

# Historical Overview – Greenville County Incidents, Hazards, and Threats Greenville County

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## INTRODUCTION

The *National Continuous Improvement Guidance (October, 2020)* provides direction on how the “whole community” (e.g., emergency management, first responders, citizens) can integrate certain activities and better prepare for future incidents. Continuous improvement uses post incident reports (e.g., After Action Report, Improvement Plans), surveys, and a historical review of past disasters that have had major impacts on the area. As such, it is vital that, as part of the planning process, data from previous disasters is collected, evaluated, and improvement plans implemented in the event of a similar occurrence.

Greenville County is threatened by natural, technological, and man-made hazards that have the potential to create mass casualties or fatalities, cause extensive property damage, and/or disrupt the day-to-day life and activities of the citizens in the County. Herein is a review of the major threats to Greenville County with an historical overview of some past incidents. This historical document is an appendix to the *Greenville County Emergency Operations Plan (2025)*, and may be used as reference for planning, responding, mitigating, and recovering from future disasters.

Further information on hazards, vulnerabilities, and efforts to protect the community from these threats may be found in the *Greenville County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2020)*.

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## NATURAL HAZARDS

The *Greenville County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2020)* identifies seven (7) natural hazard risks for Greenville County.

### Winter Weather



Snow, ice storms, and extreme cold temperatures periodically threaten Greenville County. Winter storms can damage property, create safety risks, destroy crops and/or valuable timber, damage infrastructure components (e.g., power lines), and have enormous economic impacts.

According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Storm Events Database, from 2015 through 2025, Greenville County experienced four (4) heavy snow events, six (6) winter storm events, 14 winter weather events, and 10 extreme cold/wind chill events.

- On December 4, 2002, an ice storm caused \$100 million in property damages and affected the majority of the counties in South Carolina. Greenville was one of the counties that suffered major losses from this storm, which included ice accumulations up to 1.5 inches in some areas. Hundreds of thousands of homes were without power, many for as long as two (2) weeks.
- In December 2005, a winter storm produced ice and snow across the Upstate of South Carolina, including Greenville County, causing almost \$1.5 million in property damage due to power outages and damage to buildings from falling limbs and trees. The winter storm resulted in a Presidential Disaster Declaration in January 2006.
- In December 2018, moist air led to a mix of rain and snow developing across the foothills of South Carolina. A total of 4-8 inches of snow accumulated during the event.
- In January 2022, moisture overspread the southern Appalachian Mountains as a low pressure system moved across the southern portion of the United States. A strong northeast wind with accompanying cold air allowed for precipitation to begin as light snow. Snow intensity increased overnight with 2-4 inches accumulating by morning. Snow continued through the morning hours before tapering off later in the day. Snowfall totals ranged from 6-10 inches across much of the area with higher snowfall in the northern portion of the county. Reports of light sleet accumulation was also reported across the area causing difficult to nearly impossible travel through January 16 and 17, 2022.
- In January 2025, moisture associated with low pressure in the Gulf Coast spread over the Southeast combining with cold surface high pressure in the Upstate Region. Snow began to fall across the area in the afternoon. By early evening snow began to transition to sleet and freezing rain and caused isolated to scattered power outages. Snow accumulations were generally 2 to 3 inches, with 1/2 inch of sleet on top of the snow approximately 1/4 of ice.

## Flooding

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) reports flooding is the most frequent natural disaster in the United States, with approximately 40% of all natural disasters involve flooding at some scale. About 75% of the Presidential Disaster Declarations are flood related. According to the National Weather Service (NWS), flooding has caused over 1,100 deaths since from 2013–2023 (over 8,600 deaths since 1940).



The NOAA database reports Greenville County has experienced 10 flash flooding incidents and 5 flood events.

According to the *South Carolina State Hazard Mitigation Plan*, historically Greenville County has the highest number of annualized losses and the highest number of flood-loss causing events.

