cfs)
32nd percentile	-1σ	1800
50% percentile	median	2500
95th percentile	+2σ	8.700

• Recommended Values



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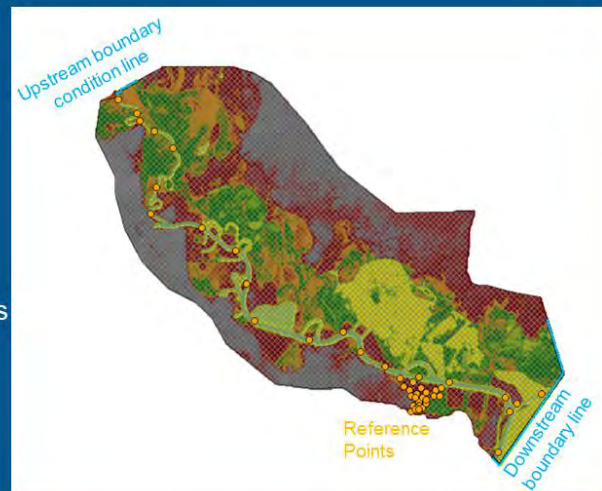
## Hydraulic Modeling Approach



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## HEC-RAS Model

- 2D HEC-RAS Model
- Upstream boundary condition
  - Flow Hydrograph from HMS outputs
- Downstream boundary condition
  - Stage Hydrograph from ADCIRC outputs
- Added precipitation and infiltration parameters to calculate rainfall runoff within domain
- Added Reference Points at locations of interest – written to results hdf5 file

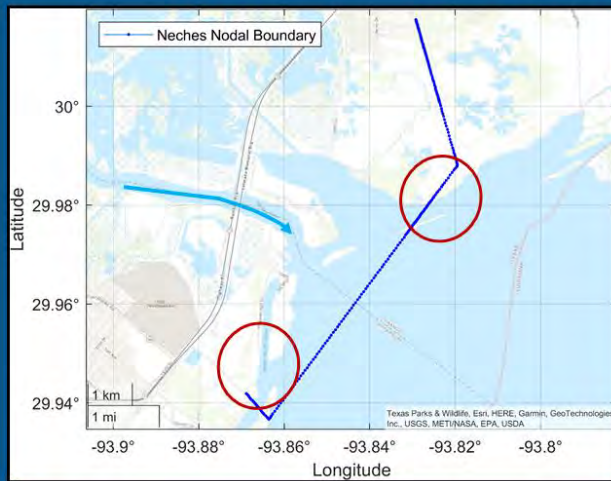


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## HEC-RAS Boundary condition

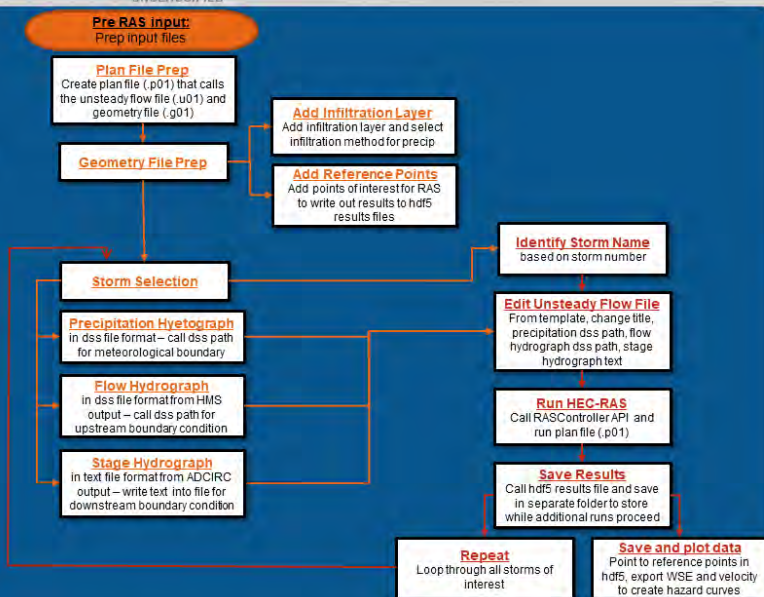
- One-way coupled HEC-RAS - ADCIRC boundary
  - Testing boundary condition discretization, currently focused on physical characteristics (channels, swamp, etc.)
- Automate HEC-RAS:
  - Input file generation
  - “rascontrol” in python environment
  - Data extraction for necessary outputs



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## Automating HEC-RAS

- Dynamically create input files and run RAS (without the GUI) for desired storms
- Pull data of interest from output files and store elsewhere to use to create hazard curves and then overwrite results within RAS to run next scenario
  - Allows for one model/project file to run all scenarios (using individual plan files would limit each model version to 99 runs)



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## Next Steps

- Hydraulic Modeling of synthetic storms
- Execute “loosely-coupled” framework with hydrodynamic model
- Compute combined hazard curves



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## Contact Information

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NRC Project Manager

Joseph F. Kanney, Ph.D.

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Email: [Joseph.Kanney@nrc.gov](mailto:Joseph.Kanney@nrc.gov)



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### **3.7.4 Presentation 3B-4: Probabilistic Wave Height Hazard Assessment Method at the NPP Site Considering Storm Surge**

Authors: *Beom-Jin Kim\**, *Daegi Hahm*, *Minkyu Kim*  
*Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI)*

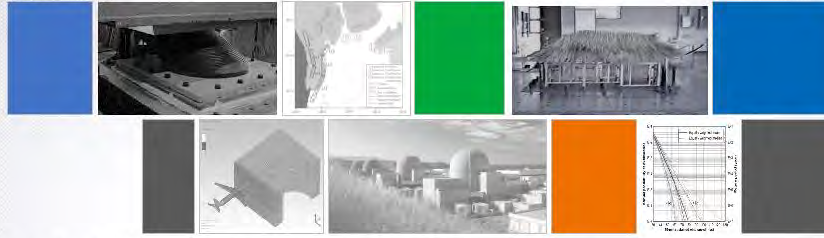
Speaker: *Beom-Jin Kim*

#### **3.7.4.1 Abstract**

Due to the influence of recent climate change, typhoon invasions of the Korean Peninsula with extreme rainfall frequently occur. Between August and September 2020, three typhoons, Bavi, Maysak, and Haishen, attack to the Korean Peninsula, and the resulting heavy rains that fell caused flood damage. As typhoons Maysak and Haishen passed east of Korea, the local nuclear power plants were automatically shut down. In order to analyze the wave height, wave period, and wave direction characteristics in the front of the nuclear power plant site, the SWAN model was built in the near sea area through nesting technique. First, based on the data presented in the Deepwater design waves report, wave height, period, and sea wind were estimated according to the return period. Second, the SWAN model was established through SMS and GIS programs based on the sea-depth data around the nuclear power plant site. Finally, a probability distribution was applied based on the wave height data, the result of the SWAN model for each return period. Based on the result, the probabilistic wave height hazard assessment (PWHA) of the sea around the nuclear power plant site was estimated. The results of this study are expected to be the basis for the waterproofing design of nuclear power plant sites and the planning of various flood prevention measures caused by the combination of external hazard such as local intense precipitation (LIP) and storm surges.

#### **3.7.4.2 Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A109)**





## Probabilistic Wave Height Hazard Assessment Method at the NPP Site Considering Storm surge



2021. 2. 17.

Beom-Jin Kim, Daegi Hahm, Minkyu Kim



## Contents

***Part 1. Study background and methodology***

***Part 2. Estimation of significant parameters***

***Part 3. SWAN simulation***

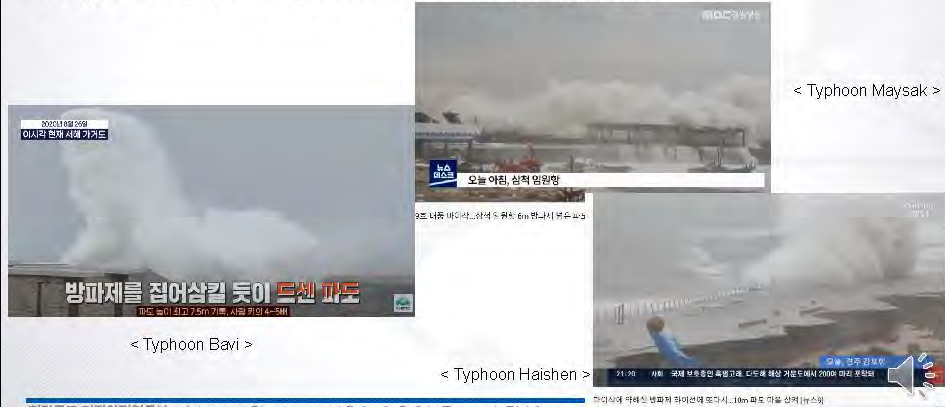
***Part 4. Probabilistic storm surge hazard assessment (PSHA)***

***Part 5. Conclusion***



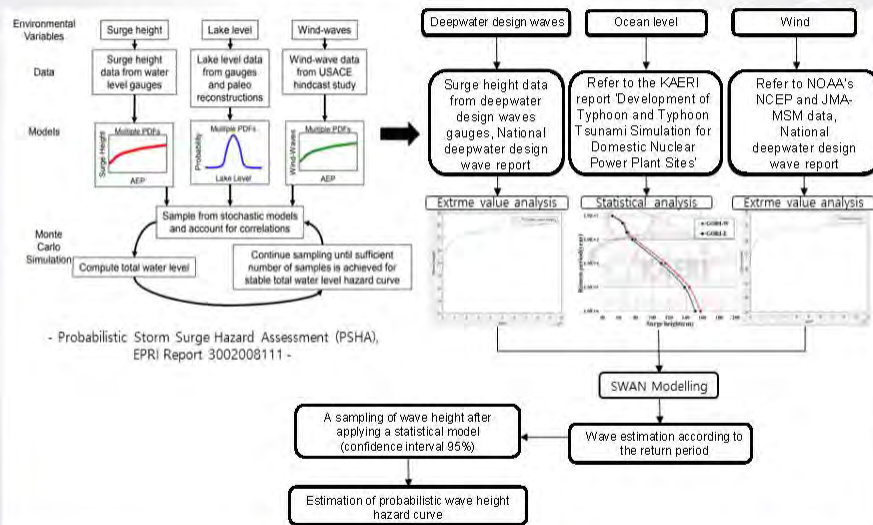
# Part 1. Study background

- Due to the influence of recent climate change, typhoon invasion of the Korean Peninsula with extreme rainfall frequently occur. Between August and September 2020, three typhoons, Bavi, Maysak, and Haishen, attack to the Korean Peninsula, and the resulting heavy rains that fell caused flood damage. As typhoons Maysak and Haishen passed east of Korea, the local nuclear power plants were automatically shut down.
- Such as flooding can cause core damage to nuclear power plants. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze hazards in advance and take measures to prevent them.



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# Part 1. Methodology



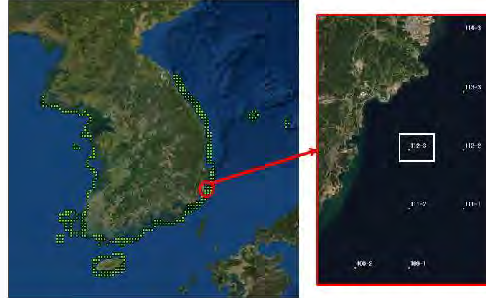
< Study flow >

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## Part 2. Estimation of significant parameters

### ➤ Deepwater design wave estimation

- Currently, there are 535 design wave height points in the ocean of the Korean Peninsula.
- In this study, analysis was conducted based on the ocean of the Gori nuclear power plant.
- The design wave height point in the Ocean near the Gori nuclear power plant is No. 112-3.



< Fig. 1 Deepwater design wave height points near Gori NPP >

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## Part 2. Estimation of significant parameters

- One design wave height is divided into 16 directions (S, SSE, SE, SEE, E, ENE, NE, NEN, N, NNW, NW, NWW, WSW, SW, SWS). In addition, data of deepwater wave height (m), period (sec), and wind speed (m/s) are included.
- The 'National Deepwater Design Wave Report (2019)' was referred to predict the Gori Nuclear Power Plant waves. In the case of typhoons, 193 typhoons that affected the Korean Peninsula among typhoons that occurred between 1959 and 2017 were selected when calculating the deepwater design wave.
- Extreme value analysis was performed on the selected typhoon.
- As a result, the Weibull distribution was selected for the typhoon data.

< Table. 1 Parameter estimation >

		Parameters (No. 112.3)															
	N	NNE	NE	ENE	E	ESE	SE	SSE	S	SSW	SW	WSW	W	WNW	NW	NNW	
location	-	-	-24	-16	-05	0.1	-0.7	-	-06	-3.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	
scale	-	-	6.0	5.5	3.6	0.8	3.3	-	4.2	7.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	
shape	-	-	3.9	2.9	1.9	0.9	1.4	-	1.5	5.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	

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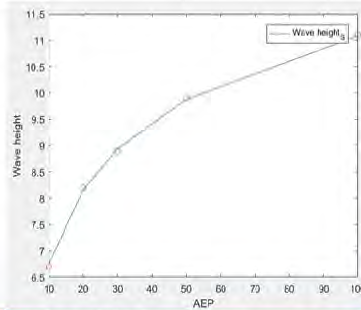


## Part 2. Estimation of significant parameters

- After estimating the wave height according to the return period based on the calculated parameters, the wave height of 10 years, 20 years, 30 years, 50 years, and 100 years presented in the 'National Deepwater Design Wave Report (2019)' were compared and verified.

< Table. 2 Validation of wave height >

Return period (y)	10	20	30	50	100
Report Hs (m)	6.7	8.2	8.9	9.9	11.1
Estimation Hs (m)	6.7481	8.1638	8.9408	9.8770	11.0846



## Part 2. Estimation of significant parameters

- By applying the validated parameters, wave heights (Hs) corresponding to return periods of 200 years to 1 million years were estimated.

< Table. 3 Wave height estimation according to return period >

Return period (y)	Estimation Hs (m)
200	12.2328
500	13.6766
1000	14.7219
2000	15.7327
5000	17.0229
10000	17.9884
20000	18.8804
50000	20.0769
100000	20.9523
200000	21.8102
500000	22.9199
1000000	23.7422



## Estimation of significant parameters

### ➤ Period estimation

- The period according to the wave height was calculated by applying the robust regression curve formula.

$$T_p = a(H_s)^b \quad (0.2 \leq b \leq 0.8)$$

- Here, a and b are variables, and the parameters are estimated by applying the Solver function according to the range of the variable b.
- As a result, 'a' was calculated as 4.940527 and 'b' as 0.428656. By applying to the calculated parameters, the period according to the wave height was calculated and compared and verified with the values of the previous report as shown in <Table 4>.

< Table. 4 Verification of the period >

Return period (y)	Hs (m)	Report Tp (s)	Calculation Tp (s)
10	67	112	112
20	82	122	122
30	89	126	126
50	99	132	132
100	111	139	139



## Part 2. Estimation of significant parameters

- By applying the verified parameters to the robust regression curve formula, the period for the wave height corresponding to the return period of 200 years to 1 million years was estimated.

< Table. 5 Period estimation according to return period (Tp) >

Return period (y)	Estimation Hs (m)	Estimation Tp (s)
200	12.2328	14.5
500	13.6766	15.2
1000	14.7219	15.6
2000	15.7327	16.1
5000	17.0229	16.7
10000	17.9684	17.0
20000	18.8904	17.4
50000	20.0769	17.9
100000	20.9523	18.2
200000	21.8102	18.5
500000	22.9199	18.9
1000000	23.7422	19.2



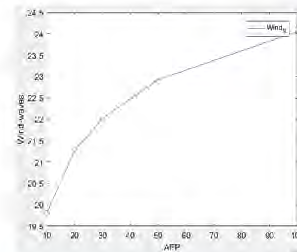
## Part 2. Estimation of significant parameters

### ➤ Ocean level and wind estimaton

- The sea level was based on the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute report 'Development of Typhoon and Tsunami Simulation for Domestic Nuclear Power Plant Sites (2017)'.
- The sea wind data used the NCEP wind data of NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) from 1979 to 2017. After that, the same method as the deepwater design wave estimation method was applied.
- The estimated sea wind data were compared and verified with the values presented in the previous report.

< Table. 6 Verification of Sea wind >

Return period (y)	10	20	30	50	100
Report Hs (m)	19.8	21.3	22.0	22.9	24.1
Estimation Hs (m)	19.8091	21.2575	22.0238	22.9239	24.0519



## Part 2. Estimation of significant parameters

- The sea wind corresponding to the return period of 200 years to 1 million years was estimated by applying the verified parameters.
- Finally, the results of estimating wave height, period, sea wind and sea level height according to the return period are as follows.

< Table. 7 Results of major parameter estimation >

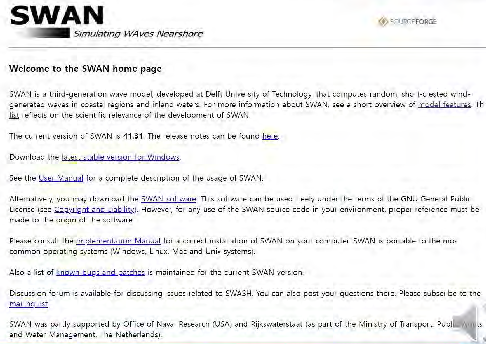
Return period (y)	Estimation Hs (m)	Estimation Tp (s)	Estimation Wind (m/s)	Estimation Sea level (m)
200	122328	14.5	25.09	1.1705
500	136766	15.2	26.37	1.2220
1000	147219	15.6	27.27	1.3010
2000	157327	16.1	28.12	
5000	170229	16.7	29.19	
10000	179684	17.0	29.95	1.6680
20000	188904	17.4	30.69	
50000	200769	17.9	31.63	
100000	209523	18.2	32.31	1.9965
200000	218102	18.5	32.97	
500000	229199	18.9	33.81	
1000000	237422	19.2	34.43	2.0680



## Part 3. SWAN simulation

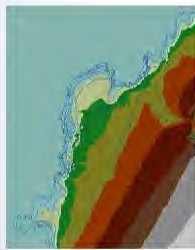
### ➤ SWAN(Simulation Waves Nearshore) modeling

- The Simulation Waves Nearshore (SWAN) model was selected as the model applied to the storm surge simulation.
- The SWAN model can highly calculate wave deformation such as wave refraction, diffraction, wave dissipation due to wave breaking, and bottom friction according to the change in water depth. It can calculate waves in coastal areas, lakes, and rivers downstream.

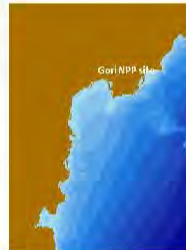


## Part 3. SWAN simulation

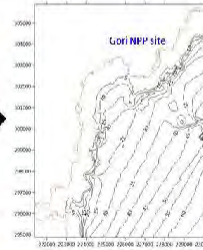
- Triangulated Irregular Network (TIN) was generated for the ocean of the Gori nuclear power plant based on the ocean depth data.
- Based on the generated TIN, a digital elevation model (DEM) was created to extract the Gori nuclear power plant area's ocean depth (Z). Also, based on the generated DEM, the sea depth was extracted to determine the suitability of this topographical data.



< Fig. 2 TIN to DEM >

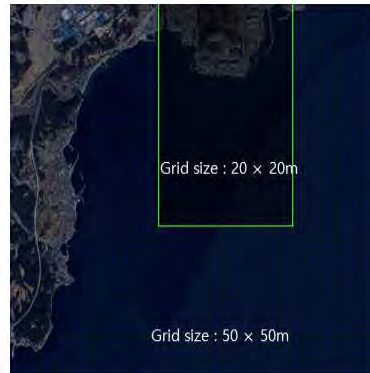


< Fig. 3 Sea depth of the Gori NPP >



## Part 3. SWAN simulation

- The nesting function of SWAN is used to analyze the wave height of the Gori nuclear power plant.
- A  $50 \times 50$  m grid was constructed in the distant ocean of the nuclear power plant, and a  $20 \times 20$  m grid was constructed in the ocean near the nuclear power plant.

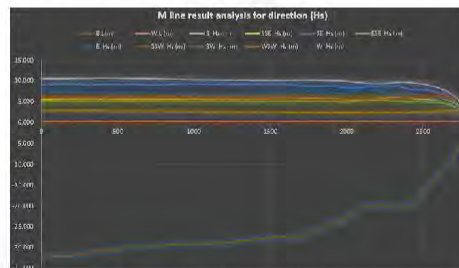


< Fig. 4 Grid for Gori NPP >

## Part 3. SWAN simulation

### ➤ Sensitivity analysis of SWAN model

- After constructing the SWAN model, the optimal model was selected through sensitivity analysis of variables.
- As a result of analyzing the SWAN model for wave conditions (16 directions) at the deepwater wave point (No. 112-3), the wave height in the S direction was the largest.
- Therefore, in this study, the direction for wave height analysis by storm surge was determined to be the S direction.

