

County Impacts Associated with Tropical Storm Debby (2024)

Narratives listed in alphabetical order by county and state.

Updates:

- 08/20/2024 - Initial issuance.

County Name Allendale (SC)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: 0
No significant impacts were reported despite the county receiving 4 to 10 inches of rainfall, with the highest amounts across the west-southwest portion. One news outlet reported some flooding at an apartment complex in the town of Fairfax, but it appeared the flooding was mainly due to clogged drainage.			

County Name Beaufort (SC)	Injuries: 1 - tree on vehicle	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: 0
Beaufort County, SC experienced both wind and flooding impacts. Many trees were reported down across the county due to a combination of tropical storm related wind gusts, as well as two EF0 tornadoes. One tornado occurred on Lady’s Island and the other on St. Helena Island. These two tornadoes were likely part of the same parent storm, and generally produced tree damage with little/no structural damage. Significant flooding was reported across many areas, particularly the Bluffton and Hilton Head Island regions. The most common flooding impacts were to roadways, as well as water entering many homes. It was suspected that a roof to a convenience store also collapsed due to the weight of water from heavy rainfall. The most significant road flooding report was the closing of the ramp from Highway 170 to Highway 278, which is the main road onto Hilton Head Island. There were also a few reports of drivers being pulled from their flooded vehicles.			

County Name Berkeley (SC)	Injuries: 2 minor injuries from a tornado	Fatalities: 0	Evacuations: 0
Berkeley County’s main impacts from Debby were due to rainfall flooding and damage in the Moncks Corner area due to an EF1 tornado. Minor injuries were reported due to a car being flipped by the tornado. The tornado also caused significant damage to Applebees and Arby’s restaurants. The county received between 10 and 20 inches of rainfall, with the highest amounts across the northern areas just south of Lake Moultrie, including Moncks Corner. Many roads were flooded and impassable, with one reportedly being washed out near Highway 402. Approximately 30 water rescues were also reported around Moncks Corner, with roads experiencing two to three feet of fast moving water. Also a portion of I-26 eastbound near mile marker 192 was closed for several hours due to flooding. This closure caused major traffic jams for the morning commute on August 9. ...Continued on the next page...			

County Name Berkeley (SC)	Injuries: 2 minor injuries from a tornado	Fatalities: 0	Evacuations: 0
<p>Major flooding occurred along French Quarter Creek and a USGS gauge (FQCS1) on the creek measured the 2nd highest crest on record on August 8. French Quarter Creek road was completely flooded and any ground level homes were inundated with flood waters. The road and all homes were only accessible by boat during the peak of the flooding. Also, the Turkey Creek above Huger (HUGS1) USGS river gauge recorded the 3rd highest crest on record.</p>			

County Name Charleston (SC)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: 0
<p>The county received very heavy rainfall, generally ranging from 8 to 18 inches. The NWS office in North Charleston received just under 13 inches for the event. Widespread flooding was one of the biggest impacts across the region. The Charleston peninsula of downtown Charleston was hit particularly hard by the impacts of flooding rainfall, with over 60 roads and streets closed, and primary road access into the city closed. Flood waters also entered some buildings, especially in downtown Charleston. A large sink hole formed on Romney Street, between King and Meeting streets downtown. It should be noted that flooding could have been even worse downtown if the tide levels were higher. Throughout the entire event, total tide levels remained below 7 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW). Other portions of the county that experienced widespread flooding of roads and some homes included: the Shadowmoss area of West Ashley, and the Carolina Park and Brickyard neighborhoods in Mount Pleasant. A river gage located on Church Creek near West Ashley (BEES1) crested above Moderate flood stage at 6.90 feet on August 6 which ranks as the 2nd highest crest on record.</p> <p>In addition to widespread flooding due to heavy rainfall, the county also experienced three tornadoes on the outer rainbands of Debby during the late night hours of August 5 and into the early morning hours of August 6. The Tornado on the Isle of Palms was rated a low end EF1, and was the most significant of the three tornadoes, causing some structural damage to homes as well as downing of trees. The other two tornadoes in West Ashley and Kiawah Island were EF0 in strength, generally resulting in tree damage.</p>			

