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## August 2023 Flood Updates

## RECOVERY

### West Virginia Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides

DR-4756-WV

#### Overview

#### Damage

#### Press/Media

#### Weather

#### FEMA

In the wake of heavy rainfall and flash flooding, Governor Jim Justice declared a State of Emergency for several counties in West Virginia, USA. The declaration came following a deluge that wreaked havoc across the region, inundating homes, bridges, and roads. On August 28, 2023, Governor Justice announced the emergency status for Kanawha, Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, and Roane counties, citing the significant flooding caused by excessive rainfall. Figures from the National Weather Service office in Charleston painted a grim picture of the rainfall's intensity: Kanawha County saw 4.17 inches / 105.92 mm of rain within just 6 hours, while Boone received 3.7 inches / 93.98 mm during the same period. Slaughters Creek in Kanawha County bore the brunt of the downpour, accumulating 6.25 inches / 158.75 mm of rainfall within 72 hours leading up to early August 29, 2023. The aftermath left communities grappling with widespread damage and destruction, highlighting the urgent need for response and recovery efforts.

**Office:** +1 (304) 553-0927

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Total Number of Residences Impacted: **275**

- Destroyed - **4**
- Major Damage - **41**
- Minor Damage - **138**
- Affected - **92**

[Check the Status of Immediate Needs Work](#)

#### Degree of damage to impacted residences:

- o Destroyed – total loss of structure, structure is not economically feasible to repair, or complete failure to major structural components (e.g., collapse of basement walls/foundation, walls or roof);
- o Major Damage – substantial failure to structural elements of residence (e.g., walls, floors, foundation), or damage that will take more than 30 days to repair;
- o Minor Damage – home is damaged and uninhabitable, but may be made habitable in short period of time with repairs; and
- o Affected – some damage to the structure and contents, but still habitable.

*Source: FEMA*

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### Press Release(s)

- [SBA Opens Business Recovery Centers in West Virginia - Feb. 2, 2024](#)
- [Gov. Jim Justice Declares State of Emergency - Aug. 28, 2023](#)

### New Article(s)

- [USA – State of Emergency After Floods in West Virginia](#)

### Social Media Feed(s)

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During the early morning hours of August 28th, a ribbon of heavy showers spawned just above the southern West Virginia coalfields and propagated northeastward into the central portions of the state. An inverted surface trough feature festered over the Central Appalachians and was the primary culprit behind this swath of slow moving and heavy rainfall. Precipitation amounts recorded by local weather stations were on the upward of 3 to 5 inches from Lincoln and Boone County all the way up to Braxton County. This brought upon an extensive amount of flood damage across the state as creeks and streams were quickly inundated with water, spilling onto local roads and into nearby homes. Previous rainfall from August 26th did not help matters, as the ground had little time to recover and could not support the quick inundation of rain on the morning of the 28th.

The hardest hit area from this event took place in eastern Kanawha County, where the Winifrede, Coal Grove, and Chelyan areas observed million dollars worth of flood damage. An NWS Storm Survey team went out to these areas the next day to see first hand the amount of damage caused by the flooding. In Kanawha County alone, 3 homes were deemed destroyed, along with a fire station and a local church. An additional 50 to 100 homes observed at least minor to major flooding due to the close proximity of the houses to the swollen creeks, including Slaughter Creek, Kelleys Creek, Little Creek, and Fields Creek. Several cars were swept up by the floodwaters and became submerged in the creeks, while many of the roads within the local communities were washed out and destroyed.

Source: NWS-RLX

#### Forecast Office Links:

[NWS Charleston WV](#)

[NWS Pittsburgh PA](#)

[NWS Sterling VA](#)

[NWS Blacksburg VA](#)



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Showers and thunderstorms expected once again today. Some could be strong to severe. More of the same for tomorrow, though the severe threat is not on the table. Drier for some on Wednesday before a cold front brings more showers later this week.

#WVWX #OHwx #kywx #VAwx



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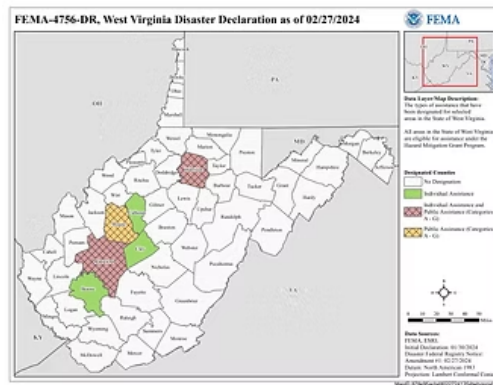
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[Apply for Assistance](#)

[Go to the FEMA Disaster Page](#)

**Now Closed:** Period to Apply for Disaster Assistance

**Incident Period:** Aug 28, 2023 - Aug 30, 2023

**Declaration Date:** Jan 30, 2024

[Contact FEMA Region 3](#)

### Individual Assistance

Individuals and households in these designated counties are eligible to apply for financial and direct services. [Apply for assistance](#), or [learn more about the Individual Assistance program](#).

Boone (County)  
Calhoun (County)  
Clay (County)  
Harrison (County)  
Kanawha (County)

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