

Title: **'We are on a roll'**  
 Author: JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press  
 Size: 64.01 square inch  
 Orangeburg, SC Circulation: 20345



# 'We are on a roll'

## Haley extends state of emergency declaration

**JEFFREY COLLINS**

*Associated Press*

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley signed an order Thursday extending the state of emergency in South Carolina for 15 days so the National Guard can continue helping with cleanup efforts.

Haley said the South Carolina National Guard is currently helping rebuild 74 roads across the state. She said guard members have also helped repair the Columbia

Canal and Columbia's drinking water system and rescued people from flooded homes.

"We are on a roll. We don't want things to slow down," Haley told The Associated Press on Thursday. "This is a good thing."

The state of emergency is in the 20 counties declared disaster areas by President Barack Obama.

The first state of emergency declaration that the governor signed was in the days leading up to the rain-storm from Oct. 2-5 which dumped up to 20 inches of rain in some parts of the state.

"That was in anticipation of what we didn't know was going to happen," Haley said. "Now we want them to finish the work they are doing. It's really a good thing."

The governor said she doesn't anticipate having to sign another state of emergency when this one expires in 15 days.

At the height of the guard's help in South Carolina, about 2,200 members were helping in the state. Haley

said those numbers have declined as people are rotated out.

The counties that have been declared federal disaster areas and are under this state of emergency declaration are: Bamberg, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Greenwood, Horry, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Sumter and Williamsburg.

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Flooding surrounds a house on Roundtree Road along the Lynches River in Effingham on Tuesday, Oct. 6.

Title: **Lawmakers need to know situation before they return**  
 Author:  
 Size: 42.16 square inch  
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# Lawmakers need to know situation before they return

South Carolina lawmakers know the state will be looking to them for leadership in recovery from the unprecedented flooding of October 2015. There is urgency in addressing issues such as repairing roads and bridges. But there is wisdom in a prudent approach.

Amid the calls by some for lawmakers to return to Columbia for a special session, the governor and legislative leaders are saying haste is not the right approach.

Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman of Florence says the resumption of the regular legislative session in January will be soon enough for lawmakers to address the flooding aftermath.

While that may seem like a long time to wait in a "crisis," it is likely to take at least that long to make an accurate assessment regarding the extent of the problems.

Gov. Nikki Haley agrees, saying there is not enough information available to call lawmakers into special session now.

While Leatherman says dealing with the flood will be the top priority when lawmakers return, the leadership on the other side of the Statehouse is taking steps to ensure representatives are ready to go in January. Getting information is the first step.

House Speaker Jay Lucas of Darlington said Wednesday the Ways and Means Committee will in coming weeks hold hearings to assess the impact of flooding and the potential cost of recovery.

"The historic flood that devastated our state nearly

two weeks ago proves once again that when South Carolinians are faced with adversity, we prevail. Gov. Nikki Haley, Adjutant General Bob Livingston and the rest of Team South Carolina kept our families as safe as possible and prevented our communities from further destruction. As we move forward with the recovery process, the House will take a proactive approach to ensure that South Carolina bounces back from this disaster as quickly as possible," Lucas said.

Lucas said he has met and spoken with agency officials to begin cultivating a legislative response to the flooding. These agencies include the South Carolina Army and Air National Guard, Department of Transportation, Department of Health and Environmental Control, Department of Agriculture and Office of Regulatory Staff.

"At this point in time, it is clear that full assessments and exact estimates for the damage done are not yet known and may take time to determine. However, idly sitting back and waiting for these specifics is not an option. It will ultimately be the responsibility of the General Assembly to provide the means and method of recovery," Lucas said.

Lucas said his intention is to approach the matter in an organized, methodical fashion with every issue being understood. Excellent. That is exactly what South Carolina needs – in both the House and Senate, and particularly with regard to repairing bridges and roads. The political delays of a year ago on infrastructure priorities are no longer acceptable.

Title: **Coastal tourism rebounding ater historic S.C. rains**  
 Author: BRUCE SMITH Associated Press  
 Size: 21.7 square inch  
 Orangeburg, SC Circulation: 20345



# Coastal tourism rebounding after historic S.C. rains

**BRUCE SMITH**

*Associated Press*

CHARLESTON — South Carolina, after tens of millions of dollars in tourism losses due to this month's historic rains, is working assure visitors that the state's coast is open again for fall vacations.

