

Title: **Washed-out roads to reroute thousands**  
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE [ccope@thestate.com](mailto:ccope@thestate.com)  
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TRACY GLANTZ [tgiantz@thestate.com](mailto:tgiantz@thestate.com)

Leesburg Road is collapsed in Lower Richland.

**More than 84,500 Richland County drivers a day must take new routes because of 13 road failures alone**

**More than 100 roads damaged in Richland**

**More than 70 roads and bridges affected in Lexington, Kershaw**

BY CASSIE COPE  
[ccope@thestate.com](mailto:ccope@thestate.com)

In Richland County, 84,575 drivers a day will be forced to take new routes after 13 roads and bridges washed out during flooding on Sunday and Monday.

And those roads are just a small part of a much larger problem. Across the county, more than 100 roads and bridges were closed Tuesday

because of flooding.

Across the Midlands and the state, tens of thousands of other drivers are being affected, too. More than 30 roads and bridges were impassable in Lexington County and another 40 were affected in Kershaw County.

Transportation Department officials have started their pre-

liminary assessment of the condition of the state's roads. But it will take months and hundreds of millions of dollars to repair all of the damage.

Gov. Nikki Haley advised drivers Tuesday to respect road closures.

As the rain ended Tuesday and traffic picked up, more residents were driving. Some,

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she added, were ignoring road barriers, driving around them.

"This is not safe," Haley said. "We want to make sure every bridge and every road that you put your car on is safe."

Twenty-eight assessment

SEE ROADS, 9A

FROM PAGE 3A

## ROADS

teams were working Tuesday with county emergency divisions and local Transportation Department offices to evaluate roads, Haley said.

By Tuesday afternoon, 1,445 Transportation Department employees were working on the state's roads. But it will be several more days before water levels are low enough to fully assess damages in every location, according to the Transportation Department.

A total of 18 roads and bridges are washed out completely in Richland County, according to the Transportation Department. Traffic counts were not available for five. However, the loss of the other 13 roads and bridges alone will affect more than 84,500 drivers a day.

For example, a sinkhole has closed part of North Main Street, which handles 13,700 vehicles a day on average. The undermining of a bridge on

Monticello Road, from Interstate 20 to Peeples Street, will displace another 8,700 drivers a day.

Some traffic bottlenecks were cleared up Tuesday.

Interstate 26, between Interstate 126 and U.S. 378, reopened at the Saluda River.

And parts of a 74-mile section of Interstate 95, from Interstate 26 to Interstate 20, were reopened.

In Clarendon County, that interstate carries 28,900 vehicles a day on average.

Repairing roads will take a combination of federal, state and local resources, said state Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland.

The repairs will be complicated, Lourie said, noting roads sit atop dams in some locations, including his district, which includes the Arcadia Lakes area, hit by a series of dam breaches and failures.

While the state's roads already were deteriorat-

ing, the damages caused by the weekend's rain were catastrophic, Lourie added. "No state could ever plan for something like this."

In Kershaw County, seven bridges and 36 roads were closed early Tuesday, county officials said. State officials put that number lower — at about two dozen.

Acting county spokesman Gerald Blanchard said 24 Kershaw County roads had significant damage.

For example, part of the road and a bridge were lost on Porter Cross Road. "It's a complete loss right now," Blanchard said.

Secondary roads carry Kershaw County residents to and from work, school and everywhere else they go, Blanchard said.

"It's just going to be a huge inconvenience for the county and residents of the county for months to come."

Reach Cope at (803) 771-8657.

## Displaced drivers in Richland County

**The five busiest roads and bridges, based on average daily traffic, closed in Richland County as of late Tuesday**

**26,200 drivers** a day used Decker Boulevard, now partially washed out

**13,700 drivers** a day used North Main Street, now the site of a sinkhole

**10,200 drivers** a day used Spears Creek Church Road, where a bridge is washed out

**8,900 drivers** a day used Polo Road, now washed out in several places

**8,700 drivers** a day used Monticello Road, now partially closed by an undermined bridge



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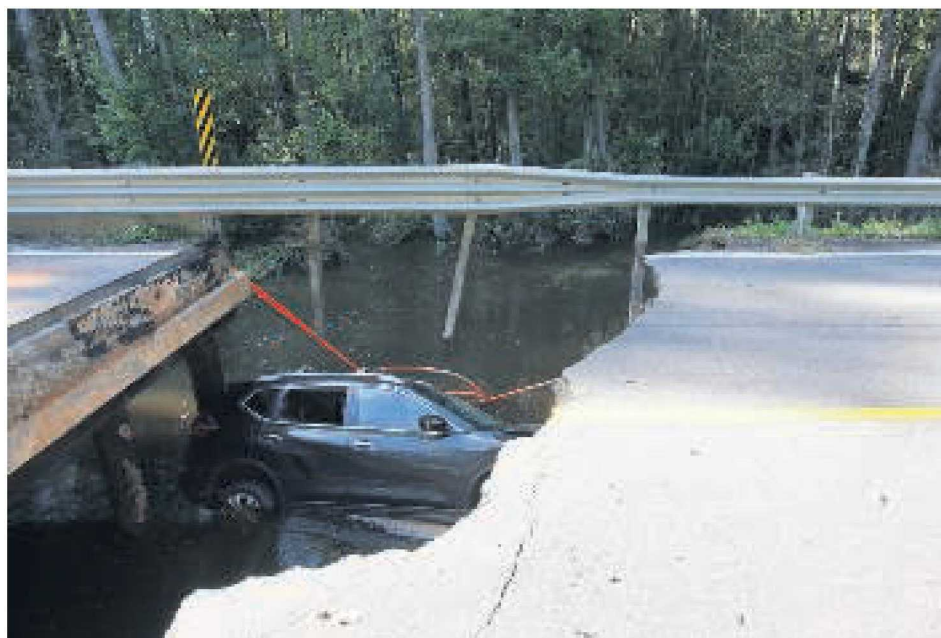
Author: BY CASSIE COPE [ccope@thestate.com](mailto:ccope@thestate.com)

