

Historic Rain Fall Over South Carolina

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Rain of historic proportions fell over central South Carolina over the weekend. Governor Nikki Haley said parts of the state were hit with rainfall that would be expected to occur once in a thousand years.

Chapin Police Department reported there was standing water in the town on Sunday. Zion Church Road, beside Food Lion was flooded, East Boundary Road flooded along with Amicks Ferry Road and Sand Bar Road also reported to be flooded, along with other areas in and around the Chapin area.

All schools and offices in Lexington-Richland School District Five were closed on Monday, Oct. 5 due to inclement weather and road conditions. Likewise, all district events including athletic events, Adult Education classes and other after school activities for Monday were cancelled.

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Murry Lindler and Bush River Road.
(Lori Mitchell O'Connor photo)



Westwoods and St. Peter's Church Road in Chapin under water.
(Annette Bethel photo)





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First time flood gates opened at Lake Murray Dam since the 60's!
(Denise Hallman photo)



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THE POST AND COURIER

Oct. 6

**BEGIN PREPARING FOR
NEXT DISASTER**

Catastrophic rainstorms like this one happen only every thousand years, climate and weather experts explained as unprecedented flooding forced people out of their homes, closed roads and submerged stalled vehicles. One can only hope that assessment holds true.

As of Monday afternoon, at least 11 people had died as a result of the floodwaters, with more than 500 roads still closed to traffic statewide and 26,000 South Carolinians without power.

It was, as Gov. Nikki Haley said, "a storm of historic proportions."

It could have been much worse. ...

South Carolina's highways also suffered severe damage from the storm. Far from simple cracks and potholes, entire chunks of roads and bridges collapsed and washed away.

Of course, many of the roads with the worst damage were already in deplorable shape long before the storm hit. As if further impetus were needed, the widespread destruction caused by this storm should spur the South Carolina Legislature to enact needed measures that will allow the state to shore up crumbling roads and bridges.

Dams, sea walls, ditches and drainage infrastructure will also need improve-

ments and reinforcements to help protect against the next serious storm system.

In the Lowcountry, gradually rising sea levels threaten to turn even much smaller storms into dangerous disasters. Mitigating the effects of future floods should be a top priority for every new development, road or infrastructure project in the Charleston area.

It will likely take days or even weeks to fully understand the scope of the damage done to this state. Undoubtedly, it will be shocking.

"This is one for the record books," local Clemson Extension agent Charles W. Davis Jr. told our reporter. "We've had rain events before, and they were never very pretty, but this is the one the old-timers are going to talk about. It's a shipwreck."

Recovery will take time for the South Carolinians who lost their homes, their cars and their belongings. And families and friends are grieving the truly irreplaceable losses of at least 11 lives.

A flood as extreme as the one that inundated much of the state this weekend was all but unthinkable until the water started to rise.

Fortunately, the state's residents, leaders and emergency personnel responded with unblinking poise and bravery. We must work to prepare for the next disaster, even if it doesn't happen for a thousand years.

Online:

<http://www.postandcourier.com>



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S.C. sees sun, but flooding ordeal far from over

COLUMBIA (AP) — The Carolinas saw sunshine Tuesday after days of inundation, but it could take weeks to recover from being pummeled by a historic rainstorm that caused widespread flooding and 14 deaths.

Tuesday was the first completely dry day in Columbia, the state capital, since Sept. 24, but officials warned that new evacuations could be ordered as the huge mass of water flows toward the sea, threatening dams and displacing residents along the way.

“God smiled on South Carolina because the sun is out. That is a good sign, but ... we still have to be cautious,” Gov. Nikki Haley said Tuesday.

“We are going to be extremely careful. We are watching this minute by minute.”

At least 14 weather-related deaths in South Carolina and two in North Carolina were blamed on the vast rainstorm. Six people drowned in their cars in Columbia alone, and several died after driving around safety barriers onto flooded roads.

“Please help us help you,” Haley said. “We want to make sure every bridge and road is safe for you and your families.”

Flooding is a concern for any urban area, where concrete covers soil that would otherwise act as a sponge in heavy rain. But the multitude of waterways in Columbia — where the Broad and Saluda rivers come together to form the Congaree — made the city a prime target.

Water distribution remained a key problem Tuesday across much of the state.

In Columbia, as many as 40,000 homes lacked drinking water, and the rest of the city’s 375,000 customers were told to boil water before using it for drinking or cooking, an order that Mayor Steve Benjamin said will likely be in effect for “quite some time.”

“We still have some infrastructure issues. We still have water coming down from the Upstate,” Benjamin said.

Nearly 500 roads and bridg-

es were still closed Tuesday morning, including a 90-mile stretch of Interstate 95 between Interstates 20 and 26, the state Department of Transportation said.

