



Memorial Day Weekend Flood Concerns

May 23, 2026
4:13 AM

For the western Carolinas and northeast Georgia

OVERVIEW

- Multiple rounds of heavy rainfall are expected in many locations through Monday.
- Instances of localized flash flooding are possible, but rainfall generally will be beneficial in light of ongoing drought.

TIMING

- Shower & thunderstorm chances will increase from south to north across the area this morning. By early afternoon chances will taper off over the mountains & foothills but increase again over the NC/SC/GA Piedmont into evening.
- Relatively sparse rainfall coverage expected across the area late tonight and Sunday morning.
- Showers and thunderstorms potentially redevelop Sunday and Monday afternoons, but confidence is lower then compared to today.

HAZARDS & IMPACTS

- Heavy rainfall may lead to localized flooding, particularly in areas hit by multiple rounds of intense thunderstorm rainfall, and in urban areas.
- A few strong to severe thunderstorms are possible this afternoon, particularly across NE GA and southern Upstate SC. Any severe weather would most likely be in the form of damaging wind.

FORECAST CHALLENGES

- Due to ongoing drought, very low initial streamflows & dry deeper soils will mitigate the flood threat along larger, mainstem rivers, including the upper French Broad River.
- The flood threat in any one location partly will depend on how much rain that location received on Friday. While forecast rainfall is greatest near the triple point of NC/SC/GA and the Savannah Valley to the south of there, the southeasternmost part of the SC Piedmont and Lakelands saw the greatest rain Friday.

ADDITIONAL INFO

- With it being a holiday weekend, please remain weather aware throughout. Cloud-to-ground lightning and flooding may affect outdoor events.

POST-EVENT OUTLOOK

- With each round of rainfall over the next several days through next week, soils may become saturated in some locations and become more susceptible to excessive runoff and flooding. Also, streamflows will gradually increase, potentially leading to scattered out-of-bank rises and flooding along creeks/rivers. The threat for flooding will be reevaluated with each successive forecast.

NEXT BRIEFING

- By 6 PM Saturday, May 23, 2026

Additional Rainfall Expected thru 8 AM Tue