County Name Colleton (SC)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>The county received generally 10 to 18 inches of rainfall, with widespread flooding of at least 80 roads and some homes across the entire area. Many roads were either impassable, washed out, or heavily damaged, especially along and south of a Cottageville to Walterboro to Islandton line. There were also many downed trees and some power lines due to wind gusts across the entire area. Some downed trees blocked or partially blocked streets and roadways. A portion of the downed tree reports were due to strong to severe thunderstorms that developed in the wake of Debby late in the day on August 8. Also, some of the downed trees were likely the result of very saturated ground conditions due to the heavy rainfall from Debby.</p> <p>Significant, long duration river flooding occurred along the Edisto River. Significant flooding to some homes and many roads across communities near the river, especially from SC Highway 61, southward to U.S. 17.</p>			

County Name Colleton (SC)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: Unknown
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The Edisto River near Givhans Ferry (GIVS1) USGS river gauge measured the 3rd highest crest on record at 17.21 feet on August 11. Major flood stage is 15 feet, and this particular crest exceeded the October 2015 flooding event by more than a foot. Edisto River flooding extended southward to the Jacksonboro area, with impacted roads and homes along Sand Mine Lane, Perkins Path, Sabal Palm, and Beanstick Lane. Another area that experienced widespread significant flooding was around Ireland Creek. The Ireland Creek at Walterboro (WICS1) USGS river gauge measured a new record crest of 10.71 feet on August 7. Several roads along Ireland Creek were inundated for multiple days, as well as a few homes and businesses.

Also, Crosbys Pond dam failed along Cavanaugh Road which caused a complete emptying of the pond. Fortunately there were no impacted roads or structures due to the dam failure.

In addition to the widespread flooding, the county was impacted by two EF1 tornadoes in the Edisto Beach area during the late night hours of August 5. These tornadoes caused significant structural damage to a few homes and downed many large trees and tree limbs.

County Name Dorchester (SC)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: Unknown
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The county received between 10 and 20 inches of rainfall, with the heaviest rainfall occurring over the northern part of the county, generally along and north of Highway 78. Not surprisingly, the biggest impacts from Debby were due to flooding from the excessive rainfall. County Emergency Management reported at least 75 roads were closed due to flooding. There were also some roads that were damaged or washed out, especially around the Summerville, Ridgeville and Knightsville areas. All roads that cross Four Hole Swamp were reportedly closed due to flooding. One to two feet of water covered I-26 near the State Road 27 exit. A portion of I-26 eastbound near mile marker 192 was closed for several hours due to flooding. This closure caused major traffic jams for the morning commute on August 9. Finally, long duration flooding occurred along the Ashley River, flooding some neighborhoods and roads near the river for approximately one week after Debby departed the area, especially around the Ashborough subdivision. Flooded areas also included Ashley River Park, Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site, and Herbert H Jessen public boat landing. The USGS river gauge Ashley River at Cooke Crossroads (ARBS1) measured a new record crest of 25.31 feet on August 11. This exceeded the previous record by 2.58 feet.

Significant, long duration river flooding occurred along the Edisto River. The Edisto River near Givhans Ferry (GIVS1) USGS river gauge measured the 3rd highest crest on record at 17.21 feet on August 11. Major flood stage is 15 feet, and this particular crest exceeded the October 2015 flooding event by more than a foot. Impacted areas include Hideaway Lane, Shad Lane, Gator Walk Road, Shoofly Road, and Parkers Ferry Road. Most ground level homes along the river had water entering the structure, and most elevated homes were isolated and only accessible by boat. Most river access roads were completely flooded and were also only accessible by boat.