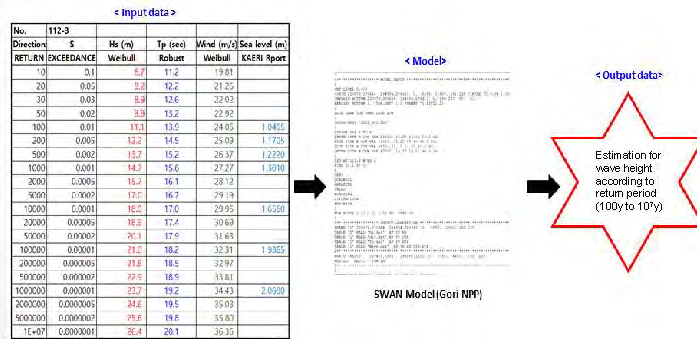


< Fig. 5 Sensitivity analysis for SWAN >

## Part 3. SWAN simulation

### ➤ SWAN simulation

- According to the return period, wave height analysis was analyzed through SWAN using estimated data of wave height, period, and wind, as shown in the figure below.

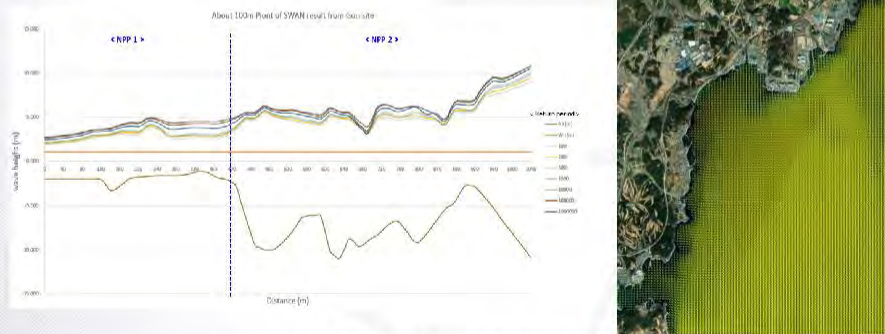


< Fig. 7 Wave height analysis method >

## Part 3. SWAN simulation

### ➤ SWAN results

- SWAN simulations were performed based on the estimated input data for wave height conditions in the 100 to 1 million year return period.
- As a result, the wave height generated in the ocean near the nuclear power plant was estimated according to the return period.

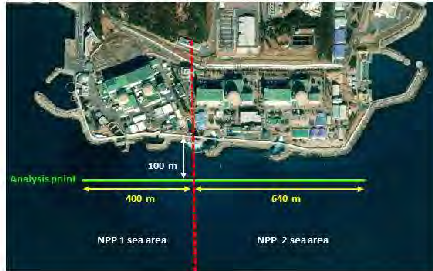


< Fig. 8 SWAN simulation results (Wave height, Hs >



## Part 4. Probabilistic storm surge hazard assessment

- Probabilistic Storm Surge Hazard Assessment (PSHA) is a preliminary step for probabilistic flood risk assessment due to storm surge at the Gori nuclear power plant site.
- For the probabilistic analysis of the storm surge wave height according to the return period, the ocean of the Gori nuclear power plant were classified for each power plant.
- In addition, the verification process of the probability distribution type was conducted by deriving the wave height of the analysis point at intervals of 10 m through the SWAN result for each return period.



## Part 4. Probabilistic storm surge hazard assessment

- The maximum wave height, minimum wave height, mean, and standard deviation were calculated for each return period in the ocean area of each power plant, and the probability distribution was verified through AIC verification by return period.

< Table. 8 Apply to probabilistic distribution (NPP 1) >

Return period (y)	Max Hs (m)	Min Hs (m)	Average (m)	Std.	AIC Distribution	Parameter (a)	Parameter (b)
100	3.81	1.96	271	0.47	Invguss	2.71	92.32
200	3.98	2.06	289	0.48	Gamma	36.25	0.08
500	4.07	2.11	298	0.49	Gamma	37.60	0.08
1000	4.18	2.18	309	0.51	Gamma	37.10	0.08
10000	4.58	2.47	356	0.57	Weibull	7.65	3.79
100000	4.86	2.69	390	0.64	Pert	4.58	4.87
1000000	4.97	2.80	405	0.68	Pert	4.81	4.97

< Table. 9 Apply to probabilistic distribution (NPP 2) >

Return period (y)	Max Hs (m)	Min Hs (m)	Average (m)	Std.	AIC Distribution	Parameter (a)	Parameter (b)
100	9.05	3.11	527	1.40	Pearson 5	19.13	95.34
200	9.48	3.21	548	1.47	Pearson 5	18.98	98.27
500	9.88	3.29	561	1.56	Pearson 5	18.02	95.15
1000	10.08	3.36	574	1.58	Pearson 5	18.19	98.29
10000	10.56	3.12	611	1.67	Loglogistic	5.78	7.90
100000	10.81	3.45	636	1.68	Pearson 5	18.37	110.29
1000000	10.83	3.69	647	1.66	Pearson 5	20.46	115.61

## Part 4. Probabilistic storm surge hazard assessment

- The @RISK program was used to estimate the hazard curve of the probabilistic wave height caused by the storm surge.
- After applying the Latin hypercube sampling method to the wave height according to the return period, statistical analysis was performed with a 95% confidence interval through 50,000 iterations.
- Based on the results, wave heights of 5%, Mean, Median, Mode, and 95% were estimated according to the return period of each power plant.

< Table. 10 Probabilistic wave height estimation results (NPP 1) >

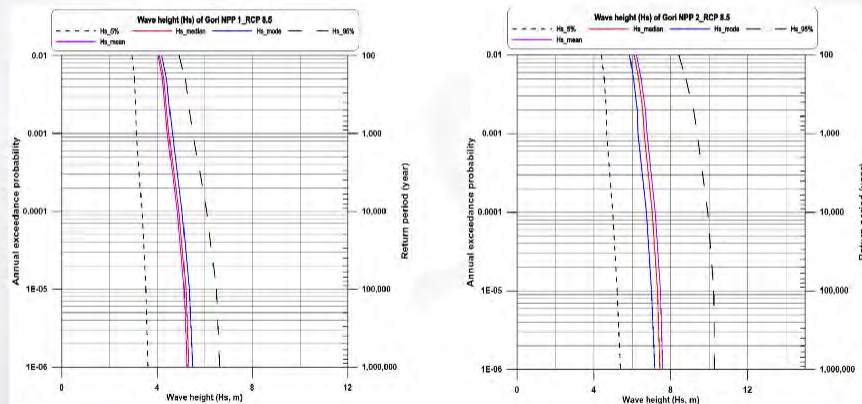
Return period	Exceedance	Hs (m)_5%	Hs (m)_mean	Hs (m)_median	Hs (m)_mode	Hs (m)_95%
100	0.01	2.94	4.04	4.19	4.19	4.93
200	0.005	3.05	4.22	4.28	4.40	5.18
500	0.002	3.11	4.34	4.40	4.53	5.35
1000	0.001	3.13	4.45	4.49	4.64	5.50
10000	0.0001	3.06	4.64	4.51	5.05	6.06
100000	0.00001	3.53	5.15	5.21	5.35	6.43
1000000	0.000001	3.62	5.25	5.33	5.50	6.62

< Table. 11 Probabilistic wave height estimation results (NPP 2) >

Return period	Exceedance	Hs (m)_5%	Hs (m)_mean	Hs (m)_median	Hs (m)_mode	Hs (m)_95%
100	0.01	4.40	6.21	6.59	5.87	8.13
200	0.005	4.54	6.45	6.52	6.05	8.80
500	0.002	4.65	6.66	6.53	6.25	9.16
1000	0.001	4.67	6.76	6.51	6.25	9.37
10000	0.0001	4.99	7.19	7.04	6.73	9.92
100000	0.00001	5.22	7.46	7.31	7.00	10.24
1000000	0.000001	5.39	7.95	7.44	7.17	10.25

## Part 4. Probabilistic storm surge hazard assessment

- Finally, the probabilistic wave height hazard curves for power plants 1 and 2 by storm surge were estimated through statistical analysis using a probability distribution.



## Part 5. Conclusion

- This study analyzed the probabilistic wave height caused by the storm surge according to climate change.
- A detailed sea bottom topography was constructed for the storm surge simulation. In addition, the parameters were estimated by applying the probability distributions for the deepwater wave height and wind caused by storm surge.
- Also, the SWAN model is linked with the nesting technique to analyze the characteristics of wave height, period, and wave direction by frequency in the front ocean of the Gori nuclear power plant.
- Based on the results of the SWAN model, statistical analysis was applied to calculate the probability distribution for the possible wave heights in the ocean in front of the nuclear power plant.
- A probability distribution model presented the possible wave heights of the ocean in front of the nuclear power plant according to the return period.
- Based on the results of this study in the future, it will be used as input data for the EurOtop model, and it is judged that valuable data will be utilized for the analysis of flooding caused by the overtopping of the nuclear power plant site.

*Thank you for listening to my presentation*

If you have any questions at any time, please contact me by my email.

beomjin88@kaeri.re.kr



### **3.7.5 Presentation 3B-5: Comparative Assessment of Joint Distribution Models for Tropical Cyclone Atmospheric Parameters in Probabilistic Coastal Hazard Analysis**

Authors: Ziyue Liu\*<sup>1</sup>, Michelle Bensi<sup>1</sup>, Meredith Carr<sup>2</sup>, Norberto Nadal-Caraballo<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Maryland, <sup>2</sup>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory

Speaker: Ziyue Liu

#### **3.7.5.1 Abstract**

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has developed the Probabilistic Coastal Hazard Analysis (PCHA) framework to extend and advance the joint probability method, which has been used to establish probabilistic coastal hazard curves over the past decade. The PCHA framework requires characterization of the joint distribution of tropical cyclone (TC) atmospheric parameters (i.e., central pressure deficient, forward velocity, radius of maximum wind, and heading direction). While the assumptions made in developing this joint distribution have changed over the years, the current PCHA framework uses a meta-Gaussian copula (MGC) to characterize the dependence among TC atmospheric parameters. However, the MGC has limitations associated with modeling of circular variables such as storm heading direction as well as the degree to which it can capture tail dependence. This research investigates the performance of a series of joint distribution models, including the MGC and alternative models. A particular emphasis is placed on characterizing the dependence between linear and circular variables. Specifically, a von Mises kernel function (VKF) is proposed as an alternative to the Gaussian kernel function (GKF) typically in the calculation of the directional storm recurrence rate (DSRR) representing the probability model of heading direction. This study then builds a series of joint distribution models based on assumptions ranging from independence to full dependence models that consider a range of copula models (e.g., MGC and vine copulas combining linear-circular copulas with Gaussian or Frank copulas). The sensitivity of coastal hazard curves to different joint distribution models is assessed for selected locations around New Orleans, LA (USA). The stability of hazard curves generated using an MGC assumption related to the selection of the zero-degree convention is assessed, along with a comparison of tail dependence between copula models.

#### **3.7.5.2 Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A108)**

# Comparative Assessment of Joint Distribution Models for Tropical Cyclone Atmospheric Parameters in Probabilistic Coastal Hazard Analysis

7th Annual NRC PFHA Research Workshop

Speaker: Ziyue Liu, Ph.D. Candidate (UMD)

Co-authors:

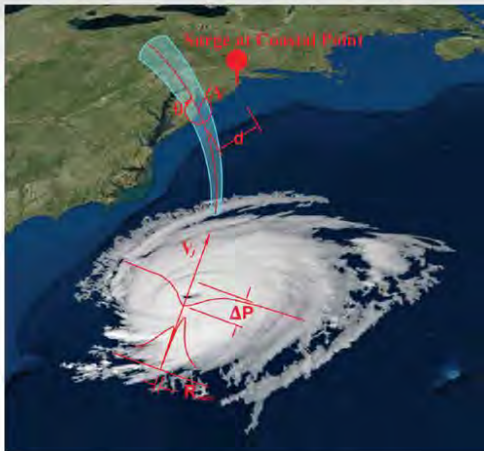
Michelle T Bensi, Ph.D. (UMD)

Norberto C. Nadal-Caraballo, Ph.D. (USACE)

Meredith L. Carr, Ph.D., P.E. (USACE)



## Introduction



TC Atmospheric parameters  
Image source: Al Kijbaif, A. and Bensi, M., 2020.

### Research Need:

JPM is used as the primary methodology for coastal hazard frequency analysis.

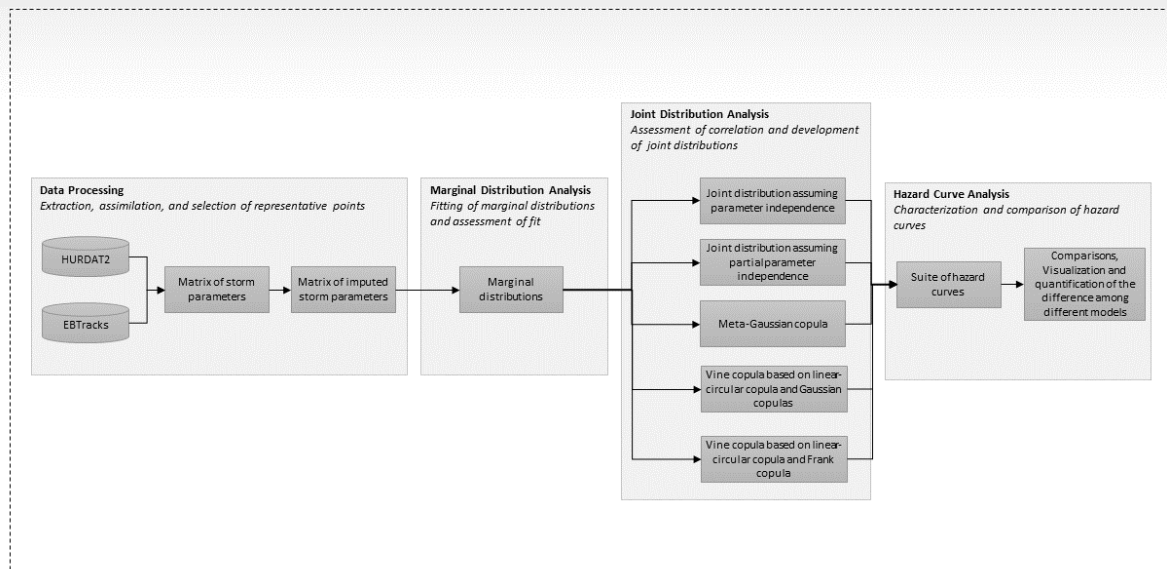
USACE implemented meta-Gaussian copula (MGC) in the latest PCHA framework.

PCHA results may be sensitive to the assumed joint distribution model.

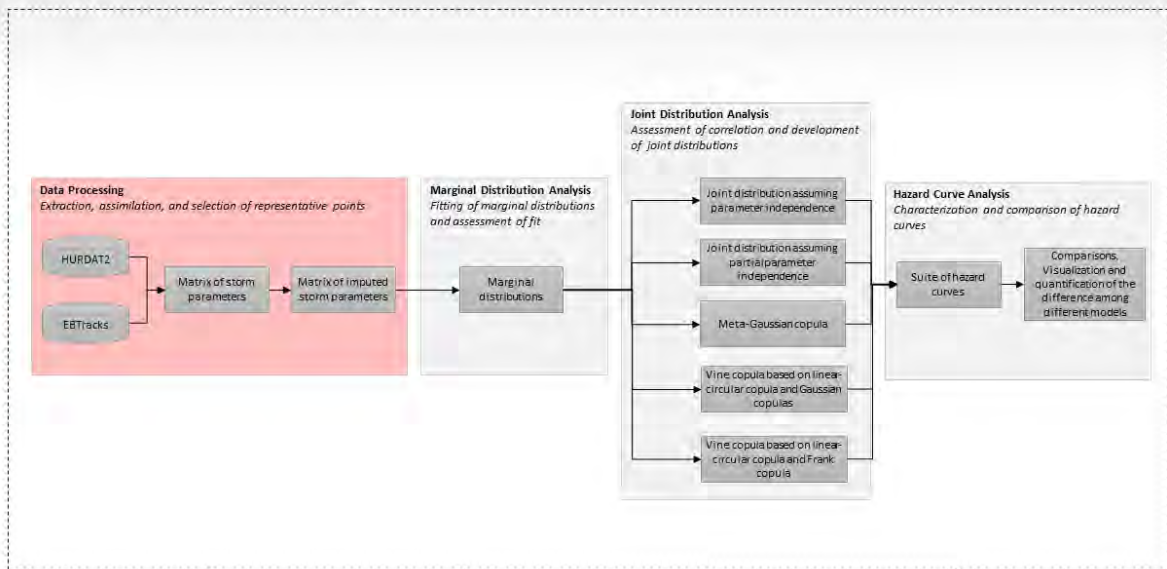
### Research Objective:

Investigate performance of different joint distribution models for TC parameters.