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GERRY MELENDEZ [gmelenendez@thestate.com](mailto:gmelenendez@thestate.com)

Damage Tuesday on Rockbridge Road in Columbia

TRACY GLANTZ [tglantz@thestate.com](mailto:tglantz@thestate.com)

A car in Myers Creek, where a portion of Lower Richland Boulevard collapsed.

Title: **Recovery starts as sun returns**  
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com  
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## THE FLOOD OF 2015



MATT WALSH mwalsh@thestate.com

A Chinook moves an excavator over the Columbia Canal, which spilled into the Congaree River after a dike broke. The canal is a source of water for many of the city's residents.



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## But governor warns state is still in trouble

BY ANDREW SHAIN  
 ashain@thestate.com

**T**he sun broke through Tuesday in Columbia, but the damage from the weekend's historic storm continued to cast shadows in the form of washed-out roads, flooded homes, breached dams and troubled water service.

"Don't let the sunshine fool you," Gov. Nikki Haley said.

Dams continued to break in the wake of more than 20 inches of rain falling in some areas of the Midlands. The Lake

lands to breach since Sunday.

State officials continue to monitor 35 other dams. Breaches emptied lakes in Forest Acres in a matter of minutes, leaving trickles of water.

Another breach threatened some of the city of Columbia's water supply.

The S.C. National Guard used a Chinook helicopter to drop one-ton sandbags in an effort to patch a wall of the Columbia Canal. Upstream from the breach, crews worked to build a boulder dam to

Elizabeth dam burst Tuesday, the sixth in Richland County and 11th in the Mid-

**SEE RECOVERY, 10A**

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## RECOVERY

push canal water levels high enough to keep the city of Columbia's water-treatment plant operating.

Thousands of Columbia residents remained without clean water. Others have been dealing with low water pressure since the storm. All Columbia water customers still must boil water for at least a minute because of at least 15 ruptures in water lines.

Columbia-area residents poured into eight distribution centers set up around Richland County to get bottles of water. Supplies were available, but one site ran out.

"It's definitely a lifesaver," said Sophia Johnson, who stopped by a distribution spot near Forest Acres. "The rain has stopped, but the problems it caused areas aren't over."

The prolonged water woes led the University of South Carolina and Richland 1 and 2 school districts to call off classes for the rest of the week. USC also is considering moving

Saturday's football home game against LSU to another site.

While Williams-Brice Stadium escaped damage, school leaders said they are concerned about access to water inside the stadium, fans trying to make their way to the game over damaged roads and the availability of police and first responders required to host a game.

"With what has happened here in the state of South Carolina and the city of Columbia, football is not nearly as important or important at all when you think about it," USC athletics director Ray Tanner said.

The storm-related death toll continued to rise. Half of the 14 deaths statewide tied to the rains that started Thursday have been in Richland County. All seven victims in Richland County drowned in vehicle-related mishaps, county coroner Gary Watts said.

The body of Sampson Antwan Pringle, 30, of

Columbia was found in Carys Lake at a home on Trenholm Road on Tuesday morning. Watts also identified a victim from Columbia found Monday night at Peeples Street, near Monticello Road. Richard Nelson Milroy, 82, is the oldest person in Richland County to die in the storm.

"We were really glad to see the sun come out today, but to see another fatality is really sad," said Matt MacGillivray, whose wife discovered Pringle's body.

At least 10 people are missing in Richland County, though some might not be unaccounted for due to the storm, Sheriff Leon Lott said. Some areas of Lower Richland are accessible by boat only, Lott said, hindering efforts to check on residents.

As of Tuesday evening, authorities had rescued almost 400 people from the water in Richland and Lexington counties. Hundreds more were rescued

by neighbors and bystanders.

With the rains subsiding, the state began to send out assessment crews to examine damage from the storm.

President Barack Obama declared portions of South Carolina a disaster area Monday, including Richland and Lexington counties. More counties could qualify for aid to help residents repair housing and governments fix roads if assessments find they suffered significant damage.

The examinations will start in the Upstate, said Haley, who took an aerial tour of the damage to the state Tuesday. "It is hard to look at the loss we're going to have, but everything will be OK," she said.

Richland County Council voted Tuesday to spend \$1.5 million to aid with assessing emergency response and recovery efforts.

Some major roadways reopened Tuesday, in-

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cluding a section of Interstate 26 between Interstate 126 and U.S. 378 at the Saluda River. All of I-26 in South Carolina now is open.

Portions of a 74-mile stretch of Interstate 95, the major artery along the Eastern Seaboard, also reopened for local traffic after being closed Sunday.

But more than 100 roads and bridges remained closed Tuesday in Richland County because of flooding, including 18 roads and bridges that have been washed out. More than 70 roads and bridges were impassable in Lexington and Kershaw counties.

A sinkhole near the Amazon distribution center south of Cayce was discovered after a vehicle drove into it late Monday when the driver ignored

barricades across the flooded road, Lexington County administrator Joe Mergo said. The driver was not injured.

