

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; Insurance Program Community Rating System coordinators manual; Indianapolis, Ind., Federal Emergency Management Agency [variously paged]; Federal Emergency Management Agency, 1994, National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System coordinators manual; Indianapolis, Ind., Federal Emergency Management Agency [variously paged]; Baker, R.H., 1997, Don't build that ark!—Use the chart! Washington, D.C., Congressman Richard H. Baker, U.S. House of Representatives, Congress Watch, March 1997 [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.

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.

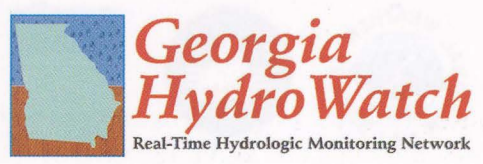
Look before you step. Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours, so use caution when entering flooded buildings. Also, floodwaters will cover floors with slippery mud that can contain broken or dangerous objects.

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.

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
Office of the District Chief, Georgia
phone: 770.903.9100
e-mail: 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: 1.800.241.34113
url: http://www.state.ga.us/dnr
 - National Weather Service—
Southeast River Forecast Center
phone: 770.486.0028
url: http://www.srh.noaa.gov/serfc
 - Flint River Water Planning and Policy Center
phone: 229.430.3851
url: http://www.h2opolicycenter.org
 - Georgia Floodplain Management Office
phone: 404.656.6382
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency
url: http://www.fema.gov
 - American Red Cross
phone: 404.876.3302
url: www.redcross.org (To find your local Chapter, enter your zip code.)

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Surviving during 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 is the number one cause of flood deaths. Water 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 sand-bagging; 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 any claims.

Some homeowners have purchased flood insurance because it was required when they obtained a mortgage or home improvement loan. These policies may cover only the structure and not the contents. During floods, damage to furnishings inside the structure may be costly. Check your flood insurance policy to see if your home's contents are covered; if not, you might want to add this coverage.

Local flood emergency phone numbers

County Emergency Management Agencies

Baker	229.734.3019
Calhoun	229.849.5000
Clayton	770.478.8271
Coweta	770.254.2650
Crawford	478.836.2616
Crisp	229.276.2600
Decatur	229.248.3869
Dooly	229.268.4395
Albany–Dougherty	229.431.3266
Blakely–Early	229.723.3029
Fayette	770.461.1321
Atlanta–Fulton	404.730.5600
Grady	229.377.1039
Henry	770.954.2280
Lee	229.435.5402
Macon	478.472.3575
Marion	229.649.3841
Meriwether	706.672.4094
Miller	229.758.4113
Mitchell	229.336.2072
Monroe	478.994.7010
Pike	770.567.3406
Randolph	229.732.3423
Schley	229.937.2609
Seminole	229.524.8956
Spalding	770.228.2129
Sumter	229.924.4094
Talbot	706.665.3456
Taylor	478.847.2355
Terrell	229.995.5381
Thomaston–Upson	706.647.5600
Webster	229.828.2515
Worth	229.776.8223

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How do I elevate or floodproof my home?

When elevating or floodproofing new or existing structures, consult a design professional, architect, structural engineer, or licensed contractor for advice. These generally are knowledgeable and experienced in floodproofing methods.

Many houses, even those not in the floodplain, have sewers that back up during heavy rains.

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. Flood zone determinations are provided by the local Department of Public Works and Building Permit office. Research the information provided at these offices before you build or make any attempt to floodproof your home or property.



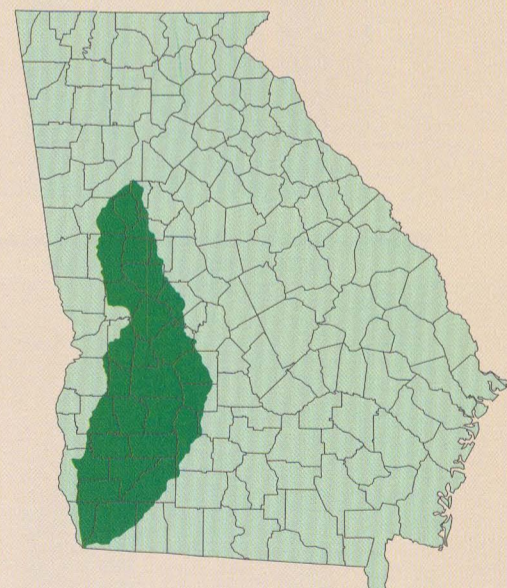
Typical flood-monitoring gage composed of a water stilling well and a gage house that shelters stage-recording equipment atop the stilling well. Gages are normally mounted to bridges where the river stage data are transmitted to the Georgia District Office in Atlanta.

Flood Monitoring in the Flint River Basin

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with other Federal, State, and local agencies, operates a Flood Monitoring System in the Flint River Basin. This system is a network of automated river stage stations (level are shown on the reverse side of this publication) that transmit stage data through satellite and telephone telemetry to the USGS Georgia District Office in Atlanta. 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



Flint River Basin, Georgia



Prepared in cooperation with