

The Flood of 2009

By: Katelynn Silverio

The flood of September 2009 was a truly devastating event, which occurred in Metro Atlanta, in Georgia. There were some lives lost and countless others who lost their homes, as well. Popular places and areas were completely or almost completely underwater, and the damage was record-breaking. The unlikely cause of the flood was what made it so disastrous.

What caused the flood was a category three Hurricane. Hurricane Fred developed from tropical depression 6-E, which was formed early on Sunday, July 2, 2009, just off the west coast of Africa. This hurricane was responsible for most of the rain, which caused all the flooding. It rained for so long and so hard that the water in the local rivers and lakes rose to as much as 20 feet above the flood stage. The flood stage is the point at which a flood is so deep that it threatens the survival of surrounding entities in the area. This flood was a record breaking, nine feet over the last major flood. There were 79 river gages that stood above the flood stage at the time, 20 of which went underwater and stopped reporting. This flood caused a significant amount of damage to Metro Atlanta.

The flood caused damage to over 20,000 buildings totaling about \$500 million in repairs for buildings and \$1.3 billion total. 21 category one dams had to be replaced or fixed because they had damage due to swollen river basins, and many more had to open to avoid damage. Many rides at Six Flags Over Georgia were almost completely underwater as well as many restaurants. This caused a lot of damage to the rides and to the insides of restaurants. Most had to be rebuilt from the inside out. The damage was so bad that the clean-ups went through the next year until at least September of 2010. Some people lost their homes as a result of the flood and had nowhere to call home.

There was much devastation from the flood, some people lost their homes, and others lost their lives. This flood, sadly, took the lives of 10 people in Georgia, nine of which died at night, and eight were driving when the flood hit, likely causing them to hydroplane, and get washed out into the floodwaters. About 17,000 residents, give or take, lost their homes, leaving most homeless because they don't have anywhere else to go, losing most of their belongings to the water.

The flood of 2009 was disastrous and hurt many families. It is plain to see why this was declared a national disaster. The hurricane caused one of the biggest

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floods in Metro Atlanta, causing a lot of people to lose their homes, and some to lose their lives. This flood goes to show that hurricanes and floods are nothing to laugh at, even if you live in a typically dry area, because they can escalate very quickly.

Sources:

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