

## July 3-9 Flash Flooding

MAIN EVENTS: July 3 fatality in Daviess County, KY / July 7 major flash flood in Paducah / July 9 flash flooding near Ohio River

DAVIESS COUNTY, KY on July 3: A series of thunderstorms produced rainfall rates estimated by radar up to three inches in two hours. A car was swept off Highway 140 West by rapidly flowing floodwater. The vehicle was found about two hours later, submerged in a deep ditch with rapidly flowing water. The driver was pronounced dead at the scene. Just prior to the fatality, the fire department had assisted another vehicle stranded in floodwaters in the same vicinity. In other parts of Daviess County, sections of U.S. Highway 431 and Kentucky Highway 81 were closed due to high water.

PADUCAH, KY on July 7: Major flash flooding occurred as a result of persistent thunderstorms that dumped up to 5.5 inches of rain in four hours. Below is the radar-estimated rainfall map for the Paducah area for the July 7-8 event.



The heaviest rainfall amounts occurred over the city of Paducah, where serious flooding of streets and low-lying areas took place. A state of emergency was declared by the city of Paducah and McCracken County government officials. Floodwaters affected about 133 private residences and 29 businesses. Among the flooded buildings were three apartment complexes, the sheriff's department, an ambulance building, and the county jail. The vast majority of the flooded buildings remained habitable, but nearly a dozen were uninhabitable until minor repairs could be made. Property damage was at least one million dollars. Water overwhelmed several neighborhoods, and the county emergency management agency used boats to check on residents. The Red Cross opened a shelter for those displaced residents. Numerous vehicles were stranded on flooded streets and parking lots. The Paducah Police Department responded to 15 water-related incidents or rescues in four hours. The county sheriff's department handled numerous other incidents outside the Paducah city limits. Since the flash flooding occurred during the early morning commute, there was a high impact on traffic. Flash flooding of Perkins Creek inundated access roads and parking lots of hotels and restaurants at exit 4 along Interstate 24. A hotel was evacuated as water rose out of the parking lot into the first floor. The flooding affected underground power lines, knocking out traffic signals at the congested exit 4 interchange with U.S.

Highway 60. About 1,000 customers experienced power outages in the area near exit 4. Numerous basements throughout Paducah were flooded. The rainfall total at a rain gage in downtown Paducah along the Ohio River was 5.44 inches, which fell within a period of four hours. At the NWS office at Barkley Regional Airport, the total was 2.9 inches.

Pictured below is a flooded residential area within a mile of downtown Paducah.



NEAR OHIO RIVER on July 9: In the Paducah area, water was over several main roads. Water was over Kentucky Highway 305 at Massac Creek. The intersection of U.S. Highway 62 and Highway 286 was under water. Water was also over a stretch of U.S. 45 in the city of Paducah. At the rain gage on the Ohio River in Paducah, 1.93 inches fell in the overnight storms. This rain brought the three-day total to 8.22 inches at Paducah. In southern Illinois, several roads were flooded in Alexander, Pulaski, and Union Counties. A couple of cars were stranded in Union County. One car was stranded on U.S. Highway 51.

The map below is the radar-estimated rainfall product generated by the Paducah NWS radar. The time period covered is from 8 A.M. CDT on July 6 to 10 A.M. CDT on July 8. The area outlined in blue is the coverage area of the Paducah NWS office.