The solid week of rainfall also sent about 1,000 to shelters.

In Effingham, about 80 miles east of Columbia, the Lynches River was at nearly 20 feet on Tuesday, five feet above flood stage, the National Weather Service said.

A day after evacuation orders went out, Kip Jones paddled a kayak to check on a home he rents out and discovered that the family lost pretty much everything after seeking shelter elsewhere.

The lower story had almost eight feet of water in its bathroom and bedrooms, he said.

“Their stuff is floating all in the house,” Jones said. “I

don’t know if the house will be salvageable. ... Once the water comes in the house you get bacteria, and you get mold. I don’t know if the water in the house is a total loss or a partial. I don’t know what to expect. We’ll find out soon though.”

Closer to the capital, another dam failure Monday rattled residents who thought the worst had passed after a weekend of hundreds of water rescues.

James Shirer watched a

dam fail Monday, emptying the 22-acre Rockyford Lake in the town of Forest Acres in less than 15 minutes.

“It just poured out,” Shirer said. The rains have “wrecked the dams; they’ve ruined all of the bridges.”

South Carolina’s low-lying geography and insufficient spending on infrastructure left several town and cities

like islands after roads washed out and creeks topped bridges.

“I fear the worst is to come. We have a power substation under water. No telling when that thing gets fixed,” Clarendon County Sheriff Randy Garrett said Monday in Man-





ning, a community isolated by floods about 60 miles south-east of Columbia.

On Monday, officials brought bottled water and portable restrooms for 31,000 students at the University of South Carolina, and firefighters used trucks and pumps to ferry hundreds of thousands of gallons of water to Palmetto Health Baptist Hospital.

Power had been restored to most of the nearly 30,000 customers who were without electricity at the storm's peak.

Much-feared Hurricane Joaquin missed the East Coast, but fueled what experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration called

a "fire hose" of tropical moisture that aimed directly at the state. By Monday, the heaviest rains had moved into the mid-Atlantic states, but not before making history in South Carolina.

The 16.6 inches of rain that fell at Gills Creek near downtown Columbia on Sunday made for one of the rainiest days recorded at a U.S. weather station in more than 16 years.

"The fact is that we're getting six months' worth of rain in two days that's falling in an urbanized area," said John Shelton of the U.S. Geological Survey. "This was kind of the perfect storm."

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Floodwater, above, breaks through a canal in Columbia on Tuesday. Gov. Nikki Haley, and Major Gen. Bob Livingston, left, view flood damage from a helicopter in Columbia on Tuesday. Despite an improving forecast, it will still take weeks for the state to return to normal after being pummeled by an historic rainstorm.





148 Federal disaster area will expand

Sumter likely to be added once damages are fully assessed

BY JIM HILLEY
Jim@theitem.com

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said Tuesday that additional counties will become eligible for federal assistance as data is collected sub-

stantiating damage in those counties.

President Obama signed a major disaster declaration Monday, ordering federal aid to help recovery efforts in the Palmetto State.

The president's action made federal funding available to people in Charleston, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry, Lexington, Orangeburg, Richland and Williamsburg counties. Many in other counties, including Sumter and Clarendon, hard hit by as much as two feet of rain and floodwaters, have questioned why their counties were not included

"This is a story of additions," Haley said.

She said the state would be working closely with county officials to get more counties on the list.

"We want everybody to relax and let us do our job," she said.

W. Craig Fugate, administrator for Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, named W. Michael Moore as the federal coordinating officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area.

According to FEMA, federal disaster aid programs that can be made available under the president's disaster declaration for individuals, families and businesses include: rental payments for temporary housing; grants for home repairs or replacement; grants to replace some household items not covered by insurance; unemployment insurance for workers who lost jobs because of the disaster; low-interest loans for

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primary residents and personal property; and low-interest loans for small businesses, nonprofits, farms and ranches.

Also available are crisis counseling for those traumatized by the disaster, income tax assistance for those filing for property losses and advisory assistance for veterans' benefits and Social Security matters.

Individuals and business owners in designated areas can begin the disaster application process by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov, by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or by web-enabled mobile device at m.fema.gov.

FEMA advises those who plan to apply for assistance not to wait for the official declaration.

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Residents of Golfair Court paddle through the neighborhood Monday morning. The public is being advised to stay home if at all possible, and according to local officials, a 7 p.m. curfew will remain in place until rescinded. KEITH GEDAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sunny skies won't chase away effects of deluge

BY JIM HILLEY
 jim@theitem.com

Clearing skies and warmer temperatures will greet the Midlands this morning, but officials warn dangerous conditions will continue and recovery from the floods will be a lengthy undertaking.

