

Title: **Haley urges people to prepare for massive flooding, outages**
 Author: By SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 39.83 square inch
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



Haley urges people to prepare for massive flooding, outages

By SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley urged South Carolina residents Friday to prepare for historic rainfalls over the weekend that will bring extensive flooding and power outages.

People who live in low-lying areas need to go ahead and leave. Shelters will open as

needed. Otherwise, residents should stay at home and off roads, Haley said.

While the state has not ordered evacuations, “if you have ever flooded before, go ahead and get out of the way” because

there will be massive flooding, she said. If people stay and need help later, “we don’t know how long it will take us to get you out of there.”

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HALEY

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Forecasters expect up to 14 inches of rain to fall in the Midlands through Monday and up to 12 inches in the rest of the state.

Haley compared the coming rain to the two winter storms that paralyzed South Carolina in early 2014 but said the power outages could be even longer this time because power lines will be under water.

The Department of Transportation is already closing

roads in preparation. Any one on the roadways should expect detours across the state, Haley said.

Haley said 1,000 National Guardsmen are working this weekend, and 150,000 sandbags are ready to be distributed. More are on the way, as emergency officials believe more will be needed.

People who do decide to drive should stay out of low-lying areas, because flash floods will occur without warning, said Adjutant General Robert Livingston.

“Once you’re trapped, we could be half-a-mile away and still can’t get to you in time,” he said.

The storm has already been blamed for at least one death in South Carolina.

Sylvia Arteaga, 56, drowned in a flash flood early Thursday under a railroad bridge in Spartanburg while driving home from the night shift.



NIKKI
HALEY

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A vehicle navigates the flood water Friday after high tides and heavy rains left parts of downtown Charleston underwater. Millions along the East Coast breathed a little easier Friday after forecasters said Hurricane Joaquin would probably veer out to sea.

Title: **'A HISTORIC FLOOD'**
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'A HISTORIC FLOOD'

Heavy rain falls as hundreds rescued

By SEANNA ADCOX and
JEFFREY COLLINS

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Hundreds were rescued from fast-moving floodwaters Sunday in South Carolina as days of driving rain hit a dangerous crescendo that buckled buildings and roads, closed a major East Coast interstate route and threatened the drinking water supply for the capital city.

FLOOD

Continued from 1A

around Columbia were closed, and so was a 75-mile stretch of Interstate 95 that is a key route connecting Miami to Washington, D.C. and New York.

"This is different than a hurricane because it is water, it is slow moving and it is sitting. We can't just move the water out," Gov. Nikki Haley said at a news conference.

One death was reported in the area on Sunday, bringing weather-related deaths to seven since the storm began days ear-

lier. The powerful rainstorm dumped more than a foot of rain overnight on Columbia, swamping hundreds of businesses and homes. Emergency workers waded into waist-deep water to help people trapped in cars, dozens of boats fanned out to rescue people in flooded neighborhoods and some were

plucked from rooftops by helicopters.

Officials said it could take weeks or even months to assess every road and bridge that's been closed around the state. Several interstates

People were told to stay off roads and remain indoors until floodwaters recede, and a curfew was issued for Columbia and across two surrounding counties. The capital city told all 375,000 of its water customers to boil water before drinking because of water line breaks and the threat of rising water to a treatment plant. Nearly 30,000 customers were without power at one point.

State forecasters said another

plucked from rooftops by helicopters.

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2-6 inches could fall around the state, and it could be Tuesday before skies are sunny. The rainstorm around the Southeast has drawn tropical moisture from offshore that's linked up with an area of low pressure and a slow-moving front.

Local officials counted several hundred water rescues by mid-morning before Columbia Fire Chief Aubry Jenkins said in an interview that there were too many rescues to keep count.

"We're just trying to get to

everyone," Jenkins said. "But there are places we just haven't gotten to."

One of the hardest hit areas in Columbia was near Gills Creek, where a weather station recorded more than 18 inches of rain — or more than a third of the city's average yearly rainfall — nearly all of it in 24 hours. The creek was 10 feet above flood stage, spilling floodwaters that almost reached the stoplights at a four-lane intersection.

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Floodwaters rush over a dam Sunday on Forest Lake in Columbia.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man paddles a kayak down a flooded street Sunday in Columbia.

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Jeff Alexander navigates his truck and trailer through flood waters at Fox Hollow off Haltiwanger Road in Greenwood on Sunday.