Haley warned drivers Tuesday to obey road closures. "This is not safe," she said. "We want to make sure every bridge and every road that you put your car on is safe."

The governor and other state officials are worried that waters that covered parts of the Midlands now will stream south into areas that also sustained record amounts of rain.

Haley said downstream cities along major rivers — including Conway, Orangeburg and Williamsburg — were being watched for flooding. She said additional evacuations were possible through Thursday in Richland, Florence, Horry

and Marlboro counties.

—  
*Staff writers Clif LeBlanc, Jamie Self, Cassie Cope, Jane Dail, Josh Kendall, Tim Flach and Roddie Burris contributed.*

## Closed Wednesday

**Among public schools:** Kershaw County, Richland 1 (closed rest of week), Richland 2 (closed rest of week), Lexington 1, Lexington 2, Lexington-Richland 5

**Among private schools:** Heathwood Hall Episcopal School (closed rest of week), Hammond School, Ben Lippen School, Glenforest School

**Among colleges:** University of South Carolina-Columbia, Midlands Technical College

**Among government offices:** City of Columbia; Lexington County courts, Richland County courts

**Among parks:** Congaree National Park, Sesquicentennial State Park

## WEDNESDAY POSTPONEMENTS

**Among public schools:** Lexington 4 (two-hour delay)

## CANCELLATIONS, POSTPONEMENTS

- Wednesday's parole hearings
- Thursday's Nothing but Net charity basketball game featuring Richland 1 and Richland 2 employees. New date to be announced.
- Thursday's town of Lexington traffic court cases

**MORE THAN 100 ROADS AND BRIDGES REMAINED CLOSED TUESDAY IN RICHLAND COUNTY BECAUSE OF FLOODING, INCLUDING 18 ROADS AND BRIDGES THAT HAVE BEEN WASHED OUT.**

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DWAYNE MCLEMORE dmclemore@thestate.com

A view of the Columbia Canal, right, and the Broad River at left. The aerial tour Monday was provided the the S.C. Army National Guard.

Title: **Seven drown in Richland flooding**  
 Author: BY AVERY G. WILKS [awilks@thestate.com](mailto:awilks@thestate.com)  
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# Seven drown in Richland flooding

**Coroner: Victims apparently tried to drive through standing or moving water**

**Haley: State death toll up to 14**

BY AVERY G. WILKS  
[awilks@thestate.com](mailto:awilks@thestate.com)

Alex Holmes called a friend early Sunday morning in a panic, explaining over the phone that her car was filling with water and that she couldn't get out, said Peggy Souder, Holmes' grandmother.

Souder said Holmes' friend advised her to roll down the windows and swim out, but Holmes frantically replied that the water had reached her car battery and



Holmes

her power windows wouldn't roll down.

Holmes' friend could hear her panicking over the phone before the call dropped, Souder said. A few hours later, Souder said, another granddaughter called her with the news: Alex Holmes, her 24-year-old granddaughter, was dead.

"I just screamed, 'Oh my God, oh no!'" Souder said.

Holmes was one of seven people to die in Richland County from the historic rainfall and flooding that pounded South Carolina last weekend and Monday.

All seven drowned, apparently after attempting to drive through standing or moving water, county coroner Gary Watts said. They were all Columbia residents. Gov.

Nikki Haley said on Tuesday that the state's death toll was up to 14.

Souder said Holmes had visited a hospital with a stomach ailment earlier Sunday morning and was on the way home about 6:45 a.m. when she became trapped in water. She was found dead in her vehicle at 1400 Sunset Drive, near Palmetto Health Richland, according to a news release from Watts.

Robert McCarty, 78, and state Department of Transportation employee Timothy Gibson, 45, were found dead Sunday, Watts said. Melissa Hall, 35, and Robert Allawos, 60, were found dead Monday morning, he said.

Richard Milroy, 82, was found dead in his vehicle Monday night, and Sampson Pringle, 30, was found in Carys Lake near the 6800 block of Trenholm Road Tuesday morning, Watts said.

Richland County deputies and Columbia firefighters retrieved Pringle's body from the lake, said Lt. Curtis Wilson, a spokesman for the Richland County Sheriff's Department.

Souder said Holmes, who grew up in Greenville and graduated from J. L. Mann High School, was a vibrant woman who loved to travel and write. Holmes gradu-

**SEE DEATHS, 9A**



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## FROM PAGE 1A

## DEATHS

ated from the University of South Carolina in 2013 with a business degree, but not before studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain, Souder said.

"She had just a wonderful personality," Souder said. "Everywhere she went, she made people smile. To know her was a blessing. To not know her, you just missed out."

Allison Gibson, the wife of Timothy Gibson, said he was driving to assist a DOT crew with a tree that had fallen in a roadway when his truck was flipped and swept away.

Allison Gibson said that they had just celebrated their 13th anniversary and that her husband, an avid outdoorsman, also enjoyed traveling. He loved his job. "He was not the kind of person to take sick days or show up late," Allison Gibson said. "If he had to work at 8, he would be there at 7:15 instead. He was really devoted to his job."

Allison Gibson said her husband was looking forward to hunting season and that he was an excel-

lent father to his three children; one – a 17-year-old daughter named Rachael – has cerebral palsy.

"He's very smart and fun, kind – really kind-hearted and willing to help out anybody," Allison Gibson said. "He was very handy. If anybody needed anything, he was there fixing it or doing favors. He was an outstanding father."

