

[USGS Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Water Science Center](#)  
[Seminar Series](#)

**Tuesday, December 13, 2016 11:00 a.m.**

**Flooding History of the Baltimore Region**

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On average, flooding kills about 140 people and causes nearly \$6 billion in property damage in the United States each year. Although loss of life to floods over the past 60 years has declined because of improved warning systems, economic losses have continued to rise due to increased urbanization in flood prone areas, as well as coastal development (U.S. Geological Survey, 2006<sup>1</sup>). This presentation explores the history of flooding in the Baltimore region through the examination of historical USGS stream-gage data and precipitation records.



Perspectives are presented on storms such as Tropical Storm Agnes in June 1972, Tropical Storm Eloise in September 1975, Hurricane David in September 1979, and Tropical Storm Lee in September 2011. Historical floods, occurring prior to the existence of stream-gage records, are also discussed. The USGS response to the recent flash flooding in Ellicott City, Maryland on July 30, 2016 is also discussed.

*Ed Doheny has worked as a hydrologist in the Maryland-Delaware-DC Water Science Center of the U.S. Geological Survey since 1990. He is a senior member of the Center's Surface Water Monitoring and Sediment Studies Team that is charged with operating and maintaining the USGS stream-gaging network in Maryland-Delaware-DC. He has also worked on projects related to bridge scour, flood frequency and inundation, network analysis, stream restoration monitoring and research, and urban hydrology. For the past 8 years, Ed has also served as the Center's Surface-Water Specialist, which focuses heavily on QA/QC of surface-water data and use of analytical techniques, as well as providing technical support to Center staff on network operations and projects.*

*This presentation will also be available remotely via Webex:*

*<https://usgs.webex.com/usgs/j.php?MTID=m8c3bfcd99a2d8ef8618108063fbed107>*

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For directions to the USGS MD-DE-DC WSC: <http://md.water.usgs.gov/directions/baltimore.html>.