The National Weather Service is predicting mostly sunny conditions and a high of 72 degrees today, with a high pressure system bringing in mostly sunny and dry conditions through the weekend, a welcome respite to waterlogged residents of the Palmetto State.

"We are not out of the woods yet," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "South Caroli-

na has gone through a storm of historic proportions."

As the storm clears out, winds may down trees and power lines, officials warn, and rising rivers may require new evacuations. Of particular concern are the Wateree, Waccamaw, Edisto and Black rivers.

"We may have new evacuations in

Kingstree," Haley said.

Haley announced she has requested a major disaster declaration from the federal government, which will allow further assistance to the state government and South Carolina residents.

Numerous roadways are damaged,

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particularly in central portions of the state, she said.

"The Midlands is still in pretty bad shape," Haley said.

Friday through Sunday rainfall totals in Sumter County posted by the NWS include 20.75 inches at Millwood, 14.88 inches in Sumter, 19.32 inches at Shaw Air Force Base and 17.14 inches at Chestnut Oaks Middle School. Clarendon County totals include: 14.84 inches at Santee and 14.95 inches in Manning.

The process of assessing the damage has already begun, she said, but it will be a "long process."

Pete Poore, communications director for the South Carolina Department of Transportation, said damage to many bridges and roads cannot be assessed until the water recedes.

"We have to assess all the damage, and then there will be a priority based on traffic needs," Poore said.

According to Haley, repairs will be done first on interstates, then on major connecting routes and then on local highways. Rural roads will be last on the list, she said.

SCDOT reported Sunday that at

least 211 state roads and 43 bridges are closed because of the flooding.

Haley promised that the state would take a cautious approach and not open any closed roads until they are safe.

"If we open it, you can be assured it is safe," Haley said.

Officials asked that the public obey warning signs and that the public not move barriers or cones.

Locally, Sumter Police Department Public Information Officer Tonyia McGirt said several roads in the city are likely to remain closed, with inspectors in the area assessing damage.

"State officials are inspecting the bridge at Shot Pouch Creek and Miller Road," she said.

Numerous other roads and bridges in the Midlands have major damage according to official and citizen reports, including both U.S. 15 and U.S. 521 North of Sumter.

Public officials said anyone interested in more road information can visit the Department of Transportation website at www.dot.state.sc.us.

The public is being advised to stay home if at all possible.

According to local officials, a 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew will remain in place until rescinded. For more information, visit www.sumtersheriff.org.

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26K without power, 40K without water, at least 11 deaths

**BY SEANNA ADCOX AND
JEFFREY COLLINS**

The Associated Press

when 18.3 inches fell on Southport, North Carolina, during Hurricane Floyd.

COLUMBIA — Another day of heavy rain drenched an already inundated South Carolina on Monday as rescue teams went door to door to check on people in swamped neighborhoods and authorities surveyed a statewide road system torn apart by historic flooding.

At least 11 weather-related deaths in two states were blamed on the vast rainstorm, with one of the latest coming when a sedan drove around a barricade and stalled in rushing waters. The driver drowned, but a woman who was riding in the car managed to climb on top of it and was rescued by a firefighter who waded into the water.

"She came out the window. How she got on top of the car and stayed there like she did with that water — there's a good Lord," Kershaw County Coroner David West said.

Heavy rain kept falling Monday across the Carolinas from the storm that began in the Southeast last week, part of an unprecedented system that dumped more than a foot of rain across South Carolina and drenched several other states.

Sunday was the wettest day in the history of South Carolina's capital city Columbia, according to the National Weather Service.

The 16.6 inches of rain that fell on the Gills Creek area near Columbia on Sunday was the rainiest day in one single spot in the U.S. in more than 16 years, among weather stations with more than 50 years of record-keeping.

The last time there was that much rain in one spot on a single day was Sept. 16, 1999.

"The flooding is unprecedented and historical," said Dr. Marshall Shepherd, a meteorologist and director of the atmospheric sciences program at the University of Georgia, in an email to The Associated Press.

He said the unique double punch of the upper-level low — aided by a "river" of tropical moisture in the atmosphere from Hurricane Joaquin spinning far out in the Atlantic — gave the monster rainstorm its punch.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has said the deluge is the kind of storm seen only once in 1,000 years.

On Monday, she said 550 roads and bridges were closed across the state. All will have to be checked for structural integrity, which could take weeks or longer.

Even though the rain has tapered off in some areas, she said floodwaters will continue to rise in some areas as rainwater runs down the state toward the coast.

"This is not over. Just because the rain stops does not mean that we are out of the woods," Haley said at a news conference.

Haley said that nine people have died in the state since the storm started. Two additional weather-related deaths were reported in North Carolina.