### Seven people have died in Richland County because of this week's heavy rain and flooding:

- **Alexandria Maret Holmes**, 24, found in her vehicle at 1400 Sunset Boulevard on Sunday at 1:10 p.m.
- **Timothy Gibson**, 45, found in his vehicle on Garners Ferry Road between Chanwood and Congress Roads on Sunday at 6:42 p.m.
- **Robert L. McCarty**, 78, found in his vehicle at 4400 Devine St. on Sunday at 8:25 p.m.
- **Melissa Lee Hall**, 35, found in her vehicle at Shady Lane and Kilbourne Road on Monday at 3:30 a.m.
- **Robert Edens Allawos**, 60, of Chesham Court, found in his vehicle at Caughman and Teague roads on Monday at 7:15 a.m.
- **Richard Nelson Milroy**, 82, found in his vehicle at 1729 Peebles St. on Monday at 10:18 p.m.
- **Sampson Antwan Pringle**, 30, found at 6838 N. Trenholm Road on Tuesday at 10:40 a.m.

Title: **Caskets adrift in floodwaters renew heartache for some S.C. families**  
 Author: BY GLENN SMITH gsmith@postandcourier.com  
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## Caskets adrift in floodwaters renew heartache for some S.C. families

BY GLENN SMITH

[gsmith@postandcourier.com](mailto:gsmith@postandcourier.com)

A crowd watched in awe Monday evening as a broad-shouldered pastor in street clothes ferried an uprooted casket through swollen floodwaters in Dorchester County, an image that soon went viral on the Internet.

But it's a scene South Carolina may be seeing more of in the coming days.

Flooding across the Palmetto State in the wake of the weekend's record-breaking rainfall so far has unearthed about two dozen caskets, and officials worry even more will be discovered when the rising waters finally recede.

Some are recent burials, others date back several years. Most have been located in low-lying areas so saturated with water that the earth can no longer hold them, the pressure pushing caskets to the surface or out

of burial vaults. Now it is up to funeral homes and surviving relatives to figure out how to return the dead to the soil.

"The families, of course, are sad," said Charleston County Coroner Rae Wooten, who has dealt with three caskets uprooted in Johns Island and Hollywood cemeteries. "They already dealt with their loss and sadness, and now they are having to do it again as they decide what to do with their loved ones."

Few expect the mass problems that Louisiana experienced when Hurricane Katrina's surge washed away scores of crypts, vaults and caskets in 2005. But officials are taking their responsibility for the dead seriously.

Gov. Nikki Haley pledged that the state would actively monitor

problems created by flooding in cemeteries.

On Tuesday, five staffers with the state Department of Health and Environmental Control continued to reach out to all state-licensed cemetery operators to check on potential problems and offer support to recover any caskets that dislodge, DHEC spokesman Jim Beasley said.

Citizens who encounter an uprooted casket are asked to call 911 or their local coroner.

"We ask that individuals not make contact with the remains out of respect and for health and safety reasons," Beasley said.

Cherokee County Coroner Dennis Fowler, president of the state coroner's association, said he also had alerted his colleagues about the need to track and report any disinterred cas-

kets. In addition to Charleston County, Sumter County had 13 unearthed caskets; Orangeburg County, four; Dorchester County, two; and Richland County, one, he said. DHEC also reported one casket each in Williamsburg and Bamberg counties.

All were taken to funeral homes to await reburial with the exception of the Sumter caskets, which were returned to the earth on Tuesday, he said.

Orangeburg County Coroner Samuella Marshall said she is asking families in her area to wait until the water table goes down to re-inter their loved ones so more problems don't surface.

"We realize it's a sensitive issue and that it's opening healing wounds," she said. "But there is not much we can do. It's an act of God."

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"The families, of course, are sad. They already dealt with their loss and sadness, and now they are having to do it again as they decide what to do with their loved ones."

**Charleston County Coroner Rae Wooten**



PAUL BOWERS/STAFF

**Pastor Wayne Reeves of New Life Ministries in Summerville pushes a casket in a concrete vault to dry land beside a roadway in Givhans. The casket was one of two, belonging to a recently buried husband and wife, that members of Canaan United Methodist Church say rose up out of the church cemetery during severe flooding Monday.**



Title: **Haley: 'Strong, resilient' S.C. will recover**

Author: BY CHRISTINA ELMORE and GAVIN JACKSON celmore@postandcourier.com gjackson@postandcourier.com

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# Haley: 'Strong, resilient' S.C. will recover

BY CHRISTINA ELMORE  
and GAVIN JACKSON  
celmore@postandcourier.com  
gjackson@postandcourier.com

As the death toll continued to rise Tuesday amid unprecedented flooding that impacted much of the state, Gov. Nikki Haley vowed South Carolina would recover, just as it has from a series of tragedies this year.

"South Carolina has once again proven that we are strong," Haley said. "We are resilient."

The Republican governor acknowledged it would be difficult, especially since South Carolinians aren't in the

clear yet — state officials were warily eyeing swollen rivers in the Midlands flowing toward the sea. The potential

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## Haley: 'We are resilient'

**STATE**, from A1

for additional flooding will be high in coming days in the Lowcountry and Pee Dee areas.

At least 15 deaths in South Carolina since late last week have been linked to the weather, The Associated Press reported, including six who drowned in their cars in Columbia.

Among the dead was an 82-year-old man who had been reported missing. The man, who has not been publicly identified, was found dead in his car, underwater in a residential area north of downtown Columbia, Richland County Sheriff's Lt. Curtis Wilson said.

North Carolina reported two additional deaths linked to the vast rainstorm that inundated communities across the Southeast.

Speaking with reporters at the S.C. Emergency Operations Center in West Columbia, Haley said that safety was a priority for officials.

