

**How do I elevate or flood proof my home?**  
When elevating or flood proofing new or existing structures, consult a design professional, architect, structural engineer, or licensed contractor for advice. These generally are knowledgeable and experienced in flood-proofing methods.

**Flood-hazard areas**  
Flood maps and publications from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Insurance Administration are available for review at the local Department of Public Works, Building Permit offices, and local public libraries. The local Department of Public Works and Building Permit office provides flood zone determinations. Research the information provided at these offices before you build or make any attempt to flood proof your home or property.



Typical flood-monitoring gage well and a gage house that is composed of a water stilling well. Gages are normally mounted to bridges and river stage data are transmitted to the USGS Georgia Water Science Center in Atlanta.

**Flood Monitoring in the Chattahoochee River Basin**  
The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)—in cooperation with other Federal, State, and local agencies—operates a flood monitoring system in the Chattahoochee River Basin. This system is a network of 35 automated river stage stations that transmit stage data through satellite telemetry to the USGS Georgia Water Science Center in Atlanta. Charts for 16 of these stations are shown on the reverse side of this publication. During floods, the public and emergency response agencies use this information to make decisions about road closures, evacuations, and other public safety issues. The emergency phone number for your area is listed under “Local flood emergency phone numbers.”



## Flood-Tracking Chart



### Chattahoochee River Basin in Metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia



Prepared in cooperation with



**Surviving a flood—do's and don'ts**  
**Do leave if local authorities recommend evacuation.** Their advice is based on knowledge of the predicted magnitude of the flood and the potential for death and destruction.  
**Do not walk through flowing water.** Drowning currents can be deceptive; shallow but fast-moving water can knock you off your feet.

**Flood safety and property protection measures**  
If your property is known to be in a flood-hazard area and flood warnings are issued, take all necessary and appropriate steps to protect your family and property. These include sandbagging; turning off all electrical circuits and gas lines; and elevating furniture, carpets, and appliances such as refrigerators, washing machines, clothes dryers, water heaters, and air-conditioning compressor units.

**Flood insurance for homeowners**  
Regular homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods; however, in communities that participate in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program, separate flood insurance is available. This insurance is backed by the Federal Government and is available in the participating communities to everyone, even for properties that have previously flooded. Information about flood insurance is available through local insurance agents. Flood insurance must be purchased 30 days prior to filing any claims.

**Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.** The number two cause of flood deaths is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to the power company or city/county emergency management office. Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated. Look before you step. Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours, so use caution when entering flooded buildings. Also, floodwaters will cover floors with slippery mud that can contain broken or sharp objects. Be extremely cautious using recently flooded electrical equipment. Some appliances such as television sets, keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried.

The information on this page is provided in the interest of public safety and is taken from various sources including: American Red Cross, Food and Water in an Emergency; American Red Cross, accessed at <http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/prepared/floodwtr.html> on August 24, 2001; Baker, R.H., 1997, Don't build that ark!—Use the chart: Washington, D.C., Congressman Rickard H. Baker, U.S. House of Representatives, Congress Watch, March 1997 [variously paged]; Federal Emergency Management Agency, 1994, National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System coordinators manual: Indianapolis, Ind., Federal Emergency Management Agency [variously paged].

**Do not drive through a flooded area.** More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers—they are put up for your protection—the road or bridge beyond the barrier may be washed out.  
**Do not drink floodwater.** Floodwaters carry harmful pollutants and waterborne diseases that can result in illness or death. When flooding interrupts normal drinking-water supply, consider bottled water or treating other forms of safe supply such as spring water, rainfall, or lake and stream water from areas not affected by the flood. Treatment methods include boiling, disinfection, and distillation.  
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#### For more information

If you would like more information about one of the following agencies, please call, e-mail, or check the following Web sites:

U.S. Geological Survey  
Director, Georgia Water Science Center  
phone: 770.903.9100  
e-mail: [dc\\_ga@usgs.gov](mailto:dc_ga@usgs.gov)  
URL: <http://ga.water.usgs.gov>

Georgia Emergency Management Agency  
phone: 1.800.TRY.GEMA or 404.635.7000  
URL: <http://www.gema.state.ga.us>

Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
phone: 404.656.3500  
URL: <http://www.gadnr.org>

National Weather Service—  
Southeast River Forecast Center  
e-mail: [sr-rlr.river@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-rlr.river@noaa.gov)  
phone: 770.486.1133  
URL: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/serfc>

Clean Water Atlanta  
phone: 404.529.9211  
URL: <http://www.cleanwateratlanta.org>

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper  
phone: 404-352-9828  
URL: <http://www.chattahoochee.org>

Georgia Floodplain Management Office  
phone: 404.656.6382

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
email: [FEMA-Correspondence-Unit@dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Correspondence-Unit@dhs.gov)  
URL: <http://www.fema.gov>

American Red Cross  
phone: 404.876.3302  
URL: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) (To find your local Chapter, enter your zip code.)

#### Local flood emergency phone numbers

##### County Emergency Management Agencies

Cobb	770.499.4567
DeKalb	404.294.2000
Douglas	770.942.8626
Forsyth	770.887.0038
Fulton	404.730.5600
Gwinnett	678.518.4805
Paulding	770.222.1160

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Cover photograph: Chattahoochee River floodwaters caused by Hurricane Dennis inundate public structures  
Photograph by Arthur C. Day, U.S. Geological Survey, 2005

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