At least three people were killed Sunday in South Carolina, including a transportation worker who died overseeing work near downtown Columbia, a woman who was swept away in her SUV and the man who drove around the barricade Sunday night in the Lu-

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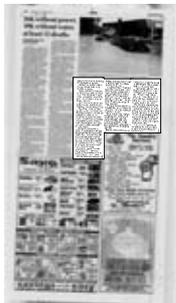




goff community northeast of Columbia, the coroner said.

McArthur Woods, 56, drowned after his car was inundated. His passenger was rescued when someone who heard her screams called 911 about 10 p.m. The woman was

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taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Authorities weren't able to recover Woods' body until Monday morning.

Haley said that 25 emergency shelters are open, housing more than 900 people. Utility crews, meanwhile, were working to restore power to 26,000 people, she said.

More than 40,000 people are without water, and water distribution sites are being set up.

The deluge made for otherworldly scenes in Columbia as floodwaters nearly touched the stoplights Sunday at one downtown intersection. Rainwater cascaded like a waterfall over jagged asphalt where a road sheered apart, and many cars were submerged under flooded streets.

The flooding forced hundreds of weekend rescues and threatened the drinking water supply for Columbia, with officials warning some could be without potable water for days because of water main breaks. The capital city told all 375,000 of its water customers to boil water before drinking.

Elsewhere, nearly 75 miles of Interstate 95 — the main link from the Southeast U.S. to the Northeast — was closed.

Among those rescued were a

woman and baby lifted to safety by helicopter, but efforts were far from over.

Columbia Police Chief William Holbrook issued a statement Monday saying search

teams would check for any people still needing evacuation, and crews will mark the front doors of homes checked with a fluorescent orange X once searched.

Those in distress should call 911, and they will be taken out on military vehicles and bused to shelters, he said.

Many schools and colleges, including the University of South Carolina, canceled classes Monday, and some businesses planned to stay shuttered. State climatologists have said the sun could peek out today.

Rescue crews used boats on

Sunday to evacuate the family of Jeff Whalen, whose house backs up on Gills Creek.

"I got up around 6:15, and a neighbor called to tell us we should get out as soon as we can," Whalen said. "About that point it was about a foot below the door, and when we left it was a foot in the house. It came quickly obviously."

The flooding also prompted acts of kindness in Columbia.

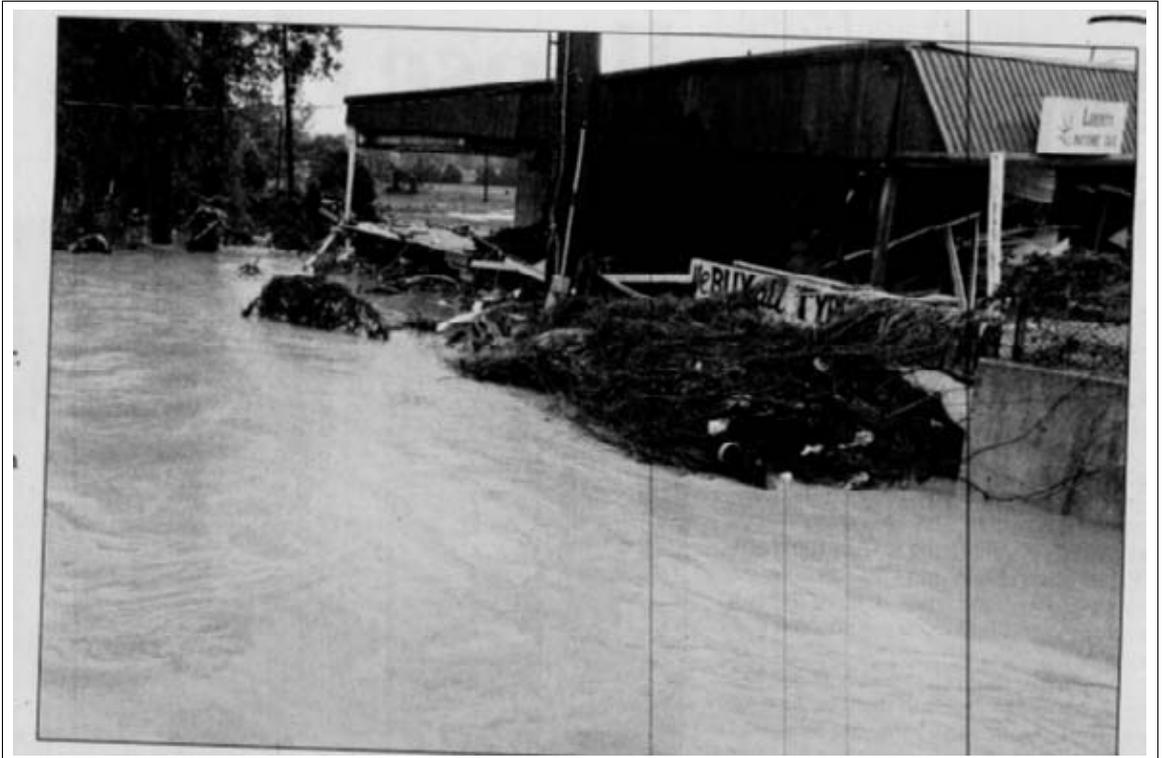
Rawlings LaMotte, 38, a residential real estate broker, said he and a friend got into a small motorboat and ended up ferrying several people to safety, including a man who had been out of town and found roads to his home blocked.