Myrtle Beach, Charleston and the state are mounting media campaigns with television, print, Internet and social media letting visitors know tourist destinations are open, as are the roads leading to the coast.

The theme of the state campaign gearing up this week and featuring a television ad voiced by Gov. Nikki Haley is "Our Coast is Clear." The state will also use the theme "Want to Help South Carolina? Take a Vacation."

The coast is the heart of the state's \$18 billion tourism industry, which took a hit when as much as 2

feet of rain fell in some areas earlier this month. The rain first caused visitors to cancel reservations and then, when skies cleared, flooded roads made it hard to get to the coast.

State officials estimate the disruption caused the industry as much as \$10 million a day.

Hotel occupancy statewide last week was down 8.4 percent compared to a year ago. In the Myrtle

COLUMBIA (AP) — Flood recovery efforts continue in South Carolina as more roads open and the number of open shelters goes down.

South Carolina Emergency Management Division spokesman Derrec Becker said Wednesday 241 people are in seven shelters in six counties affected by the Oct. 3 and 4 rainstorms and floods.

Becker says two shelters are in Richland County. The rest are in Williamsburg, Florence, Georgetown, Clarendon and Lexington counties.

Becker said that as of Wednesday morning, 197 roads and 84 bridges remained closed statewide.

Meanwhile, Fort Jackson spokeswoman Kara Motosicky said the Army is investigating the cause of last week's dam failure at Semmes Lake on the post.

State officials have reported 29 dam failures at sites across the state, but Semmes Lake is the only one overseen by the federal government.

**S.C. road closures drop, flood recovery continues**

Title: **Area farmers look at devastating losses from storm**  
 Author: ADAM BEAM AND SUSANNE M. SCHAFFER Associated Press  
 Size: 49.13 square inch  
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# Area farmers look at devastating losses from storm

ADAM BEAM  
 AND SUSANNE M. SCHAFFER  
*Associated Press*

BRANCHVILLE — Thad Wimberly tugs on a clump of peanuts, shaking off the mud as he cracks the soggy shells to inspect his crop. But all he can do is sigh as his livelihood disintegrates between his fingers.

Just a week ago, the 2,500 acres Wimberly farms

with his partner, Jonathan Berry, baked in a drought that wiped out his corn crop. Now, his fields 60 miles south of Columbia in Branchville are filled with water. Moisture is trapped in his peanuts, creating mold and other toxins that make

them unfit for humans and animals to eat.

He expects to lose as much as \$1 million this year, as crop insurance only covers a portion of market prices. It paid out only about \$120 an acre for his corn, which he estimated he could have sold for \$300 to \$400 per acre.

“That’s the life of a farmer. You put your heart and soul into the ground, then something devastating happens like this and you are done,” Wimberly said. “Farming is gambling.”

See Farms, A2

## ◆ FARMS— From Page A1

Across South Carolina, the misery continues: Preliminary estimates show crop losses could total more than \$300 million in the state’s \$3 billion-a-year agriculture industry. Interstate 95, vital to the East Coast economy for trucking, remains closed over a stretch of 13 miles, forcing travelers to take a massive detour. The capital city is fighting to keep its water system running while people have to boil tap water before drinking it.

And even more rain could be on the way. A storm system will stall near the coast this weekend, bringing as much as an additional inch of rain to some areas, according to the National Weather Service. The heaviest rain is expected Saturday, although forecasters said it shouldn’t be enough to flood any additional areas.

“Underneath that water is the South Carolina we remember. Underneath that water is that state that is

so beautiful — that is damaged, but we have to fix it,” said Gov. Nikki Haley, who warned that any final damage estimates could still be weeks away. “We’ll get there.”

Floodwaters continue to move toward the sea, although authorities don’t expect the devastating damage that happened in Columbia when up to 20 inches of rain fell over two days last weekend.

Haley continued to urge people in Georgetown County and other coastal areas to be vigilant. No one has had to be evacuated yet, though, and there was some hope the worst could be over.

