

# Flood Event of 10/15/1942 - 10/17/1942

## James

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Bremo Bluff	19.00	10/16/1942	29.20	95,000	Moderate	James	James River	Fluvanna	Fluvanna
Cartersville	20.00	10/16/1942	27.14	135,000	Major	James	James River	Goochland	Cumberland
Palmyra	17.00	10/16/1942	36.50	78,000	Major	James	Rivanna River	Fluvanna	Fluvanna
Richmond	12.00	10/17/1942	19.80	119,000	Moderate	James	James River	Henrico	Independent City
Scottsville	20.00	10/16/1942	23.00	95,200	Moderate	James	James River	Albemarle	Albermarle

## North Branch Potomac

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Cumberland	17.00	10/15/1942	24.04	50,500	Major	North Branch Potomac	North Branch Potomac River	Allegany	Allegany
Cumberland	10.00	10/15/1942	15.14	23,300	Major	North Branch Potomac	Wills Creek	Allegany	Allegany

## Potomac

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Dawsonville	7.50	10/16/1942	8.31	3,620	Minor	Potomac	Seneca Creek	Montgomery	Montgomery
Fairview	10.00	10/16/1942	12.17	11,100	Moderate	Potomac	Conococheague Creek	Washington	Washington
Frederick	15.00	10/16/1942	16.97	19,700	Minor	Potomac	Monocacy River at Jug Bridge	Frederick	Frederick
Great Cacapon	9.00	10/16/1942	23.67	52,600	Major	Potomac	Cacapon River	Morgan	Morgan

Hancock	30.00	10/16/1942	36.63	155,000	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Washington	Washington
Harpers Ferry	18.00	10/16/1942	33.80	-9,999	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Jefferson	Jefferson
Leesburg	12.00	10/16/1942	22.90	35,600	Major	Potomac	Goose Creek	Loudoun	Loudoun
Little Falls (Washington DC)	10.00	10/17/1942	26.88	447,000	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Montgomery	Montgomery
Paw Paw	25.00	10/16/1942	38.36	111,000	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Allegheny	Morgan
Point of Rocks	16.00	10/16/1942	40.43	418,000	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Frederick	Frederick
Shepherdstown	15.00	10/16/1942	32.68	201,000	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Jefferson	Jefferson
Williamsport	23.00	10/16/1942	36.10	-9,999	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Washington	Washington
Wisconsin Ave, Washington, DC	6.00	10/17/1942	17.72	-9,999	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Dist. of Columbia	Dist. of Columbia

### Rappahannock

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Culpeper	14.00	10/16/1942	30.30	58,100	Major	Rappahannock	Rapidan River	Culpeper	Culpeper
Fredericksburg (Old Site)	18.00	10/16/1942	42.60	-9,999	Major	Rappahannock	Rappahannock River	Spotsylvania	Independent City
Remington	15.00	10/16/1942	30.00	90,000	Major	Rappahannock	Rappahannock River	Fauquier	Fauquier

### Shenandoah

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Cootes Store	15.00	10/15/1942	25.30	50,000	Major	Shenandoah	Shenandoah River	Rockingham	Rockingham
Front Royal	12.00	10/16/1942	34.80	130,000	Major	Shenandoah	Shenandoah River	Warren	Warren

Luray	14.00	10/16/1942	25.70	100,000	Major	Shenandoah	South Fork Shenandoah River	Page	Page
Lynnwood	16.00	10/15/1942	27.20	80,000	Major	Shenandoah	Shenandoah River	Rockingham	Rockingham
Millville	13.50	10/16/1942	32.40	230,000	Major	Shenandoah	Shenandoah River	Jefferson	Jefferson
Strasburg	17.00	10/16/1942	31.20	100,000	Major	Shenandoah	North Fork Shenandoah River	Warren	Shenandoah
Waynesboro	9.50	10/15/1942	14.30	14,500	Major	Shenandoah	South River	Augusta	Independent City

### South Branch Potomac

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Moorefield	10.00	10/15/1942	10.53	12,800	Minor	South Branch Potomac	South Fork South Branch Potomac River	Hardy	Hardy
Springfield	15.00	10/16/1942	21.09	46,000	Moderate	South Branch Potomac	South Branch Potomac River	Hampshire	Hampshire

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## Weather Summary

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The remnants of the eight tropical storm of the year moved into the Mid-Atlantic on the 13th after making landfall as a tropical depression in the Carolinas. The slow moving remnants of the tropical system dumped a few inches of rainfall over the area until the system was swept out of the region by a cold front a few days later. The long duration of widespread heavy rain resulted in major flooding across much of Virginia and parts of the Virginias. - (MARFC) October 1942: Torrential rains fell from October 12-16 in Northern Virginia causing the worst river flood in the history of the state. The hardest hit was the mid portion of the Rappahannock River and the Shenandoah River. On the Rappahannock, damages came to \$2.5 million (1942 dollars) and most of that was in Fredericksburg, where the river rose to 41 feet (27 feet above flood stage). On the Shenandoah River, a stage of almost 50 feet was reached at Riverton on the morning of the 16th. Flood stage is 22 feet and it broke the record set by the March 1936 flood by 12 feet! Flood losses on the Potomac River were \$4.5 million. The Potomac at Washington reached 17.6 feet (flood stage is seven feet). Areas of Alexandria and Arlington were seriously flooded. Flooding was not quite as serious on the James River, yet the flood crest in Richmond reached 16 feet above flood stage. Ten to 12 inches of rain fell from Fredericksburg to Warrenton. Seventeen inches were recorded in Front Royal. In Shenandoah National Park, along Skyline Drive, rainfall totals reached 18 to 19 inches! To the south, Nelson County received 16 inches. Another maximum of 12 to 16 inches fell from near Paw Paw, West Virginia south along the mountains into Highland and Bath Counties of far western Virginia. Highways and bridges were washed away. Over 1,300 people were left homeless in Albemarle, Spotsylvania, Stafford and Warren Counties. Miraculously, only one person died. Transportation was interrupted for three days. Severe damage occurred to Virginia crops: peanuts, cotton, sweet potatoes, soybeans, shocked corn and late hay. The heavy rains caused a million bushels of apples to drop before they were picked. From NWS Sterling, VA office.

Source: Watson, Barbara. "NWS Sterling, VA - Virginia Floods." Virginia Floods. National Weather Service Eastern Region Headquarters, 28 Dec. 2005. Web. <[http://ww](http://www)

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## Crest Statistics and Flood Information

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First flood of 1 that occurred in Oct, 1942

Tenth flood of 11 that occurred in 1942

Number of Floods at MARFC Forecast Points - 32

Number of Floods Cresting in Minor Range - 3

Number of Floods Cresting in Moderate Range - 5

Number of Floods Cresting in Major Range - 24

Number of Floods Cresting in Missing Range - 0