



The Magazine Hollow Flood of 1961

Event Details

- Date: July 1961
- Flood Type: Summer Thunderstorm
- FEMA Disaster ID: DR-117-WV
- Fatalities: 22
- Impacted Streams: Elk Two Mile Creek, Magazine Branch, Kanawha River
- Location: Kanawha County, WV (All fatalities occurred here)

Mitigation Efforts

- Culvert installed on Magazine Branch under Garrison Avenue
- Stream gauge added on Elk Two Mile Creek
- Flood control dams (Elk Two Mile Dams No. 12, 13, and 14) built upstream between 1975 and 1996. These protect 1.66 sq mi—only 12.5% of the total watershed

Risk and Impact Analysis

Flood Zone Classification:

- 81.8% in Zone AE
- 13.6% unmapped (e.g., 1 fatality on Washington St. where a car was swept away, 2 in Riverview above flood zone)

• Cause of Death:

- 16 by drowning
- 2 by landslide

• Fatality Locations:

- 11 in water
- 6 in structures
- 1 in a vehicle

Demographics of Victims

• Age Groups:

- 11 children (Ages 0–12)
- 8 middle-aged adults (Ages 40–70)

• Gender Distribution:

- 13 female
- 9 male

• Mass Casualty Events (36.4% of fatalities):

- **Wooten Family:** Four members perished when a mobile home crashed into their house. The mother's body was found 120 miles downstream within 60 hours



- **Null Family:** Four children (ages 11 months to 6 years) died when floodwaters nearly reached the ceiling, collapsing their home
- **Garrison Avenue:** A massive mudslide killed two residents, and seven others drowned. Victims ranged in age from 7 to 85 years
- **Wertz Avenue:** Two sisters, ages 5 and 7, lost their grip on their father's hand and were swept away

Multimedia & Sources

[Charleston Daily Mail, July 20, 1961](#)

[Gazette-Mail, Sept. 26, 1976](#)

[Charleston Daily Mail, July 16, 1971](#)

[Charleston Gazette, Mar. 21, 1970 \(Snodgrass story\)](#)

My WV Home – 1961 Flood