Greenville County is affected by four (4) types of flooding:

### 1. *Dam/Levee Failure*

The National Inventory of Dams (<https://nid.sec.usace.army.mil/#/>) reports South Carolina has 2,430 total dams of which 142 dams are located in Greenville County; 137 of those are regulated by the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) and five (5) dams regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). These numbers include nine (9) dams that are the under the Greenville County Soil and Water division responsibility. There are many other dams located in the county that are not “regulated”, most owned by private entities.

Dams and levees have the potential to fail and suddenly release its impounded water flooding the land downstream. The threat from dam failure increases from aging dams, when additional dams are built for retention basins, and amenity ponds in new developments. Many dams exist on smaller streams that are not mapped as floodplains or subject to floodplain regulation, leaving downstream residents unaware of potential risks.

## **2. Local Drainage Problems**

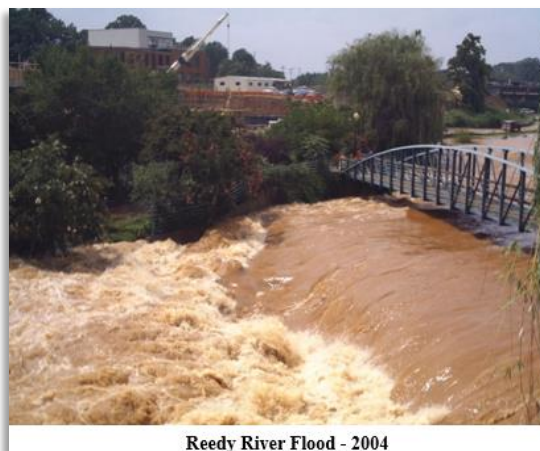
Local drainage problems can occur anywhere in the County where the ground is flat, where drainage pattern has been disrupted, or where channels or culverts have not been maintained.

## **3. Flash Flooding**

Flash flooding occurs when heavy rain falls in a short period of time and accumulates in areas faster than the ground is able to absorb it. Flooding can occur with little to no warning, often trapping vehicles in inundated water on roadways.

According to the NOAA Storm Events Database, from 2015 through 2025 there were 10 flash flooding events caused by heavy rainfall.

- On July 29, 2004 approximately 4 - 9 inches of rain fell in four (4) hours. This resulted in major flooding from Berea to downtown Greenville. The Reedy River reached 19.2 feet in downtown Greenville, which is the second highest level on record. Numerous homes and businesses sustained major damage. At least 30 homes were condemned. Numerous roads and bridges were damaged or washed out. Hundreds of vehicles were damaged or destroyed. Property damage was estimated at \$3.5 million.
- On August 9-10, 2014 multiple slow-moving thunderstorms moved over downtown Greenville, Taylors, and Greer, dropping 3- 6 inches of rain in a couple of hours. Two (2) people drowned after abandoning their vehicle trying to reach higher ground. Multiple rivers and creeks flooded. Property damage was estimated to be \$1.7 million.



## **4. Riverine Flooding**

Riverine flooding occurs when an increase of water volume within a river channel causes an overflow onto the surrounding flood plain. The State's topography, combined with its humid, subtropical climate, makes it highly vulnerable to riverine flooding.

- On March 20, 2003, a heavy rain event from the previous day and continued moderate rainfall on the 20th resulted in flooding along many creeks and streams in the Berea, Greenville, Taylors, Greer, Mauldin, and Simpsonville areas. The property damage was estimated at \$1 million.
- On February 6, 2020, a heavy rain event resulted in flooding throughout Greenville County. The event washed out several roads and bridges and damaged stream gauge monitoring stations. The property damage was estimated at approximately \$1.3 million. The first ever Flash Flood Emergency was issued by the NWS for the flooding along the Reedy and Saluda Rivers.