"Until you've experienced something like this, you have no idea how bad it really is," LaMotte said.





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Floodwaters rise over the banks of Gills Creek, destroying several businesses in Columbia.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH
THEN MAKE DECISIONS**

Reading Richard T. Hines' recent letter attacking Republicans, after claiming to be a lifelong member of the party, it made me want to know about him. As a public and corporate figure, there is a lot of information available to the public.

It makes his position clearer when you know Mr. Hines has been a supporter of confederate groups. He accuses Gov. Haley of "colluding with the enemy as an anti-South 'civil rights' figure." Who do you suppose he means by "the enemy?" I support civil rights; as a Christian I am not sure how someone can quote scripture and want to deny others rights.

Carly Fiorina may have been a liberal, pro-abortion Democrat, but I know "most" people change and their views change as they grow older and gain life experiences.

The attacks on Gov. Haley and Carly Fiorina remind me of the misogynist views of past politics. Remember all the attacks on the governor when she first ran for office?

Research Mr. Hines on the Internet and see what his real agenda might be. Take his advice: "Put not your faith in princes," but follow what you know is God's will.

Some may be wondering why would someone who hates women and civil rights try to help the Democrats win by badmouthing Republicans. The answer: both parties support women and civil rights, but anyone who has been pay-

ing attention can see that minorities and women have been doing financially worse under the Democrat policies. So if you hate a group, you surely want to see them suffer more by helping to get the party who causes it to be re-elected.

I'm not telling anyone to support one party or the other. But I am saying do some real research and don't listen to memes or biased comments. Go deeper than who was president when such and such happened. See who controlled the Senate and House and what effect that had on the outcomes. It is time to vote for people who will improve our lives and not just enrich and empower themselves.

JOHN GAYDOS
Wedgfield

**JAY REEVES &
EMERY P. DALESIO**
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The Carolinas saw sunshine Tuesday, Oct. 6 after days of inundation, but it could take weeks to recover from being pummeled by a historic rainstorm that caused widespread flooding and 17 deaths.

Tuesday was the first completely dry day in Columbia since Sept. 24, but officials warned that new evacuations could be ordered as the huge mass of water flows toward the sea, threatening dams and displacing residents along the way.

"God smiled on South Carolina because the sun is out. That is a good sign, but ... we still have to be cautious," Gov. Nikki Haley said Tuesday after taking an aerial tour. "What I saw was disturbing."

"We are going to be extremely careful. We are watching this minute by minute," she said.

At least 15 weather-related deaths in South Carolina and two in North Carolina were blamed on the vast rainstorm. Six people drowned in their cars in Columbia alone, and several died after driving around safety barriers onto flooded roads.

Flooding is a concern wherever concrete covers soil that would otherwise act as a sponge in heavy rain. The multitude of waterways in the Midlands area — where the Broad and Saluda rivers come together to form the Congaree — made the state capital even more vulnerable.

Now officials are looking with concern to the Lowcountry, where several other rivers make their way to the sea, including the Santee and Edisto. Haley warned evacuations may be needed in several counties toward the coast, and noted that several rivers rising downstream of Columbia worried officials.

"We are seeing some stage of flooding with all of them," she said, adding that none have crested.

Haley said it was too soon to put a price tag on the damage and it could be "any amount of dollars." The Republican governor asked for and received a federal disaster declaration from President Barack Obama, freeing up money and resources for the state.

But South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican presidential candidate, promised on the Senate floor not "to ask for a penny more than we need" in federal aid, to avoid the "pile-on" seen in some previous disaster aid bills that were used to get financing for unrelated projects.

Water distribution remained a key problem Tuesday across much of the state. In Columbia, as many as 40,000 homes lacked drinking water, and the rest of the city's 375,000 customers were told to boil water before using it for drinking or cooking, an order that Mayor Steve Benjamin said will likely be in effect for "quite some time."