# Study Flow Chart

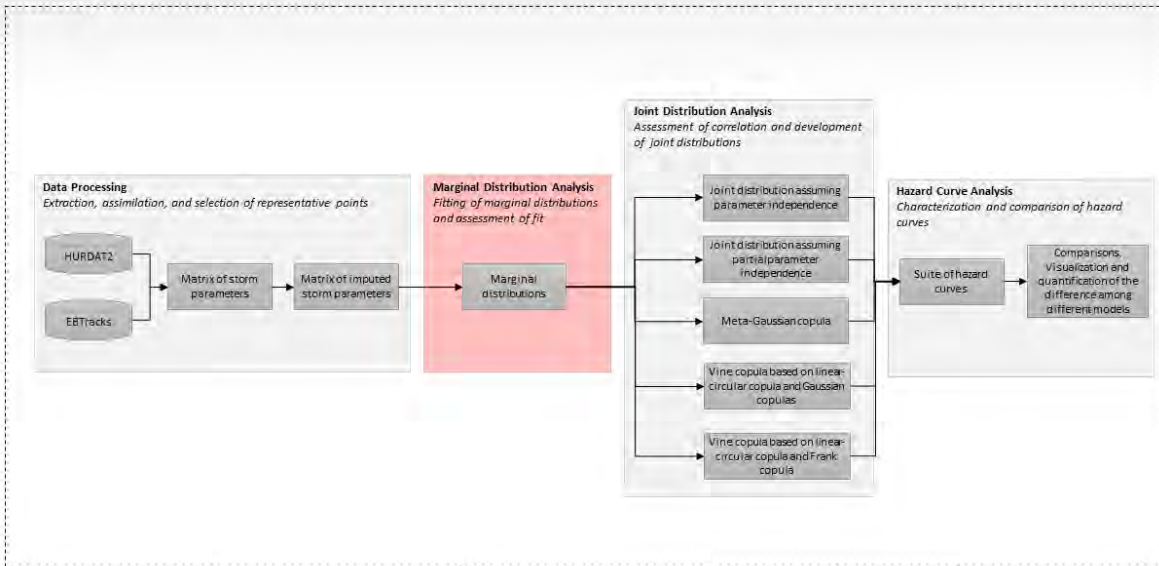


# Study Flow Chart

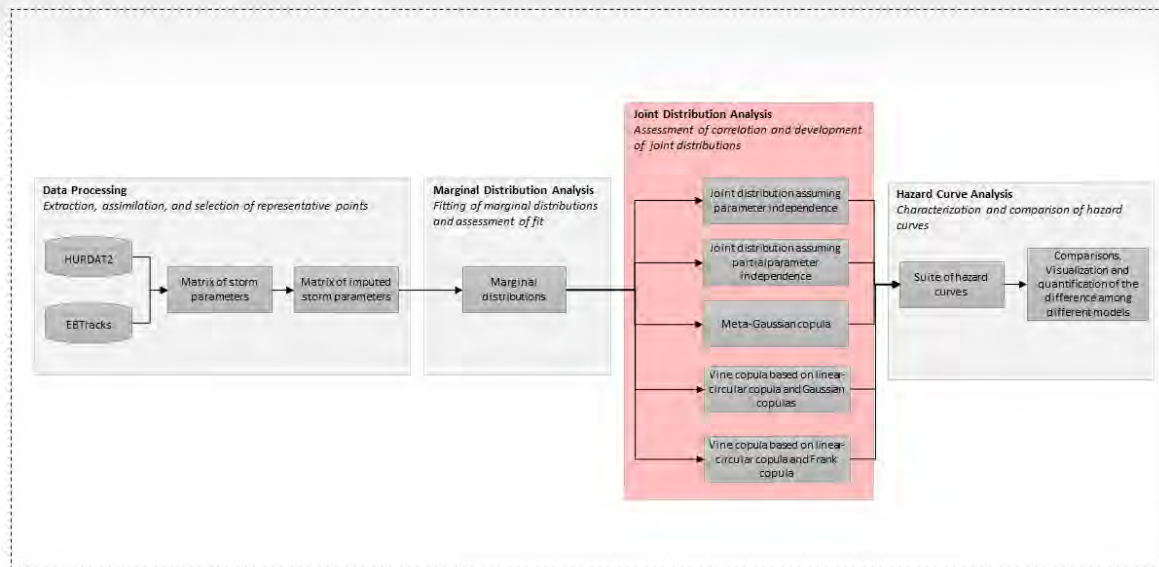




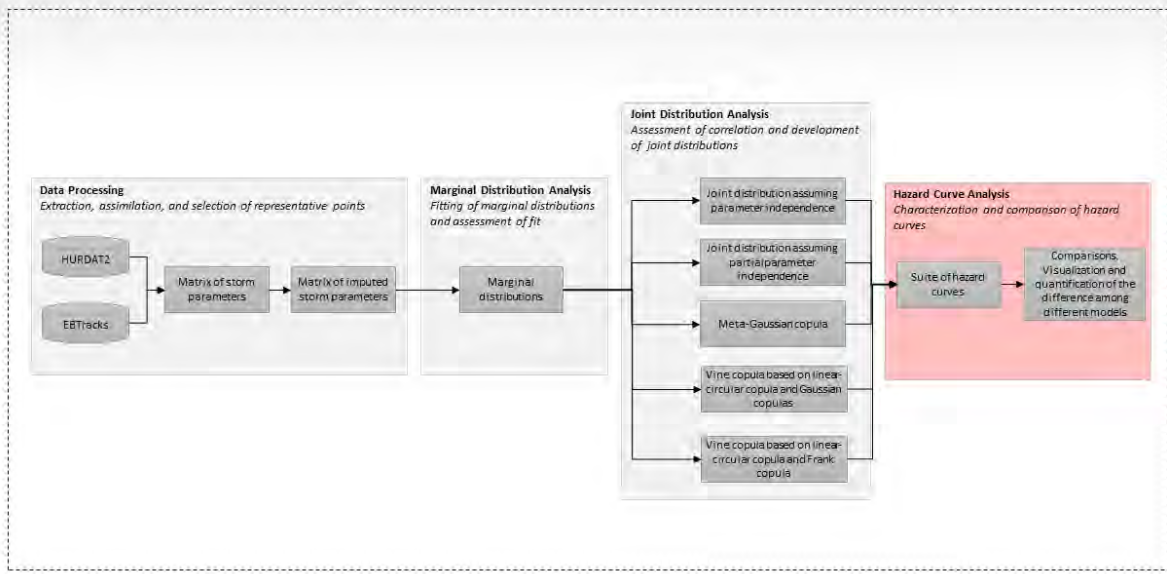
# Study Process



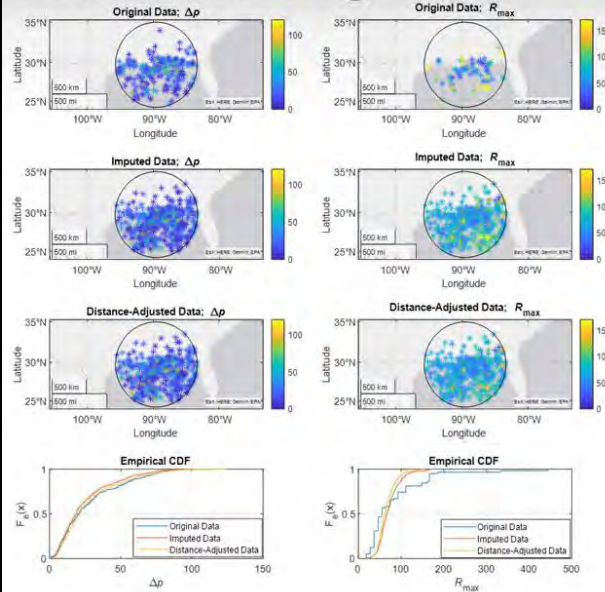
# Study Flow Chart



# Study Flow Chart



## Data Processing



### Historical Data Resource:

HURDAT2 and EBTRK.

### Data imputation:

Estimate missing  $p_c$  and  $R_{max}$  using GPR model.

### Optimal sampling location:

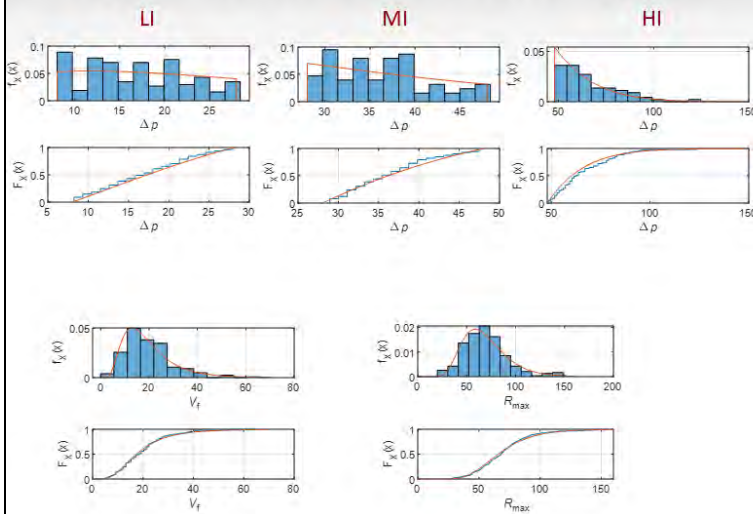
Select a coastal reference location (CRL) and extract optimal sampling locations.

### Distance-weight adjustment:

Adjust data based on its distance to reference location.

Preliminary Results

# Marginal Distribution Analysis



**Central pressure deficit ( $\Delta p$ ):**

Truncated Weibull distribution:

$$f(x) = \frac{b}{a} \left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^{b-1} \exp\left(-\left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^b\right) \quad x \geq 0$$

**Forward velocity ( $V_f$ ) and radius of maximum wind speed ( $R_{max}$ ):**

Lognormal distribution:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\ln x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \quad x > 0$$

# Marginal Distribution Analysis

**Marginal of heading direction ( $\theta$ ):**

Probability model based on Directional storm recurrence rate:

$$\lambda_\theta = \frac{1}{T} \sum_i^n w(d_i) w(\theta_i - \theta)$$

Use von Mises kernel function (VKF) to replace GKF

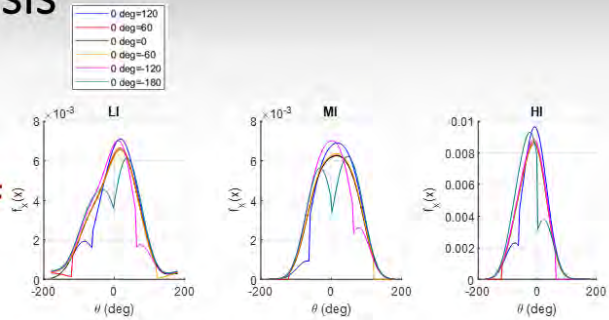
GKF:

$$w(\theta_i - \theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}h_\theta} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\theta_i - \theta}{h_\theta}\right)^2\right]$$

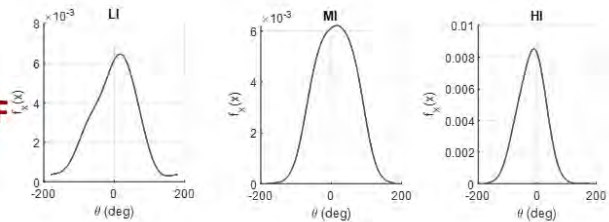
VKF:

$$w(\theta_i - \theta) = \frac{1}{2\pi I_0(\kappa)} \exp[\kappa \cos(\theta_i - \theta)]$$

**GKF**



**VKF**





## Joint Distribution Models

### Independence model:

$$f(\Delta p, V_f, R_{\max}, \theta) = f_{\Delta p}(\Delta p) * f_{V_f}(V_f) * f_{R_{\max}}(R_{\max}) * f_{\theta}(\theta)$$

### Partial dependence model:

$$f(\Delta p, V_f, R_{\max}, \theta) = f_{R_{\max}|\Delta p}(R_{\max}|\Delta p) * f_{\Delta p}(\Delta p) * f_{V_f}(V_f) * f_{\theta}(\theta)$$

## Joint Distribution Models

### Meta-Gaussian copula model:

Skalar's theorem:  $H(x_1, \dots, x_n) = C(F_1(x_1), \dots, F_n(x_n))$

Expression of Gaussian copula CDF:  $C_R^{Gauss}(u) = \Phi_R(\Phi^{-1}(u_1), \dots, \Phi^{-1}(u_n))$

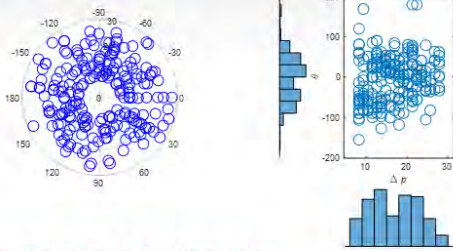
$$R = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \rho_{1,2} & \dots & \rho_{1,n} \\ \rho_{2,1} & 1 & \dots & \rho_{2,n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \rho_{n,1} & \rho_{n,2} & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Dependence measurement:  $\rho = \sin \frac{\tau\pi}{2}$

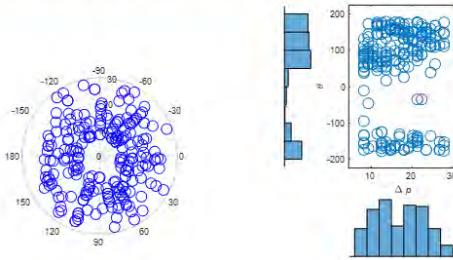
$$f(\Delta p, V_f, R_{\max}, \theta) = c(F(\Delta p), F(V_f), F(R_{\max}), F(\theta)) * f_{\Delta p}(\Delta p) * f_{V_f}(V_f) * f_{R_{\max}}(R_{\max}) * f_{\theta}(\theta)$$

## Dependence between Linear Variable and Circular Variable

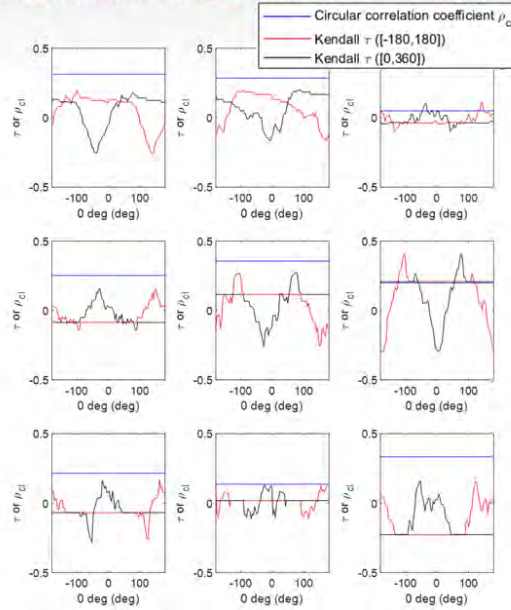
Use North as 0-deg direction:



Use Southwest as 0-deg direction:



Change in measured dependence with shift of 0-deg direction:



## Linear-circular Copula

A joint distribution of linear variable  $x$  and circular variable  $\theta$ ; provided by Johnson and Wehrly:

$$f(\theta, x) = 2\pi g(\xi) f_{\theta}(\theta) f_x(x)$$

$$\xi = \begin{cases} 2\pi(u - v), & u \geq v \\ 2\pi(u - v + 1), & u < v \end{cases}$$

$$u = F_{\theta}(\theta); v = F_x(x)$$

PDF of a mixture of two von Mises distribution

Apply Skalar's theorem:  $f(\theta, x) = c(F_{\theta}(\theta), F_x(x)) f_{\theta}(\theta) f_x(x)$

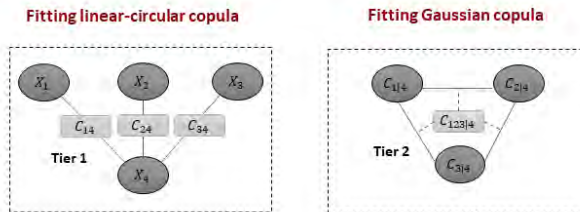
$$c(u, v) = 2\pi g(2\pi(u - v))$$

$$C(u, v) = \int_0^u \int_0^v 2\pi g(2\pi(u - v)) du dv$$

# Joint Distribution Models

## Linear-circular Gaussian vine copula (LCGV) model:

$$X_1 = \Delta p; X_2 = V_f; X_3 = R_{\max}; X_4 = \theta$$

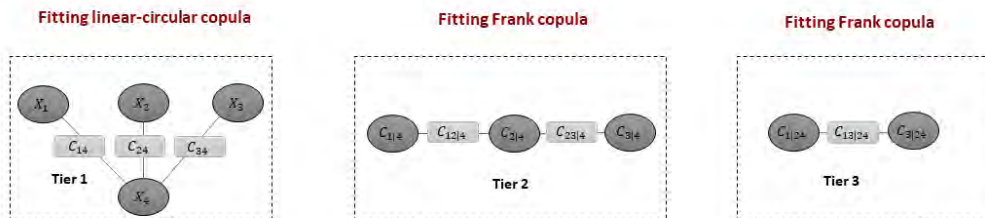


$$f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = c_{123|4} c_{14} c_{24} c_{34} f(x_1) f(x_2) f(x_3) f(x_4)$$

# Joint Distribution Models

## Linear-circular Frank vine copula (LCFV) model:

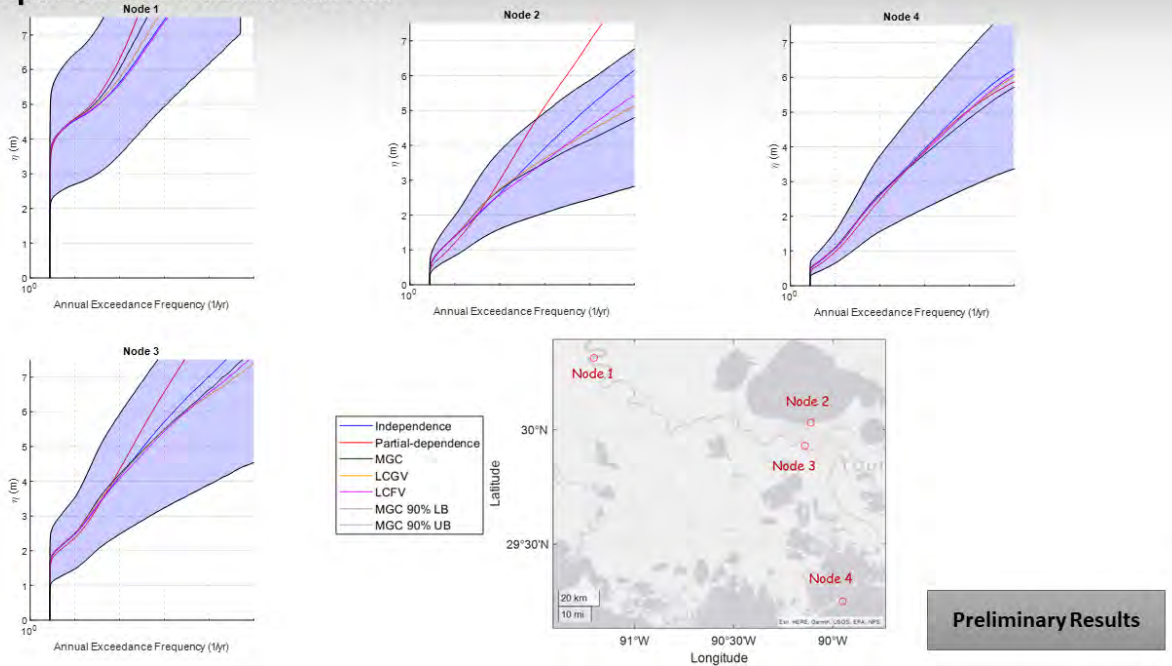
$$X_1 = \Delta p; X_2 = V_f; X_3 = R_{\max}; X_4 = \theta$$



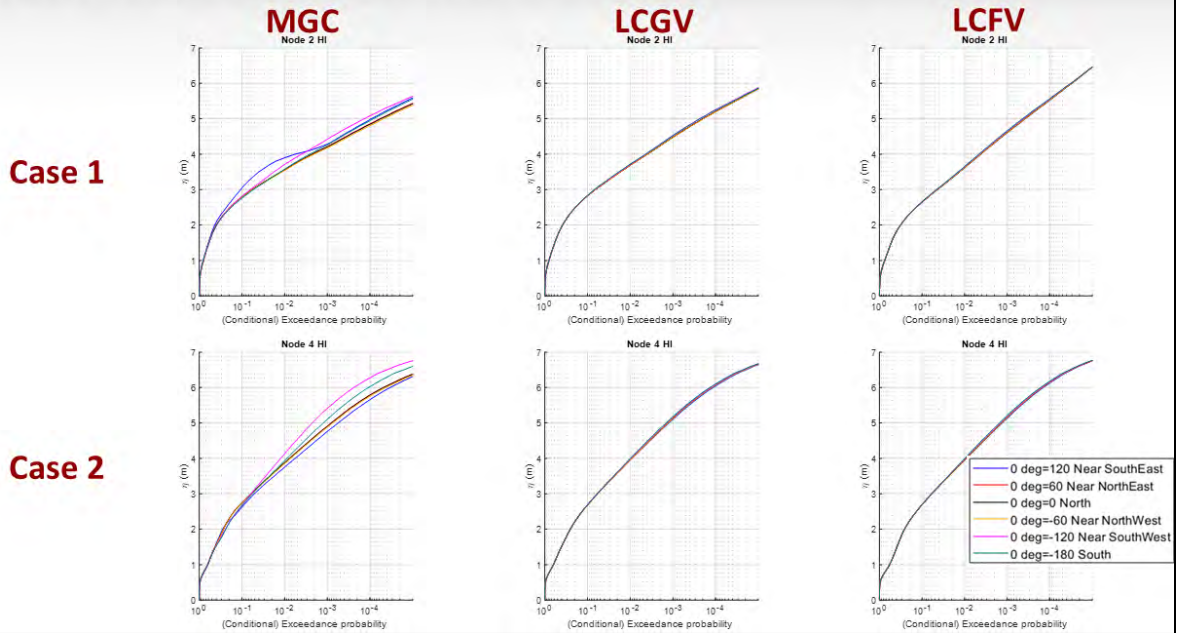
$$f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = c_{13|24} c_{12|4} c_{23|4} c_{14} c_{24} c_{34} f(x_1) f(x_2) f(x_3) f(x_4)$$



## Comparison of Hazard Curves

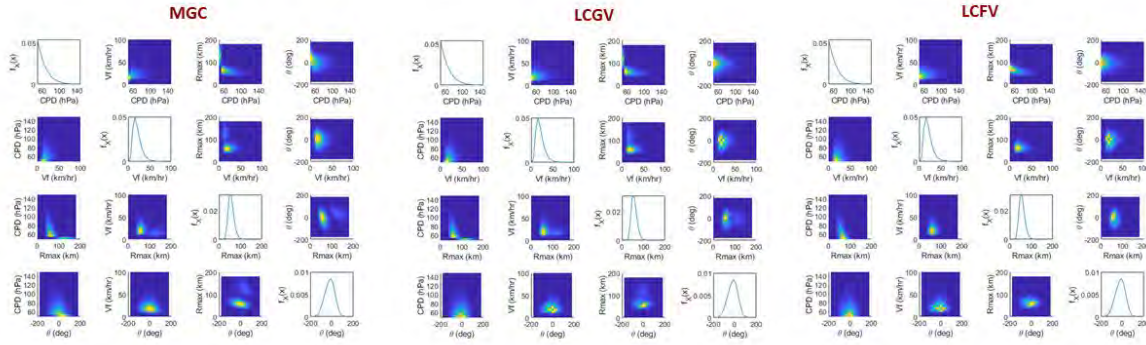


## Robustness of MGC Hazard Curve

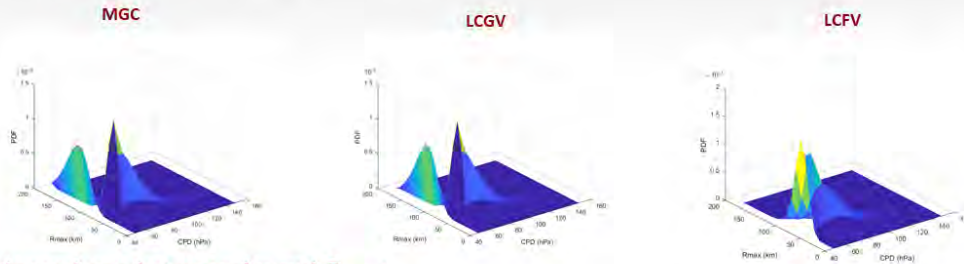


# Comparison of Full Dependence Models

Pair-wise joint pdf :



# Comparison of Tail Dependence



Upper tail dependence between  $\Delta p$  and  $R_{max}$ :

$$\lambda_U = P(R_{max} \geq R_{max}^+ | \Delta p \geq \Delta p^+)$$

	$\Delta p^+ = 132.21 \text{ hPa};$	$\Delta p^+ = 137.47 \text{ hPa};$	$\Delta p^+ = 142.74 \text{ hPa};$
	$R_{max}^+ = 151.58 \text{ km}$	$R_{max}^+ = 161.05 \text{ km}$	$R_{max}^+ = 170.53 \text{ km}$
MGC	$\hat{\lambda}_U = 6.4 \times 10^{-11}$	$\hat{\lambda}_U = 3.9 \times 10^{-12}$	$\hat{\lambda}_U = 2.1 \times 10^{-13}$
LCGV	$\hat{\lambda}_U = 9.8 \times 10^{-10}$	$\hat{\lambda}_U = 9.5 \times 10^{-11}$	$\hat{\lambda}_U = 8.4 \times 10^{-12}$
LCFV	$\hat{\lambda}_U = 1.4 \times 10^{-6}$	$\hat{\lambda}_U = 3.9 \times 10^{-7}$	$\hat{\lambda}_U = 9.5 \times 10^{-8}$

## Acknowledgement

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### 3.7.6 Coastal Panel Discussion (Session 3B-6)

Moderator: Joseph Kanney, NRC/RES/DRA/FXHAB  
**Margaret Owensby**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
**Somayeh Mohammadi**, University of Maryland  
**Victor Gonzalez**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
**Beom-Jin Kim**, Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute  
**Ziyue Liu**, University of Maryland

#### Question:

For different applications, one might choose different balance between the use of surrogate models versus the use of high-fidelity models. What's the optimum mixture or balance for the types of coastal hazard assessments that you're involved in?

