CHECK YOUR RIVER LEVEL

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CHECK YOUR RIVER LEVEL KNOW YOUR FLOOD LEVEL

Do you know how high the river is when it floods near you?

In Easton, Pennsylvania, the normal daily flow on the Delaware River may only be several feet. When it floods, the river reaches 22 feet or higher. In Callicoon, New York, flooding begins at only 12 feet. At each point along the river, ground conditions will determine the "flood stage," or height at which the river floods. But at all points, once flood stage is met, the risks are the same: damage to belongings, property and lives.

You can find out the flood level or "flood stage" near you by visiting http://water.weather.gov/ahps.

There, you will find a map of the United States that shows the very large system of stream gages along rivers all across the country. You can use the zoom tool to focus in on the river gage nearest you. By clicking on that gage, you will be able to see a "hydrograph," or a chart of the current river levels, which will also show you details of flood stage for that gage, including the various points at which major access roads begin to flood, historical flood data, and more. This process will familiarize you with how the river levels affect your area, and can help you during a flood event to make decisions about when you should prepare your belongings and evacuate your property.

To learn how to sign up for "flood alerts" that notify you when the river is expected to reach flood stage at the gage near you, please check our "Sign Up For Flood Alerts" card, or visit www.focusonfloods.org, for more information.

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The Nurture Nature Center 518 Northampton Street Easton, PA 18042 FOUNDATION www.nurturenaturecenter.org