

The Flood of October 2015 and Other Major Floods in South Carolina

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Heavy rainfall occurred across South Carolina during October 1-5, 2015 as a result of an upper atmospheric low-pressure system that funneled tropical moisture from Hurricane Joaquin into the State. The storm caused major flooding in the central and southern parts of South Carolina. Almost 27 inches of rain fell near Mount Pleasant in Charleston County during this period. U.S. Geological Survey stream gages recorded peaks of record at 17 locations and 15 other locations had peaks that ranked in the top 5 for the period of record. In the Pee Dee River Basin, a new period of record peak flow occurred on October 6, 2015 for station 02136000, Black River at Kingstree. This was the largest peak flow recorded at this station in 87 years with the previous maximum peak occurring on June 14, 1973. Annual maximum peak-stage data contained in reports of the National Weather Service indicates the October 2015 peak stage is the largest since 1893. Station 02175000, Edisto River near Givhans, SC, peaked on October 8, 2015. This was the largest peak flow recorded since 1925 and based on peak-stage data, was likely the largest flood since at least 1904. For a historical perspective, maximum flood peaks of record from other USGS stations with long-term records will be compared to the maximum flood peaks from the October 2015 flood. Other historical information also will be included to help describe the various flood events.