

Flood Event of 12/21/1973 - 12/25/1973

Appomattox

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Farmville	16.00	12/22/1973	16.51	5,270	Minor	Appomattox	Appomattox River	Cumberland	Prince Edward
Mattoax	21.00	12/25/1973	21.67	5,770	Minor	Appomattox	Appomattox River	Chesterfield	Amelia

James

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Bremo Bluff	19.00	12/22/1973	21.70	49,400	Minor	James	James River	Fluvanna	Fluvanna
Palmyra	17.00	12/21/1973	20.32	14,900	Minor	James	Rivanna River	Fluvanna	Fluvanna
Richmond	12.00	12/22/1973	15.66	73,900	Moderate	James	James River	Henrico	Independent City

Lehigh

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Walnutport	8.00	12/21/1973	8.40	21,100	Minor	Lehigh	Lehigh River	Northampton	Northampton

Lower Main Stem Susquehanna

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Harper Tavern	9.00	12/21/1973	10.98	10,000	Minor	Swatara	Swatara Creek	Lebanon	Lebanon

Main Stem Delaware

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
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Cooks Falls	10.00	12/21/1973	13.06	18,700	Minor	Delaware	Beaver Kill	Delaware	Delaware
Riegelsville	22.00	12/22/1973	22.55	118,000	Minor	Delaware	Delaware River	Warren	Bucks
Shoemakers	6.00	12/21/1973	6.34	4,280	Minor	Bush Kill	Bush Kill	Monroe	Cambria
Trenton	8.50	12/21/1973	8.69	2,020	Minor	Delaware	Assunpink Creek	Mercer	Mercer
Walton	9.50	12/21/1973	13.26	14,700	Minor	Delaware	West Branch Delaware River	Delaware	Delaware

North Branch Susquehanna

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Conklin	11.00	12/21/1973	11.12	20,300	Minor	North Branch Susquehanna	North Branch Susquehanna River	Broome	Broome

Passaic

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Boonton above Reservoir (Old Site)	5.00	12/21/1973	6.59	4,300	Moderate	Passaic	Rockaway River	Morris	Morris
Boonton below Reservoir	5.00	12/22/1973	7.26	3,190	Moderate	Passaic	Rockaway River	Morris	Morris
Chatham	6.00	12/21/1973	6.36	1,400	Minor	Passaic	Passaic River	Morris	Morris
Little Falls	7.00	12/23/1973	8.55	8,910	Moderate	Passaic	Passaic River	Passaic	Passaic
Lodi	5.00	12/21/1973	8.35	2,940	Major	Passaic	Saddle River	Bergen	Bergen
Mahwah	8.00	12/21/1973	10.50	6,050	Moderate	Passaic	Ramapo River	Bergen	Bergen
Pompton Lakes	11.70	12/21/1973	13.17	7,040	Missing	Passaic	Ramapo River	Passaic	Passaic
Pompton Plains	16.00	12/22/1973	19.27	9,730	Major	Passaic	Pompton River	Passaic	Morris

Rappahannock

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Remington	15.00	12/21/1973	15.09	11,200	Minor	Rappahannock	Rappahannock River	Fauquier	Fauquier

Raritan

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Blackwells Mills	9.00	12/21/1973	13.21	9,080	Moderate	Raritan	Millstone River	Somerset	Somerset
Bound Brook	28.00	12/21/1973	31.73	31,000	Moderate	Raritan	Raritan River below Calco Dam	Somerset	Somerset
Manville	14.00	12/21/1973	18.42	20,000	Moderate	Raritan	Raritan River	Somerset	Somerset
Raritan	10.00	12/21/1973	10.42	10,900	Minor	Raritan	North Branch Raritan River	Somerset	Somerset
Stanton	8.00	12/21/1973	9.77	6,460	Minor	Raritan	South Branch Raritan River	Hunterdon	Hunterdon

Southeastern Pennsylvania

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Chadds Ford	9.00	12/21/1973	9.99	6,790	Minor	Delaware	Brandywine Creek	Delaware	Delaware
Graterford	11.00	12/21/1973	13.04	21,100	Moderate	Schuylkill	Perkiomen Creek	Montgomery	Montgomery
Langhorne	9.00	12/21/1973	13.36	15,700	Major	Neshaminy	Neshaminy Creek	Bucks	Bucks
Philadelphia	11.00	12/21/1973	11.47	51,300	Minor	Schuylkill	Schuylkill River	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Pottstown	13.00	12/21/1973	13.56	22,500	Minor	Schuylkill	Schuylkill River	Montgomery	Montgomery

Weather Summary

A low and strong frontal system moved into the Eastern United States in late December. A strong center of low pressure, near the center of this front along the Virginia and Carolina coasts, intensified to below 996 mb on the 20th and 21st. The low quickly dumped heavy rain across much of the region as it moved northward into Canada, staying just inland. Generally, rainfall was moderate, with totals ranging from 1.00 to 3.00 inches. However, the rain melted several inches of snow that had fallen earlier in the week. This resulted in widespread flooding across ten different river basins in the region.

Crest Statistics and Flood Information

First flood of 2 that occurred in Dec, 1973

Fifteenth flood of 16 that occurred in 1973

Number of Floods at MARFC Forecast Points - 32

Number of Floods Cresting in Minor Range - 19

Number of Floods Cresting in Moderate Range - 9

Number of Floods Cresting in Major Range - 3

Number of Floods Cresting in Missing Range - 1