

Table 1. Chronology of major and other memorable floods and droughts in South Carolina, 1893-2002

[Recurrence interval: The average interval of time within which streamflow will be greater than a particular value for floods or less than a particular value for droughts. Symbol: >, greater than. Sources: Recurrence intervals calculated from U.S. Geological Survey data; other information from U.S. Geological Survey, State and local reports, and newspapers]

Flood or drought	Date	Area affected	Recurrence interval (years)	Remarks
Flood	Aug. 27, 1893	Southern coast of South Carolina	Unknown	Deaths, 2,000; damage, \$10 million.
Flood	June 1903	Santee River basin	Unknown	Deaths, 50; damage, \$3.5 million.
Flood	Aug. 26-30, 1908	Statewide	2 to > 50	Most extensive flood in State; rainfall, 12 inches in 24 hours at Anderson.
Flood	July 18, 1916	Eastern two-thirds of State	2 to >100	Record rainfall, 13 inches in 24 hours at Effingham; damage, \$10-11 million.
Drought	1925	Statewide	Unknown	Record lows for many streams. Water and power supply affected; trees destroyed.
Flood	Aug. 15-17, 1928	Statewide	2 to > 50	Bridges destroyed, roads and railways impassable.
Flood	Sept. 21-24, 1928	Lower Pee Dee River basin and southern South Carolina	>100	Flooding was severe. Rainfall 10-12 inches. Deaths, 5; damage, \$4-6 million.
Flood	Oct. 2, 1929	Savannah and Santee River basins.	5 to 25	Entered Aiken as extratropical storm; intense rains on saturated soil caused severe flooding.
Drought	1930-35	Statewide	>25	Southern region affected most.
Flood	Aug. 11-19, 1940	Statewide	2 to >100	Deaths, about 34; damage, \$10 million.
Flood	Sept. 17-23, 1945	Statewide	2 to >100	Severe flooding; Deaths, 1; damage, \$6-7 million.
Drought	1950-57	Statewide	30 to 60	Agriculture affected; streamflow, power, and water use decreased.
Flood	Oct. 15, 1954	Lower Pee Dee River basin	5 to 10	Hurricane Hazel. One of most severe storms in State to date; western one-half of State having drought. Deaths 1; damage, \$27 million.
Flood	Sept. 29-30, 1959	Eastern, southern, and central South Carolina	10 to 20	Hurricane Gracie. Rainfall, 6-8 inches. Deaths, 7; damage, \$20 million.
Drought	1965-70	Statewide	10 to > 25	Increased number of forest fires and large crop losses.
Flood	Nov. 1, 1969	Coastal, northwest corner	2 to >100	Rainfall, 13.6 inches on Edisto Island. Deaths, 1; flood damage to homes.
Flood	Sept. 14, 1973	Northwestern South Carolina, Savannah and Santee River basins	2 to >25	Majorflash flood in Laurens; Saluda River at Ware Shoals had highest crest since 1929 flood. Damage, \$4-6 million.
Flood	Aug. 19, 1981	Lower Pee Dee River basin	5 to 50	Greatest flood on upper Waccamaw River since 1945.
Drought	1980-82	Statewide	10 to 20	Streamflow lowest in major rivers in many years.
Drought	1985-88	Statewide	>25	Regional drought broke many records.
Flood	Sept. 21, 1989	Eastern two-thirds of State	Unknown	Hurricane Hugo.
Flood	Oct. 10-12, 1990	Central South Carolina	Unknown	Intense rains from Tropical Storms Klaus and Marco caused severe flooding. Deaths, 5; 80 bridge failures.
Flood	Oct. 8-9, 1992	Southern South Carolina	>100	Rainfall, 9 inches in 24 hours. Bridge failures; homes damaged; 90-car train derailed.
Flood	Aug. 25-29, 1995	Northwestern Piedmont South Carolina	10 to >100	Tropical Storm Jerry; Rainfall, 10 to 20 inches. Bridge failures; 4.
Flood	1999	Waccamaw and Lower Pee Dee River basins	<10 to >100	Hurricane Floyd; Rainfall, 5.6 inches to 14.2 inches.
Drought	1998 current (2002)	Statewide	Not determined	Extreme drought status for entire state. Streamflow and water use decreased. Increased wildfire losses.