#### Margaret Owensby:

It really just depends on what you're trying to accomplish with the particular study. The results from the South Atlantic Coastal Study were being used to develop flood maps for different regions and identify risk over a wide regional area. Your approach to that problem would be best assessed probably with high fidelity modeling. But if you're looking at some other problem, you're probably better off using surrogate models.

#### Question:

Somayeh, do you see any areas in your particular study where you could benefit from a high-fidelity model?

#### Somayeh Mohammadi:

I should mention that if we want to know where the best balance for use of surrogate and high fidelity models is, we have a limitation because in our case we also were trying to decrease the computational effort. However, there are not always data available that we can use for training a surrogate model. We just could use it for the surge model and For example, our target variable was total river discharge and there was some interactions that could be captured with physical models between precipitation-induced river and discharge and surge. For these types of things we didn't have much data. For surrogate model we need more than 1000 data points and we didn't find this type of data for the area under study. That was one limitation in balancing our work with more surrogate model. But yes, in our work we have made some simplified assumption and were some parts of our work that for sure can be improved by using a high-fidelity model. To capture interactions between precipitation induced discharge and tides and also surge induced discharge since the flow is going different direction, I believe that we can have a very more reliable result if we use more expensive and high-fidelity models.

#### Victor Gonzalez:

We use surrogate modeling in PCHA to make sure we cover probability space and finely discretize the parameter space of the synthetic storms. This of course allows us to incorporate in a more rigorous way the uncertainty when we generate the hazard curves for the uncertainty.

Even the probability mass comes from your storms without having to rely on other methods. I think another beneficial aspect of these surrogate models is on the downstream end of your analysis. Once you do a regional study and you need to do a study that is more location based. Then you would use the surrogate models to help you reduce the number of storms that you need to use. And there are many applications that you want to apply a response-based approach. For example, in computing the response on a per-storm basis, the surrogate modeling can help a great deal. I will end by saying that in the quantification of uncertainty in our study, where we were looking at the logic tree approach to estimating epistemic uncertainty, it would not have been possible to generate as many branches in the logic tree without the use of surrogate models.

**Beom-Jin Kim:**

High fidelity modeling should come first. Then based on the high fidelity models, I think it is important to create and analyze a simpler model, because high fidelity models can take a long time to simulate. I think simpler models are good in terms of time.

**Question:**

Has anyone thought about doing a meta study to mine the entire body of simulations that are in the Coastal Hazard System (CHS)? For example to investigate different approaches for modeling the error term or to evaluate different surrogate modeling approaches. Does anyone have any thoughts about that?

**Margaret Owensby:**

I haven't heard of any efforts to try to use all the data as a whole. I definitely think that's something that could be useful for people to do to use all the different data from the different studies that's available on the coastal hazard system.

**Victor Gonzalez:**

I think that would be a good idea. I would add that the CHS has been developed across time. It was started after hurricane Katrina. Then there was the Great Lakes Study, then the North Atlantic Study. Some of these studies have evolved over time and there are some differences in the different applications. Methods have evolved over time. One effort that is going on is redoing some of the old studies to have them all apply the same methods. Then that would lend itself well to a meta-analysis type of approach.

**Question:**

Somayeh, do you have any thoughts about applying some of the machine learning techniques you used in your work to the CHS?

**Somayeh Mohammadi:**

As much as I could in my work, I tried to use the CHS. But the critical parts of my work was simultaneous occurrence of different flood mechanism. Related to capturing those physical interaction, I couldn't take that much advantage. For or the surge model. I could.

**Question:**

From the presentations and discussions on might conclude that for the compound hazard assessment perhaps we need to do more work on the rainfall.

So, for anyone who's sort of been involved in that aspect, do you have any thoughts about avenues of research that we should be looking at to improve on the rainfall model and how we incorporate it into the compound a flood hazard assessment for coastal regions?

**Victor Gonzalez:**

I think a first step is applying these models over a regional extent. We are starting to look at this for example, in the Texas region. But with all the issues we've encountered with bias correction and the representativeness of the model, we should probably have a good grasp first of how it applies across the several regions representative of the of the US coastline. There is more research needed in this area.

**Question:**

Do you think this might be an area where we may want to go to a higher fidelity model? There are some high-fidelity numerical weather prediction models used for forecasting tropical storm rainfall. That would be one more really big, computationally intensive high-fidelity model. But do you think that might be a viable approach.

**Victor Gonzalez:**

It could be, but the synthetic storms might be an issue, the parameterized synthetic storms. So, yes, if there are better models out there that can be linked to the synthetic storms in a reasonable way, it probably would be worthwhile to pursue.

**Somayeh Mohammadi:**

Based on the experience that I had in my work, precipitation effects could be from two different aspects. One is estimation of precipitation itself and the other is how precipitation is converted to runoff. For the second part, we always need distributed models for converting precipitation to runoff because we need land characteristic such as different curve numbers. I think that it is really difficult to have surrogate model for this type of distributed models which can give us runoff for precipitation based on precipitation. But the other part which is estimation of precipitation itself. One of the challenges that I had in my work was with that. I also saw that there was a gap for more refined physical based modeling. Again in this part there are two problems. One is related to developing physical models which are showing the relationship between precipitation and different parameters and the other is availability of a training database. Because in probabilistic work we usually did need a big sample of data, a database related to parameters which are showing the physical relationship between its storm parameters and precipitation. Even the database I think is not easily available and having these data sources and more developed physical models that can show the relationship will be helpful.



### **3.8 Day 4: Session 4A – Duane Arnold Derecho Operational Experience**

Session Chair: Joseph Kanney, NRC/RES/DRA

#### **3.8.1 Presentation 4A-1: Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) Loss of Offsite Power (LOOP) Due to Derecho**

Authors: *Terry Brandt\*, Nextera Energy*

Speaker: *Terry Brandt*

##### **3.8.1.1 *Abstract***

This presentation will give you the initial conditions, timeline of events, and operator actions associated with the Duane Arnold Derecho Event.

##### **3.8.1.2 *Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A107)***

# Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) Loss of Offsite Power (LOOP) Due to Derecho

**Terry Brandt  
Fleet Online Director  
NEXTera ENERGY**

## DAEC Overview

### BWR/4 -

An early BWR/4, the "B" loop of RHR is half of RHR (B+D pumps)

Mark I Containment

HPCI (3,100 gpm) & RCIC (425 gpm)

Core Spray and RHR

Rated Thermal Power 1,912 MW(t)

Rated Net Electric Power ~615 MW(e)

368 Fuel Bundles in the Core

### SRVs setpoints:

1 SRV 1,110 psig                      2 SRVs 1,130 psig

1 SRV 1,120 psig                      2 SRVs 1,140 psig



Two safety valves (SVs) discharge directly to the DW airspace at the RPV pressure of 1,240 psig

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## DAEC Plant Status - Monday August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

1. DAEC was operating at ~80% power due to coasting down to end of cycle (EOC). This power was selected to limit the cycling of a turbine control valve (TCV4) that would have occurred around ~84% power
2. Diesel Driven Fire Pump (DFP) is inoperable due to maintenance
3. LPCI B train was inoperable due to testing prior to the event, it was not being tested during the event and was available for use if needed
4. Two control rods are fully inserted to suppress a fuel leaker
5. Dry cask storage campaign under way in the spent fuel pool; time to boil is 64 hours



### Initial conditions:

Power= 80.2% RTP  
Gross Electric power = 493.5 MWe  
RPV water level = +189.5"  
RPV pressure = 1,009.57 psig

SP Temperature = 83.7 °F  
DW Pressure = 0.5 psig  
SC Pressure = 0 psig  
DW Temperature = -123 °F

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## DAEC Plant Status - Monday August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- ◇ 11:38 A severe Thunderstorm watch is declared
- ◇ DAEC entered the Abnormal Operating Procedure (AOP) for Severe Weather and began performing their preparation actions
- ◇ 12:02 The Watch is upgraded to a Severe Thunderstorm Warning
- ◇ Shift Manager (SM) directed that fuel handling be placed in a safe condition and secured



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## August 10, 2020 Monday 12:30-12:35

- ◇ 12:30 Multiple alarms received due to grid issues
- ◇ 12:35 Grid perturbation occurs which causes the Emergency Diesel Generators (EDGs) to start but not tie on. The EDGs remain running
- ◇ Wind speeds > 100 mph with onsite peaks between 100 mph & 130 mph



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## August 10, 2020 Monday 12:35-12:49

12:49 Loss of offsite power due to sustained strong winds (> 100 mph) causes:

- Generator load reject, tripping the turbine and causing the Reactor to scram
- EDGs tie onto the safety buses A and B
- Recirculation pumps trip due to loss of power



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## August 10, 2020 Monday 12:49-12:51

- ◇ 12:49 All control rods fully insert
- ◇ RPV pressure rises quickly causing 2 SRVs to lift on low-low Set when pressure rose above 1,055 psig and initiation of an SRV on its setpoint (1,110 psig)
- ◇ 12:49 Ops enters EOP-1 on low level (+170" and lowering). RPV pressure 960 psig and steady. RPV Water level +135 and slowly lowering
- ◇ 12:50 Ops directed an initial level control band of 135" to 211"
- ◇ 12:51 RPV water level lowers to L2 (+119.5") due to loss of feedwater



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## August 10, 2020 Monday 13:00 – 24:00

- ◇ **Continued Cooldown**
- ◇ **Level maintained high to facilitate natural circulation, in accordance with plant procedures.**
- ◇ **Restored Systems to facilitate plant reliability:**
  - Reactor Water Cleanup System
  - Fuel Pool Cooling System
  - Well Water to keep pressure applied to the Fire System
  - General Service Water for equipment cooling
  - Set up DAEC Switchyard for emergent repairs

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## August 11, Tuesday

- ◇ 02:30 Ops established cold shutdown conditions using SDC
- ◇ 11:26 The 161kV Vinton line is restored to the switchyard restoring off-site power
- ◇ 12:15 Startup transformer is reenergized from off-site power
- ◇ 13:12 Safety Bus A is reenergized from off-site power
- ◇ 13:34 Safety Bus B is reenergized from off-site power
- ◇ 16:00 The NOUE is terminated
- ◇ Storm damage found on roof of the North FLEX building. FLEX function maintained by South FLEX Building equipment
- ◇ Forced draft Cooling towers severely damaged

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## August 17, 2020 Tuesday 12:49

- ◇ All six off-site power lines are restored



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## Interstate Transmission Company's (ITC) Off Site Heroes



Restoration of DAEC Off Site  
Power



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## DAEC - LOOP Insights

ESW Availability following the increase in dP of the strainer:

- The ESW strainer did not start “clogging” until the Torus Cooling was maximized later in the day with the operation of the HPCI System:
  - DAEC procedures required that maximizing of Torus Cooling with the operation of HPCI
  - This was also done to maintain the Torus under EOP-2 required temperatures
- The ESW system dPs remained low throughout the event
- The high strainer dP came into existence after shutdown cooling was placed in service

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### **3.8.2 Presentation 4A-2: The NRC's Regional Response to the Duane Arnold Derecho**

Authors: *John Hanna\**, *U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission*

Speaker: *John Hanna*

#### **3.8.2.1 Abstract**

This presentation, as part of the greater panel on the Duane Arnold derecho, will address Region 3's response to the event including the aspects of immediate event response by the inspection staff, the Management Directive 8.3 event assessment and other regional actions taken. Additionally, risk insights from this event will be shared.

#### **3.8.2.2 Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A106)**



## **The NRC's Regional Response to the Duane Arnold Derecho**

John David Hanna  
Senior Reactor Analyst  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region III Office  
Division of Reactor Projects

February 18, 2022



## **Overview of the Presentation**

- General Information
- Regional response to the event
  - Immediate event response
  - Management Directive 8.3 assessment
  - Other regional actions
- Risk insights from this event
- Comments/Questions



## General Information

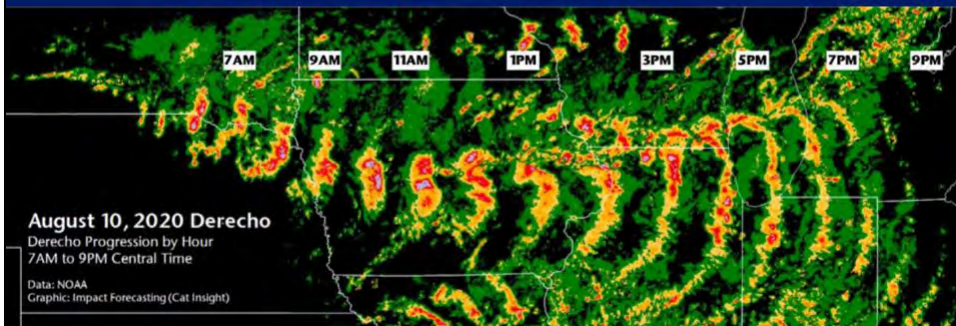
- My Background and Experience



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## Duane Arnold derecho

- 10 August 2020 storms/high winds hit large sections of Midwest US with little warning
- Widespread destruction including damage to the electrical grid occurred



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## DAEC Immediate Event Response

- Operators performed well
- NRC inspectors responded to the site
  - On-site within 1 hour
  - Rapid assessments of immediate actions, plant stability, SM, DID, etc.
- Rapid risk assessment was done to inform the inspectors event response, i.a.w., what should they review?
- Initial response to the site was supplemented with regional inspectors with EP and Ops expertise
- The storm had impacts on IE and MS and lesser effects on BI and EP



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## Duane Arnold (continued)



*Illustration by Dennis Cain*

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## DAEC Management Directive 8.3 Assessment

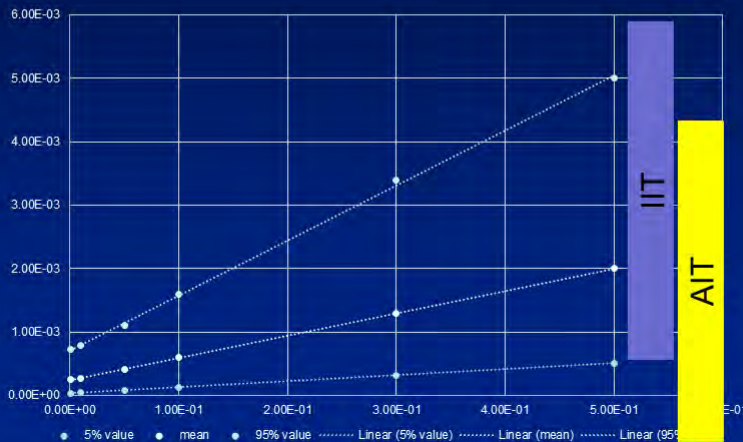
- RIII immediately realized the PRA risk from the event was very high.
- CCDP was approx. 2E-4 to 2E-3 range.
- MD 8.3 process was entered.
- RIII performed a focused baseline inspection under IP 71153 and supplemented the RIO with other inspectors (ML20314A150), but did not perform a Special Inspection.

Estimated CCDP				
CCDP < 1E-6	1E-6 → 1E-5	1E-5 → 1E-4	1E-4 → 1E-3	CCDP > 1E-3
No Additional Inspection				
	SI			
		AIT		
			IIT	

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## MD 8.3 Assessment - Continued

### ICCDP Results Given Various 'B' ESW Strainer Failure Probabilities



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## Regional Response – Miscellaneous Items

- Requested that the LIC-504 “Integrated Risk-Informed Decisionmaking Process for Emergent Issues” process be entered
- Risk analysis paper written looking at commonalities between several events involving external hazards, including DAEC
- Supported the ongoing revisions to the MD 8.3 and IMC-0309, “Reactive Inspection Decision Basis for Reactors”

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## Risk Insights – what are these events “telling us?”

- “Sunny day” events can happen with little warning but relatively high-risk impact
- Synergistic effects are non-trivial
- Operator actions may be required in order to respond to the event which will initially INCREASE the risk during the event
- Small changes in the weather could have had disproportionately large impacts on the event

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# Questions or Comments?

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# Backup Slides

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## References & Additional Material

- Paper “Characterizing Previously Unknown Dependencies in Probabilistic Risk Assessment Models of Nuclear Power Plants,” ML21103A355
- NRC Inspection Report - ML20314A150
- MD 8.3 assessment document ML21022A415
- Non-Concurrence document ML21022A418
- John Hanna – John.Hanna@nrc.gov

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## Back up slides – DAEC



Storm damage from the derecho – State of Iowa, 10 August 2020

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## Back up slides – DAEC

Pictures of damage to Duane Arnold Energy Center due to derecho – 10 August 2020



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## Back up slides – DAEC



## Back up Slides – DAEC Plant Automatic Response

- **Immediate Response**
- Generator Trip, Turbine Trip, Rx Scram
- Diesel output breakers immediately closed to safety related busses; no loss of RPS; no Group I Isolation
- 2 Safety Relief Valves lifted for approximately 10 sec
- Reactor Water Level decreased to Level 2, Lo-Lo Level
- HPCI and RCIC started
- Reactor water level restored to Level 8, High Level Trip
- HPCI and RCIC Tripped (as designed)
- **Two Minutes Later:**
- Plant parameters were stable
- 'A' and 'B' EDGs supplying power to their respective safety busses



## Back up Slides – how do these events compare to others?

**Risk Significance of DAEC Derecho compared to other High Profile US Events since 2000 (Conditional Core Damage Probabilities)**

2002 Davis Besse vessel head leakage:  
 $6 \times 10^{-3}$

2020 Duane Arnold Derecho:  
 $8 \times 10^{-4}$

SWGR Fires (2010 Robinson, 2011 Fort Calhoun):  
 $4 \times 10^{-4}$

Earthquake induced LOOP (2011, North Anna Unit 1):  
 $3 \times 10^{-4}$

Trans. & breaker failure induced LOOP (2012 Byron):  
 $1 \times 10^{-4}$

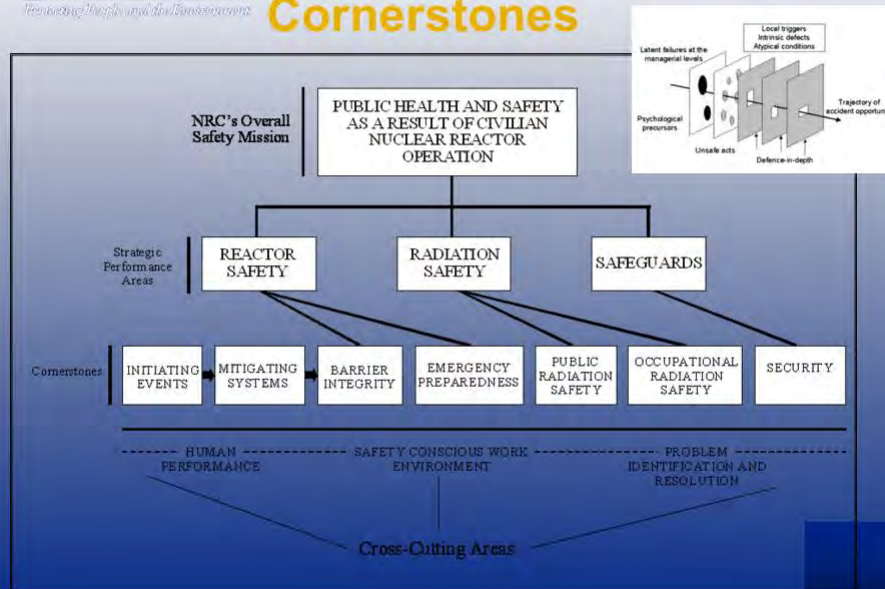


## Where is LOOP/SBO risk highest and/or where does FLEX make the most difference?

- Single unit sites
- Fewer EDGs +/- or no SBO EDG
- No cross-tie capability at multi-unit sites
- Absence of low leakage RCP seals
- Small DC batteries
- Higher LOOP likelihood
- Higher (LOOP/SBO or electrical) risk from internal events



## General Info- Reactor Safety Cornerstones





### **3.8.3 Presentation 4A-3: Why the Risk of the Extended Loss of Offsite Power Was Almost a Significant Precursor?**

Authors: *Christopher Hunter\**, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Speaker: *Christopher Hunter*

#### **3.8.3.1 Abstract**

On August 10, 2020, a severe storm with heavy rains and very strong straight-line winds (called a derecho) resulted in an extended loss of offsite power (LOOP) at Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC). The National Weather Service later estimated wind speed peaks were likely near 130 mph, which resulted in extensive damage to offsite power lines and a number of plant structures including the reactor, turbine, and FLEX buildings, and nonsafety-related cooling towers. In addition, the high winds led to an ingress of debris into the essential service water that challenged the system strainers and required operator intervention to maintain adequate cooling to one of the two emergency diesel generators. This presentation will cover the important assumptions, results, and key risk insights from the accident sequencer precursor (ASP) analysis. In addition, a comparison with other recent LOOP precursors due to severe weather will show why the event at DAEC had substantially higher risk than these other events.