"We won't stop until we make sure that we have given every ounce of information that we can," she said, urging residents to cooperate with potential evacuations and other instructions to ensure that no additional lives are lost.

More than 800 people were staying in shelters across the state on Tuesday. More evacuations are possible over the next 48 hours, Haley said, with Florence, Richland, Marlboro and Horry counties among those expected to receive evacuation orders.

"For us we still have to be cautious, the next 36 to 48 hours are going to be a time we need to continue to be care-

ful," Haley said. "We are now looking at downstream waters and other areas that will be affected."

Officials are closely monitoring the Edisto, Santee, Black, Waccamaw and Lynches rivers in the Conway, Georgetown, Jamestown, Effingham, Orangeburg and Williamsburg areas.

The sun brought some relief, even if guarded, to the soggy Palmetto State, and the federal government issued a major disaster declaration late Monday in an "extremely rare" move that Haley and her disaster team had pushed for.

Early Monday, Haley made a verbal request for the major disaster declaration, which releases resources and funds for disaster areas in the state based on damage assessments. Haley worked with federal agencies and discussed the request with President Barack Obama when the two spoke Monday morning.

"There may have been eight counties listed yesterday, our job is to make sure we keep adding on to those county lists as we need to," Haley said. "The only thing between us adding that county list on is data."

The major declaration assistance covers three main areas: Individual assistance for households, public assistance for debris removal, and emergency protective measures and hazard mitigation. The federal government will reimburse entities in the future based upon data collected over the next coming days and weeks.

Haley said FEMA officials were in the air and will be on the ground Wednesday conducting damage assessments. Nearly

30 teams will work with all 46 counties to assess damage. Roughly 2,200 state National Guard troops are also on the ground, with 1,400 state Department of Transportation maintenance workers and 200 engineers.

The American Red Cross, too, deployed 400 volunteers and opened 30 shelters to deliver food and supplies to those in need.

### Failing dams

Water distribution remained a key problem for Columbia on Tuesday, with as many as 40,000 homes lacking water service. The rest of the city's 375,000 water customers have been told to boil water for at least one minute before using it for drinking or cooking.

Mayor Steve Benjamin said that the order is likely to be in effect for "quite some time." The city was planning to open more water distribution centers.

North Charleston-based Water Missions International is sending water purification systems to the city.

"A week ago it was unthinkable that people in the U.S. could get sick from a lack of safe water, but that's the situation now, and we're doing everything we can to get water to the people who need it," George C. Greene IV, president and chief operating officer of Water Missions, said in a media release.

The units being transported to Columbia are Reverse Osmosis treatment systems, each capable of providing tens of thousands of gallons of clean drinking water per day. Similar systems were used following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and also in the Philip-

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piners after Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

Water Missions is a nonprofit Christian engineering organization that responds to the urgent need for safe water around the world in developing countries and disaster situations, the group said.

The Charleston Water System and the University of South Carolina are part of the effort.

With 10 dam collapses reported across the state, foreboding state officials have warned the public that volatility remains for communities near waterways, despite improving weather conditions.

Residents in east Columbia subdivisions, some bordered by lakes and lush golf courses, remained on edge after two major dam failures Monday caused devastating damage to homes and property in areas around Forest Lake.

Even with efforts to prevent a sinkhole on Beaver Dam from worsen-

ing, residents like Dr. Robert Kneece, whose home is below the dam, evacuated from the area. He returned Tuesday morning to check out the dropping water levels and wasn't optimistic about the dam's fate.

"We shored up our dam two days ago, we brought in a whole bunch of rocks and our dam has held," Kneece said of the Silver Lake dam, just below Beaver Dam. "Nobody expected this much rain, like 2 feet of rain. There are just so many dams around that are going."

His home is in the Wildewood subdivision community of Silver Lake, which borders the eponymous lake is located above a pond that flooded out Polo Road days ago.

Portions of the road were seen collapsing in a video after a truck crossed the waterlogged roadway. Now the two-lane road is split in half and residents in the area are under voluntary evacuation orders to leave.

For Kneece and his wife, who in 2005 lost everything in New Orleans when a levee broke due to storm surge from Hurricane Katrina, the scene is eerily too familiar.

### Coming forecasts

A flood warning will remain in effect for Charleston, Dorchester and Berkeley counties until 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, the National Weather Service reported.

Be prepared for possible road closures and minor flooding. Do not attempt to drive through water of unknown depth.

Sunny skies are forecasted for Wednesday, with highs in the mid 70s and northeast winds at 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday night will be mostly clear, with lows in the mid 60s and northeast winds around 5 mph.

**Schuyler Kropf** contributed to this report.



JANET BLACKMON MORGAN/AP

**This aerial photo shows flooding around homes in the Carolina Forest community in Horry County, between Conway and Myrtle Beach.**

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CHUCK BURTON/AP

**Major Gen. Bob Livingston and Gov. Nikki Haley view flood damage from a helicopter Tuesday over Columbia.**



Title: **Q&Amy: Understanding what a '1,000-year storm' means**  
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# Q&Amy: Understanding what a '1,000-year storm' means

## Q: DOES A 1,000-YEAR RAIN REALLY HAPPEN EVERY 1,000 YEARS?

**Amy in short:** Not really. The 1,000-year — or 100-year or 500-year — terminology is really a shorthand way of talking about statistical probability and isn't related to how often a certain event is expected to happen.

**A bit more:** The frequently used weather terms, liberally applied in situations like South Carolina's record rainfall and devastating aftermath, are misleading misnomers.