The Waccamaw River has crested and the Black River is near crest, Georgetown County Administrator Sel Hemingway said Friday afternoon. It will take days or maybe more than a week for the rivers to go below flood stage, but the water should start dropping.

“Crested — I’ve been waiting for that word to be expressed here for a week,”

Hemingway said.

It isn’t just South Carolina residents who are inconvenienced. The foundations under some of the 18 small bridges that crisscross two rivers and swamps on a 13-mile closed stretch of Interstate 95 have been washed away and must be repaired before the highway can be re-opened, South Carolina Department of Transportation Secretary Christy Hall said Friday.

A contractor will begin working on the bridges 24 hours a day starting Saturday, said Hall, who had no estimate when the road which carries 30,000 vehicles a day could reopen. In the meantime, travelers who would normally drive 74 miles between Interstate 26 to Interstate 20 must take a 168-mile detour through Columbia.

For farmers, the worst of the flood damage was in low lying fields that spent days in standing water, hitting peanuts, cotton and soybeans especially hard, Agriculture

Commissioner Hugh Weathers said. However, those crops account for a small percentage of what’s grown across the U.S. And the state’s top agriculture products — timber and poultry — took less of a hit, so national supplies shouldn’t be too severely affected.

Weathers promised to seek federal aid for farmers.

Back in Branchville, Wimberly and Berry have lost up to 75 percent of their peanuts, cotton and soybeans. The tractors and combines and Wimco farms sit idle, unable to get out into the swampy fields. The only thing in abundance is anxiety, the hope that some assistance will ease the sting.

“We might not have a foot of water standing out here, but this is worse,” he said. “It’s not only the farm, or the money part of it, it takes a toll on your life. The stress. You’re worrying about trying to make your bills, you worry about making sure your family is taken care of.”

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AP

Thad Wimberly, left, and Jonathan Berry inspect the damage to a field of peanuts following record rainfall and flooding in Branchville on Friday. Wimberly, co-owner of Wimco Farms in Branchville, said he expects to lose 75 percent of his crop.

Title: **Official: Flood damaged 40 roads, 84 homes in Bamberg County**  
 Author: Special to The T&D  
 Size: 41.23 square inch  
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# Official: Flood damaged 40 roads, 84 homes in Bamberg County

*Special to The T&D*

BAMBERG — The National Guard is working with Bamberg County to assess its dirt roads following the recent flooding.

County officials took part in a conference call with Gov. Nikki Haley concerning disaster recovery on Monday. Haley asked each county to submit requests to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for assistance as soon as possible and to allow the South Carolina Department of Transportation to perform all debris removal, including in municipalities.

Bamberg County Emergency Management Services Director Sharon Hammond told Haley, "Bamberg County is currently at OP-CON 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."

Hammond said 40 roads in the county sustained some type of damage and 84 homes were damaged due to the flooding.

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

She said it is important for citizens needing assistance to register online

at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).

Hammond noted that as of Monday, the following roads were closed except to local and emergency traffic:

- Needle Road off of Highway 61
- Pepper Road from Dragon Road to St. John's Church Road
- Shot's Trail Road off of Highway 61
- Sand Drag Road
- Embree Road – closed to all traffic
- Gamecock Loop
- Sunday School Road
- Goose Bay Road from 935 to 1314 Goose Bay Road
- Hope Road

Those with questions, concerns or information to share concerning dirt roads in Bamberg County are asked to call 803-245-3000. If there are any questions, concerns

or information to share concerning any roads, other than dirt roads in the county, call 803-245-5181.

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MALLORY BIERING/SPECIAL TO THE T&D

Bamberg County Building and Planning Director Bill Johnson speaking with three members of the South Carolina National Guard 1222nd ENG SAPPER Company out of Rock Hill. The three-man team — which included Sgt. Michael Semko, Sgt. Shannon Peters and SPC Dale Martin, as well as other members of the company — has assisted Bamberg County with road assessments since Friday, Oct. 9.

Title: **As useless as it seems, continue pursuit of help**  
 Author:  
 Size: 45.72 square inch  
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# As useless as it seems, continue pursuit of help

**T**he letter tells of the frustration that is being felt by too many people in trying to recover from devastating rains and associated flooding.