- On May 20, 2020, a heavy rain event resulted in flooding throughout Greenville County. The event flooded 29 roads and washed out four (4) shoulders and bridges within Greenville County.
- In September 2024, Hurricane Helene made landfall in the Florida Gulf Coast and moved northeast over the Southeastern United States. Prior to impact in the Upstate, Greenville County received heavy amounts of rain saturating the ground. As Helene impacted the Upstate (see Hurricanes and Tropical Systems below), additional heavy rain fell causing streams and rivers to flood over their banks. Stream gauges along the Saluda reached major flood stage flooding roads and some structures. Moderate flooding developed along the Reedy River, Brushy Creek overflowed its banks and significant flooding developed along the Enoree River. Additionally, the North Saluda overflowed onto Old Settlement Rd near Highway 11 and inundated a farm off Bates Bridge Rd. Although heavy rain ended across Greenville County by early afternoon, flooding continued to impact the Reedy, Saluda, and Enoree basins as water from very heavy rainfall continue to funnel its way downstream through the watersheds. Reedy River flooding eventually worked its way down to the far southern part of the county, resulting in inundation of Dunklin Bridge Rd.

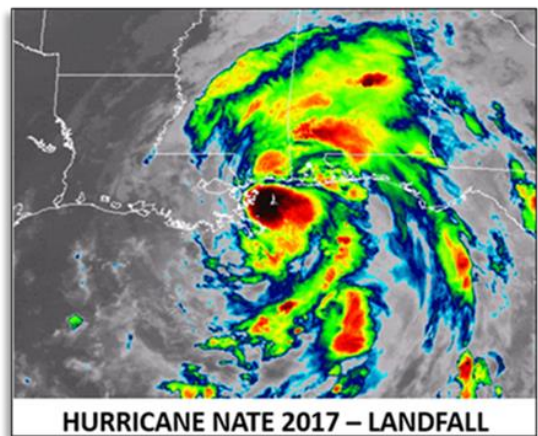
## High Winds / Tornadoes / Hail

### Hurricanes and Tropical Systems

Although Greenville County is not a coastal county, it is still affected by hurricanes and tropical systems. Inland flooding poses the greatest threat to life and property for the county. Tornadoes, high winds, and heavy rain also accompany these storms.

- In 1995, Tropical Storm Jerry dropped over 15” of rain in some portions of Greenville County.
- In 2004, South Carolina experienced 89 tornadoes, and a record 44 tornadoes in a single day on September 7<sup>th</sup>, as Tropical Storm Frances passed near the State.

- In September 2017, Hurricane Irma made landfall in the Florida Keys as a Category 4 storm. The storm weakened as it continued to track north through Florida. Tropical watches and warnings were extended into Georgia and South Carolina. Heavy rainfall and high winds affected much of the Upstate region. At one point over 35,000 customers were without power. Additionally, water from the storm damaged the walls of the Greenville County EOC, located at Greenville City Hall at the time, requiring repairs.



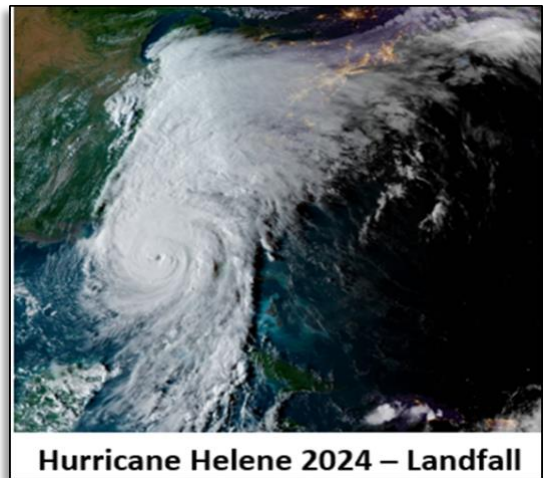


**Tornado Damage – Lake Lanier, SC 2017**

- In October 2017, Category 1 Hurricane Nate made a landfall near the mouth of the Mississippi River. As the remnants of Nate moved north across Alabama and into Middle Tennessee, outer rain bands associated with the storm moved over the Upstate. Scattered thunderstorms and tornadoes developed. The NWS recorded an EF-1 tornado touched down near Lake Lanier. Numerous trees were blown down with mostly structural damage to homes and outbuilding reported and roadways were impassable.
- In October 2020, Tropical Storm Zeta moved quickly from the Mississippi River to the southern

Appalachian Mountains. The fast moving storm included wind gusts between 35 and 50 mph with occasional gusts as high as 60 mph across the South Carolina Upstate. Trees were blown down across the area, many falling on structures and vehicles. Power outages were also reported throughout the region.

