



MWI 1110-02

Heavy Rain and Flooding Alerts

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PURPOSE:	To provide uniform guidelines for protecting the track, structures and roadbed during heavy rain and flooding alerts.
SAFETY:	Observe all applicable Safety, and Operating Rules and Regulations; and Safe Job Procedures.
LOCATION:	All CSXT tracks.
ENVIRONMENTAL:	Observe all applicable Federal, State and Local environmental rules and regulations.

I. DISCUSSION

A. Rainfall can produce large quantities of water that can cause track damage by:

- washing out bridges, pipelines, roadbed, and ballast,
- slides and rock-falls onto the track, and
- making the track impassable from flooding.

During periods of heavy rain the tracks should be inspected as necessary. If these weather conditions become severe, a rainfall/flooding alert will be issued by the Weather Monitoring Service through the CSXT Operations Center and the Engineering Help Desk.

B. There are three (3) types of rainfall/flooding alerts, which require specific actions to protect the track, structures, and roadbed. They are listed below in severity order from least to most severe:

- Severe Weather - Rising Water Warning,
- Severe Weather - Flash Flood Level 1, Flash Flood Watch, and
- Severe Weather - Flash Flood Level 2, Flash Flood Warning.

II. PROCEDURE

A. Severe Weather - Rising Water Warning

1. Upon notification from the Weather Monitoring Service of Severe Weather - Rising Water Warning, the Engineering Help Desk will notify the Division Engineer or his representative of these conditions.
2. Upon receipt of this notification, the Division Engineer will take appropriate action that may include the inspection of track roadbed and/or structures.
3. The Division Engineer will monitor local weather conditions and will update the Chief Train Dispatcher on weather conditions including any local weather conditions concerning their respective territory.
4. The Division Engineer will monitor forecast flood stage and possible rising water levels on all streams and tributaries in the affected territories.

5. The Division Engineer will be responsible for notifying the Operations Center when the track and structures have been inspected and are safe for normal train operations.
6. The Operations Center will cancel the Severe Weather - Rising Water Warning after notification from both the:
 - Weather Monitoring Service that severe weather conditions will no longer adversely affect the railroad, and
 - Division Engineer that the track and structures are safe for normal train operations.

B. Severe Weather - Flash Flood Level 1, Flash Flood Watch

1. Upon notification from the Weather Monitoring Service of Severe Weather – Flash Flood Watch, the Engineering Help Desk will notify the Division Engineer or his representative of these conditions. Enroute Movement Instructions (Form EC-1) or Train Message will be issued as deemed necessary by the Division Engineer Track and the Engineering Help Desk. The Enroute Movement (Form EC-1) Instructions or Train Message will include those locations identified by the Weather Monitoring Service as being affected. The Engineering Help Desk and the Division Engineer will continue to monitor weather conditions and update each other on a periodic basis.
2. Upon receipt of this notification, the Division Engineer will take appropriate action that may include the inspection of track roadbed and/or structures.
3. The Division Engineer will monitor local weather conditions and will update the Chief Train Dispatcher on weather conditions including any local weather conditions concerning their respective territory.
4. The Division Engineer will be responsible for notifying the Operations Center when the track and structures have been inspected and are safe for normal train operations.
5. The Operations Center will cancel the Severe Weather – Flash Flood Watch after notification from both the:
 - Weather Monitoring Service that severe weather conditions will no longer adversely affect the railroad, and
 - Division Engineer that the track and structures are safe for normal train operations.

C. Severe Weather - Flash Flood Level 2, Flash Flood Warning

1. Upon notification from the Weather Monitoring Service of Severe Weather – Flash Flood Warning, the Operations Center will issue Enroute Movement Instructions (Form EC-1) or Train Message that include those locations identified by the Weather Monitoring Service as being affected. The Engineering Help Desk will notify the Division Engineer or his representative of these conditions. The Operations Center, the Engineering Help Desk, and the Division Engineer or designee will continue to monitor weather conditions and update each other on a periodic basis. An example of the Form EC-1 Line 9 Instructions is shown below:

9. FLASH FLOOD WARNING
 IN EFFECT ON _____SD
 IN EFFECT BTW MP_____ AND MP_____ ON_____SD


2. Upon receipt of this notification, the Division Engineer or designee through the Roadmaster will have the tracks/structures inspected with priority given to tracks:
 - a) which have passenger/commuter trains traffic,
 - b) FRA Class 4 and higher tracks,
 - c) tracks known to be susceptible to drainage, flood, and /or slide problems.
 - d) other tracks.


The track inspections will be performed periodically until the severe weather-flash flood warning conditions have passed. Temporary speed restrictions, taking the track out of service and other appropriate measures will be used, as necessary, to protect trains operations.


3. The Division Engineer or designee will monitor local weather conditions and will update the Chief Train Dispatcher on weather conditions including any local weather conditions concerning their respective territory.
4. The Division Engineer or designee will be responsible for notifying the Operations Center when the track and structures have been inspected and are safe for normal train operations.
5. The Operations Center will cancel the Severe Weather – Flash Flood Warning after notification from the:
 - Weather Monitoring Service that severe weather conditions will no longer adversely affect the previously specified locations on the railroad and
 - Division Engineer or designee that the track and structures are safe for normal train operations.

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