

History of Flooding in Jefferson County, WV

The worst hazard events experienced in Jefferson County were incidences of flooding resulting from heavy rains, snow melt, and coastal storms. The earliest flood on record occurred in 1870 when the Shenandoah River was recorded at 12.9 feet above floodstage in the community of Millville. The most damaging floods in Jefferson County have all occurred within the last decade.

- October, 1962: Flooding on the Shenandoah River at Millville resulted in estimated damages to over 40 homes and mobile homes. The river crested at 32.45 feet.
- 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.
- 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 caused.
- January 19-21, 1996: A three-day period of flooding resulting from snow melting after the Blizzard of 1996. Several roads were closed and many structures were affected or damaged by high water. This flooding resulted in approximately \$593,000 in damages to public and private facilities.
- 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 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 tracks.
- 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.
- January 8-10, 1998: Roadways flooded with minor damages reported. The Opequon Creek crested .75 inches above flood stage; Potomac River crested $\frac{1}{2}$ foot under flood stage; and the Shenandoah River crested 1.8 feet over flood stage at Millville.

- January 28-29, 1998: Flooding occurred along the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers and the Opequon Creek banks during a Winter Storm Warning issued by the National Weather Service.