

Lessons Learned from the 13-14 May 2014 Flash Flood Event in the Finger Lakes Region of Central New York State

Michael L. Jurewicz, Sr., NOAA/NWS, Binghamton, NY

A significant flash flood event took place during the late evening hours of 13 May and early morning hours of 14 May in the Penn Yan, NY area. Preliminary estimates show combined private residence and public infrastructure damages close to \$10 million. Fortunately, no injuries or fatalities were reported.

Both rain gauge data and WSR-88D dual-polarization rainfall estimates from KBGM (Binghamton, NY) and KBUF (Buffalo, NY) indicate that 3-6" (75-150 mm) of rain, and perhaps locally higher amounts, fell in Penn Yan, NY and its immediately surrounding watersheds between 0100 UTC and 0500 UTC, 14 May.

There were several challenging aspects to this event. These challenges centered on pattern recognition (owing to a subtle and somewhat unusual synoptic configuration for a heavy rainfall/flash flood case), implementation of the latest technological advances, and the infusion of research into warning operations. It is hoped that insights gained from a post-mortem of this event will prove beneficial to the meteorological community.