



Flood Inundation Modeling for Urban Watersheds

T. Fewtrell (1), J. Neal (2), J. Smith (3), P. Bates (2), A. Miller (4), M.L. Baeck (3), and G. Villarini (3)

(1) Willis Research Network, United Kingdom (timothy.fewtrell@willis.com), (2) University of Bristol, United Kingdom, (3) Princeton University, USA, (4) University of Maryland, USA

In this paper, flood inundation modeling is examined through analyses of major urban floods in Baltimore, MD (USA). Analyses are based on the LISFLOOD-FP model and utilize high-resolution data sets for the channel and valley bottom topography and composition of Dead Run. We examine flood inundation for major flood events on 7 July 2004 and 24 July 2008. For the 7 July 2004 flood event, flood inundation observations are available over a significant portion of the drainage network of the Dead Run watershed. Additional data sets, including high-resolution radar rainfall data sets and stage observations from a network of stream gaging stations, are used to assess spatial heterogeneities of flood response. LISFLOOD-FP inundation representations are compared to FEMA flood inundation maps for the Dead Run study region and used to assess critical modeling elements for flood hazard assessments in urban watersheds.