Thunderstorms could bring flash flooding to Upstate

Three-to-six inches of rain forecast

By Nathaniel Cary
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Greenville's stretch of warm, sunny weather has come to an end. Get ready for a week of widespread thunderstorms expected to bring heavy rain with the potential of flash flooding to parts of the Upstate.

"It's going to be really intense," said James Oh, meteorologist with the National Weather Service station in Greer.

Six inches or more of rain could fall in mountain areas over a prolonged period today through Wednesday night, Oh said.

That brings a risk for landslides and slope failure to mountain areas in the northern part of Greenville County, he said.

"The soil is going to be really saturated by Tuesday and with all the ongoing heavy thundershowers and downpours, it could trigger a debris flow or landslide, especially over a sloped area," Oh said.

The weather service doesn't send landslide-specific alerts to residents, but does send text alerts when flash floods are expected, Oh said. Those weather alerts tell residents to check with the weather service or local media for more information, which can include information about potential landslides, he said.

Oh didn't know how often the weather service included the po-

See RAIN, Page 5A

INSIDE

Abby....2D	Crossword....2D	Lottery....2A
Bridge....2D	History....2A	Obituaries....6A
Classified....5C	Lifestyle....1D	Sports....1C
Comics....3D	Local news....3A	Television....2D

RAIN

Continued from Page 1A

tential for landslides in its hazardous weather outlook reports. A report published April 24 in *The Greenville News* brought attention to the risk to some communities from potential landslides or debris flows in the Upstate mountains.

A warm, unstable air mass will settle across the Upstate today in advance of a strong cold front that brought tornado threats across the middle of the United States this weekend. The slow moving cold front will arrive this morning resulting in scattered showers and thunderstorms that will turn heavy later today, Oh said.

The chance of showers and thunderstorms will increase after 9 a.m. and will become more widespread by 8 p.m., according to the weather service. Today's high will reach just 73 after highs in the 80s over the past week that gave Greenville its first taste of summer-like heat.

"We're going to see severe weather plus flash flooding Monday until Thursday," Oh said. "It's pretty intense."

Showers will continue Tuesday with 1-2 inches of rain in Greenville and more possible in the mountain areas and a high of 76, according to the weather service.

The highest threat for flash flooding and for rivers to flood their banks will be Tuesday into Wednesday when severe weather is at its peak, Oh said.

Wednesday will bring more showers and possibly a thunderstorm, with a high of 68. Showers are likely into Wednesday night before mostly sunny skies return for Thursday with a high of 74.

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