



## State of New Hampshire Department of Safety Homeland Security and Emergency Management

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PRESS RELEASE

### HSEM URGES RESIDENTS TO PREPARE FOR POTENTIAL WEEKEND FLOODING

CONCORD, NH – The National Weather Service in Gray has issued Flood Watches in Coos, Grafton, Carroll, Belknap, Merrimack, Cheshire and Sullivan counties through Sunday afternoon, April 21, 2019. The entire State of New Hampshire is currently under a Hazardous Weather Outlook.

“A flood watch means there is potential for flooding based on the current forecasts,” HSEM Assistant Director Jennifer Harper said. “Be alert for possible flood warnings and those living in areas prone to flooding should be prepared to take action should flooding develop.”

“A hazardous weather outlook is a weather statement issued by the National Weather Service to provide information of potential severe weather events within the next seven days,” Harper continued.

Scattered isolated showers will move across the state late this afternoon and into the evening. These showers are not expected to produce heavy rainfall, however well above average temperatures will trigger snowmelt across the state. River levels are expected to start rising around 8pm tonight and will continue to increase well into Saturday.

A low pressure system on Saturday will produce consistent rainfall and temperatures will rise on Saturday into the upper 60s for central and southern locations of the state with lower 60s for the north. This rise in temperature will support significant snowmelt during the day.

With this rainfall and high snowmelt, rivers will continue to rise on Saturday. Most rivers in the central and northern locations will reach high action/low minor range. The Connecticut and Saco rivers are currently forecasted to rise into the minor flood range. The Pemigewasset, specifically at Plymouth, has a chance to advance into moderate flood range.

“Overall, we anticipate this will be a minor flooding event,” Harper continued. “With any anticipated flooding event, residents and visitors are encouraged to be prepared – have what you need and know what to do to stay safe.”

Harper also offered the following recommendations:

- Monitor local conditions, particularly in areas that have flooded before.
- Heed evacuation requests from local public safety officials.
- Do not drive through flood waters on roadways. Adjust speeds for road conditions – even ponding on roadways can be hazardous.
- Report power outages to your electric utility.
- Stay clear of downed power lines and assume they are live. Call your utility, police or fire department to report downed power lines.
- Check on the welfare of elderly or handicapped relatives or neighbors.
- Visit [ReadyNH.gov](http://ReadyNH.gov) to learn what to do to stay safe.

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