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WEATHER

Weather: 2017 Flooding Compared to the 100 Year Flood

BRIAN NEUDORFF KMVT Meteorologist
Feb 10, 2017

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August 2014 was designated the 100 year flood for Twin Falls. The city of Twin Falls was under water. Over a 48 hour period of time between Aug. 5 and 6, Twin Falls received 3.7 inches of rain. While the city was under water, many outlying communities in southern Idaho experience the same kind of flooding or impact as the city did. Fast forward two and a half years to the winter of 2017, the flooding is much different and in my professional opinion, much worst. It's the outlying communities that are flooding more than the cities are.

The flooding of August 2014 was because of a lot of rain in a short amount of time, taxing the city's drainage system that couldn't handle that much water. The rural locations were fine because the ground was able to absorb a good portion of the rain before it became a flooding threat.

7 Day Forecast

	Tuesday 55° / 36°
	Wednesday 59° / 32°
	Thursday 67° / 39°
	Friday 69° / 48°
	Saturday 59° / 36°
	Sunday 53° / 34°
	Monday 53° / 34°

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February of 2017 while the city of Twin Falls seems to be fairing quite well, many rural communities are feeling the brunt of the flooding, but why is that? There are several things going on making this flooding one for history books. We start off with record snowfall and snowpack on the ground from the month of January. For many, we are seeing three to four times the amount of snow than we see in a single year. We are in the heart of winter, and we had a long stretch of colder than average temperatures to end January. Many days and nights were below freezing allowing the ground to be frozen solid. Now we add warmer than average temperatures and rain amounts of a half an inch to near an inch and we get one of the worst flooding events in Southern Idaho history.

The biggest factor in the current flooding is the ground being frozen solid. It can't do its job absorbing water, so the water flows to the lowest lying areas it can find. In many cases fields, yards, canals and some streams. Also this water will take with it some debris and ice and in many of the canals this causes ice jams or damming to occur forcing water out of canals and on to roads and property.

How much longer will this flooding last? While drier weather is likely for the rest of the week and most of next week, I don't think we are done with flooding this winter or spring. The drier periods will help and thawing the ground will allow for moisture to be absorbed but the long range outlook still has wetter and warmer than average conditions into the month of March.



Neudorff

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