"We're trying to convey the probability of that happening in any given year," said Jim Kolva, hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Office of Surface Water.

A 1,000-year event is one that, based on historic data, has about a 0.1 percent chance of happening. Likewise, a 100-year event has a 1 percent chance of happening; a 500-year event, a 0.2 percent chance.

"It's better to think of it as a chance of something occurring than it is the number of times in any given period that it would occur," said Joshua Palmer, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Greer.

"It does not mean that in the

next 999 years, you won't get a storm like you got last week," said Kolva. "There is no immunity that comes with a natural disaster like this."

Terms like 100-year or 1,000-year likely originated as an effort to make the probabilities more understandable, something a little simpler to digest than jargon about percentages, statistics and confidence intervals. But they may be contributing to some misapprehensions.

"It's common for people to misunderstand the terminology, which frankly is probably not very good terminology," Palmer said.

Gov. Nikki Haley said in a press conference, "We haven't seen this level of rain in the Lowcountry in 1,000 years." And media reports commonly referenced this "1,000-year rain."

Comedian and South Carolina native Stephen Colbert skewered the comments with a quip about "surviving Kiawah Indian meteorologists."

But in truth the "1,000-year" probabilities are based on a limited amount of historical data. Rainfall measurements began

locally in the late 1800s, Palmer said. Streamflows have been charted only for the last 100 years or less.

An informational brochure from the USGS highlighted that floods and other weather phenomena occur unpredictably.

"If we had 1,000 years of streamflow data, we would expect to see about 10 floods of equal or great magnitude than the '100-year flood.' These floods would not occur at 100-year intervals. In one part of the 1,000-year record, it could be 15 or fewer years between '100-year floods,' whereas in other parts, it could be 150 years or more between '100-year floods," it said.

"There's nothing to say that Columbia or the state of South Carolina is in the clear now for 10, 20, 30, 40, 1,000 years," Palmer said. "That's certainly not the way to look at it."

*Got a question? Send it to Q&Amy by emailing me at [aburns@greenvillenews.com](mailto:aburns@greenvillenews.com) or calling 864-298-3822. You can find me on Twitter at @QandAmyNews.*

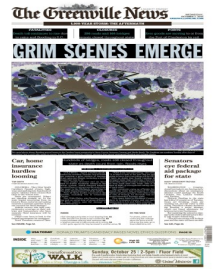


**Amy Clarke Burns**

[aburns@greenvillenews.com](mailto:aburns@greenvillenews.com)

Columnist

Title: **GRIM SCENES EMERGE**  
 Author: TIM SMITH II TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM  
 Size: 155.0 square inch  
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



# GRIM SCENES EMERGE

Hundreds of bridges, roads still closed throughout state as death count from rain, floods rises

TIM SMITH II TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

## FATALITIES

Death toll continues to rise due to rains and flooding in S.C..

## CLOSURES

296 roads and 166 bridges remain closed throughout state.

## PORTS

Zero goods are moving to or from the Port of Charleston by rail.

COLUMBIA – South Carolina finally basked in sunshine Tuesday, but officials are painting a grim picture of damage from rains and floods, including a death count that rose to 15.

Nine people drowned and six have died in traffic accidents related to the storm system, which dumped historic levels of heavy rain across the state from

the coast to the Midlands, according to the state Department of Public Safety. **See GRIM, Page 4A**

Four of those deaths occurred in the Upstate, including two in Greenville County.

Gov. Nikki Haley, who Tuesday morning took an aerial tour of areas affected by flood waters, said the damage is "heartbreaking."

"What I saw was disturbing," she said. "It is hard to look at the loss that we are going to have, but everything will be OK. I have no doubt that South Carolina is stronger today than yesterday. I have no doubt that South Carolina will be stronger next week than this week. This is a time of faith, of strength and taking care of each other."

Her comments came as officials disclosed the rains had produced 10 dam failures in four counties, with others still at risk of breach. An eleventh was reported breached Tuesday night.

Five dams failed in Richland County, three in Lexington County and one dam failed each in Lee and Aiken counties.

Officials were aware last week of the

## Grim

Continued from Page 1A

dams that were at risk and had looked at some in the Upstate, Haley said, adding that they have tried to stay ahead of breaches by evacuating areas when breaches seem possible.

State Adjutant General Bob Livingston also said attempts have been made to reinforce some dams with sandbags.

One report of a dam failure in northeast Columbia turned out to be a false alarm, as was a report of flood warnings in that area. Rumors have passed on social media

about dam failures, sometimes because of controlled releases from dams, including from the Midland's biggest dam behind Lake Murray.

Misinformation has been an issue, said Catherine Heigel, director of the state Department of Health and Environmental Control.

"The rumors are a bit of a problem," she said. "We do need folks to turn to agencies, DHEC and EMD, for that information. We want people to understand where the evacuation zones are and who is impacted. We don't

want panic."

In addition to broken dams, hundreds of state roads and bridges remained closed Tuesday, either because of storm damage or because they have not yet been cleared by inspectors to re-open. As of 2 p.m. Tuesday, 301 roads and 166 bridges remained closed. The state had closed 550 bridges and roads at the peak of the storm's aftermath, including stretches of several interstates around Columbia.

Pete Poore, a Department of Transportation spokesman, said the num-

bers are being updated each hour and more closures likely would be added.

"All this water in the Midlands is moving to the coast," he said. "And some of the coastal counties and districts have already closed a few more roads because of it."

Bridges no longer flooded must be inspected before they can be re-opened, and waters underneath are either too high or moving too fast for inspections at some of them.

