



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND JONES, GREENE, AND PITT COUNTY OFFICIALS WILL MEMORIALIZE THE DISASTROUS FLOODS FROM HURRICANES FLOYD

Severe flooding is part of the history of many communities in the southeast U.S.; still, many residents are not fully aware of the flood potential in their area. To help raise awareness of flood risk, the Southeastern River Forecast Center, SERFC, began a project in 2006 to install high water mark signs in highly visible locations within communities that have experienced severe flooding. Service hydrologists from local NWS offices coordinate with emergency management and other local officials to select the best locations for the signs. The USGS is involved as well, providing historical data and aiding with the surveying of high water mark signs in their districts.

NOAA's National Weather Service and Officials from Jones, Greene, and Pitt counties will memorialize disastrous flooding from Hurricane Floyd on **Monday November 3rd**, **and Tuesday November 4th**. Officials will unveil commemorative signs depicting the maximum flood levels reached along the Trent River in Pollocksville at the Town Hall/Old Train Depot at noon, and along Contentnea Creek at Scout Park in Snow Hill at 3 pm on Monday November 3rd. Another high water mark sign will be placed along the Tar River in Greenville at River Park North at noon on November 4th.

On September 19th, 1999, the Trent River at Pollocksville crested at a record level of 28.42 feet (14.52 feet above flood stage), a result of the flooding from Hurricane Floyd.

On September 21st a record level of 51.58 ft was recorded at Contentnea Creek in Snow Hill as a result of the flooding from Hurricane Floyd.

On September 21st, the Tar River at Greenville crested at a record level of 25.67 feet as a result of the flooding from Hurricane Floyd.

Hurricane Floyd caused 52 deaths in North Carolina, 36 of which were attributed to drowning. In addition, physical damage to property topped a billion dollars, and lost revenue was estimated at up to 4 billion dollars. Tens of thousands of homes were damaged and destroyed in the historic floods in the days and weeks following Hurricane Floyd. While only a category 2 hurricane at landfall with winds around 100 mph, Hurricane Floyd ranks as one of most costly hurricanes to hit the United States during the past century.

It is important that we remember the significance of rare events like this, as history and probability tell us that they will occur again. Memorializing disasters such as Hurricanes Floyd and Fran encourages us to prepare for such disasters in the future. Communities and families need to be prepared for disasters by having action plans and disaster supply kits ready.

Since 1999 the National Weather Service has been refining the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) to help everyone keep abreast of current and forecast conditions along our rivers. AHPS is a web-based suite of products which graphically depicts the magnitude of flooding, as well as community impacts, from hours to days and even months in advance. These products enable government agencies, private institutions, and individuals to make more informed decisions about risk-based policies and actions required to mitigate the dangers posed by floods.

North Carolina is one of the most hurricane-prone regions of the country. The mission of the National Weather Service is to reduce the loss of life and property from these storms through our forecasts and warnings.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

National Weather Service in Morehead City/Newport: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/mhx/>

Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service: <http://www.weather.gov/ahps/>

USGS Realtime Streamflow Data: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt>

Stream Gaging and Flood Forecasting: A Partnership of the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Weather Service:

http://water.usgs.gov/wid/FS_209-95/mason-weiger.html