#### **3.8.3.2 Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A105)**

# Why the Risk of the Extended Loss of Offsite Power Was Almost a Significant Precursor?

Chris Hunter

*Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Division of Risk Analysis  
Performance and Reliability Branch*

## Event Overview

- On August 10, 2020, a derecho moved through Iowa and other parts of the Midwest.
  - The most extreme winds were estimated to be near 110 mph, wind gusts of 80–100 mph were common.
- Duane Arnold experienced a grid perturbation that caused the emergency diesel generators (EDGs) to automatically start, but initially ran unloaded.
- Approximately 15 minutes later, the main generator tripped resulting in a loss of offsite power (LOOP) and subsequent reactor trip.
  - The two EDGs automatically loaded to their respective safety buses.
- The licensee declared a Notice of an Unusual Event.

## Additional Event Details

- Prior to the event, the licensee was loading fuel into a spent fuel canister.
- North FLEX building was damaged and equipment within was declared inoperable.
- The main steam isolation valves remained open, allowing operator to align main steam-line drains.
- Approximately 10 hours into the event, the essential service water (ESW) strainers started to get plugged due an ingress of debris.
- A small tear was discovered in the reactor building resulted in secondary containment being declared inoperable.

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## Accident Sequence Precursor (ASP) Evaluation

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## Initial ASP Information

- Initial ASP analysis started within a few days of the event and showed that the event was potentially a significant precursor.
- Focused on early sequence results to determine which modeling/event assumptions that needed to be evaluated further.
  - FLEX modeling
  - Stuck-open SRV scenario modeling
  - ESW strainer challenge
- Provided some initial high-level information during ASP presentation to international precursor community.

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## SPAR Model Changes

- MELCOR calculations were performed to determine timing information for postulated stuck-open SRV scenarios.
  - Based on these calculations and discussions with the licensee revealed that operators would have enough time to connect and initiate either firewater or FLEX reactor makeup.
- Credit for FLEX mitigation strategies was applied.
  - Modified FLEX hardware reliability data based on initial data evaluation (3× multiplier was used).
- Modified ESW Strainer common-cause failure (CCF) parameters to use environmental causal alpha factors.
  - Added operator action to bypass clogged strainers to SPAR model, which largely mitigates significant CCF potential.
- Additional Changes
  - Eliminated some assumptions deemed needlessly conservative (72-hour AC power recovery requirement).
  - Removed EDG repair for scenarios where ELAP is declared due to potential for load shed activity precluding recovery.

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## Preliminary ASP Analysis

- The preliminary ASP analysis resulted in a mean conditional core damage probability (CCDP) of  $1 \times 10^{-3}$ .
  - Risk dominated by station blackout (SBO) scenarios.
  - Offsite power recovery credit not provided within 24 hours.
- Identified several key uncertainties.
  - Performed sensitivities to evaluate the impact of these uncertainties.
- Sent the preliminary ASP analysis to the licensee for a 60-day review per [Regulatory Issue Summary 2006-24](#).

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## Industry Comments

- NextEra provided comments on the preliminary ASP analysis on February 9, 2021 (ADAMS Accession No. [ML21042A079](#)).
  - In addition, the Pressurized-Water Reactor Owners Group provided comments.
- Offsite power was available to be restored to the safety buses approximately 22.6 hours after the event started.
  - This change resulted in mean CCDP decreasing to  $8 \times 10^{-4}$ .
- The PWROG showed that the rate for EDG failures to run (FTR) could be reduced from  $1.4 \times 10^{-3}$  per hour to  $8.4 \times 10^{-4}$  per hour.
  - Idaho National Laboratory performed an updated calculation that was only slightly smaller than current estimate and, therefore, no changes were made.
- A significant conservatism is that FTR events are assumed to occur at the start of the event.
  - The treatment of FTR events in the SPAR models is consistent with the current state-of-practice.

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# ASP Comparison

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## Brunswick LOOP during Hurricane Isaias

- Storm-generated debris resulted in a LOOP to Unit 1 in August 2020.
  - The LOOP lasted approximately 14 hours.
- Electrical Design Elements
  - Each unit has two EDGs and share an SBO EDG that can be cross-tied to the other unit.
- The mean CCDP was  $2 \times 10^{-5}$ .
  - LOOP transient scenarios dominated risk; SBO risk was minimal.
  - FLEX credit provided minimal risk reduction.

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## Pilgrim LOOP during Winter Storm Juno

- LOOP caused by flashover of the switchyard insulators as a result of snowpack and salt spray in January 2015.
  - Offsite power was restored in ~60 hours.
- Electrical Design Elements
  - Unit has two EDGs and an SBO diesel.
  - A separate 23kV offsite power source remained available.
- The mean CCDP was  $4 \times 10^{-5}$ .
  - Risk equally distributed between transient LOOP sequences and postulated SBO scenarios.
  - FLEX mitigation strategies not credited.

### **3.8.4 Presentation 4A-4: The NRC's Response to the Duane Arnold Derecho Event using the LIC-504 Process**

Authors: *Matthew Leech\**, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Speaker: *Matthew Leech*

#### **3.8.4.1 Abstract**

When the NRC saw that the risk of the Duane Arnold derecho event was high, the decision was made to perform a LIC-504 analysis to determine if a safety issue risk existed to other power plants in the fleet. The LIC-504 is a risk informed process that the NRC uses to disposition emergent safety issues. This presentation will discuss how the NRC evaluated the risk to a number of other power plants if they experienced a similar event, it will discuss the key insights, and recommendations from the LIC-504.

#### **3.8.4.2 Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A104)**



## Duane Arnold Derecho

### PFHA Research Workshop - 2022

Matthew Leech  
Reliability and Risk Analyst  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Division of Risk Assessment



## Overview



- ✓ Re-cap of the event and its risk significance
- ✓ Description of the LIC-504
- ✓ Risk Insights and Sharing the Operating Experience (OE)



## Re-cap of the Event



- A Loss of Offsite Power Occurred – and was not restored for 23 hours
- The plant scrambled offline and shutdown safely, power was provided by their EDGs until offsite power was restored
- Cooling towers were destroyed (non-safety)
- Transmission towers knocked down and damage occurred to a standby transformer in the switchyard – complicated offsite power recovery
- One FLEX building was damaged, but equipment inside remained functional.
- Secondary containment was damaged.
- Hours later ESW was challenged by debris clogging the strainers, one train of ESW and it's EDG was declared INOP but still functional

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## Risk Significance of DAEC event – Why was the risk so high?

Single unit site without the ability to cross tie power from another unit

No Station Blackout diesel

It took about 24 hours to restore offsite power

Ultimate Heat Sink and Service Water Intake were vulnerable to debris generated by derecho

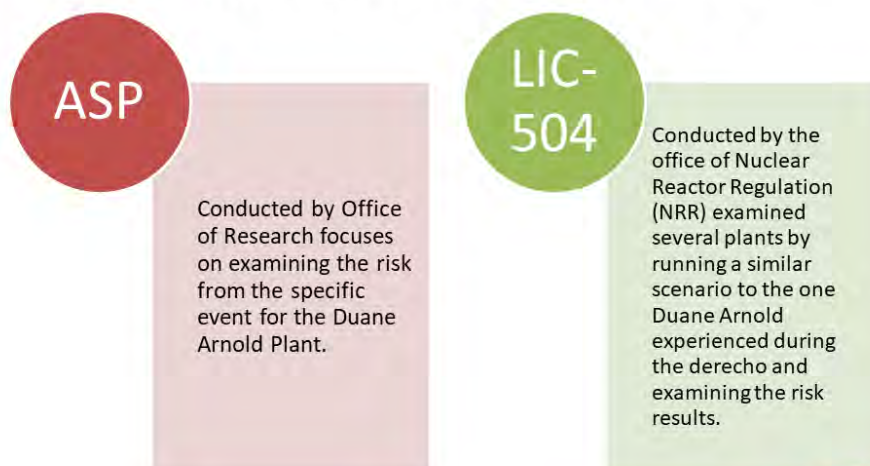
Another insight was that the risk was significantly improved due to FLEX.

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## LIC-504

- The NRC's LIC-504 process is a risk-informed decisionmaking process that the NRC uses for emerging issues.
- One of the recommendations from regional feedback of the DAEC event was that the NRC should evaluate the event for any generic implications to the nuclear fleet.
  - Is there a population of plants that could have unacceptable risk?
  - Are there risk insights that would be useful to share?
- The NRC decided to perform a LIC-504 in October of 2020.

## The LIC-504 Analysis vs the ASP





## LIC-504 in Two Main Steps

- The first step of the LIC-504 analysis is to determine if the risk from the issue warrants any immediate action:
  - Do any plants need to be shutdown immediately?
  - Are there any immediate compensatory actions or orders that need to be issued?
- The second step involves a more detailed analysis to assess the risk and develop recommendations.
- It's also used to formally document how the NRC arrives at a decision.

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## Getting Started with the LIC-504

- To get started the NRC took a population of plants that had the same generic traits as DAEC.
  - Single unit sites
  - No station blackout diesels
  - Potentially vulnerable ultimate heat sinks\*
- Plants were chosen to gain a representative look at the overall fleet vulnerability to a similar derecho using the characteristics identified as being risk significant from the event at DAEC.
- First step concluded that there was no immediate safety issue.

8





## Second Step of the LIC-504

- Eight different plants were chosen for the analysis.
- They were a representative population of plants: PWR Westinghouse, PWR Combustion Engineering, BWR4 plants, and a BWR6.
- They were evaluated for the same conditions present during the DAEC derecho:
  - A weather-related loss of offsite power that was not recoverable for 24 hours
  - Challenge to the ESW system

9



## Second Step of the LIC-504 (Cont.)

- The second analysis differs from the first in that it was a more detailed analysis and designed to increase accuracy and reduce conservatism.
  - Provided credit for FLEX actions and equipment
  - More scrutiny and detail looked at each plants service water modeling
  - Lessons learned from the DAEC ASP analysis was applied to this phase of the analysis.

10

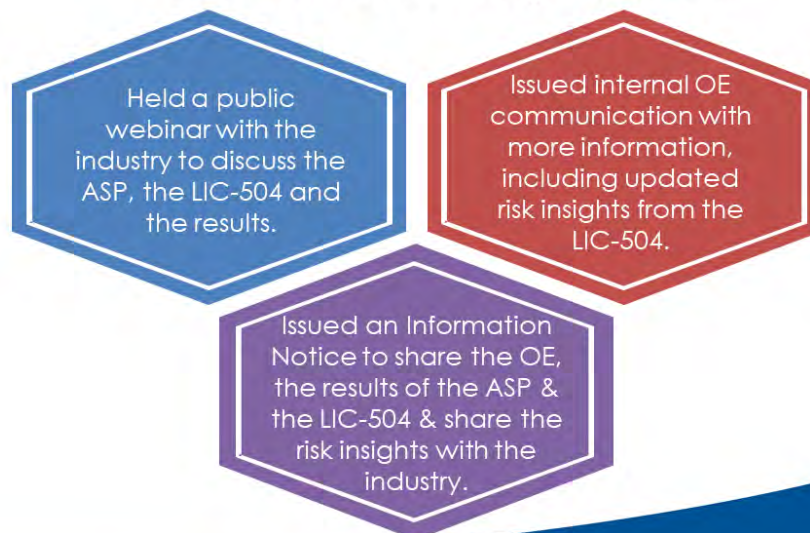


## LIC-504 Risk Insights

- When the risk analysis for the LIC-504 was completed some common plant design attributes were found to have an impact on plant risk.
  - Plants with extra diesel generators not dependent on service water cooling had significant benefit
  - Plants that had the ability to bypass a degraded strainer had improved risk
  - Some plants have alternate cooling strategies to their diesel generators in case ESW isn't available (like fire protection water for instance) and that helps risk
  - Plants that have ESW traveling screens on an emergency power source that will still be available during a loss of offsite power have improved risk
  - FLEX equipment and strategies, demonstrated a significant safety benefit from this type of event

11

## LIC-504 Follow Up Actions



12

## References and Contact Info

- Duane Arnold Derecho ASP Analysis: [ML21056A382](#)
- The Duane Arnold Energy Center LIC-504 recommendations: [ML21078A127](#)
- Information Notice 2021-03: [ML21139A091](#)

Matthew Leech – Risk Analyst

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### 3.8.5 Duane Arnold OpE Panel Discussion (Session 4A-5)

Moderator: Joseph Kanney, NRC/RES/DRA/FXHAB

**Terry Brandt**, *Nextera Energy*

**John Hanna**, *NRC/Region 3*

**Christopher Hunter**, *NRC/RES*

**Matthew Leech**, *NRC/NRR*

#### **Question:**

Chris, snowpack and salt spray were mentioned for the Pilgrim event. Was there a distinction between what the two weather-related events contributed to the analysis? Seems like for a near-shoreline event that the presence of accumulated salt spray would dominate.

#### **Christopher Hunter:**

To be quite frank, I don't know. If you follow Pilgrim, they've had a lot of these ice storms and a lot of these kind of issues where they've gotten these winter storms. They had one just a couple years previously for Winter Storm Nemo. So they had this continual experience. If you look at the history of Pilgrim they have had the most losses of off-site power, I think, of any any plant in the fleet and the majority of them were due to that their switch yard wasn't necessarily fully protected from ice and salt spray. But I can't tell you whether the salt spray or ice events were the worst.

#### **Question:**

Chris, were any reactive inspections done for the ASP analysis shown or for the Waterford hurricane event?

#### **Christopher Hunter:**

For Brunswick an MD 8.3 [incident investigation] was done, but there were no deterministic questions answered as 'yes', and so they determined not to perform a special investigation (SIT) because none of the questions were answered 'yes'. Even though they weren't required, they did a risk evaluation that came up with a  $2 \times 10^{-5}$  [CDF], which is basically the same answer that I got because, as I mentioned, the loop transient risk is dominant. At Pilgrim they did an MD 8.3 but they did do an SIT. They they did answer some of the deterministic questions 'yes'. I think it had to do with the repeated switchyard issues, the fact that they they kept on getting these winter ice storm loops. But they also had some additional complications with some of the equipment so they answered yes and so they did do an SIT. With the Waterford event that just occurred, I'm currently working on the ASP analysis now. They did not do an MD 8.3 so there was no SIT performed for that.

#### **Question:**

Specific to Duane Arnold, what is the approximate size of debris that can pass through the river water system to the stilling basin? What is the approximate size of the openings for the ESW suction strainers? Was there any indication of suction issues for other pumps that take suction from that stilling basin?

**Christopher Hunter:**

At Duane Arnold during the event they had this late inrush of debris. Initially the traveling screens, that are powered by safety-related power, were not running because they didn't need to. Then they transitioned from not running to slow speed to fast speed. So what happened during the event was debris comes in, and then the traveling screens start to pick up, but already debris is either getting overtopped or bypassed. Eventually the traveling screens were in fast speed and caught up and was preventing debris from coming down and loading the strainers. You can kind of see that from the differential pressures on the strainers. Train B reached its differential pressure limit of 15 PSID. But the train A strainer peaked at 11 PSID and stopped there. So to me that kind of indicates that it seemed like the traveling screens finally, were going at a fast enough speed to handle the debris. But another issue is the fact of bypassing. I don't know the size of the strainers, but there could be potential issues of bypassing the strainers. You're sending dirty water downstream that could plug heat exchangers or could cause equipment issues. We didn't see any of that during the event, and I think it's kind of an open question on whether that was because the traveling screens caught up and it was no longer sending dirty water down there, and so the amount of debris being bypassed was kind of minimized because the traveling screens are caught up? Or was that just because the debris was small enough to where it wasn't really causing any issues with running the train B diesel generator? So it's an interesting question that we don't really know the answer, but obviously potentially a more severe event could have led to issues. You know, just bypassing the diesel generator is not necessarily a cure all and it could have caused some problems. But it didn't for Duane Arnold. I don't know if Terry and John or Matt want to jump in on that.

**Terry Brandt:**

The river water supply system allowed for larger debris to be filtered through. It was not uncommon to see sand pumped by the river water supply pumps into the stilling basin and we had a preventive maintenance that would clean out sand from the bottom of the stilling basin and the openings of the individual heat exchangers in the individual components and the ESW system. I think the opening of the systems were commiserate with the strainer design as to what would be strained out. We did have a procedure that allowed us to monitor the differential pressure and we had instrumentation that's permanently installed, so we monitored that throughout the event. But I can't give you a design specs of each one of those. I'd have to go back and do some research to find those numbers.

**Matthew Leech:**

I'd also point out that what I learned during the LIC 504 analysis is all plants are different. They all have slightly different designs for their strainers, traveling screens, and even in terms of the openings, how big the traveling screens and their screens are. And in the design of the strainers, some are self backwashing, some are basket type strainers. All plants have slightly different types of straining systems.

**John Hanna:**

Terry, several hours into the event, things maybe have stabilized a little bit, but before 24 hours or when offsite power was restored, I think we had asked the station about whether there was an intent to pre stage any FLEX equipment. Given that, in our opinion, we thought the threat had really passed, the derecho had gone by and we were thinking maybe pre staging FLEX

equipment would be advantageous. Specifically, the phase two equipment because if you had a diesel failure or other equipment issues then it's less time to get that equipment and activate it and use it. But we heard back that there was not a desire or there was no plan to do that. Can you talk about the rationale, the mindset behind the decision not to go that path? To give a little bit of context, especially for those that are not in the industry, when the Fukushima orders came out and we required every licensee to be able to mitigate a Fukushima-type event and institute equipment and procedures, we did hear from the industry that there was a lot of desire to credit that equipment for a non-beyond-design-basis event. Whether it be for flexibility and refueling or maybe flexibility with taking other equipment out of service, that there was a general desire to credit that equipment for non-beyond-design-basis events. So we thought this was an event that FLEX equipment might have been used or credited or pre staged. But for whatever reason Duane Arnold didn't go down that path. Terry, could you speak to the mindset in the decision making there?

**Terry Brandt:**

We actually had a significant amount of discussions early on in the event with regard to the pre staging of FLEX equipment. If you go back to the initial conditions, we did have a diesel fire pump that was out of service in order to perform some preventive maintenance and we had some testing in progress. A couple of the small, and I would say minor, equipment issues that happened required operator response too. The Duane Arnold staffing at the time allowed for outside of the control room three equipment operators and we maintain a fire brigade with the maintenance organization also. So the FLEX assumptions assume that we have just those people on site. Now we weren't in FLEX assumption. It wasn't 2:00 o'clock in the morning on a Saturday night. It was a normal day shift, so we did have people on site. But the discussions that we had, were, you know, given the fact that we had both CSTs available, that they were undamaged as a suction source with both of our steam driven turbines being operational and in operation, maintaining level and maintaining the core covered very well. Our level was up above 214 inches to facilitate our natural circulation. We felt the need to get our operators out in the field and recover the plant. That would allow us to continue to use plant equipment first and then we could further evaluate the FLEX equipment afterwards. So the discussion initially was regarding maintaining the equipment or getting the equipment back to what we need. And then we go back further. So that was the background of why that decision was made in order to get some of the plant equipment back into a standby readiness state before we further evaluated that.