The state has about two dozen bridge-inspection teams to look at all 166

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closed bridges, Poore said.

While some bridges do not show any surface damage, several have been submerged. Meanwhile, DOT officials were making plans to partially open a 70-mile stretch of I-95.

Acting state Transportation Secretary Christy Hall said officials want to help motorists avoid a 168-mile detour but also want to keep them safe.

"Safety is our top priority," she said.

Haley said she wants motorists to listen to commands of law enforcement and not try to go around barricades on roads, some-

thing reported Tuesday by state troopers.

"This is not safe," she said. "We are doing this to protect you. We are doing this to be sure you are not traveling on a road we have not fully inspected yet. We want to be sure every road and bridge you put your car on is safe, for the good of yourself and your family."

As of 6 a.m. Tuesday, there had been 4,367 calls for help to the state Department of Public Safety. Officials said 1,843 of those calls involved collisions.

The state also has made 175 water rescues

and opened 26 emergency shelters that are housing more than 800 people.

Though flood waters have peaked in the Midlands, Haley said officials closely are watching downstream communities, rivers and dams as the flood waters moved toward the sea.

The state still has 36 hours to watch against further flood damage, she said. "Don't let the sunshine fool you."

Teams of engineers are methodically conducting assessments in flood-damaged counties, she said, so the state and federal gov-

ernment have a detailed idea of the damage.

After Haley made a verbal request for President Barack Obama to declare a major disaster in the state, the president did so late Monday, something Haley called a "Godsend." The declaration makes federal aid available to individuals and government agencies, though the process is expected to be a lengthy one.

The governor said while 11 counties have been identified in the declaration for either agency assistance or individual assistance, others later could be added to the list.



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JANET BLACKMON MORGAN/AP

This aerial photo shows flooding around homes in the Carolina Forest community in Horry County, between Conway and Myrtle Beach. 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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GERRY BROOME/AP

Florence resident Jackie Lee surveys Roundtree Road land along Lynches River near Effingham.



Title: **Sun shines in S.C., but dark clouds of devastation remain**  
 Author: John Bacon @jmbacon USA TODAY  
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# Sun shines in S.C., but dark clouds of devastation remain

Residents turn to picking up the pieces  
after historic floods ravaged the state

**John Bacon**

@jmbacon  
USA TODAY

**T**he sun peeked out, floodwaters began to recede, and the power was back on Tuesday across battered South Carolina.

"We are seeing sun for the first time in 10 days," said Mike Proud, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Columbia. "There are still some clouds, but as long as it doesn't rain, it's a good day."

The death toll rose to 14 and damage has been estimated at more than \$1 billion across the state from the storm. Two additional deaths were reported in North Carolina.

Most of the fatalities have involved vehicles. Gov. Nikki Haley cited multiple instances of people driving around barricades and urged residents to stay off closed roads. "We are doing this to protect you, we want to make sure every bridge and every road is safe," she said.

WeatherBell meteorologist Ryan Maue estimated North Carolina and South Carolina received

5.2 trillion gallons and 5.8 trillion gallons of rain respectively.

Proud said most of South Carolina's rivers had crested. Floodwaters from upstate are rushing down toward the state's Lowcountry, but he said reservoirs should help curb additional flooding. Dry weather, finally, also should help, he said. "We are looking at most rivers receding below flood stage by Wednesday or Thursday," Proud said.

State insurance director Ray Farmer said his department hopes to have preliminary damage estimates this week. Steve Bowen, a meteorologist with the global insurance firm Aon Benfield, said economic losses to the state should surpass \$1 billion. In Columbia, Mayor Steve Benjamin said he expected damages to be "in the billions of dollars."

Flood damage to homes and businesses is typically not covered by standard homeowner policies. Those policies are sold

through the federal National Flood Insurance Program, but not all property owners are re-

quired to buy them.

Mark Browne, a professor of risk management at St. John's University in New York, said many residents and businesses don't realize flooding is not covered in standard insurance policies. "One part of the bill for a disaster like this that a lot of people don't think of is business disruption," Browne said.

Hundreds of roads and bridges remained closed. At least nine dams breached or failed completely, state emergency management officials said. "My whole district is basically under water right now," state Sen. Joel Lourie told *The Greenville News* minutes after a dam gave way in Forest Acres, northeast of Columbia.

Haley said Tuesday that the situation was improving. "God smiled on South Carolina — the sun came out," Haley said. "That is a good sign, but I will tell you that we have to be cautious (for) the next 36 to 48 hours."

Contributing: Jim McDermott, The (Charleston) Post and Courier; Tim Rice, The Greenville News; Doyle Rice and Greg Toppe, USA TODAY



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SEAN RAYFORD

**Trey McMillian looks over damage done by floodwaters on Tuesday in Eastover, S.C. The death toll rose to 14 and damage has been estimated at more than \$1 billion across the state.**

Title: **Sun shines in S.C., but dark clouds of devastation remain**

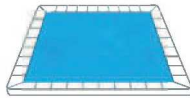
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### 11 TRILLION GALLONS OF WATER

About 11 trillion gallons of water fell in the Carolinas in the past week. That's enough to fill:



### 636 MILLION

swimming pools (16 x 32 feet)



### 130,370 ROSE BOWLS

filled to the top



### ABOUT 1/3

the volume of Lake Tahoe



### ENOUGH

to end the  
drought in California

**Source** WeatherBell, USA TODAY  
research  
RAMON PADILLA, USA TODAY

Title: **Help fellow South Carolinians**

Author:

Size: 57.66 square inch

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## THE GREENVILLE NEWS EDITORIAL

# Help fellow South Carolinians

**O**ur hearts are breaking in South Carolina as we see people who have suffered such devastating losses and cities that we love destroyed by historic floods. It still is hard to believe the photos and video coming from Columbia, Charleston and many points in between that show entire neighborhoods under water and highways ripped to shreds.