Christi Servin of Vance writes:

"I do not understand why Governor Haley wants everyone to apply for help for FEMA and everyone that I know of that actually needs help is being denied. My house ceiling in many of my rooms in my home is falling in and I have a lot of water damage with no insurance because there is no insurance company that will insure my home because it is not brand new. They will insure the contents and that is it. I have asthma and I am fighting every day with bleach and Lysol to keep my house from having mold and mildew and they FEMA denied me because they said that I can still live in my home. I cannot still live in my home the way it is. It is raining again today (Oct. 10) and more water is coming in my house. I am disabled and I cannot afford to fix my home or I would not have applied for assistance. I do not know who else to turn to and I want to appeal this because it is not fair to any disabled person who has breathing issues to have to suffer because the ceilings failing in and rain coming in does not count as enough damage to ruin a home. I need help and I need it now."

On Tuesday, Servin says her situation has only changed because of the help of a local woman who is directly assisting people in eastern Orangeburg County. Servin knows her as "Valli" and says the woman has provided her with food and tarps to go on the roof of her home.

Valli is also helping others and trying to make clear the need through a Facebook page titled "Help Eastern Orangeburg County."

Two points:

1. Thanks to people who are taking it upon themselves to help. Amid all the warnings to beware of people look-

ing to take advantage of others after the storm, there are good people proving their willingness to assist others by simply taking action.

Servin says he does not know what she would be doing without such generosity.

2. Follow Gov. Nikki Haley's advice and do not give up. If initially rejected by FEMA, even after a site visit such as the one by officials to Servin's home, press the issue. Do what Servin says: appeal. There is still hope.

It remains important to register with FEMA, just as Haley and others have urged. Nothing can happen via government assistance until you do.

You can register online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov), or by calling 800-621-3362 (TTY 800-462-7585) or visiting a disaster recovery center. Locally, the center is located at the government complex in Holly Hill.

We cannot assure people such as Servin, who has been initially rejected, that help will ultimately will come their way.

But we can offer the official advice from FEMA that the paperwork provided to Servin about seeking a government loan, which she says she cannot afford, is not the end of the process.

FEMA states: "You will receive a letter from FEMA containing a decision within 10 days of the inspector's visit. If you are eligible for assistance, the letter will be followed by a check or an electronic funds transfer. The letter explains how the money can be used. You may receive a low-interest disaster loan application in the packet from the SBA. You do not have to accept a loan. However, you must complete the application and return it to SBA to remain eligible for other types of federal assistance, such as FEMA grants."

To all those in need of help: Go through with the process, no matter how much it seems embroiled in red tape. FEMA may come through for you yet.

Title: **AFTER THE FLOOD**  
 Author: ADAM BEAM AND SUSANNE M. SCHAFFER Associated Press  
 Size: 92.22 square inch  
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# AFTER THE FLOOD

## Now there's a rush to preserve drinking water

**ADAM BEAM  
AND SUSANNE  
M. SCHAFFER**

*Associated Press*

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's capital city had too much water. Now, officials are racing to make sure it has enough.

A canal that serves as the main source of drinking water for about half of the Columbia water system's 375,000 customers collapsed in two places following historic rainfall and flooding over the weekend, sending contractors scrambling to build a rock dam to plug the holes while National Guard helicopters dropped giant sandbags in the rushing water.

Water from the canal normally flows directly into the reservoir at the city's water treatment plant. But with the water level falling because of the levee breach, workers were forced to place orange pumps on the banks of the canal to pump water directly into the reservoir. And if that wasn't enough, the city had plans to pump water directly from the nearby Broad River.

Officials sought to beat back rampant rumors of an imminent water shortage.

"The system is running and it is running strong," Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin told reporters.

Meanwhile, Gov. Nikki Haley issued a terse warn-

ing to thousands of people in low-lying areas near the coast to "strongly consider evacuating" before a mass of water rumbling toward the ocean floods some places for up to two more weeks. Any mandatory evacuations would be ordered by local officials.

She asked people watching on television to call relatives who may have a false sense of security after surviving hurricanes, calling the second round of expected flooding "a different kind of bad." She said the standing water could last up to 12 days.

