

FLOOD OF NOVEMBER 1985 IN WEST VIRGINIA, PENNSYLVANIA,  
MARYLAND, AND VIRGINIA

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ABSTRACT

Rainfall in excess of 10 inches occurred during the first 5 days of November 1985, resulting in devastating flooding in the Mid-Atlantic states of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Throughout the area, many streams exceeded previously known flood heights and discharges and, in many cases, the recurrence interval of peak discharges exceeded 100 years.

The peak stage and discharge for the maximum previously known flood and the November 1985 flood are compared. Flood hydrographs for selected locations also are presented.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Scope

The flood of November 4-6, 1985, affected parts of eastern and northern West Virginia, southwestern Pennsylvania, northern Virginia, and Maryland.

The purpose of this report is to present an early release of peak stage and discharge data for gaging stations and miscellaneous sites in the affected area. Rainfall data for many rain gages are included. All data are provisional and subject to revision.

Acknowledgments

Precipitation data were provided by the National Weather Service, Department of Commerce. Streamflow data, peak stages, discharges, and recurrence intervals were compiled by U.S. Geological Survey district offices in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.