County Name Hampton (SC)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: 0
<p>The county received between 8 and 12 inches of rainfall with some flooding of homes and roads being flooded and/or washed out around Hampton and Yemassee. Otherwise, no other significant impacts were reported. Two USGS river gages recorded record crests due to heavy rainfall during the event, though no flooding occurred at either location. The Coosawhatchie River near Hampton (HMPS1) USGS river gauge recorded a new record crest of 10.40 feet on August 7 and the Salkehatchie River near Miley (MILS1) recorded a new record crest of 5.86 feet on August 9.</p>			

County Name Jasper (SC)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: 0
<p>Jasper County was impacted by damaging wind gusts and flooding caused by heavy rainfall. Strong wind gusts downed several trees across the county, primarily along the Interstate 95 corridor between Hardeeville, SC to Ridgeland, SC. Generally, rainfall amounts across the county ranged from 7 to 12 inches. Runoff from the heavy rainfall flooded several roads across the county. On August 6th, Emergency Manager reported that Langfordville Road was washed out over Beaverdam Branch. A motorist drove into the washout and her car was washed downstream. She was rescued from the flood waters without injury. Significant flooding persisted across the county from August 6th until August 11th, flooding areas along the Coosawhatchie River, Tullifinny River, Great Swamp, Bahama Swamp, and Bagshaw Swamp. During this period, Highway 17 was closed in several sections due to flooding. The bridge on Nuna Rock Road over the Coosawhatchie River was closed for several days due to flooding.</p>			

County Name Bryan (GA)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: 0
<p>Bryan County received between 6 to 11 inches of rainfall from Tropical Storm Debby. Significant flooding occurred along the lower Ogeechee River, especially from Ellabell to Richmond Hill. The Highway 17 crossing of the Ogeechee River was closed due to flooding from August 9-17. Two USGS river gages on the lower Ogeechee River recorded new record crests. The Ogeechee River near Ellabell (ELG1) reached a new record crest of 17.14 feet on August 10 and the Ogeechee River near Richmond Hill (RICG1) reached a new record crest of 10.19 feet on August 10 as well. Furthermore, the Black Creek near Blitchton (BLIG1) USGS river gauge also reached a new record crest of 16.51 feet on August 7. Black Creek is a tributary to the Ogeechee River, and the confluence of the two occurs just upstream of RICG1.</p> <p>Several roads within Fort Stewart were flooded due to heavy rainfall, including Highway 144 along the Canoochee River. In fact, the nearby Canoochee River at Fort Stewart (FSBG1) USGS river gauge reached a new record crest of 16.88 feet on August 9. This new record crest was 2 feet higher than the previous record.</p>			

County Name Bulloch (GA)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: Around a dozen
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The county received generally 9-12 inches of rainfall. Significant flooding occurred along the banks of Lake Cypress on August 7th and persisted for several days. Social media videos showed 2-3 feet of flood waters entering numerous homes, boat houses, and other structures along the lake shore. Bulloch County EM indicated that the Cypress Lake dam was at risk of failure on August 7-8th, but conditions improved by August 9th. Bulloch County Warning reported several homes near Mill Creek were evacuated due to flooding. Several roads were also flooded and washed out across the county.

County Name Candler (GA)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: 0
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The county received generally 5 to 10 inches of rainfall, with one report of water entering a home. Otherwise, no other significant impacts were reported.

County Name Chatham (GA)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: 0
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Chatham County experienced damaging wind, flash flooding, and river flooding. Wind gusts associated with Tropical Storm Debby downed several trees across the county, two trees came down on homes. On August 5, wind gusts around 50 mph were observed at Fort Pulaski and northern Tybee Island. Rainfall amounts varied between 6 to 12 inches across the county, including the City of Savannah. The heaviest rain fell between August 5-7, resulting in dozens of streets to be closed due to flooding across Savannah. In addition, extensive flooding occurred within the Tremont Park area, floodwaters surrounded 37 homes and entered at least six homes. Significant flooding occurred along the Ogeechee River, especially within the Bradley Point community and portions of Chevis Road. The Highway 17 crossing of the Ogeechee River was closed due to flooding from August 9-17.

County Name Effingham (GA)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: Unknown
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Tropical Storm Debby produced wind damage, flash flooding, and significant river flooding. Emergency Management reported numerous trees and power lines down across the county. Rainfall amounts ranged between 10-12 inches, amounts near Rincon, GA approached 14 inches. Flash flooding washed out around 10 roads across the county.

