

FLOODING

FLOODING IS THE MOST COMMON HAZARD IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND CAN OCCUR ANY TIME OF YEAR. SINCE 1950, MORE THAN 30 FLOOD EVENTS HAVE DISRUPTED HORRY COUNTY.

Horry County is located between two bodies of water: Little Pee Dee River and the Atlantic Ocean. Waccamaw River runs through the County, which is hydrologically connected to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

In September 2018, both rivers reached historic levels. Little Pee Dee River crested at 17.21 feet (the last time the river reached similar levels was in 2016.) Waccamaw River crested at 21.16 feet, which is seven feet above major flood stage. As a result, the Intracoastal Waterway reached historic levels.

Is there a time of year when flooding is more likely to occur?

Based on historical records, the chances of a major flood to occur are highest from June to October, with September and October being the months with the highest probability. In general, flooding is more likely to occur mid-November through mid-April. While major flooding is possible during those months, it is usually less severe than during the warm season.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY HOME?

1. **DETERMINE YOUR FLOOD RISK** Whether you live in a high, moderate or low risk area, everyone is at risk for flooding.
2. **WHAT IS A 100-YEAR FLOOD?** Floodplain managers use the term 100-year flood to describe a flood that has a one-percent chance of occurring in any given year. Just because a community **PURCHASE FLOOD INSURANCE** Most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage. Flood insurance can be purchased through the National Flood Insurance Program.
3. **MAKE A FLOOD PLAN**
 - a. Know evacuation routes.
 - b. Keep important papers in a safe, waterproof place.

WHAT IS A 100-YEAR FLOOD?

Floodplain managers use the term 100 year flood to describe a flood that has a one-percent chance of occurring in any given year.

Just because a community has suffered a 100-year flood does not mean that it won't face a flood of similar magnitude for another 99 years. For more information, visit:
<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/100yearflood.html>

Most injuries and deaths occur when people are swept away by flood currents, often when motorists attempt to drive through floodwaters in a vehicle.

TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN

If a road is flooded, turn around and find an alternate route. Don't risk drowning by trying to cross it. It is NEVER safe to drive or walk into flood waters.

Flood waters and standing waters pose various risks, including infectious diseases, chemical hazards and injuries. Avoid exposure to flood waters if you have an open wound. Cover open wounds with a waterproof bandage. Avoid downed power lines. Flood waters can displace animals, insects and reptiles. Be alert and avoid contact.

Flood Stages

Waccamaw River

- Minor flood stage: 11 feet
- Moderate flood stage: 12 feet
- Major flood stage: 14 -16 feet

LITTLE PEE DEE RIVER

- Minor flood stage: 9 feet
- Moderate flood stage: 11 feet
- Major flood stage: 12 feet

Coastline

- Minor flood stage: 1-2 FEET ABOVE NORMAL HIGH TIDE
- Moderate flood stage: 2-4 FEET ABOVE NORMAL HIGH TIDE
- Major flood stage: 4-9 FEET ABOVE NORMAL HIGH TIDE

Important information

- REPORT DRAINAGE ISSUES TO Road and Drainage Hotline: (843) 381-8000
- FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT Horry County Code Enforcement: (843) 915-5090
- IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: 911
- ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30

Additional Emergency Management information:

- Phone: (843) 915-5150
- Website: emd.horrycounty.org
- Facebook: Horry County Emergency Management Department
- Twitter (X): @HorryEMD