

The excruciating flood of 2009

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With no warning, the flood of 2009 unexpectedly came and took many people's loved ones with it. There was a 0.2% chance this much flooding would occur in Georgia. The worst of the flooding was in the Atlanta metropolitan area, especially the **sweetwater creek** in Austell. The rain started pouring and continued till **20 22nd**. This didn't necessarily mean everything went back to normal after the flood ended.

Water bodies like lake Lanier and Chattahoochee started rising to their peak, resulting in things like Six Flags Over Georgia being flooded by almost 80%. To make things worse, there were 24 hours of unstoppable rain with 18-20 inches of rain. People were panicking and worried about their loved ones being in jeopardy. It became so dreadful that 911 lines were full because people kept calling for help all over the place. There was so much water all around that people were getting rescued by boats. This was one of Georgia's major setbacks as 17 counties were officially marked with federal disaster.

I interviewed Mr. Garrison, the Director of Public Works, about this matter. He explained how harsh the flood was. It killed 10 people of which 9 were driving in the flood and got brutally dragged in. That's not all, about 700 homes were flooded and some washed away. Even though the government matched 15% of the cost of the home, many schools, wildlife, neighborhoods, and cars were also in terrible condition. Many lost their properties and wealth, which they might never gain back. Water backing and messed up sewage systems resulted in diseases like skin irritation.

Mr. Garrison and his colleagues worked tirelessly and barely slept for 3 days to help those in need and block traffic from traveling through the floods. Mr. Garrison also explained how agencies rented almost 300 dumpsters to put some effort into the rebuilding and cleaning process, after the flood. "It felt as if things were never going back to normal," Mr. Garrison added.

The American Red Cross made emergency shelters for this cause, and about 500 families were moved to emergency shelters. Over 20,000 businesses and homes faced major damages. The government, as a result of this catastrophic flood, spent almost \$500 billion on damages. People started investing in flood insurance after this natural calamity. Better forecasting has been emphasized, as this could have alarmed people earlier. People started making flood maps. To help prevent damage, many builders started building reservoirs.

In conclusion, it has been understood that people may need to take some imperative steps for the ecological balance on the earth by increasing the usage of solar power in order to control greenhouse gases. People should use water more efficiently. Growing more trees can also help the planet. All this together may help reduce the uncertainties like droughts and floods in the world and let the earth be a better place to live.