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The Astonishing Tragedy of the 2009 Atlanta Flooding Incident

The pitch black water, its color being influenced by the dark night, distantly swooshing and flowing along as you unknowingly drive closer to it. The sounds of thunder and lightning aggressively crackling along to the torrential rain. As your car suddenly slows down, you realize the wheels have already been submerged and your car was successfully demobilized. You panic, swiftly calling 911 for help as you can no longer escape from the flood waters that slowly creep up to your car. Each waking moment with the operator on the phone, you shakily pray that your call is next to be answered.

This is what happened to some during the Atlanta Flood of 2009. This major flooding incident affected many people, whether it was the loss of a loved one, injury, or property loss.

Between September 15-22, 2009, catastrophic flooding hit Metro Atlanta after numerous days of non-stop rain. Continuous and hard rain fell during this time period that local watersheds could not contain. On September 20, during the climactic point of this disaster, approximately 10-20 inches of rain fell within 24 hours. This caused flash flooding, overflowing river basins, and record high flooding at many rivers. (National Weather Service). After these events, there was extreme damage.

The 2009 flood caused more than \$500 million dollars in damages. More than 20,000 homes and businesses suffered major losses. Sadly, 10 people living in Georgia died. Counties

outside the city of Atlanta suffered as well, such as Fulton, Gwinnett, DeKalb, Bartow, Douglas, and Cherokee. (National Weather Service).

Communities experienced the flooding firsthand. When Noses Creek flooded, the Flores family was unable to get to their home due to flooded roads. The family did not know the condition of their house or how long it would be before they could return. (Atlanta Journal Constitution (Kass)).

Other people who were affected by this flood are Ramon Juarez and his 6-year old daughter. Ramon stated that the stop sign on the street leading to his home was covered by the water, but the next day the waters lowered and, fortunately, his mobile home was spared.

My mother was also affected. Sweetwater Creek flooded I-20 and she was unable to drive to work. In order to get to work she would have had to drive an hour outside the city to find passable roads that would take her to Decatur. She was unable to work for three days.

The 2009 Atlanta Flood was a disastrous and catastrophic event that affected the lives of many people. The people mentioned were just a few of the many who were impacted. The 2009 Flood remains the worst flood in the Metro Atlanta area.

Information cited from:

The Atlanta Journal Constitution

National Weather Service