

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

West Virginia Flood Resiliency Framework offers to tools for preparing and recovering from floods

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MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (WBOY) — Tools designed by researchers at West Virginia University could help streamline flood response like after the flash floods that impacted Marion and Ohio counties over the weekend.

The [West Virginia Flood Resiliency Framework](#) includes both resources for dealing with emergency flooding and information sources that can help communities better prepare. According to a press release from [WVU Today](#), the toolkit has been available for a while now and was created after lengthy research on flood resiliency and devastation in West Virginia.

The release said that “anyone committed to strengthening flood resiliency in West Virginia communities” can use the tools, including decision makers at local, state, regional and federal levels, as well as floodplain managers, nonprofit organizations, planners and emergency managers.

[Organizations, community works to help those affected by Marion County flood](#)

The tools include the [Risk Explorer](#), which assesses what facilities and residences would be impacted by a 100-year flood; the [West Virginia Hazard Library](#), which includes hazard resources like a Best Practices Guide, floodplain manager trainings and flood assessment survey results; and the [West Virginia Flood Tool](#), which maps areas that have been identified as being in a flood hazard zone.



View of [West Virginia Flood Tool](#) showing risk map of structures that would be impacted by a 100-year flood in Fairmont, WV

Aaron Maxwell, an associate professor of geography who helped create the website with the GIS Technical Center, said that the resources can be used by groups and communities who want to apply for grants for FEMA-related projects.

“They’ll be able to make a point of what and where their risks are and how to reduce those quantified risks,” Maxwell said in the release.

The project, which is unique to West Virginia, started on a small scale with a few communities and has been expanded into a statewide project.

However, many of the resources are for river and stream flooding and do not show risks for flash flooding in non-flood hazard areas, like the [area that was hit the hardest in the Father’s Day flood](#).

You can look up your address to see the flood risk in that area [here](#) and browse other tools in the [West Virginia Flood Resiliency Framework here](#).