

TOP STORIES

West Virginia Flood Resiliency Framework hopes to mitigate flood risks and prepare the public for when disaster strikes

by: [Steven Moore](#)

Posted: Jun 19, 2025 / 10:28 PM EDT

Updated: Jun 19, 2025 / 10:28 PM EDT

Wheeling, W.Va. (WTRF) – Researchers at WVU and other institutions have been working on a way for officials and the public to properly assess and mitigate the risk of flooding.

The West Virginia Flood Resiliency Framework is a comprehensive website with a wide variety of tools and information.

The project was born after the 2016 West Virginia Flood.

The researchers we spoke with say the entire state is fairly flood prone thanks to its steep topography and humid climate. Additionally, there has been a lot of development in flood prone areas.

Since 1953, the Mountain State has declared 64 flood disasters, with 220 deaths. 200,000 residents, or about 11% of the population, along with 98,000 structures, reside in areas with the potential to see the kind of “1-in-100 year flooding” that was seen in Ohio County this past weekend.

“We really aimed this tool at say, a small town West Virginia mayor whose recently been elected. They may not having training in flood plain management or flood plain preparation. They may be the default flood plain manager for their state, for instance, and not really have that training, and they know that floods are increasingly likely, so where can they go? And our idea here was to create a tool, where they could both assess their risk, and plan to mitigate that risk in advance of a disaster.”

JAMIE SHINN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT SUNY COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND FORESTRY

[The West Virginia Flood Resiliency Framework can be found by visiting WVFRF.org.](https://www.wvfrf.org)

There you'll be able to see things like the flood risk for a specific area or piece of property, guides for best practices in disasters, information on FEMA, links to emergency management agencies across the state, and much more.



<https://www.wtrf.com/top-stories/west-virginia-flood-resiliency-framework-hopes-to-mitigate-flood-risks-and-prepare-the-public-for-when-disaster-strikes/>