

## Re: a simple(?) probability question...

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- *From:* [matt271829-news@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:matt271829-news@xxxxxxxxxxxx)
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On Jan 29, 6:54 pm, "Joe" <jconcor...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

[snip]

The reference:[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/100-year\\_flood](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/100-year_flood) has been cited earlier, but on revisiting it is interesting to see the opening statement of that article again. If you consider WIKI Encyclopedia as a credible reference perhaps you would accept that first sentence. It is:

"A one-hundred year flood is calculated to be the maximum level of flood water expected to occur on average once every one hundred years" I think the operative words "expected to occur" and "once every" are the basis for my previous posts.

That sentence is correct, but far from being "the basis" for your previous posts it bears little if any resemblance to anything you have been saying. The 100-year storm is *expected* to occur exactly once in 100 years. That is, it is assumed *on average* to occur exactly once in 100 years. But this does not mean that it *will* occur exactly once in 100 years. In any given 100 year period the storm may, with some probability, actually occur zero, one, two, three etc. times. This has all been explained before. Of course the probability of its occurring "many" times gets increasingly tiny. Perhaps that last point is what you didn't realise and what, amongst various other things, is contributing to your general confusion.