"We have thousands of people that won't move. And we need to get them to move," she said. "They don't need to be sitting in flooded areas for 12 days."

In Georgetown County near the swollen Black River, National Guardsmen made multiple runs in a military truck to pick up people whose homes had been cut off by submerged roads, sometimes driving through water several feet deep. Among its passengers were a woman and her three children, who were dropped them off at a shelter in Georgetown.

Back in Columbia, city officials urged residents to

conserve water. And when they do use it, they have to boil it at least one minute. Restaurants are offering bottled water and serving meals on paper plates to avoid washing dishes. And many people often make daily trips to their local grocery stores to stock up on water.

"It's easy to conserve because you can't really use (the water)," said 26-year-old Laura Reinman, who was pushing a shopping cart with two gallon jugs of water at a Publix grocery store just across the street from the canal.

The city is like hundreds of others along the East Coast and in the Midwest that have been told to fix their aging infrastructure.

Columbia is under orders from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to fix its sewage treatment plant and sewer pipes to reduce overflows that can contaminate waterways. Those orders include spending \$1 million on projects to reduce flooding along Gills Creek, one of the areas devastated by record rainfall and flooding.

And just last month, the state Supreme Court revived a lawsuit challeng-

ing how the city has paid for maintenance to its water and sewer systems, saying "simply put, the statutes do not allow these revenues to be treated as a slush fund."

Columbia separates its property tax collections, which are only imposed on city residents, from its water fees, which are paid by its customers who live throughout the region. In 1993, the city passed a resolution allowing it to pull money from the water fund to help balance the city's budget. According to the lawsuit, in the past three years, \$12 million has been transferred from utility customers to pay for non-utility projects, such as economic development and efforts to lure businesses to the city.

Benjamin said the city has reduced the transfer over the past several years. This year, it was \$2.8 million to help pay for police, fire and 911 services.

•Associated Press reporters John Seewer contributed from Toledo, Ohio; Meg Kinnard contributed from Blythewood, South Carolina; and Bruce Smith contributed from Georgetown County.

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Author: ADAM BEAM AND SUSANNE M. SCHAFER Associated Press  
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AP/MIC SMITH

Tara Saracina paddleboards down her street in the Ashborough subdivision in Summerville on Thursday. Saracina said the floodwaters seem to be going down. "Now it's just the cleanup," she said.

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AP/JOHN BAZEMORE

Workers use a crane to repair a break in a canal Thursday in Columbia. The canal that serves as the main source of drinking water for about half of the Columbia water system's 375,000 customers has collapsed in two places, sending contractors scrambling to build a rock dam to plug the holes while the National Guard used helicopters to place giant sandbags in the rushing water.

Title: **Today at TheTandD.com**

Author:

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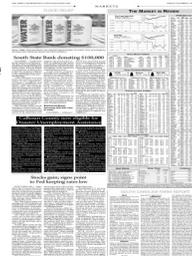
- Photos: Conditions at Livingston Landing in Cordova.
- Photos: Sen. Lindsey Graham tours flood damage.
- Video: Congressman Jim Clyburn discusses the flooding with CNN.
- Video: Gov. Nikki Haley urges evacuation along the S.C. coast.
- Photos and Story: S.C. State vs. Bethune-Cookman

Title: **Calhoun County now eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

Author:

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## Calhoun County now eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance

COLUMBIA - Calhoun County is among an additional five counties now eligible to receive Disaster Unemployment Assistance through FEMA. Gov. Nikki Haley and the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce made the announcement Thursday.

Calhoun, Darlington, Florence, Kershaw and Lee counties are eligible to receive Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) after FEMA approved them for individual assistance. This brings the total number of eligible counties to 16.

The DUA program makes funds available to assist people who became unemployed as a direct result of last weekend's storm and ensuing floods.

The other counties included are Berkeley, Charleston, Clarendon,

Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry, Lexington, Orangeburg, Richland, Sumter and Williamsburg. Additional counties may be added at a later date.

If you have questions regarding your eligibility, call 888-834-5890.

DEW Executive Director Cheryl Stanton said South Carolina workers may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits under the DUA program.

To be eligible, workers or business owners must meet the following criteria:

- Individuals who are unemployed due to the disaster, and do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits.