The Ogeechee River near Eden (EDEG1) USGS river gauge recorded the 3rd highest crest on record at 17.97 feet on August 10. This crest is almost 2 feet above Major flood stage and produced significant flooding along the river. On August 8th, water evacuations took place near Meldrim, GA along River Oak Drive and

County Name Effingham (GA)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: Unknown
Edgewater Drive due to flooding along the Ogeechee River. Also of note, Ebenezer Creek at Springfield (EBZG1) USGS gauge rose above its Minor flood stage of 17 feet for just the 2nd time on record. The peak crest was 17.28 feet on August 7, which ranks as the 2nd highest crest on record.			

County Name Evans (GA)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: 3
The county received generally 7-12 inches of rainfall. The Evans County Emergency Manager reported that water entered three homes in Claxton, GA due to heavy rainfall. One home was on Turnpike Road near Perkins Mill Road where a family had to be extracted from the residence. Another of the flooded homes was in the 300 block of N Ralph Street. The Evans County Emergency Manager provided drone video of a breach of a dam on Smith Brothers Lake which is located just west of Perry Road and south of Edgar Griffin Road. This is an 85 acre lake that was overflowing and Perry Road was closed due to flooding. Major flooding occurred along the Canoochee River and the Canoochee River near Claxton (CNOG1) USGS gauge recorded a new record crest of 18.11 feet on 8/7. The Evans County Emergency Manager reported that 23 homes along the Canoochee River were determined to be destroyed by flooding, with 9 others experiencing major damage. Flooding also impacted homes along Anderson Pond Creek where 6 homes were either destroyed or had major damage. Also, another 7 homes were destroyed along Bull Creek, with 3 others reporting major damage.			

County Name Jenkins (GA)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: 0
Jenkins County received between 5 to 8 inches of rainfall. The heavy rainfall resulted in at least 25 roads across the county to be washed out, primarily between August 6-7, 2024. There was one report of a vehicle driving into a roadway washout, the vehicle was washed downstream. The sole occupant of the vehicle was assisted to higher ground, no injuries reported. Also, the Beaverdam Creek near Sardis USGS river gauge recorded a new record crest of 8.59 feet on August 7.			

County Name Liberty (GA)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: 0
Liberty County received between 5 to 8 inches of rainfall from Tropical Storm Debby. Emergency Manager reported a home was flooded on the 500 block of Cross Creek Drive and two additional homes flooded along Leroy-Coffer Highway on August 7th. On August 9th, Mount Olivet Church Road was flooded, cutting off access to around 100 homes. Also, though it stayed below flood stage, Peacock Creek near McIntosh (MTHG1) USGS river gauge recorded a new record crest of 12.41 feet on August 7.			

County Name Long (GA)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: 0
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The county received generally 8-11 inches of rainfall. On August 5th, NWS COOP observer reported a home off of Highway 84 near Ludowici, GA was flooded. Otherwise, no other significant impacts were reported.

County Name McIntosh (GA)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: 0
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The county received generally 6-8 inches of rainfall. A few homes in the Hog Hammock community on Sapelo Island lost power from downed trees and powerlines. Otherwise, no significant impacts were reported.

County Name Screven (GA)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: 0
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No significant impacts were reported despite the county receiving generally 7-13 inches of rainfall. The heavy rainfall did result in new record crests at two USGS river gauge locations. The Ogeechee River near Rocky Ford (RFDG1) crested above its Minor flood stage for just the 4th time ever with a new record crest of 14.22 feet on August 8. Also, the Ogeechee River near Oliver (OLVG1) reached a new record crest of 19.55 feet on August 8.

County Name Tattnall (GA)	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0 direct 0 indirect	Evacuations: 0
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The county received between 7 to 11 inches of rainfall, greatest amounts across the southern portion of the county. Flash flooding resulted in at least three roads being washed out. NWS COOP observer reported that St. Jude Catholic Church was flooded off of Veterans Highway.