**Question:**

If Duane Arnold had not shut down, which of the model modifications that you made might have been rolled into the SPAR model? Or were all the changes you were making just really specific to the particular questions you were trying to get at in the ASP analysis?

**Christopher Hunter:**

Whenever we're doing this type of analysis there's going to be certain changes made just to support the analysis. There's other changes because we notice issues with the models. So for example, if Duane Arnold would have continued operating, one item that should have went in the model was the ability to initiate fire water in time to support a stuck open relief valve in SBO. That's the diesel driven fire water pump that Terry was mentioning. Although it was initially inoperable due to maintenance, they could have restored that in pretty short order. Because if you just open up the SPAR model from scratch, and you run a long duration loop, that was what



was dominating. So that would be an item that should be accounted for and changed in the permanent model record. Now, some of the other things such as FLEX, we're kind of in a kind of a grey area with FLEX. We still have all the FLEX models turned off, so I don't know if the FLEX modeling would stay in there, but some of that stuff would make sense. Because, whenever you're opening it, and reviewing the FLEX, the final integrated plan, and it would make sense that you would, even if the FLEX credit is turned off, that some of those changes, would be made, so you're not losing that effort. So, next time someone comes in and uses the model, they don't have to make those changes and we're maybe more consistent across our analysis.

**Matthew Leech:**

During the the LIC-504 analysis when I was working with a group of plants, I did discover some modeling issues that you'll discover when you go in depth into an analysis. Some of them might be very specific just to that one analysis you're doing. But some of the things I found did require changing in the base model of record, not necessarily for derecho. But I found some errors in how service water was modeled or something that could be better modeled in the models. I did feed that back to our vendor, Idaho National Labs, which maintains the model, and I know that upgrades or updates were made to those based on some of those things that we found. So throughout the process we did update some models of record.

**Question:**

Terry, you mentioned a very early in your talk about monitoring the weather forecast and the watches and the warnings. Where are you getting your weather alerts and watches from? Are you getting specialized forecasts from an entity geared toward your industry? Or relying on forecasts available to the general public?

**Terry Brandt:**

We did not have any specific program that would allow us to monitor the weather. So I subscribe to National Weather Service warnings on my cell phone and we had designed our communication such that a cell phone on airplane mode with Wi-Fi was allowed to be used inside of our control room. So I got the weather warnings on my cell phone. That's just being a good steward. What behavior that we would see on site is if a warning or a watch would be issued we'd typically get about two dozen phone calls in the control room to ask us whether or not we were taking actions out of our abnormal operating procedure. So the monitoring from a local weather station, National Weather Service in our case, out of the Quad Cities is what we use to determine the watches and warnings.

**Moderator:**

A derecho is an example of meso scale convective system where you have large scale organization, more than just a single isolated thunderstorm. You have many thunderstorms that line up together in a large system. There is a convective outlook, produced by the Weather Service Storm Prediction Center. I think they go as far out as maybe four days in advance. These don't have the same level of definitiveness in terms of a warning. It's a long range view of weather systems of interest that may be coming up. The convective outlook would be something that would be useful to have somebody subscribing to so you would have some advance warning that the conditions are ripe for things like, large thunderstorms, tornadoes, derecho's and things of that nature.

**Terry Brandt:**

Thinking back to it, we did carry the emergency response pagers. Those were subscribed, so we would typically get a page. Whether or not it was timely, I can't remember, but we would get a page on the pagers if we had a watch or warning also. We had a couple different methods to be able to get informed of this. In this case, if I remember right, the two-day outlook was fairly clear with not a lot of chance of storms. So this was, to John's point earlier, that this was very fast moving and with very little warning of a storm.

**John Hanna:**

Terry, following the Robinson event and I'm not sure if you're familiar with that one. It was a major fire, a very risk-significant event. There was an augmented inspection team (AIT) . During the restoration of power to get off the diesels and restoring normal lineup, they actually caused a second event, a high energy arc fault, to occur. Following that event, can you speak to what's changed in terms of offsite power restoration, the care and precautions you take before re-energizing buses? If you're not aware of what the industry overall is doing, maybe what changes Duane Arnold might have made.

**Terry Brandt:**

I can tell you that during our restoration we reviewed, did a pre job brief and took a very slow and very cautious approach to the restoration, because we knew that we were very stable where we were at with both diesels operating. We took a very cautious approach, used our normal procedures in order to restore power, and actually followed the recommendation of the transmission company, in this case ITC (International Transmission Company), to warm up the transformers and have breakers closed and wait a period of time. In our case we waited 15 minutes just to make sure that everything was going right. We were very stable at that point. The other point that they [ITC] wanted to make with us, and on which we had very close conversations, is we just had a very significant event. They had just rebuilt some of our lines and they wanted to make sure that they weren't going to introduce anything to the lines by closing the breakers too. So, the Robinson event was not in the forefront of my mind. What was in the forefront of my mind was what we had built into the program from the Robinson event: (1) make sure you understand what you are doing; and (2) make sure you know where your fault is so that you don't reintroduce a fault by re-energizing the exact bus that you had a fault with.

**Question:** What's the timeline for ASP analysis and the LIC-504 process? How long after the event were these two processes completed?

**Christopher Hunter:**

For ASP, the normal process is to start when we get the Licensee Event Report (LER) and complete the analysis in about two months after receiving the LER. For Duane Arnold we started pretty early. We were waiting on the LER before we sent the preliminary analysis out. We completed the final analysis a little over 5 months from the event date.

**Matthew Leech:**

LIC-504 started a couple months after the event. We didn't act immediately. The recommendation to do the LIC-504 came in, management looked at it and discussed it and said

yes, let's go ahead and do it. There is one time metric for the first step of the LIC-504, where we have to decide whether or not we need to take immediate action or prompt action as it's worded. Do we need to shut the plant down? Do we need to issue some other type of order that would improve safety? There's a time frame for that, usually we want to get that done within 30 days. We did meet that goal for Duane Arnold. Once that was finished and there was a little bit less urgency, it took us about three more months before the LIC 504 was in a finished status. That's due to the fact that we were not looking at one plant. We were studying about 8 different plants and running that analysis. It took a little bit longer. But I will say there was one thing that the NRC did do in the interim before the ASP and LIC-504 was finished. As we had some information from a risk standpoint from Region III when this event occurred, we did issue some internal operating experience so that our inspectors would know initially what happened and some risk type information to focus on.



### **3.9 Day 4: Session 4B – ASCE-7 Tornado Wind Loads**

Session Chair: Elena Yegorova, NRC/RES/DRA

#### **3.9.1 Presentation 4B-1: Introduction to Tornado Loads in the New ASCE 7-22 Standard - Including Long Return Period Tornado Hazards Maps with Applications to Nuclear Facilities**

Authors: *Marc Levitan\**, National Institute of Standards and Technology

Speaker: *Marc Levitan*

##### **3.9.1.1 Abstract**

The American Society of Civil Engineers ASCE 7 Standard on Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures is the national standard referenced in model building codes for determination of dead loads, live loads, and loads caused by environmental hazards such as earthquakes, floods and windstorms. This standard has not included loads caused by tornadoes – until now. The 2022 edition of ASCE 7 has a new chapter with requirements for consideration of tornado loads in the design of certain buildings and other structures. The tornado hazard maps and load methodology in ASCE 7 are the result of a decade of research and development led by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Key to the tornado load provisions is a new generation of tornado hazard maps. These maps incorporate advances in the understanding of tornado climatology and regional properties of tornadoes, tornado wind fields, tornado wind speeds, and the very significant effects of target size (and shape) on wind speed risk. The Standard includes a series of 48 maps with design tornado speeds for six return periods (from 1,700 to 10 million years) at eight target sizes each (from point targets to 4 million square feet). The map development process included consideration of epistemic (modeling) uncertainties, with support from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. This presentation provides an overview of the tornado load requirements in ASCE 7-22 and their development. Tornado maps are a main focus of the talk, including introduction of Appendix G (Long Return Period Tornado Hazard Maps) and the ASCE 7 Hazard Tool, which provides site-specific values for all environmental hazards (including tornadoes) through a webGIS application.

##### **3.9.1.2 Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A103)**

# Introduction to Tornado Loads in the New ASCE 7-22 Standard

Including Long Return Period Tornado Hazards Maps with Applications to Nuclear Facilities

Marc L. Levitan, Ph.D.

Lead Research Engineer, National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program

PFHA  
Workshop  
Feb. 17, 2022

**NIST** National Institute of  
Standards and Technology  
U.S. Department of Commerce



## Why Haven't We Considered Tornadoes in Conventional Engineering Design?

NIST

### Common Misperceptions

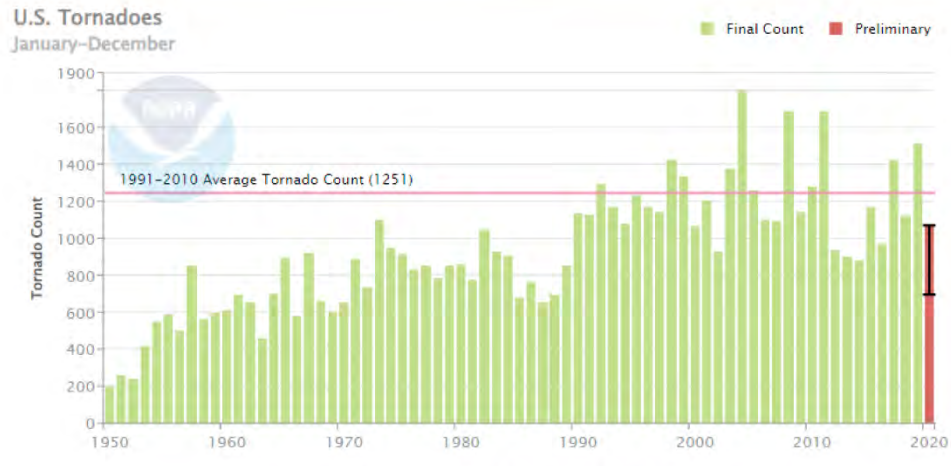
- Too rare
- Losses from tornadoes are small compared to other hazards
- Nothing we can do about them
- Inadequate knowledge
- Buildings would all have to be concrete bunkers
- Too expensive



Perceptions may be shaped by the few violent tornadoes per year that make the headlines

# How Rare are Tornadoes?

Source: NIST, from NOAA data



This plot shows the number of reported tornadoes per year.  
Many tornadoes go unreported.

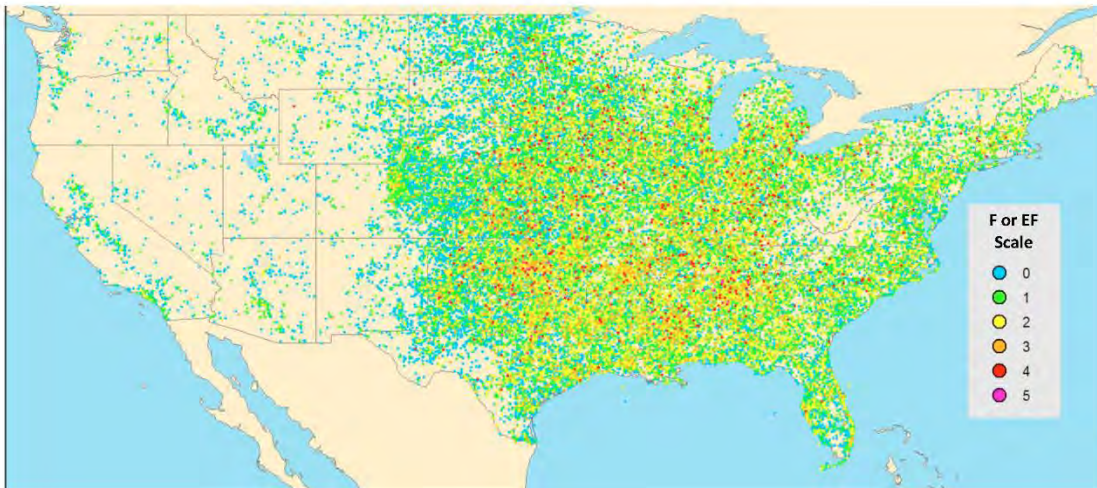


# Where do Tornadoes Occur?

Source: NIST, from NOAA data



U.S. Tornadoes: 1995-2016





# How Many Lives are Lost in Tornadoes?



**Tornadoes kill more people per year in the U.S. than hurricanes and earthquakes combined**

Tornado fatalities overwhelmingly occur inside buildings.



Moore OK Tornado – 2013. Damage to the hallway and classrooms of the new main classroom building (complete loss of roof and many walls) where the 7 fatalities occurred (most of the debris has already been removed). This hallway area was a “designated area of safety.” NIST SP 1164 (2013)

**High Tornado Death Toll  
5,600 killed (1950 – 2011)**

Average deaths/year:

Tornadoes: 91.6

Hurricanes: 50.8

Earthquakes: 7.5



# Storm Shelters for Life Safety Protection



**We can design for mother nature’s worst**

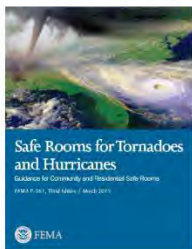
**FEMA Safe Rooms are designed for ‘near-absolute’ life safety protection, ICC 500 Storm Shelters have almost identical requirements**

- 250 mph tornado winds
- Impact of 15-pound 2x4 traveling at 100 mph
- No reported failures of safe rooms or shelters constructed to FEMA or ICC 500 requirements



**In-Residence Safe Room**  
Joplin, MO, May 22, 2011

Source: FEMA



**Winston County Commission  
Community Safe Room**  
Arley, AL, November 30, 2016

# How Much Damage do Tornadoes Cause?

NIST



Over the 20-year period, 1997 to 2016, events involving tornadoes, including other wind, hail and flood losses associated with tornadoes made up **39.9%** of total catastrophe insured losses, adjusted for inflation.

Hurricanes and tropical storms were a close second largest cause of catastrophe losses, accounting for **38.2%** of losses

[https://www.iii.org/article/spotlight-on-catastrophes-insurance-issues#:~:text=Hurricanes%20and%20tropical%20storms%20were,winter%20storms%20\(6.7%20percent\)](https://www.iii.org/article/spotlight-on-catastrophes-insurance-issues#:~:text=Hurricanes%20and%20tropical%20storms%20were,winter%20storms%20(6.7%20percent))



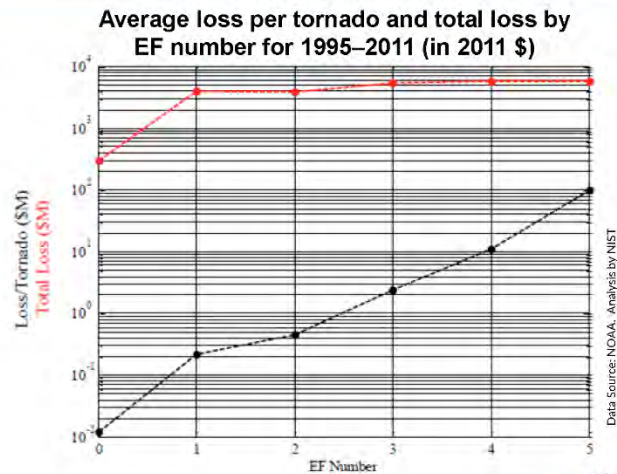
# Isn't Most Damage Caused by the Big Tornadoes?

NIST

Property damage and resulting losses per *individual* tornado (black curve) increase dramatically with EF rating

However, *aggregate* losses for all tornadoes per EF number (red curve) are of the same magnitude (except EF0)

- because there are so many more tornadoes with lower intensities



Source: NIST (2014)

<https://doi.org/10.6028/NIST.NCSTAR.3>





# Opportunity for Tornado Loss Reduction

EF SCALE	
EF #	3-s Gust (mph)
0	65-85
1	86-110
2	111-135
3	136-165
4	166-200
5	Over 200

**We don't *have* to design everything to withstand the most violent tornadoes in order to significantly reduce tornado damage**

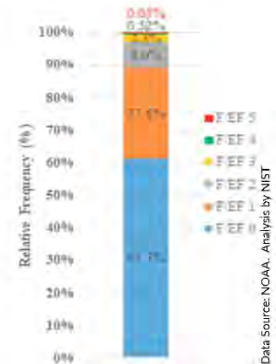
From 1995-2016, of the over 1,200 tornadoes/year

\* 89.1% were EF0-EF1, 97.1% were EF0-EF2

Most of the area impacted by a tornado does not experience the greatest winds, e.g., in the 2011 EF-5 Joplin Tornado (NIST, 2014)

\* 72% of area swept by tornado experienced EF0-EF2 winds

\* 28% experienced EF3-EF5 winds



## Paradigm Shift Needed

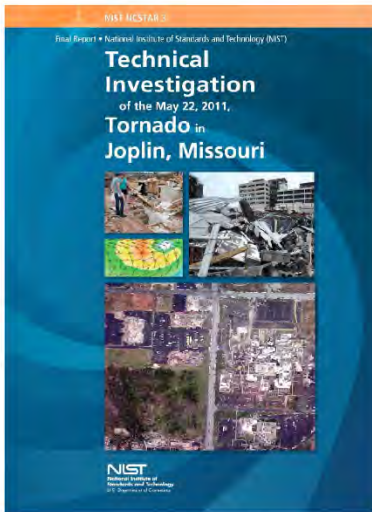
NIST

**Ignoring tornado hazards in the design of our built environment is not an appropriate response**





# Genesis of Tornado Loads in ASCE 7-22



<http://dx.doi.org/10.6028/NIST.NCSTAR.3>

The first tornado study to include storm characteristics, building performance, emergency communication and human behavior together - with assessment of the impact of each on fatalities

## 16 recommendations for improving:

- Tornado hazard characterization
  - R3 - develop new tornado hazard maps considering spatial estimates of tornado hazard
- Design and construction of buildings and shelters in tornado-prone regions
  - R5 - develop performance-based tornado-resistant design standards
  - R6 - develop tornado design methodologies
- Emergency communications that warn of threats from tornadoes

NOTE: Summaries of the recommendations are provided in this presentation for context. The complete recommendations are available in the final report, available through the link shown at left.

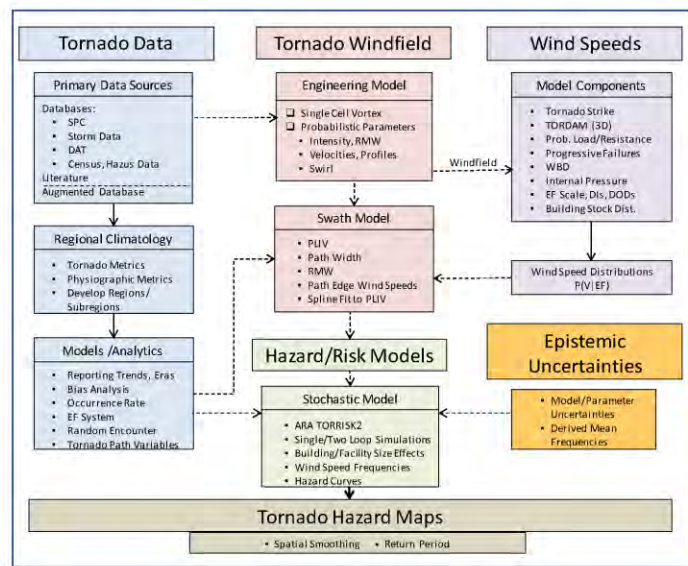


# Tornado Hazard Maps



## Map Development Overview

- Tornado Risk Mapping Project Components
- Six year effort, working with Applied Research Associates, Inc. (ARA) under contract to NIST, led by Dr. Larry Twisdale
- The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission supplemented NIST funding to include the analysis of epistemic uncertainties



# Consideration of Uncertainty

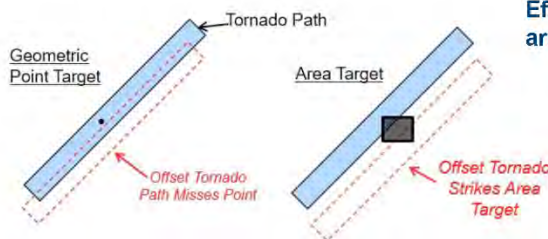
- Epistemic Uncertainties are often called “modeling uncertainties”
- Aleatory Uncertainties are often referred to as “randomness”
- Many epistemics in modeling tornado wind speeds
- Approach:
  - Modeled numerous random variables, many regionally, to capture randomness.
  - Modeled epistemic uncertainties in 5 key areas characterized by:
    - Significant uncertainties in mean values
    - Uncertainties in models/parameters
    - Expert judgment
- 12 Implementations
- The modeling philosophy for the uncertainty modeling was “best-estimate.”