- In September 2024, Hurricane Helene made landfall near the Big Bend area of the Florida Gulf Coast as a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of 140 mph. Helene then rapidly advanced through the Southeast, affecting Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Before Helene’s arrival, a predecessor rain event resulted in significant rainfall up to 10” in the span of two days. When Helene reached South Carolina as a tropical storm, it caused extensive wind damage and power outages as numerous trees and power lines were downed. Nearly all of Greenville County experienced power and internet outages lasting from several days to weeks. Some areas of the county, notably the northern region, received 20” of rainfall, with wind speeds of up to 90 mph. The storm significantly impacted homes and businesses, with 649 properties suffering major damage and 55 destroyed. In all of the destruction and devastation, nine (9) Greenville County citizens perished as a result of Helene.



**Hurricane Helene 2024 – Landfall**

Greenville County may be called on to assist other areas of the State or region (i.e., southeastern states along the Atlantic or Gulf coast) with personnel and resources due to a hurricane or tropical system. For example, should any of the coastal areas of South Carolina expect significant storm surge from an approaching hurricane, Greenville County may be asked to open evacuation shelters for residents living in storm surge zones.

## Severe Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Hail and Lightning



According to NOAA's Storm Events Database, from 2013 through 2023, Greenville County experienced 121 thunderstorm wind events, 10 tornado events, and 40 hail events.

The Storm Prediction Center and NOAA's 25-year Average Number of Tornadoes per State (1997-2022) shows that South Carolina experiences approximately 25 tornadoes a year, with most of the tornado activity occurring in March, April, May, and September. However, tornadoes can occur any time of the year.

- On March 15, 1996, a squall line raced across the Upstate, impacting multiple counties. At Donaldson Center Industrial Air Park, strong winds knocked down trees and power lines across the Air Park. This storm caused one (1) death, seven (7) injuries, and approximately \$100,000 in damage.
- On August 16, 2003, a microburst caused damage to 12 airplanes and three (3) hangars at the Greenville Downtown Airport. One (1) plane was blown approximately 300 feet into the side of a hangar, causing the plane to break in half. Three (3) single-engine planes were flipped over. A concrete block wall was also blown over. The total event cost about \$300,000 in property damage.
- On March 21, 2017, scattered thunderstorms dropped multiple swaths of hail, especially in the Eastside and Greer areas. Some of the hail stones were the size of baseballs, causing extensive damage to vehicles and structures.
- On April 13, 2020, a significant tornado outbreak occurred throughout South Carolina. The event consisted of 25 tornadoes across the state, the 4th largest outbreak in South Carolina since 1950. Initial damage assessments found that 1,549 homes were damaged from the event. During this time, two (2) of the identified tornadoes occurred in Greenville County. An EF-0 tornado touched down near Lake Robinson in Greenville County while an EF-2 tornado touched down in Pickens County and moved into Greenville County. Eight (8) homes were damaged and two (2) homes were destroyed in the Laurel and Hardy Lake Community. Damages were estimated to cost \$494,500.
- On April 25, 2020, an EF-2 tornado moved through Wade Hampton Blvd and the Botany Woods community in Greenville County. Initial damage assessments found that 169 buildings had been damaged from the tornado, 161 of which were single or multi-family homes. Preliminary estimates revealed more than \$3 million in damages.



## **Drought / Heat**

### **Drought**

According to NOAA's Storm Events Database, from 2013 through 2023, Greenville County has experienced four (4) drought events.

