

Flood History

1. According to records from the NOAA Event Records database, the months when the most flooding occurs are March, with five (5) reported floods from 1950 to present, September, with four (4) reported floods, and January and February both with three (3) reported floods. There have been 29 flood events in Jefferson County since 1993, 18 of which were river floods, 11 that were considered flash flood events.
2. The worst hazard events experienced in Jefferson County were incidents of flooding resulting from heavy rains and snow melt. The earliest flood on record occurred in 1870 when the Shenandoah River was recorded at 12.9 feet above flood stage in the community of Millville. The following are brief descriptions of historical floods that have occurred in Jefferson County.
 - a. October 1962 – Flooding of the Shenandoah River at Millville resulted in estimated damages to over 40 homes and mobile homes. The river crested at 32.45 feet.
 - b. April 22, 1992 – Both the Shenandoah and the Potomac Rivers crested above flood stage after 4.5 inches of rainfall. A car and a mobile home were destroyed by the high waters.
 - c. March 25-28, 1993 – Flash flooding occurred after snow melted throughout the county. Several people were evacuated and approximately \$5,000 in damages to public facilities was reported.
 - d. January 19-21, 1996 – A three-day period of flooding resulted from snow melting after the Blizzard of 1996. Several roads were closed and many structures were affected or damaged by the high water. This flooding resulted in approximately \$593,000 in damages to public and private facilities.
 - e. September 6, 1996 – Heavy rain and flooding was experienced as a result of Hurricane Fran. Damage was sustained by many residential structures throughout the county. Harpers Ferry was especially hard hit with the flooding of park exhibition buildings and clean-up costs of over \$2.8 million. Transportation was also impacted with roadways closed and washed out, as well as severe damage to some CSX railroad tracks.
 - f. November 7-10, 1997 – Flooding on the Potomac River, Opequon Creek, and the Shenandoah River resulted in the inundation of roadways and other minor damages.
 - g. January 8-10, 1998 – Roadways flooded with minor damages reported. The Opequon Creek crested .75 inches above flood stage; Potomac River crested ½ foot under flood stage; and the Shenandoah River crested 1.8 feet over flood stage at Millville.
 - h. January 28-29, 1998 – Flooding occurred along the banks of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers and Opequon Creek during a Winter Storm Warning issued by the NWS.
 - i. May 26, 2002 – Scattered Thunderstorms with large hail and very heavy downpours moved through the Eastern Panhandle between 3 and 7 PM. Basements and yards were flooded. Water collected on Route 480 near Shepherdstown.
 - j. January 2, 2003 – Heavy rainfall on the 1st caused minor flooding on rivers and creeks in Berkeley and Jefferson Counties. In Shepherdstown, the Potomac River reached a stage of 16.57 feet. Flood stage is 15 feet. The road to a housing development was flooded and several other low lying areas along the river were inundated by water.
 - k. February 23, 2003 – A combination of 1.5 to 3 inches of rain that fell between the evening of 21st and the morning of the 23rd, and snow melt from the massive snowstorm of the 14-18 of February led to widespread flooding. In Jefferson County, drivers had to be rescued when their vehicles stalled in high water on Bloomery Road. Avon Bend

Road was flooded by the Shenandoah River and a motorist had to be rescued when his car became stalled in flood waters.

- i. May 16, 2003 – A large area of showers and thunderstorms containing heavy downpours moved through the region between the afternoon of the 15th and the morning of the 16th. The system dropped between 1.5 and 3 inches across the extreme northeast portion of the Eastern Panhandle, resulting in minor flooding. In Jefferson County, Route 230 was closed by high-water. Roads were also flooded in Ranson and Millville areas. In addition, flooding was reported along Route 340 near the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers near Harpers Ferry.
- m. September 18-20, 2003 – Heavy rain and flooding was experienced as a result of Hurricane Isabel. At Shepherdstown, there was moderate flooding with the river cresting at 19.83 feet on September 20. Flood stage is 15 feet. The Opequon Creek at Martinsburg had minor flooding. Millville on the Shenandoah River had moderate flooding reaching a crest of 17.31 feet at 8 PM on September 20. Flood stage is 13.5 feet. Harpers Ferry at the confluence of the two (2) rivers saw minor flooding.
- n. September 28, 2004 – The remnants of Hurricane Jeanne brought widespread flooding to Eastern West Virginia on the 28th. The flooding lasted from mid-morning at some sites through late evening. Many Secondary and primary roads, including US Routes 51 and 11, were under water.
- o. November 29, 2005 – Vehicles were flooded out in water across the county. A large low pressure system moved from the Ohio Valley into the Middle Appalachians on November 29. Southerly winds brought moisture into the region. Prolonged heavy rainfall occurred in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. These heavy rainfalls lead to flooding in some areas. On the evening of the 29th, some thunderstorms produced flash flooding in Jefferson and Berkeley counties.
- p. June 26, 2006 – Scattered areas of flash flooding began late on June 27 and continued into June 28. High water caused a vehicle accident on Highway 230 near Covenant Baptist Church, Spruce Street was flooded, water went into the Bolivar-Harpers Ferry Public Library, basement flooding occurred in homes in Bolivar, and numerous road closures and several water rescues were reported across the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia.
- q. March 2, 2007 – On Saturday, March 3rd, two (2) people became stranded in the flood waters when they drove past the “Road Closed” and “High Water” signs on River Road. The South Branch of the Potomac River at Shepherdstown crested at 15 feet after midnight on March 2nd. Total property damage reported was \$15,000.
- r. April 16, 2007 – Newspapers reported flooding along River Road near the Pack Horse Farm subdivision in Shepherdstown, WV.
- s. March 13, 2010 – The 2 to 4 inches of rain combined with nearly saturated antecedent conditions to produce flooding over eastern West Virginia. Several roads across Jefferson County were closed due to high water, including John Rissler Road, Bloomery Road, and River Road.
- t. April 15, 2011 – With ground already saturated from several rounds of significant rainfall in the past week, flooding and flash flooding resulted. Rainfall amounts over the eastern West Virginia panhandle exceeded three (3) inches in spots. A mudslide and

flooded basements were reported near the top of the mountain near the Virginia border. Chestnut Hill Road was closed due to water cascading down the road toward Highway 340.

- u. October 30, 2012 – Predicted flooding on Opequon Creek Caused evacuations of residents in both Jefferson and Berkeley Counties. The river crested at 13.5 feet.