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**National Weather Service to Provide Updated
 River Forecast Services at Waco, Texas**

The National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Office and the West Gulf River Forecast Center (WGRFC) co-located in Fort Worth, Texas will be upgrading hydrologic services by lowering flood stage levels on the Brazos River at Waco, Texas. The change will take effect on Friday, August 30, 2024. This location is a flood-only forecast point which means forecast and warnings are issued when the river level is expected to rise near or above flood stage. The upgraded hydrologic services were a direct result of field surveys and recent significant flood impacts observed along portions of the river, both upstream and downstream of the gage location in Waco.

The following critical threshold levels will be changed as follows:
 Brazos at Waco, Texas (WBAT2)

<u>Criteria Level</u>	<u>(Current Level)</u>	<u>New Level</u> (effective on 30 Aug. 2024)
Bankfull/Action Stage	(17 feet)	10 feet
Flood Stage/Minor Flood	(27 feet)	19 feet
Moderate flood Stage	(30 feet)	22 feet
Major Flood Stage	(37 feet)	27 feet

“These criteria level adjustments more accurately reflect the societal impacts that occur along this section of the river and will result in a better flood forecasting service.” said Tom Bradshaw, Meteorologist-in-Charge of the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Fort Worth.

The NWS Weather Forecast Office in Fort Worth provides all weather services for 46 counties in North and Central Texas. The office collects meteorological data, prepares weather forecasts, river and flood forecasts and warnings, and issues severe weather watches and warnings to the public.

Jason Johnson, Hydrologist-in-Charge of the WGRFC said, “These new flood criteria levels will help the NWS more effectively communicate the river flood threat to Waco and surrounding areas.”

The WGRFC prepares river stage forecasts for more than 400 locations along major rivers across portions of Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Louisiana, and Mexico. Covering approximately 400,000 square miles, the center’s area of responsibility includes North and Central Texas. These forecasts are then forwarded to National Weather Service Weather Forecast Offices throughout its service area for dissemination to the public.

NOAA’s NWS is the primary source of weather data, forecasts, and warnings for the United States and its territories. The NWS operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. Working with partners, the NWS is building a Weather-Ready Nation to support community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather. Visit us at www.weather.gov and on Facebook and Twitter/X.