On the campus of the University of South Carolina, there was no floodwater in sight and the dorms had electricity and Wi-Fi. Brennan Maly was able to flush the toilet and use the shower and the university is handing out free bottled water for drinking.

And classes have been canceled for the entire week.

"For the most part, it kind of feels like a very inconvenient way of camping," said Maly, a 20-year-old sophomore. "It's weird. I feel like there's definitely a naive sense of, 'Hey, we don't have drinking water,' while folks down the road are losing their homes."

Authorities have made hundreds of water rescues over several days, pulling people and animals to safety. About 800 people were in two-dozen shelters, but Haley said that number was expected to rise. Some 200 engineers were checking roads and bridges, but about 470 remained closed Tuesday, including a 75-mile stretch of Interstate 95 in the eastern

part of the street.

The South Carolina National Guard was trying to bolster a major breach in a waterway near Columbia and working with local officials to try to help keep other smaller dams in the state's flooded regions from bursting.

South Carolina National Guard commander Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston said Tuesday's planned operation involved helicopters dropping 1-ton sandbags from Chinook helicopters on a break between a canal and the Congaree river in Columbia.

"These are big sandbags," the two-star general told reporters at the Emergency Management Division headquarters outside Columbia.

Nearly 30,000 customers were without electricity at the storm's peak, but the power grid is returning to normal, the governor said.

In Effingham, about 80 miles east of Columbia, the Lynches River was at nearly 20 feet on Tuesday, 5 feet above flood stage, the National Weather Service said. A day after evacuation orders went out, Kip Jones paddled a kayak to check on a home he rents out. He discovered that the family lost pretty much everything after seeking shelter elsewhere.

The lower story had almost 8 feet of water in its bathroom and bedrooms, he said.

"Their stuff is floating all in the house," Jones said. "I don't know if the house will be salvageable. ... Once the water comes in the house you get bacteria and you get mold. I don't know if the water in the house is a total loss or a partial. I don't know what to expect. We'll find out soon though."

In Turbeville, Police Lt. Philip Wilkes stood at a traffic stop, telling motorists where they could go and what routes ahead were blocked by flooding or shaky bridges.

No, you can't get to Interstate 95, which was closed, though he said there were hopes it would open later in the day. No, you can't get to Manning about 20 miles away.

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"Some people take it pretty good," he said. "Then you've got some of them, they just won't take no for an answer. We can't part the waters."

Much-feared Hurricane Joaquin missed the East Coast, but fueled what ex-

perts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration called a "fire hose" of tropical moisture that aimed directly at the state.

Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Bruce Smith in Charleston;

Mitch Weiss in Greenville; Susanne M. Schafer, Jay Reeves and Russ Bynum in Columbia; Jonathan Drew in Raleigh, North Carolina; Meg Kinnard in Blythewood, and Seth Borenstein in Washington.

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(AP Photo/Gerry Broome)

Florence resident Jackie Lee surveys the flooding to his property on Roundtree Road along the Lynches River near Effingham, Tuesday, Oct. 6, where houses and cars are swamped following record rainfall in the state. The Carolinas saw sunshine Tuesday after days of inundation, but it could take weeks to recover from being pummeled by a historic rainstorm that caused widespread flooding and multiple deaths.





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148 County officials conference call with Governor Haley

Bamberg County Officials took part in a conference call with South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley Monday, October 12, 2015, concerning disaster recovery.

The conference call consisted of Governor Haley asking for each county to submit any need requests to FEMA as soon as possible, as well as, asking for each county to allow the South Carolina Department of Transportation to perform all debris removal, which also includes debris removal in municipalities.

Each county in the state gave an update on their current status relating to the recent flooding.

Bamberg County Emergency Management Services Director Sharon Hammond reported, "Bamberg County is currently at OPGON Level 5, with both county government and public schools open for regularly scheduled hours. We have no shelters open, and also no need for the shelters. We are monitoring the level of the South Fork of the

Edisto River and we are working with the South Carolina National Guard to assess the dirt roads throughout the county."

During the report, Hammond also mentioned there are currently 40 roads throughout Bamberg County with some type of damage, and there are a total of 84 homes with damage due to the flooding.

After the conference call, Hammond stated, "We will be opening up a Disaster Recovery Center for citizens to meet with FEMA in the near future. The center will be located at the Kearsse Building, at 847 Calhoun Street, Bamberg, in Room 15. We will share the dates and times once it is known to us."