We also have lost some fellow South Carolinians to the ravaging flood waters including one bright, outgoing young woman who had graduated from J.L. Mann High School. Greenville native Alexandria Holmes died Sunday morning when her vehicle was caught in a flash flood. Others who lost their lives included a S.C. Department of Transportation worker who got swept away while working over the weekend.

The loss of life increases our heartache to a level hard to bear. By Tuesday afternoon news reports said 14 people in South Carolina had died during the floods, and at least five of them drowned in their vehicles that were swept away during the heavy rains. A realistic fear is that more victims will be found as rescuers begin a thorough search in neighborhoods that were submerged and vehicles found washed away in swollen rivers.

It will take years, maybe a decade or more, for South Carolina to rebuild after the heavy rains associated with a weather phenomenon fueled by Hurricane Joaquin. The hurricane skirted the South Carolina coast but produced what experts at the National Oceanic and Atmos-

pheric Administration called a "fire hose" of tropical moisture that destroyed parts of our state with floods never before recorded. A week of rain left the state soaked, and then a torrential downpour sat over a strip of the state for a day or more.

"This is a Hugo-level event," Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston, head of the South Carolina National Guard, was quoted as saying after the rain finally stopped. Hugo was the hurricane in September 1989 that destroyed much of Charleston and then cut a swath through the Midlands before it turned on Charlotte. Livingston's comparison is an accurate one, and it also shows what is facing our state when sections of highways have been destroyed, homes are left unsafe for habitation and stores and businesses cannot function.

Gov. Nikki Haley, Livingston and other state and local emergency officials surely have helped decrease the loss of life by staying on top of the evolving natural disaster. From before the floods hit, they were warning people to take shelter, stay off the roads and not risk their lives. First responders proved once again why they are considered such heroes as they rushed to help evacuate people who were in dangerous situations. DOT employees have worked much overtime, often in dangerous situations themselves, to help stranded drivers and, as much as possible, keep roads open for travel.

The financial losses will be in the billions in our state. The potential for further destruction will not have ended until the until the last fragile dam expels

the water collected from what is being called a 1,000-year flood and the last vulnerable bridge has been checked out and certified as capable of holding vehicles.

Our state will be forced to repair parts of a highway system

that already was crumbling. State residents will have to pull together, as they did for years after Hurricane Hugo, to help neighbors find new houses and cars, and South Carolina rebuild from such terrible losses. President Barack Obama telephoned Gov. Haley soon after the scope of the disaster became apparent. South Carolina will need the federal aid coming its way, and state residents should demand that their elected representatives never forget how dependent all 50 states are on each other when such tragedy strikes.

For now, South Carolinians not affected by the floods are looking for ways to help. It's instinctive for people spared during a natural disaster to want to lighten the load of those without homes, food and water. Many religious organizations and businesses will provide ways for neighbors to help neighbors. Donations will be collected in coming weeks to help people find permanent housing and start rebuilding their lives.

In the meantime, some easy and safe ways to donate are: Red Cross Disaster Relief at [redcross.org](http://redcross.org), call 1-800-RED CROSS or text the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation. Contributions may be made to The Salvation Army: text STORM to 51555, call 1-800-SAL ARMY, or visit [salvationarmy Carolinas.org/flood](http://salvationarmy Carolinas.org/flood).



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TRACY GLANTZ /THE STATE

**People watch as their neighbors are rescued from their flooded homes along  
Gills Creek in Columbia.**

Title: **Door-to-door searches, swamped roads as flooding continues across S.C.**  
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX AND JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press  
 Size: 119.66 square inch  
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



# Door-to-door searches, swamped roads as flooding continues across S.C.

The 16.6 inches of rain that fell Sunday near Columbia was the rainiest day in a single spot in the U.S. in more than 16 years

At least 11 weather-related deaths in two states were blamed on the vast rainstorm

**"The flooding is unprecedented and historical"**

BY SEANNA ADCOX AND JEFFREY COLLINS

Associated Press  
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 around the Carolinas from the storm that began in the Southeast last week, part of an unprece-

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

"The flooding is unprecedented and historical," said 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 dou-

ble 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 – a recurrence statistic meaning a 1 in 1,000 chance of happening in any given year.

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, Haley 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.

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 Lugoff community northeast of Columbia, said the coroner.

McArthur Woods, 56, drowned after his car was inundated. His passenger was rescued when someone who heard her screams called 911 around 10 p.m. The woman was 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 still without power,

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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 Tuesday.

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.

## Tips to stay safe during floods

- Stay away from any downed electrical wires and report them to authorities
- Do not attempt to cross flowing water on roadways. As little as six inches of water may cause drivers to lose control of their vehicle. Two feet of water will carry most cars away.
- Be aware that flooding on roadways can be difficult to see and assess at night. Avoid driving if conditions seem unsafe.
- Be aware of potential flash flooding. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move to higher ground. Do not wait to be told to move.
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water is enough to make a person fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle could be quickly swept away.
- Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.

— SOURCE | GEORGETOWN COUNTY



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GERRY MELENDEZ [gmelendez@thestate.com](mailto:gmelendez@thestate.com)

Flood damage to a section of Forest Drive in Columbia on Monday.