Group	Epistemic Topic	Model/Parameter Uncertainty
1	Tornado Regionalization	Region/Subregion Boundaries
2	Tornado Occurrence Rates	Region/Subregion Occurrence Rates
3	Tornado Intensity and Path Variables	a. EF-Scale
		b. Path Length
		c. Path Width
4	Tornado Windfield and Swath Model	a. Windfield
		b. Swath
5	Damage Modeling/EF Wind Speed Analysis	a. Engineering Interpretation in EF DODs Descriptions
		b. Structural Quality Factor
		c. DOD to EF Distribution
		d. House DOD 9-10 Model
		e. Bayesian Prior Wind Speed Distribution

# Target Size Effects

## Tornado risk and tornado speeds are a function of building or facility size and shape (effective plan area)

- Tornado strike probabilities increase with increasing plan area of the target building or structure (target size)
- For a given return period (i.e., mean recurrence interval), tornado speeds increase with increasing target size



Effects of building or facility plan area on tornado strike probability

*“Does the Flap of a Butterfly’s Wings in Brazil Set off a Tornado in Texas?”*

Edward U. Lorenz, Sc.D.  
Professor of Meteorology  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge

[https://www.itsa.com/infocenter/press/02/01/03\\_0250\\_0281](https://www.itsa.com/infocenter/press/02/01/03_0250_0281)

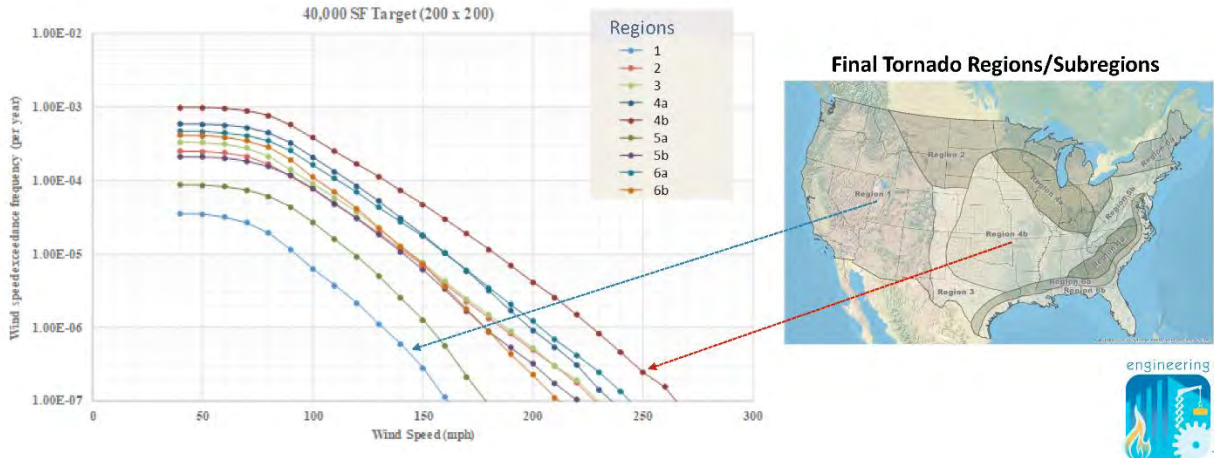


# Tornado Hazard Maps



## Windspeed Exceedance Frequencies (WEFs)

WEFs developed for each region and subregion, for a range of target sizes



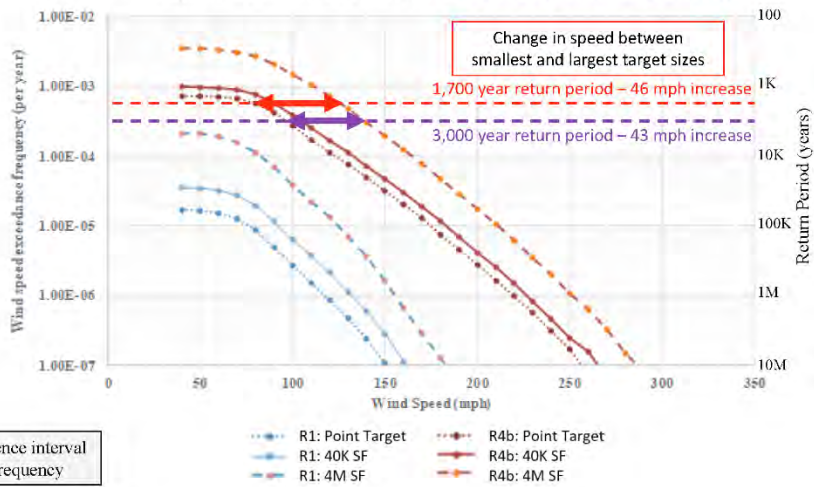
# Tornado Hazard Maps



## Target Size Effects

- The effects of target size depend on the Region and the tornado wind speed
- The effect of target size is reduced for high return periods
- The effects of target size are greater in regions with lower wind hazard, such as Region 1, since the tornadoes are smaller and the impact of increasing target size has a more dominant effect on the resulting risk.

### Target Size Effects for Regions 1 (West) and 4b (Center)



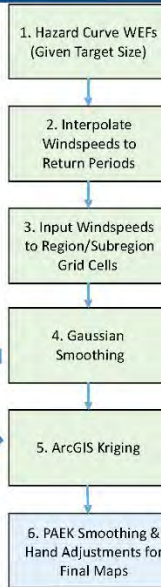
Note: Return Period (also referred to as mean recurrence interval or MRI) is the inverse of the annual exceedance frequency



# Tornado Hazard Maps

## Map Development Process

1. A six step process is used to develop maps.
2. The grid wind speeds for a given Return Period and Target Size were smoothed using Gaussian smoothing.
3. The Kriging was performed in ArcGIS with default parameters, similar to the current ASCE 7 non-tornadic maps.



Region Boundary	Mean Distance (mi)	Approx. Number of 1 Deg. Cell Widths
Region 1- Region 2	166	2.8
Region 1- Region 3	125	2.1
Region 2- Region 3	416	6.9
Region 4- Region 2	217	3.6
Region 4- Region 3	130	2.2
Region 4- Region 5 (West of Appalachians)	85	1.4
Region 4- Region 5 (South and East of Appalachians)	177	3.0
<b>Overall Mean</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>3.1</b>

Gaussian Smoothing Weights				
0.0099	0.0239	0.0320	0.0239	0.0099
0.0239	0.0575	0.0770	0.0575	0.0239
0.0320	0.0770	0.1031	0.0770	0.0320
0.0239	0.0575	0.0770	0.0575	0.0239
0.0099	0.0239	0.0320	0.0239	0.0099



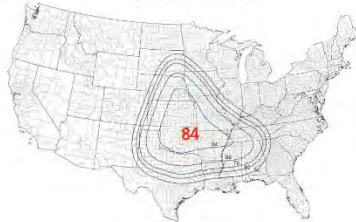
# Tornado Hazard Maps - Examples

Effective Plan Area,  $A_e$  (ft<sup>2</sup>)

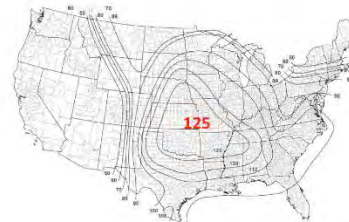
Risk Category III (1,700 Year)

Risk Category IV (3,000 Year)

10K



1M



8 mapped effective plan area sizes (target sizes), from 1 to 4M sq ft

- 1 (Geometrical Point)
- 2,000 (45' x 45')
- 10,000 (100' x 100')
- 40,000 (200' x 200')
- 100,000 (316' x 316')
- 250,000 (500' x 500')
- 1,000,000 (1,000' x 1,000')
- 4,000,000 (2,000' x 2,000')

Mapped values are available through the ASCE 7 Hazards Tool, free of charge <https://asce7hazardtool.online/>

Tornado speeds are 3-s peak gusts in mph at 33 ft (10 m) height



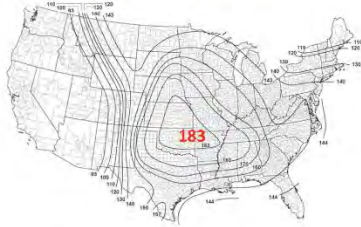
# Tornado Hazard Maps – Long Return Periods **NIST**

Effective Plan Area,  $A_e$  (ft<sup>2</sup>)

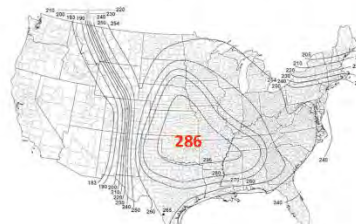
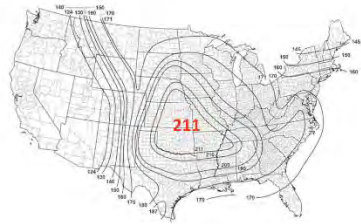
100,000 Year

10,000,000 Year

40K



4M



More information on the long return period maps was presented at 2021 RIC – Session T11

Mapped tornado speeds for longer return periods at each of the 8 sizes are provided in ASCE 7-22 Appendix G

- 10,000 years
- 100,000 years
- 1,000,000 years
- 10,000,000 years

ASCE 7-22 also includes a new Appendix F with longer return period *wind speed* maps

Tornado speeds are 3-s peak gusts in mph at 33 ft (10 m) height



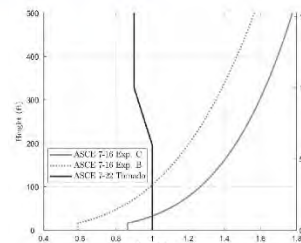
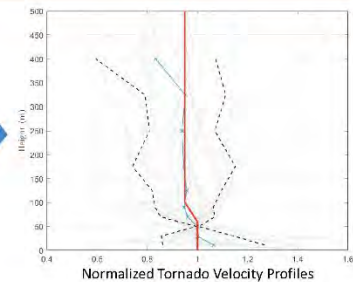
## Tornadic Wind Characteristics **NIST**

**Very different from straight-line winds**

- Short duration
- Rapidly changing speeds and directions
- Strong updrafts
- Decreasing speed with height above ground
- Atmospheric Pressure Change



Source: NSF



ASCE 7-22 Velocity Pressure Profiles for Tornadic and Straight-Line Winds

Worked closely with mobile radar community

- analyzed radar-measured tornado wind speeds
- developed tornado velocity pressure profiles





# Tornadic Wind-Structure Interaction

NIST

## Very different from straight-line winds

- Short duration
  - Changes to gust effect factor
- Rapidly changing speeds and directions
  - Changes to directionality factor
- Strong updrafts
  - Addition of new factor to account for increase in uplift pressures on roofs
- Decreasing speed with height above ground
  - Changes to velocity pressure exposure coefficient
- Atmospheric Pressure Change
  - Changes to internal pressure coefficient to account for contributions of APC

Conducted wind tunnel tests to simulate the effective change in wind angle at the leading edge of the roof

Wind Direction



## ASCE/SEI 7-22 Tornado Provision Highlights

Marc Levitan

Chair  
ASCE 7-22 Tornado Task Committee

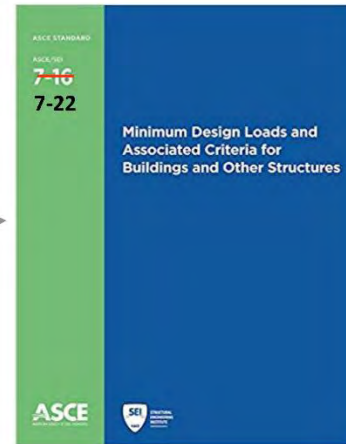




## Tornado Loads - New in ASCE 7-22



NOAA Photo Library, NOAA Central Library; OAR/ERL/National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL).



## Tornado Loads: Placement in 7-22

Red indicates differences  
from ASCE 7-16

- **Chapter 1: General**
  - Add Tornadoes to Risk Categorization Table 1.5-1
- **Chapter 2: Load Combinations**
  - Add Tornado Loads to load combinations
- **Chapter 26: Wind Loads**
  - Add requirement to check Tornado Loads per Ch. 32
- **New Chapter 32: Tornado Loads**
  - Complete provisions to determine Tornado Loads
- **New Appendix G: Tornado Hazard Maps for Long Return Periods**
  - Tornado speed maps for longer return periods, in support of tornado PBD and other applications

**Table 1.5-1 Risk Category of Buildings and Other Structures for Flood, Wind, Tornado, Snow, Earthquake, and Ice Loads**

Use or Occupancy of Buildings and Structures	Risk Category
Buildings and other structures that represent <u>low risk to human life</u> in the event of failure	I
All buildings and other structures except those listed in Risk Categories I, III, and IV	II
Buildings and other structures, the failure of which could pose a <u>substantial risk to human life</u>	III
Buildings and other structures designated as <u>essential facilities</u>	IV
Buildings and other structures, the failure of which could pose a <u>substantial hazard to the community</u>	
Buildings and other structures <u>required to maintain the functionality of other Risk Category IV structures</u>	

## Ch. 32: Tornado Loads

- Built on ASCE 7 wind load procedures framework
  - Designed to provide similar look and feel with the wind provisions for improved ease of use
- Most wind load coefficients and equations are modified to account for differences in tornadic wind and wind-structure interaction
- Despite similarities in procedures, tornado loads are treated separately from wind loads

### CHAPTER 32 TORNADO LOADS

#### 32.1 PROCEDURES

**32.1.1 Scope** Buildings and other structures classified as Risk Category III or IV and located in the tornado-prone region as shown in Figure 32.1-1, including the main wind force resisting system (MWFRS) and all components and cladding (C&C) thereof, shall be designed and constructed to resist the greater of the tornado loads determined in accordance with the provisions of this chapter or the wind loads determined in accordance with Chapters 26 through 31, using the load combinations provided in Chapter 2.

**User Note:** The tornado loads specified in this chapter provide reasonable consistency with the reliability delivered by the existing criteria in Chapters 26 and 27 for MWFRS, and therefore are only required for Risk Category III and IV buildings and other structures (see Return Period discussion in Section C32.5.1 for more information). The tornado loads are based on tornado speeds using 1,700- and 3,100-year return periods for Risk Category III and IV, respectively (which are the same return periods used for basic wind speeds in Chapter 26). The tornado speed at any given geographic location will range from approximately Enhanced Fujita Scale EF0 – EF2 intensity, depending on the risk category and effective plan area of the building or other structure (see Section C32.5.1). Options for protection of life and property from more intense tornadoes include construction of a storm shelter and/or design for longer-return-period tornado speeds as provided in Appendix G, including performance-based design. A building or other structure designed for tornado loads determined exclusively in accordance with Chapter 32 cannot be designated as a storm shelter without meeting additional critical requirements provided in the applicable building code and ICC 500, the ICC/NSSA *Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters*. See Commentary Section C32.1.1 for an in-depth discussion on storm shelters.

**32.1.2 Permitted Procedures** The design tornado loads for buildings and other structures, including the MWFRS and C&C elements thereof, shall be determined using one of the procedures as specified in this section and subject to the applicable limitations of Chapters 26 through 32, excluding Chapter 28.

An outline of the overall process for the determination of the tornado loads, including section references, is provided in Figure 32.1-3.

**32.1.2.1 Tornado Loads on the Main Wind Force Resisting System** Tornado loads for the MWFRS shall be determined using one or more of the following procedures, as modified by Chapter 32:

1. Directional Procedure for buildings of all heights as specified in Chapter 27 for buildings meeting the requirements specified therein;
2. Directional Procedure for Building Appendages (such as rooftop structures and rooftop equipment) and Other Structures (such as solid freestanding walls and solid freestanding signs, chimneys, tanks, open signs, single-plane open frames, and masts) as specified in Chapter 29 for buildings meeting the requirements specified therein; or
3. Wind Tunnel Procedure for all buildings and all other structures as specified in Chapter 31 for buildings meeting the requirements specified therein.

**32.1.2.2 Tornado Loads on Components and Cladding** Tornado loads on the C&C of all buildings and other structures shall be determined using one or more of the following procedures, as modified by Chapter 32:

1. Analytical Procedures as specified in Parts I through 5, as appropriate, of Chapter 30, for buildings meeting the requirements specified therein; or
2. Wind Tunnel Procedure for all buildings and all other structures as specified in Chapter 31, for buildings meeting the requirements specified therein.

**32.1.3 Performance-Based Procedures** Tornado design of buildings and other structures using performance-based procedures shall be permitted subject to the approval of the Authority Having Jurisdiction. The performance-based tornado design procedures used shall, at a minimum, conform to Section 1.3.1.3 and be documented and submitted to the Authority Having Jurisdiction in accordance with Section 1.3.1.3.

#### 32.2 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to the provisions of Chapter 32. Terms not defined in this chapter shall be defined in accordance with Chapters 26 through 31, as appropriate, excluding Chapter 28.

**ASCE TORNADO DESIGN GEODATABASE:** The ASCE database (version 2020-1.0) of geocoded tornado speed design data.

**OTHER STRUCTURES, SEALED:** A structure that is completely sealed or has controlled ventilation such that tornado-induced atmospheric pressure changes will not be transmitted to the inside of the structure, including but not limited to certain tanks and vessels.

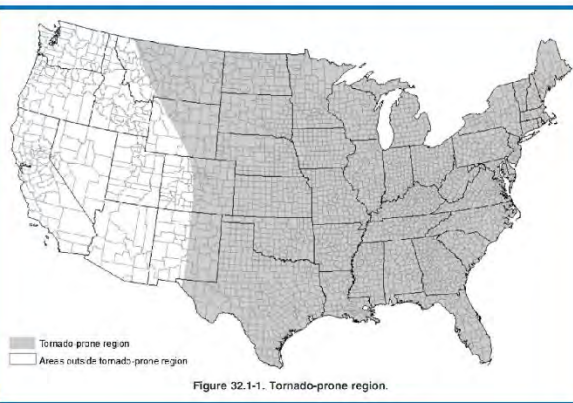
**TORNADO-PRONE REGION:** The area of the conterminous United States most vulnerable to tornadoes, as shown in Figure 32.1-1.

## Scope

- Risk Category III and IV buildings and other structures
- Located in the tornado-prone region
- Design of MWFRS and C&C
- Must resist the greater of tornado loads or wind loads, using load combinations in Chapter 2

### 32.1 PROCEDURES

**32.1.1 Scope** Buildings and other structures classified as Risk Category III or IV and located in the tornado-prone region as shown in Figure 32.1-1, including the main wind force resisting system (MWFRS) and all components and cladding (C&C) thereof, shall be designed and constructed to resist the greater of the tornado loads determined in accordance with the provisions of this chapter or the wind loads determined in accordance with Chapters 26 through 31, using the load combinations provided in Chapter 2.





## User Note

- Highlights key features/ explanations of tornado load provisions
- Design tornado speeds range from 60-138 mph, approximately EF0-EF2 intensity,
  - Dependent on Risk Category, geographic location, and effective plan area (target size)
- Return periods for Risk Category III and IV are 1,700 and 3,000 years, respectively (the same as used for wind loads)
- Options for protection from more intense tornadoes include storm shelters and PBD
- Tornado shelters cannot be designed solely using Chapter 32 – pointers to commentary

**User Note:** The tornado loads specified in this chapter provide reasonable consistency with the reliability delivered by the existing criteria in Chapters 26 and 27 for MWFRS, and therefore are only required for Risk Category III and IV buildings and other structures (see Return Period discussion in Section C32.5.1 for more information). The tornado loads are based on tornado speeds using 1,700- and 3,000-year return periods for Risk Category III and IV, respectively (which are the same return periods used for basic wind speeds in Chapter 26). The tornado speed at any given geographic location will range from approximately Enhanced Fujita Scale EF0 – EF2 intensity, depending on the risk category and effective plan area of the building or other structure (see Section C32.5.1). Options for protection of life and property from more intense tornadoes include construction of a storm shelter and/or design for longer-return-period tornado speeds as provided in Appendix G, including performance-based design. A building or other structure designed for tornado loads determined exclusively in accordance with Chapter 32 cannot be designated as a storm shelter without meeting additional critical requirements provided in the applicable building code and ICC 500, the ICC/NSSA *Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters*. See Commentary Section C32.1.1 for an in-depth discussion on storm shelters.