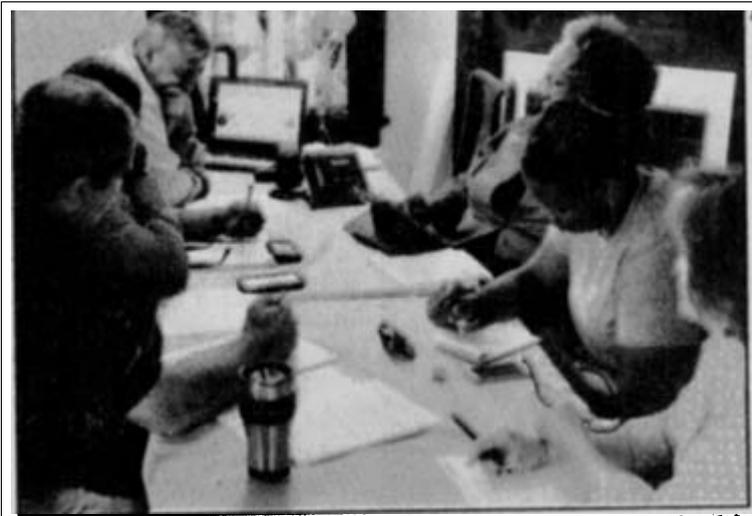
It is important for citizens needing assistance to register for assistance to register online at www.disasterassistance.gov or to register by calling, 1 (800) 621-FEMA (3362).

As of Monday, October 12, 2015, the following roads are currently closed to all, except





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Bamberg County officials take a conference call with Governor Haley concerning disaster recovery in Bamberg County Monday later afternoon.

local and emergency traffic, unless otherwise noted.

- 1. Needle Road off of Highway 61
- 2. Pepper Road from Dragon Road to St. John's Church Road
- 3. Shot's Trail Road off of Highway 61
- 4. Sand Drag Road
- 5. Embree Road - Closed to all traffic
- 6. Gamecock Loop
- 7. Sunday School Road

- 8. Goose Bay Road from 935 to 1314 Goose Bay Road
- 9. Hope Road

If there are any questions, concerns or information to share concerning dirt roads in Bamberg County, please call (803) 245-3000. If there are any questions, concerns or information to share concerning any roads, other than dirt roads in Bamberg County, please call (803) 245-5181.

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And the flood waters rose

Want to help? Go to
www.hamptoncounty-guardian.com to learn
 how to donate.



Photo credits clockwise from top: Jim Huff, Santee Cooper, City of Greenwood, Associated Press.

Sarita Chourey
Morris News Service

Flooding could cost S.C. billions

The head of the S.C. National Guard says the cost to rebuild the state's devastated roadways after the floods could reach into the hundreds of millions of dollars, if not billions of dollars.

The daily cost to activate about 1,300 National Guardsmen and various aircraft is reaching about \$400,000-\$500,000 per day, said Adjutant General Bob Livingston in a telephone interview Monday.

He said six or seven helicopters are doing aerial reconnaissance and slightly fewer are doing search and rescue missions. A handful of other agencies, including public safety, transportation, law enforcement and natural resources, totaled about 1,500.

"It has washed out so much infrastructure," said Livingston. "We don't know what we don't know right now. But to build a section of road you're talking \$100

million, and I've seen sections of road just gone."

The eastern part of Aiken County, including Monetta, New Holland, Wagener, Perry and Salley areas, were among the worst affected parts of the county, said Rep. Bill Taylor, R-Aiken, whose District 86 includes the area. Statewide, weather-created drownings and traffic accidents have reportedly claimed nine lives.

Livingston said Aiken officials haven't made any significant requests from the state to reinforce local efforts. He said the rain band "kind of brushed Aiken."

Still, he said the Savannah River area is still being watched.

"It doesn't mean they haven't had some local flooding or we're not concerned about what's going on with the Savannah River, but we haven't heard as many calls," he said.

On Sunday Taylor spent nine hours at the county's Emergency Operations Center and was joined by his wife.

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maker said the center directed residents reporting dam dangers and road problems to call a 211 number, allowing them to free up the 911 line for life-or-death emergencies. He praised the work of Aiken County Emergency Manager Paul Matthews.

"When I got there, he was out personally surveying the damage," said Taylor. "They were definitely on top of everything."

The National Guard is working in about half of the state's counties, and Aiken County is not among them. On Monday afternoon, Matthews said his most recent check found less than 20 power outages, and only New Holland was under a boil-water advisory, affecting about 200 people.

As for the competence of the state-level response, Taylor said what he saw seemed effective.

"I have to assume they have all the same kinds of players in that room on the state level," he said. And from what Matthews could gather, state leaders have done an "excellent job."

But Rep. Chris Corley,

R-Graniteville, said Gov. Nikki Haley should have deployed the National Guard sooner.

"She was front and center with her little rain coat on to do a press conference, because that's what she is all about, doing press conferences," said the first-term lawmaker and attorney.

Corley said the guard should have been in place on Saturday instead of being fully activated the next morning. He was one of the governor's sharpest critics after her decision to call for the Confederate flag's removal from the S.C. Statehouse grounds this year.

