Flash Flood Guidance System On-going Enhancements

Hydrologic Research Center

The following enhancements are in various stages of development and implementation based on specific country needs, expressed interest, funding priorities and cooperation.

Multi-model quantitative precipitation forecast (QPF) use within FFG systems

Landslide susceptibility and landslide occurrence prediction

Urban Flash Flood Warning

Riverine routing and discharge ensemble prediction

Multi-model QPF Use



Multi-model QPF Use in CARFFG System



HRC

Multi-model QPF Use in CARFFG System



Landslide Susceptibility

Relates susceptibility to landslides based on physical characteristics of land surface for historical landslide events, then extends to entire country/region.



Example Susceptibility map for country of El Salvador within Central America FFG System (30m resolution). Categories of low, medium, high and very high. Results from El Salvador then used throughout Central America.

Landslide Assessment in Real-Time



Currently being deployed for Central America FFG System 1) From database of historical rain landslide events, develop threshold line of antecedent soil moisture condition and precipitation for those known events.

2) Use of real-time FFG system estimates of lower soil moisture and precipitation to identify at-risk watersheds.

3) And then the landslide susceptibility map to identify critical regions within watersheds.

Historical analysis is data-intensive, requiring quality records of landslide occurrence, location and other attributes.

Urban Flash Flood Warning

Builds upon data available from FFGS (precipitation, model conditions) and includes high resolution modeling in urban area to include both surface and subsurface flow routing.



Urban Flash Flood Warning

Requires cities with radar coverage Requires urban storm sewer information. Urban watersheds define at a resolution of 2km².

Surface and subsurface flow modeled. Red watersheds below indicate where system indicates storm sewer overflow.







Extracts sub-catchment runoff from FFG System and routes river flow through channel network at high resolution to estimate discharges. Algorithms developed to consider operation of large reservoirs (requires information on operating curves).



Example of distributed flow modeling network from the Panama Canal.

Ensemble discharge prediction if multiple NWP predictions or ensemble NWP results from single model are available.

Longer lead time of NWP predictions is required (> 48hours). Bias adjustment on forecast precipitation will also be required.



Example of ensemble discharge prediction from Panama.

On-going Enhancements to FFG Systems

