March 2010
Flooding Continues To Impact Much of The East

Nearly two dozen nor’easters have pounded the region this winter, bringing snow, rain and mixed precipitation. Following record snowfall in parts of the Northeast during the winter of 2009-10, warmer storms during March have yielded record or near-record rainfall in some locations.

In some cases rainfall alone has led to record river flooding for the second time in two weeks. Boston, Mass. and Providence, R.I. have experienced their wettest March on record.

Farther south Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Md., Philadelphia, Pa. and New York City have had three to four times their average snowfall this winter and were recently dealing with substantial rainfall.

Weather varies over distance and time, and rainfall and snowfall are no exception. The exact amount of rain and snow in a particular area is the key to determining if the design of a particular structure was compromised.

The Rainfall Return Period is commonly used by the insurance and construction industry for runoff handling ability. This period is how often one would expect, on average, a particular rainfall event to occur.

The team of AccuWeather.com forensic meteorologists have the ability to determine not only how much rain or snow fell on a specific address over a certain period of time, but also the water content of that snow and how quickly that moisture was released by melting. Our forensic meteorologists can also research any recent flooding in the region.

Once both the rainfall and melted snow have been determined for the address in question, the forensic team will then refer to the Rainfall Return Period and discuss any differences. All short-term, intermediate and long-term periods would be examined. Your firm can then take the information provided by AccuWeather.com Forensics to an engineer for comparison to required appropriate design standards.

The team of Forensic Meteorologists at AccuWeather.com will use their combined meteorological experience of over 100 years to examine all relevant weather data and supply you with the facts and findings via verbal consultation or a written, signed report, as well as expert testimony.

There is no fee for the initial phone consultation. Give the AccuWeather.com Forensics Department a call at 814-235-8626 during normal business hours between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Eastern, Monday through Friday or leave a voice mail in confidence and someone will get back to you.