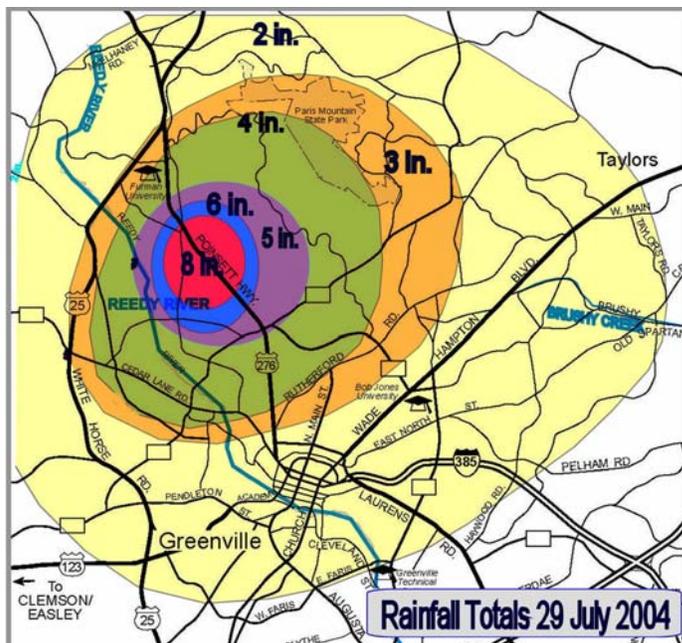


Floods

Floods: This hazard is associated with large infrequent rainfall events or weak hurricanes or tropical storms that have moved inland. Flooding problems areas are commonly found in densely populated areas that have inadequate drainage systems or buildings located in flood prone areas. Flooding can also be associated with steeply sloped mountainous regions in the form of flash floods. These hazards are extremely dangerous due to the velocity of the moving water and debris. Greenville County has both of these situations: the northern portions are susceptible to flash flooding and the central urbanized core is dotted with problem areas due to buildings located in the floodplain. The lower sections of Greenville County also have flood prone areas as a result of the large volumes of runoff that have accumulated throughout the County. This hazard can therefore affect the entire County. In addition, Greenville County gets a much rain each year as nearly any part of the United States. Only several isolated regions in the northwest US get more.

The most recent flooding event occurred on July 29th, 2004 in downtown Greenville (City). A flash flood occurred due to rainfall accumulations of 6-8" in several hours over the Reedy River watershed. Although damages estimates couldn't be found, many homes, businesses, and private properties were destroyed or severely damaged. The figures below show the rainfall amounts and an image of the flooding Reedy River.





In addition to extreme rainfall events, dam failures can also cause extreme flooding situations for those downstream. Greenville County has many high hazard dams, some of which, if failure occurred, would certainly completely inundate urbanized areas and cause serious hazard to the community. The State of South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control is responsible for administering the dam safety program in the state and inspecting these dams.

As with most places across the country, Greenville County is plagued with numerous flooding problems. Although most of these are nuisance flooding caused by inadequate structural controls, many are serious problems or could be when a large storm event occurs. According to the SHEL DUS data, Greenville County has 32 flooding events in the past 40 years. Several of these have resulted in property and/or crop damages in excess of \$100,000.