



TWIN TIERS FLOOD OF JUNE 2006 – FACTS

OVERVIEW

On the last week of June 2006 the Northeastern United States endured massive flooding and record-breaking rainfall. These events were caused by soaked soil conditions and “five days of torrential downpours causing the regions worst flooding in decades” (Mortitz, 2006). Precipitation from the Atlantic Ocean in a stalled low-pressure weather system was the cause of the rainfall. Many areas of the region were severely damaged, namely the Twin Tiers which includes counties from Northern Pennsylvania and Southern New York. The following counties suffered the most losses: Broome, Delaware, Tioga, Otsego and Chenango in New York; and Bradford and Susquehanna in Pennsylvania.

FACTS AND FIGURES BY REGION

Northeast –

- President Bush declared the region a federal disaster area on making it eligible for federal assistance.
- Government-imposed bans on nonessential travel were lifted on the 30th.
- The Erie Canal shut down 286 miles of the 524-mile long canal system for an extended period of time.
- Citizens Bank Foundation contributed \$10,000 to the Salvation Army in Binghamton.

Broome County –

- Nearly 3,000 locals were sheltered at the Red Cross relief center at Binghamton University on the 29th.
- More than 7,000 people were left with out power or drinking water.
- In Binghamton a record 4.05 inches of rain came down in 24 hours.
- Lourdes Hospital in Binghamton transferred about 90 patients to other hospitals on the 28th.
- Gas explosions occurred in vacated homes just south of Binghamton on 29th.
- More than 800 homes were destroyed.
- Some 300 homes were severely damaged.
- Water levels at midday on Friday were still 10 feet above flood levels in Conklin and Vestal
- Boil-water advisories remained in effect for months after the flooding Endicott and Vestal.
- More than 7.14 inches fell over Binghamton from the 25th to the 28th.
- Sixteen volunteer firefighters from Albany were deployed to Conklin, NY, Broome County.

Chenango County –

- Water levels at midday on Friday were still 10 feet above flood levels in Bainbridge

Tioga County –

- Tioga County received 4.80 inches of rain from the 24th to the 27th.

Sullivan County –

- Fifteen-year-old Jamie Berholf died waiting for help on the front porch of her home surrounded by water.
 - She was one of four killed in New York.

Delaware County –

- Delaware County received 5.81 inches of rain from the 24th to the 27th.

Otsego County –

- Otsego County received 6.48 inches of rain from the 24th to the 27th.



Upstate New York –

- On the 28th, 17-mile stretch of Thruway, which was closed down, reopened.
- Water levels on the 28th in Vestal and Bainbridge were 14 feet above flood level.
- Two truckers died on I-88 after driving into a 25-foot deep hole cut out by flood waters.
 - David Swingle, 42, of Waverly, Tioga County was one of the two. The others identity has not been released.
- Robert Stockwell, 31, of Chenango County died while driving through a washed out section of road in New Berlin, Oneida County.
- On the 29th water levels reached 8 inches below the top of the Gilboa Dam, part of NY City’s water supply.
- Five days of torrential downpours caused the regions worst flooding in decades.

Luzerne County, Pennsylvania –

- In Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania up to 200,000 people were ordered to evacuate on the 27th.
- Fortunately, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania was largely spared because of newly erected levee systems.

AID AND ASSISTANCE

- New York City deployed 100 fire fighters, police, sanitation and environmental protection departments to assist in the flood zones.
- Governor Pataki announced a \$35 million state emergency relief package on June 30th for 13 upstate New York Counties. More than \$25 million is targeted for individuals, families and small businesses. Residents can apply for grants of up to \$5,000 for documented flood losses.
- FEMA approved \$16.2 million in disaster aid for homeowners, renters and businesses on July 6th. The sum is broken down by: \$12.2 million for disaster housing; \$2.3 million for Other Needs Assistance such as personal property; \$1.7 million by U.S. Small Business Administration for low-interest loans.
- Governor Pataki activated more than 300 National Guard members for activation duties on the 28th.
- Coast Guard dispatched helicopters to rescue 70 people in the Wilkes-Barre area on the 28th.

FLOOD STAGE IN CONKLIN, NY

This following graph is from the National Weather Service. Conklin was one of the hardest hit areas.

