FLOODS

Although the vast majority of annual peak flows occur during the months of April, May, and June, annual peak flows have taken place in almost every month of the year. The flood of July, 1972, was the result of heavy rains that occurred in the upper Genesee River basin and resulted in flows of nearly 25,000 cfs at Rochester. The flood was caused by a combination of high rainfall and the melting of snow on the upper slopes. The peak flow at Rochester was reached on July 17, 1972, and the flow slowly declined to a low of 7,000 cfs on July 26, 1972. The flood lasted for three days, causing extensive damage to the riverfront property and disrupting normal river operations.

The 10-year flood on the Genesee River (a peak flow which may be expected to occur once every 10 years) is on average between 12,000 and 16,000 cfs at Rochester.

Compared to floods of the same magnitude in the past, the July, 1972, flood was smaller in magnitude and duration. The peak flow was reached on July 17, 1972, and the flow slowly declined to a low of 7,000 cfs on July 26, 1972. The flood lasted for three days, causing extensive damage to the riverfront property and disrupting normal river operations.

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By
Bruce K. Gilbert and John C. Kammerer
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