

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Grand Forks: Rebuilt, Renewed, Reborn and StormReady!

NOAA's National Weather Service has implemented several new flood forecasting tools and practices since the record-setting 1997 flood on the Red River of the North.

The National Weather Service has increased communication and coordination with Federal, state and local government agencies to keep water managers more aware of conditions on the Red River of the North. These efforts have led to an increase in the number of stage gauges that provide the latest information about flow and water levels in the Red River of the North Basin.

- NOAA satellites and aircraft provide more detailed and more frequent snow surveys and soil moisture analyses
- Expanded and improved river and flood data are more accessible to cooperating agencies in weather forecasting, disaster mitigation and water management
- Government agencies at all levels meet more frequently before and after spring snowmelt, ensuring increased awareness of river and weather outlooks

Deployed on the Red River of the North in 2001, NOAA's Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) provides more flood forecast details and uncertainty information which enables emergency and water managers to make more informed decisions. Graphical flood forecast information available on the internet provides National Weather Service users with at-a-glance river conditions.

- User friendly, web based AHPS graphics, including uncertainty information, was well received during the moderate to major flooding threat across the entire Red River Basin in 2001
- Web access means virtually everyone – government officials, media and residents - has direct access to the latest weather and hydrologic information and to the forecasts produced from this information
- Forecasts are updated more quickly and frequently than in the past, providing decision makers and the public more time to consider the best options

In January 2004, the National Weather Service recognized Grand Forks as a StormReady community. Communities earn the StormReady designation by implementing emergency warning plans for schools, businesses, civic and government organizations and employing NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards to receive warnings from the National Weather Service. Community leaders adopt procedures to ensure everyone is adequately prepared and sheltered.

On the Web:

NOAA <http://www.noaa.gov>

Weather Forecast Office Grand Forks: <http://weather.gov/fgf>

North Central River Forecast Center
Chanhasan: <http://weather.gov/ncrfc>

For more information, contact David McShane or Gregory Gust 701-795-5127.

