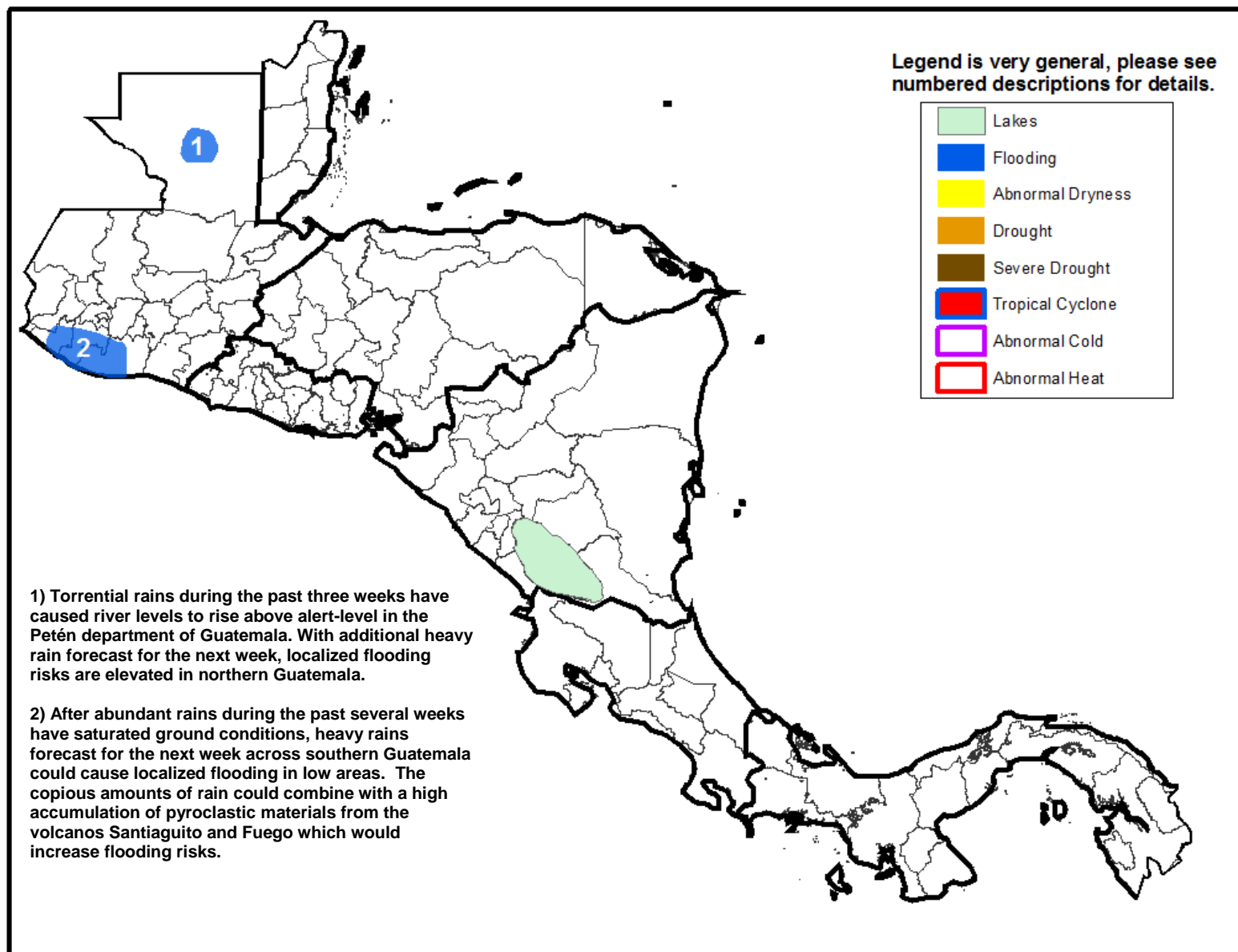




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook September 18 – September 24, 2014

- Above-average rains across Guatemala raise river levels in parts of the country.



Above-average rain was observed across much of Central America during the past week.

During the past seven days, moderate to heavy rain (>30mm) was observed across most of Central America. Heavy rain (>50mm) was recorded across northern Guatemala, Belize, the Gulf of Fonseca region in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua as well as southern Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. The highest weekly precipitation totals (>90mm) were located in Costa Rica, Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and western Honduras. The abundant rains in northern Guatemala have caused river levels along the Motagua, La Pasión and Usumacinta Rivers to rise above alert level, while heavy rains in southern Guatemala have saturated ground conditions. The increase in rains across Central America during the past thirty-days has resulted in rainfall surpluses around the Gulf of Fonseca and the Caribbean coastline of Nicaragua. Postrera season rainfall also is generally average to above-average in Central America with only dryness from poor Primera rains lingering in Nicaragua and northwestern Costa Rica. This dryness already resulted in failed and wilted Primera crops but rains have since improved.

During the next week, heavy rain (>50mm) is forecast for the Pacific coastline of Central America as well as the Caribbean coastline of northern Central America. The heaviest rains are expected in Costa Rica, the Gulf of Fonseca and southern Guatemala. The heavy rains in southern Guatemala combined with a large amount of pyroclastic material from the volcanos Santiaguito and Fuego will increase the risk for floods in low areas. Elsewhere, moderate to heavy rain (>20mm) is forecast. The rains should continue to erode Primera season rainfall deficits across northern Central America while providing needed moisture for Postrera season crops.