- Self-employed individuals and small business owners who lost income due to the disaster.

- Individuals who were

prevented from working due to an injury caused by the disaster.

- Individuals who have become the major supplier of household income due to the disaster-related death or injury of the previous major supplier of household income.

- Individuals who are unable to reach their job or self-employment location because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented from doing so by the disaster.

- Individuals who were to commence employment or self-employment but were prevented by the disaster.

Applicants can file immediately. Check [www.dew.sc.gov](http://www.dew.sc.gov) for updates on the program. Applicants have 30 days to file a claim under this program. The last day to file will be Nov. 6.

Title: **South Carolina still on edge from floods; 2 die in truck**  
 Author: ADAM BEAM AND MEG KINNARD Associated Press  
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# South Carolina still on edge from floods; 2 die in truck

ADAM BEAM  
AND MEG KINNARD

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — It could take until the weekend for the threat of flooding to ease in storm-tattered South Carolina, where a senator warned of a potential billion-dollar cleanup bill, two more people died in the floodwaters and the flagship university sent a home football game 700 miles away.

Rivers rose and dams bulged as storm water from days of heavy rains made its way to the Atlantic Ocean, causing a second round of flooding downstream.

Gov. Nikki Haley paid a visit to the coast, which she said would still be in danger for another 24-48 hours.

"We're holding our breath and saying a prayer," she said.

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham warned the disaster could "break the bank" of federal emergency funds, possibly topping more than \$1 billion.

In another image of the storm's otherworldly toll, state officials said caskets have popped out of the ground in 11 instances in six counties.

At least 19 people in South Carolina and North Carolina have died in the storm, while many survivors returned

home to discover they'd lost everything.

Wendy Dixon burst into sobs after realizing her wedding album and dozens of photos of her two sons and three grandchildren were destroyed.

Overcome with emotion and barely able to walk across her waterlogged carpet, Dixon grasped the arm of a niece inside the Columbia apartment.

"Everything is gone!" she wailed. "My clothes and all can be replaced. But my little things, my pictures, are all gone."

It was another anxious day of waiting for floodwaters to recede around the capital city. About 1,000 residents near the compromised Beaver Dam were told to evacuate Wednesday morning, though the order was lifted several hours later when crews shored up the dam.

Haley said 62 dams across the state were being monitored, and 13 had already failed. However, she said South Carolina was fortunate that those represented only a small fraction of 2,000 or so dams regulated by the state.

At a news conference, Haley and other officials were asked repeatedly about whether the state had spent enough in previous years to maintain dams and other infrastructure.

"I think the analysis of this can be done after" the danger from the floods passes, she said in one testy response.

But Graham said the federal lifeline must be treated with care to avoid a "pork-laden monstrosity" like the federal government's aid package to the Northeast Hurricane Sandy in 2012. He warned state and county officials not to use the disaster as an opportunity to ask for money unrelated to flood damage.

He also said it would take weeks to get a reliable damage assessment.

"We're talking hundreds of millions (of dollars), maybe over a billion," he said while visiting a shelter in Columbia.

And in an extraordinary move for the football-crazy South, the University of South Carolina announced it was moving Saturday's football game against No. 7

LSU some 700 miles to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The university said more than 80,000 fans expected for the game in Columbia would have put too much stress on weakened infrastructure.

In two of the most recent storm-related deaths, deputies said the pickup's driver went around a barricade and plunged into the water at a 20-foot gap where pavement was washed out.

Sheriff's spokesman Lt. Curtis Wilson said three people in the pickup truck managed to get to safety around 3 a.m. Wednesday. Divers found two others dead inside the truck several hours later.

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said all nine deaths in the county have come from people trying to drive in flooded areas. Officers have located the cars belonging to several other missing people.

"I'm fearing the worst on that," Lott said.

Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Jay Reeves, Jeffery Collins, Jack Jones and Susanne M. Schafer in Columbia, South Carolina; and Bruce Smith in Conway.

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AP

Wendy Dixon weeps as she leaves her flood-damaged apartment Wednesday, Oct. 7, in Columbia. In the Columbia area, where some returned home to assess damage and clean up, the threat of more flooding still hadn't lifted.