## Where Tornado Loads are Likely to Control

Tornado loads are more likely to control at least some element(s) of the wind load design for structures that

- are located in the central and southeast US (except near the coast where dominated by hurricanes)
- are Risk Category IV
- are designated as Essential Facilities
- have large effective plan areas
- are located in Exposure B
- have low mean roof heights
- are classified as enclosed buildings for wind loads

Tornado loads can control over wind loads when tornado speeds are as little as half of the basic wind speeds



Nursing Home  
Caddo County, Oklahoma  
August 19, 2007

Credit: FEMA

**Where tornado loads control, design uplift pressures on roofs will typically increase. This will help reduce the most common tornado and other windstorm failures.**



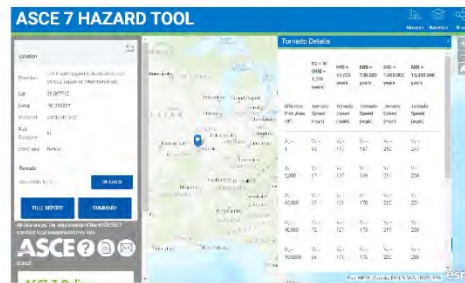


# CURRENT STATUS OF ASCE 7-22

- Public Comment Draft was published in June for 45-day review period
- **Published December 1, 2021**
  - In e-book (pdf), paperback, and online versions



- ASCE 7 Hazard Tool - Available to the public  
<https://asce7hazardtool.online/>



## ASCE 7 HAZARD TOOL

**Location**  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,...

Elevation: 1200 ft with respect to North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88)

Lat: 35.47203  
Long: -97.52107

Standard: ASCE/SEI 7-22

Risk Category: IV  
Soil Class: Default

**Wind** Overlay  
120 Vmph DETAILS

**Tornado**  
See details for V<sub>1</sub> DETAILS

FULL REPORT SUMMARY

All data are per the requirements of the ASCE/SEI 7 standard; local requirements may vary.

**ASCE Online**  
A faster, easier way to work with Standard ASCE 7

**Wind Details**

Wind Speed	120 Vmph
10-year MRI	75 Vmph
25-year MRI	82 Vmph
50-year MRI	88 Vmph
100-year MRI	93 Vmph
10,000-year MRI	130 Vmph
100,000-year MRI	149 Vmph
1,000,000-year MRI	168 Vmph

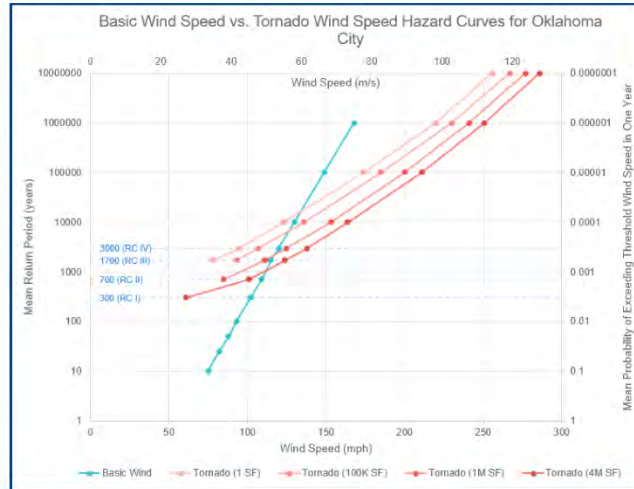
**Tornado Details**

Effective Plan Area (ft <sup>2</sup> )	BC = IV (MRI = 3,000 years)	MRI = 10,000 years	MRI = 100,000 years	MRI = 1,000,000 years	MRI = 10,000,000 years
A <sub>w</sub> = 1	V <sub>1</sub> = 95	V <sub>2</sub> = 123	V <sub>3</sub> = 174	V <sub>4</sub> = 220	V <sub>5</sub> = 256
A <sub>w</sub> = 2,000	V <sub>1</sub> = 96	V <sub>2</sub> = 125	V <sub>3</sub> = 175	V <sub>4</sub> = 222	V <sub>5</sub> = 259
A <sub>w</sub> = 10,000	V <sub>1</sub> = 99	V <sub>2</sub> = 128	V <sub>3</sub> = 177	V <sub>4</sub> = 223	V <sub>5</sub> = 261
A <sub>w</sub> = 40,000	V <sub>1</sub> = 103	V <sub>2</sub> = 132	V <sub>3</sub> = 183	V <sub>4</sub> = 226	V <sub>5</sub> = 265
A <sub>w</sub> = 100,000	V <sub>1</sub> = 107	V <sub>2</sub> = 136	V <sub>3</sub> = 185	V <sub>4</sub> = 230	V <sub>5</sub> = 267
A <sub>w</sub> = 250,000	V <sub>1</sub> = 113	V <sub>2</sub> = 142	V <sub>3</sub> = 191	V <sub>4</sub> = 234	V <sub>5</sub> = 270
A <sub>w</sub> = 1,000,000	V <sub>1</sub> = 125	V <sub>2</sub> = 153	V <sub>3</sub> = 200	V <sub>4</sub> = 241	V <sub>5</sub> = 277
A <sub>w</sub> = 4,000,000	V <sub>1</sub> = 138	V <sub>2</sub> = 164	V <sub>3</sub> = 211	V <sub>4</sub> = 251	V <sub>5</sub> = 286

3-426

ASCE 7 Hazards Tool provides data that can be used to construct site-specific wind speed hazard curves for

- Design tornado speeds for range of target sizes
- Design wind speeds all other windstorm types combined ('basic wind speeds')



## Introduction to Tornado Loads in the New ASCE 7-22 Standard

Including Long Return Period Tornado Hazards Maps with Applications to Nuclear Facilities

Marc L. Levitan  
[Marc.levitan@nist.gov](mailto:Marc.levitan@nist.gov)

Questions?

PFHA  
 Workshop  
 Feb. 17, 2022

### **3.10 Day 4: Session 4C – USACE Dam and Levee Database Updates**

Session Chair: Joseph Kanney, NRC/RES/DRA

#### **3.10.1 Presentation 4C-1: National Inventory of Dams**

Authors: *Becky Ragon\**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Speaker: *Becky Ragon*

##### **3.10.1.1      *Abstract***

The National Inventory of Dams (NID), a congressionally authorized database, has served as a central repository of information on dams in the U.S. and its territories since the 1980s. The site has been updated to make it easier to find and share dam-related data. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) maintains the NID and works in close collaboration with federal and state dam safety agencies to obtain accurate and complete information about dams in the database. The new NID allows agencies to update data in-real time – users can expect fresher data that can be downloaded and shared at any time. The NID also features new information for some dams. USACE is sharing flood inundation maps for its dams in the NID as well as narrative summaries about what their dams do, benefits they provide and risks they pose, and planned and ongoing actions to manage dam risks.

##### **3.10.1.2      *Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A102)***



# NATIONAL INVENTORY OF DAMS

Becky Ragon  
NID Manager

Probabilistic Flood Hazard Assessment  
Research Workshop

Feb 18, 2022



## PRESENTATION OUTLINE



- National Inventory of Dams Overview
- What's New in the NID?
- Why is USACE Publicly Sharing Inundation Maps?
- NID Map Viewers
- NID Live Demonstration
- Questions

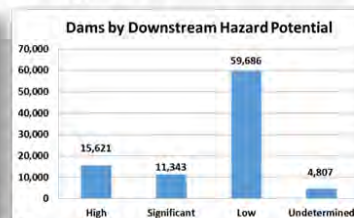
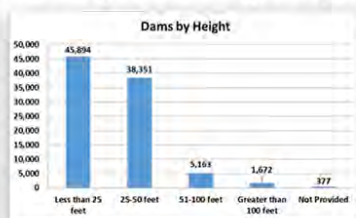
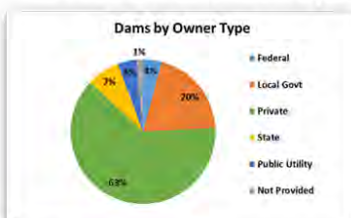




## NATIONAL INVENTORY OF DAMS (NID)



- Congressionally authorized database documenting dams in the United States and its territories
- Includes dams owned and operated by federal agencies, the military, states, territories, tribes, local governments, public utilities and private entities
- Contains information about dam's location, size, purpose, type, last inspection and regulatory facts
- Data provided by state and federal dam safety agencies
- Maintained and published by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



## WHAT'S NEW IN THE NID?



### What's New in the NID?

- Public sharing of dam flood inundation maps (initially USACE only)
- Real-time data input and download
- User-friendly search functions
- Learning center for additional dam-related resources
- Additional information to explain benefits and risks of USACE dams
- <https://nid.sec.usace.army.mil/#/>





# WHY IS USACE SHARING INUNDATION MAPS AND RISK INFORMATION?



5

- Increases public understanding of dam flood risk
- Empowers the public to prepare for and respond to potential floods, better managing (their own) risk
- Helps the public at risk and risk managers to “visually” see how flooding from a dam may impact their community



# NID PROJECT MAP VIEWER FOR USACE DAM



6

← National Inventory of Dams HOME ADVANCED SEARCH ADVANCED MAP EXPLORE HELP CENTER MORE SIGN IN

**Youghiogheny Dam** VIEW IN FULL MAP VIEWER

NID ID: PA00109 Location: Somerset, Pennsylvania District: USACE - Pittsburgh District Owner Type: Federal Data Updated: 08/13/2021

SUMMARY PROJECT STRUCTURE INSPECTION AND EVALUATION RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS ATTACHMENTS RISK

and incorporate any new information into our emergency action plan; we will also continue to monitor and surveillance of the dam, especially during high water events. We closely follow rainfall forecasts to determine when high water events may occur to provide information for any necessary flood warnings. We are working with local communities to provide opportunities to engage with local residents to help them understand how they can better prepare for a flood.

Scenarios are designated as either non-breach or breach. In non-breach scenarios the dam is operating as designed for the given pool level, releasing from outlets and controlled or uncontrolled spillways. In breach scenarios the continuity of the structure has been compromised, resulting in uncontrolled water releases that exceed the magnitude of releases in the equivalent non-breach scenario.

The Maximum High (MH) scenario (breach and non-breach) is based on the inflow design flood per FEMA guidelines and indicates the maximum reservoir pool level and likely maximum extent of inundation.

The Normal High (NH) scenario (breach and non-breach) represent normal full reservoir pool elevations with no flooding occurring downstream prior to dam releases. The NH scenarios represent the fair weather or sunny day scenarios per FEMA guidelines. The Intermediate High (IH), Top of Active Storage (TAS) and Security (SS) scenarios are intermediate pool levels between NH and MH. They are established based on the dam's design characteristics and its operating history. The TAS represents the reservoir pool elevation the structure was designed for (such as top of flood gates) and above which water must be released to ensure the integrity of the dam. The SS represents a high reservoir pool level observed or exceeded 1% of the time during the dam's operating history. The IH represents a realistic operating condition that could be experienced during a major flood where the reservoir pool elevation exceeds Top of Active Storage.

**Consequences Estimate** Columns Filter

Scenario	Type	Flood Elevation	Daytime People at Risk	Nighttime People at Risk	Buildings at Risk
Maximum High Pool - BREACH	MH-F	1,500.3	48,955	36,032	18,391

A Max High pool is the pool level near the top of dam resulting from water flowing into the reservoir from heavy rainfall, snowmelt, or other significant high-water events.

The Max High with breach pool scenario typically results in the greatest flooded area, depth of downstream flood waters, and life safety and economic consequences.

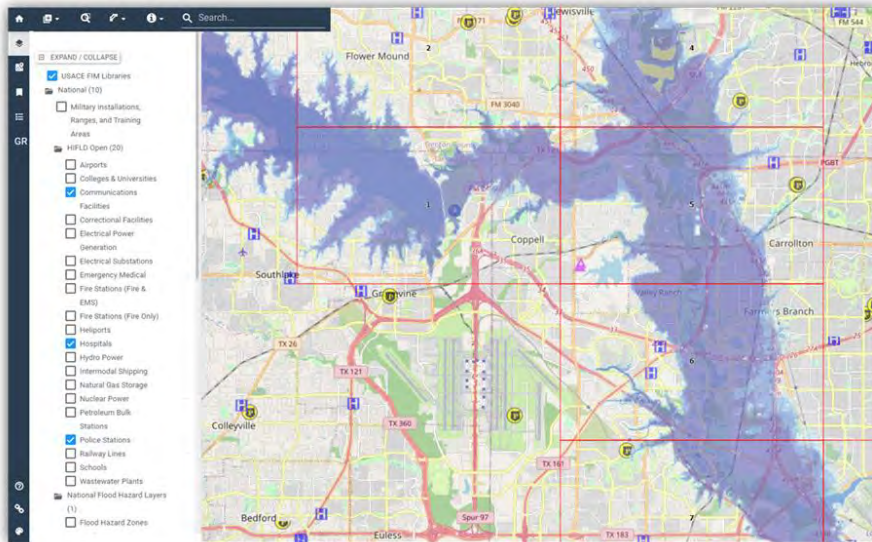
**Layer Controls** **LEGEND**

- Descriptions are included to explain the different scenarios
- Scenarios include breach and non-breach





# NID ADVANCED MAP VIEWER FOR USACE DAM



- Add other map layers
- Customize with your own data
- Share the data with others
- Download or use the web services



# NID – ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



**DAMS AND FLOOD INUNDATION MAPS**

Dams provide significant benefits – they help reduce the risk of flooding, support navigation, supply water for drinking and irrigation, provide power, offer recreation opportunities, create space for fish and wildlife, and help manage waste. However, no dam is risk-free. Flooding can occur near dams in a variety of scenarios. Inundation maps are a tool used to visualize impacts from flooding and prepare in advance.

**WHAT ARE FLOOD INUNDATION MAPS?**

Flood inundation maps show possible flooding near dams. Each map represents how water might behave and how the dam might react. Shaded areas show where water may go upstream and downstream of dams, including how far it may extend past the banks of a river or waterway and how deep it may be.

**HOW ARE THESE MAPS USED?**

Emergency managers, community leaders, and decision makers can use dam-related flood inundation maps to understand what types of flooding may occur, who and what could be damaged or in harm's way, and how much time there might be to give evacuation notice to an area that may flood. These maps are important for the development of emergency action plans, evacuation plans, and other emergency response activities.

NATIONAL INVENTORY OF DAMS [HTTPS://NID.SILL.USACE.ARMY.MIL](https://nid.sill.usace.army.mil)

Welcome to the NID (Exploring Our Nation's Dams)



Visualizing Dams - Routine Dam Operations



Tour the NID



Visualizing Dams - Operational Flood Risk



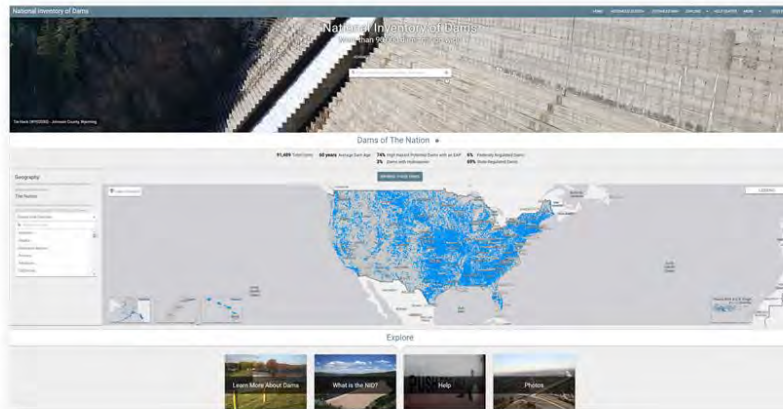


# NID DEMONSTRATION

9



- <https://nid.sec.usace.army.mil/#/>
- For additional information, contact Becky Ragon at [rebecca.ragon@usace.army.mil](mailto:rebecca.ragon@usace.army.mil).



### **3.10.2 Presentation 4C-2: National Levee Database**

Authors: *Brian Vanbockern\**, *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

Speaker: *Brian Vanbockern*

#### **3.10.2.1      *Abstract***

The National Levee Database (NLD), developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), is the focal point for comprehensive information about our nation's levees. The database contains information to facilitate and link activities, such as flood risk communication, levee system evaluation for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), levee system inspections, flood plain management, and risk assessments. The NLD continues to be a dynamic database with ongoing efforts to add levee data from federal agencies, states, and tribes.

#### **3.10.2.2      *Presentation (ADAMS Accession No. ML22061A101)***



**NATIONAL LEVEE DATABASE**  
NLD AND LEVEE SAFETY TOOLBOX

Brian VanBockern  
February 2022

US Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. ARMY

**TOPICS** 2

- NLD history
- NLD data holdings
- NLD and its expanded toolbox
- The National Levee Safety Program

US Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. ARMY

# NATIONAL LEVEE DATABASE HISTORY

- Authorized in WRDA 2007 due to Hurricane Katrina findings
- Started primary as a USACE levee database focused on federal projects
- Expanded in 2015 to include thousands of non-federal projects in cooperation with FEMA
- FEMA now uses NLD as sole source of levee data



# NLD GOALS

1. Identifying the most critical levee safety issues;
2. Understanding the true cost of maintaining levees;
3. Quantifying the Nation’s flood risk exposure; and
4. Focusing priorities for future funding.



## NLD DATA HOLDINGS

- 7000 levee systems
  - Inundation areas for each system
- Risk Assessment data for over 2000 systems and growing
- Detailed Inspection data for over 2000 systems and growing
- 500 Channel projects added as part of Flood Risk Management collaboration
- 90% of data is publicly retrievable



## KEY NLD CAPABILITIES

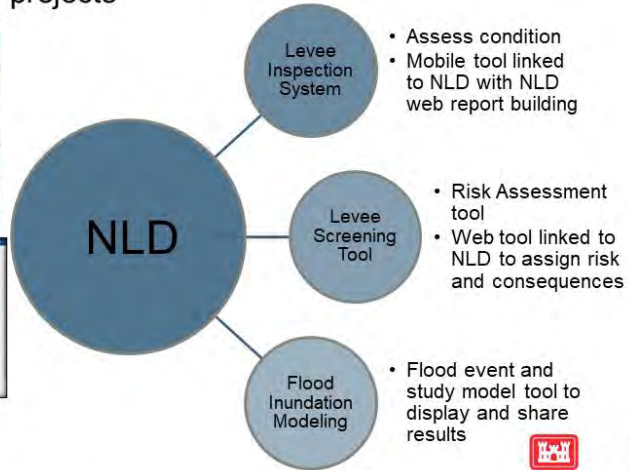
- Robust data exploration tools
- Ability to download data individually or in bulk in multiple formats
- Online data management for users
  - Includes Inspection and Risk assessment tools
- Inundation areas – overtopping scenarios/worst case
- Capability to track multiple spatial features and hundreds of attributes with an in-depth data model.
- Access to current FEMA accreditation data





# THE TOOLBOX

The NLD consists of a linked set of tools to aid users in compiling inventory, inspection and risk data for their projects



- Assess condition
- Mobile tool linked to NLD with NLD web report building
- Risk Assessment tool
- Web tool linked to NLD to assign risk and consequences
- Flood event and study model tool to display and share results



# FUTURE PLANS

- The new National Levee Safety Program will drive some change to the database.
  - [www.leveesafety.org](http://www.leveesafety.org)
- Focus currently is on non-federal projects where less is known on the levees
- Assisting states/tribes and other groups in levee safety data management.
- Provide a comparable basic risk measure across all levees in the National Levee Database.
- Use a scalable approach for data collection



# LIVE Demo

National Levee Database: <https://levees.sec.usace.army.mil/#/>





United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

*Protecting People and the Environment*

**RIL 2022-10**



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## 5 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

### 5.1 Summary

This report includes the agenda and presentations for the Seventh Annual PFHA Research Workshop, including all presentation abstracts and slides and abstracts for submitted posters. The workshop was virtually attended by members of the public; NRC technical staff, management, and contractors; and staff from other Federal agencies and academia. Public attendees over the course of the workshop included industry groups, industry members, consultants, independent laboratories, and academic institutions.

### 5.2 Conclusions

As reflected in these proceedings, PFHA is a very active area of research for the NRC and its international counterparts, other Federal agencies, industry, and academia. Readers of this report will have been exposed to current technical issues, research efforts, and accomplishments in this area within the NRC and the wider research community.

The NRC projects discussed in these proceedings represent the main efforts in the first phase (technical basis phase) and second phase (pilot studies) of the NRC's PFHA Research Program. This technical basis phase is nearly complete, and the NRC has initiated a second phase (pilot project phase) that synthesizes various technical basis results and lessons learned to demonstrate development of realistic flood hazard curves for several key flooding phenomena scenarios (site-scale, riverine, and coastal flooding). The third phase (development of selected guidance documents) is an area of active discussion between RES and NRC user offices. The NRC staff looks forward to further public engagement on the second and third phases of the PFHA research program in future PFHA research workshops.

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*Organizing Committee Chair:* Joseph Kanney

*Organizing Committee Members:* Tom Aird, Sarah Tabatabai, Elena Yegorova, and MarkHenry Salley

*Workshop NRC Facilitator:* Kenneth Hamburger

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