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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
330 PM EST WED MAR 15 2006

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
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FROM: LARRY WENZEL
NWS NATIONAL HYDROLOGIC OUTREACH PROGRAM MANAGER

SUBJECT: 2006 FLOOD SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

NOAA/S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WILL HOST THE SECOND ANNUAL FLOOD SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK FROM MARCH 20-24 2006...TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS OF FLOODING AND WAYS TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY. ON AVERAGE...FLOODS KILL MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 4.6 BILLION DOLLARS IN DAMAGE IN THE UNITED STATES EACH YEAR. TO EMPHASIZE THE DANGERS OF FLOODING...BRIG. GEN. DAVID L. JOHNSON...U.S. AIR FORCE /RET./... DIRECTOR OF NOAA/S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE STATED...

"NO STATE OR TERRITORY IS IMMUNE FROM THE DANGERS OF FLOODING...BUT KNOWING HOW TO REACT WHEN FLOODS THREATEN CAN MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH."

AS PART OF NOAA/S CONTINUING MISSION TO SERVE INCREASING NEEDS FOR WEATHER AND WATER INFORMATION...THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE STRIVES TO IMPROVE FLOOD FORECASTS AND WARNINGS. DR. THOMAS GRAZIANO...ACTING CHIEF OF THE HYDROLOGIC SERVICES DIVISION AT NOAA/S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE STATED...

"FROM ICE JAMS AND RAPIDLY MELTING SNOW TO TORRENTIAL THUNDERSTORMS TO SLOW-MOVING TROPICAL STORMS...FLOODS CAN BE A THREAT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. EXTENSIVE AND PERSISTENT PUBLIC EDUCATION ON THE HAZARDS OF FLOODING IS KEY TO REDUCING THE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY AND IS THE GOAL OF FLOOD SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK."

TOPICS TO BE COVERED DURING FLOOD SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK THIS YEAR INCLUDE:

MONDAY MARCH 20: ADVANCED HYDROLOGIC PREDICTION SERVICE.
THE ADVANCED HYDROLOGIC PREDICTION SERVICE /AHPS/ IS AN ONGOING EFFORT OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TO MODERNIZE HYDROLOGIC SERVICES FOR EVENTS RANGING FROM FLOODS TO DROUGHTS. AHPS EXTENDS THE RANGE AND QUANTIFIES THE CERTAINTY OF NWS RIVER FORECASTS AND PROVIDES TIMELY...USER-FRIENDLY TEXT AND GRAPHICAL PRODUCTS ACCESSIBLE ON THE INTERNET.

TUESDAY MARCH 21: TURN AROUND...DON/T DROWN.
PEOPLE OFTEN UNDERESTIMATE THE FORCE OF WATER. MORE THAN HALF OF ALL FLOOD RELATED DEATHS ARE ATTRIBUTED TO VEHICLES THAT ARE SWEEPED DOWNSTREAM.

MANY OF THESE DROWNINGS ARE PREVENTABLE SIMPLY BY NOT DRIVING OR WALKING ONTO FLOODED ROADS. MOST VEHICLES LOSE CONTACT WITH THE ROAD IN SIX INCHES OF WATER AND CAN BE SWEEPED AWAY IN 18-24 INCHES OF WATER. REMEMBER...WHEN APPROACHING A FLOODED ROADWAY: TURN AROUND... DON/T DROWN.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 22: FLOODING AND RELATED PHENOMENA.
A VARIETY OF FLOODING AND RELATED PHENOMENA PLACE ALL 50 STATES AND TERRITORIES AT RISK THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. TROPICAL CYCLONE INLAND FLOODING...SNOWMELT...ICE JAMS AND DEBRIS FLOWS ARE JUST SOME OF THE FLOODING AND RELATED PHENOMENA WHICH POSE A THREAT TO LIFE AND PROPERTY.

THURSDAY MARCH 23: DETERMINING FLOOD RISK AND FLOOD INSURANCE.
FLOOD LOSSES ARE NOT TYPICALLY COVERED IN HOMEOWNER INSURANCE POLICIES. HOWEVER...FLOOD INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE TO PROPERTY OWNERS IN COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATING IN THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY /FEMA/ NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM. FEMA FLOOD HAZARD MAPS ENABLE CONSUMERS TO DETERMINE THEIR RISK AND CHOOSE THE APPROPRIATE FLOOD INSURANCE.

FRIDAY MARCH 24: FLOOD SAFETY.
THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE...ALONG WITH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS...INFORMS COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ON HOW TO BECOME AWARE OF FLOOD RISKS AND REACT PROPERLY WHEN A FLOOD THREATENS. KNOWING WHAT TO DO BEFORE...DURING AND AFTER A FLOOD CAN SAVE LIVES AND REDUCE INJURIES AND PROPERTY DAMAGE.

INFORMATION ON FLOOD SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK...INCLUDING EDUCATION MATERIALS... VIDEOS... BROCHURES AND NEWS ARTICLES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/FLOODSAFETY/](http://www.weather.gov/floodsafety/)

NWS IS A LINE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION...AN AGENCY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. NOAA IS DEDICATED TO ENHANCING ECONOMIC SECURITY AND NATIONAL SAFETY THROUGH THE PREDICTION AND RESEARCH OF WEATHER AND CLIMATE RELATED EVENTS AND PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP OF U.S. COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES. THROUGH THE EMERGING GLOBAL EARTH OBSERVATION SYSTEM OF SYSTEMS /GEOSS/...NOAA IS WORKING WITH ITS FEDERAL PARTNERS AND NEARLY 60 COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP A GLOBAL MONITORING NETWORK THAT IS AS INTEGRATED AS THE PLANET IT OBSERVES.

NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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