

MAY 2009 FLASH FLOOD EVENT

Torrential rain caused severe flash flooding in Montgomery and surrounding areas on May 7, 2009. During the early morning hours on this Thursday, an area of thunderstorms moved into northern Elmore and Autauga counties. As the thunderstorms continued southeast into Montgomery, Macon and Bullock counties over the next few hours, additional storms redeveloped upstream in Autauga and Elmore counties and moved southeast across areas already drenched from heavy rainfall. This pattern produced very severe flash flooding, encompassing areas in and near Wetumpka and Montgomery.



Widespread rainfall totals of six to eight inches, with local amounts in excess of 10 inches, occurred in less than six hours, producing widespread severe flash flooding. One fatality from drowning occurred in Montgomery when a man attempted to drive across a flooded street. He was swept away by flood waters while rescuers tried to save him.



Courtesy of Tim Lennox

Numerous roads and highways were closed due to flooding, with many culverts and bridges washed out across the area. Flooding of homes occurred in several areas, including parts of Coosada, Millbrook and Montgomery. The Alabama state legislature had to abandon the statehouse as water filled the basement and forced power to be turned off in the building.

Damage estimates indicated 7.4 million dollars in damage in these areas. This included 4.9 million dollars in Elmore county, primarily to county roads and city streets, and 1.8 million dollars in the greater Montgomery area. Autauga county damage was estimated at over half a million dollars, primarily to drainage ditches, while Bullock county suffered over \$100,000 in damages from heavy rainfall.