As for Corley's criticism of Haley, the governor's office deferred comment to the Adjutant General.

"In my opinion, she has done a fantastic job, really pushed us to get out in front," Livingston said Monday.

The Adjutant General, a Republican, ran unopposed in both 2010 and 2014, and owns Gregory Electric Company, which provides commercial and industrial electrical, utility and





telecommunications services with operations in nine states.

President declares disaster for South Carolina

WASHINGTON --
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that federal disaster aid has been made available to the State of South Carolina to supplement state, local and tribal recovery efforts in the area affected by severe storms and flooding on Oct. 1 and continuing.

The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Charleston, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry, Lexington, Orangeburg, Richland, and Williamsburg counties.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Federal funding also is available to state and eligible local and tribal governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work as a result of the severe storms and flooding in Berkeley, Charleston, Clarendon, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry, Lexington, Orangeburg, Richland, Sumter, and Williamsburg counties.

Federal funding is available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard

mitigation measures statewide.

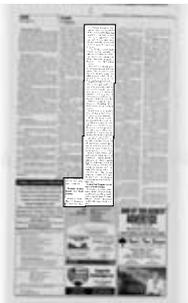
W. Michael Moore has been named as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Moore said that damage surveys are continuing in other areas, and additional counties may be designated for assistance after the assessments are fully completed.

Individuals and business owners who sustained losses in the designated area can begin applying for assistance tomorrow by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or by web enabled mobile device at m.fema.gov. Disaster assistance applicants, who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice.

Federal Aid Programs for the State of South Carolina

Following is a summary of key federal disaster aid programs that can be made available as needed and warranted under President Obama's disaster declaration issued for the State of South Carolina.

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Assistance for affected individuals and families can include as required:

- Rental payments for temporary housing for those whose homes are unlivable. Initial assistance may be provided for up to three months for homeowners and at least one month for renters. Assistance may be extended if requested after the initial period based on a review of individual applicant requirements. (Source: FEMA funded and administered.)

- Grants for home repairs and replacement of essential household items not covered by insurance to make damaged dwellings safe, sanitary and functional. (Source: FEMA funded and administered.)

- Grants to replace...

- Grants to replace personal property and help meet medical, dental, funeral, transportation and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other federal, state and charitable aid programs. (Source: FEMA funded at 75 percent of total eligible costs; 25 percent funded by the state.)

- Unemployment payments up to 26 weeks for workers who temporarily lost jobs because of the disaster and who do not qualify for state benefits, such as self-employed individuals. (Source: FEMA funded; state administered.)

- Low-interest loans to cover residential losses not fully compensated by insurance. Loans available up to \$200,000 for primary residence; \$40,000 for personal property, including renter losses. Loans available up to \$2 million for business property losses not fully compensated by insurance. (Source: U.S. Small Business Administration.)

- Loans up to \$2 million for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes that have suffered disaster-related cash flow problems and need funds for working capital to recover from the disaster's adverse economic impact. This loan in combination with a

property loss loan cannot exceed a total of \$2 million. (Source: U.S. Small Business Administration.)

- Loans up to \$500,000 for farmers, ranchers and aquaculture operators to cover production and property losses, excluding primary residence. (Source: Farm Service Agency, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.)

- Other relief programs: Crisis counseling for those traumatized by the disaster; income

tax assistance for filing casualty losses; advisory assistance for legal, veterans' benefits and social security matters.

How to apply for assistance:

- Affected individuals and business owners in designated areas can begin the disaster application process by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or by web enabled mobile device at m.fema.gov. Disaster assistance applicants, who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice. Applicants registering for aid should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves (name, permanent address, phone number), insurance coverage and any other information to help substantiate losses.

Assistance for the state and

Assistance for the state and affected local and tribal governments can include as required:

- Payment of not less than 75 percent of the eligible costs for emergency protective measures taken to save lives and protect property and public health. Emergency protective measures assistance is available to state and eligible local and tribal governments on a cost-sharing basis. (Source: FEMA funded, state administered.)

- Payment of not more than 75 percent of the approved costs for hazard mitigation proj-





ects undertaken by state, local and tribal governments to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural or technological disasters. (Source: FEMA funded, state administered.)

How to apply for assistance:

- Application procedures

Application procedures for state, local and tribal governments will be explained at a series of federal/state applicant briefings with locations to be announced in the affected area by recovery officials. Approved public repair projects are paid through the state from funding provided by FEMA and other participating federal agencies.

How to make monetary donations

For information from the S.C. Emergency Management Division on how to aid our South Carolina neighbors in distress, go to www.hamptoncountyguardian.com

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