- In late 2016, low amounts of rainfall and unusually warm temperatures resulted in an exacerbation of drought conditions that began in late spring, 2016. The main agricultural impacts were to pasture lands and soybean crops. By December much needed rainfall resulted in some slight improvements to the drought conditions across the Upstate region.

See the *South Carolina Drought Response Plan* for additional details.

### **Excessive Heat**

South Carolina has a humid subtropical climate that can result in hot, humid summers and mild winters. July is typically the hottest month of the year. Occasionally, summer heat can result in very high temperatures (i.e., temperatures of 100° or greater). The Greenville office of the NWS will issue a heat advisory when the daytime temperature and heat index reach 105° or more (in the shade). The NWS will issue a Heat Warning when the temperature and heat index reach 110° or greater, and a Heat Watch with the temperature with heat index is expected to reach warning conditions in the next 36 hours. According to NOAA's Storm Event Database, between 2013 and 2023 Greenville County had zero heat related incidents or events.

- During the summer of 2012, Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport reported several extreme temperatures; on June 29, 2012, the airport recorded a high temperature of 105°F. The next day a high temperature of 103°F was reported. On July 1, 2012, Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport recorded an all-time record high temperature of 107°F.

## Fire

### Structural Fires

The threats of structural fires facing Greenville County's 32 fire districts create the potential for catastrophic consequences and number of fire related injuries, deaths, and widespread damage and loss.



- In 2003, a fire destroyed the abandoned Poe Mill in Greenville. The fire was discovered at approximately 5:00 a.m., and by the time the first fire units arrived the building was completely engulfed in flames. The mills linseed oil-saturated wood meant the fire was able to spread quickly. It took more than 50 firefighters to bring the blaze under control.
- In 2017, a fire damaged a building at the former U.S. Finishing Mill. Investigators later discovered the soil around the mill was contaminated by asbestos.
- In 2023, there were 322 structure fires in Greenville County with a total loss of \$32,747,877, according to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

### Wildfires

Wildfires can infringe on developed and/or urban areas and contribute to the structural fire problem. As the population grows and residential developments continue to expand into forested areas, wildland urban interface issues increase and more wildfires threaten homes. Wildfires can occur any time of the year with the height of the wildfire season usually occurring from late winter through spring. According to the South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC), 98% of the wildland fires are caused by human activities. The leading causes are careless outdoor burning and woods arson.

- In 2016, the Pinnacle Mountain fire began in Pickens County on November 9<sup>th</sup> due to an escaped campfire in Table Rock State Park. The fire expanded into Greenville County on November 20<sup>th</sup>. This fire is the largest mountain wildfire on record in South Carolina, burning a total of 10,623 acres, of which 5,200 acres were in Greenville County. Preliminary cost estimates of this fire are over \$4.5 million.
- Paris Mountain is a valuable natural resource for Greenville County. This area is home to Paris Mountain State Park, two (2) waste treatment plants, communications equipment, and over 8,000 residents. As a result of the Pinnacle Mountain fire, Greenville



County decided to enhance the existing *Greenville County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan* with an annex addressing wildfires for the Paris Mountain area.

- The Table Rock Complex Wildfire began on March 21, 2025. The fire began as a small fire on top of Table Rock Mountain in Pickens County, and on March 22, 2025 another fire approximately 10 miles away began and was named the Persimmon Ridge Fire. Command for both fires were brought together under the Table Rock Complex. The Table Rock Complex eclipsed the 2016 Pinnacle Mountain incident as the largest and costliest mountain wildfire in state history. The complex burned 15,973 acres; 1,011,433 gallons of water were dropped as well as 33,400 gallons of fire retardant. The Table Rock Complex Wildfire was the first time Very Large Air Tankers (VLAT) aircraft were used east of the Mississippi River.

## **Earthquake**

According to the *2001 Comprehensive Seismic Risk and Vulnerability Study* for the State of South Carolina, the State is extremely vulnerable to earthquakes.

Approximately 70% of earthquakes in South Carolina occur in the vicinity of the epicenter of the 1886 Charleston/Summerville Earthquake. This area is referred to as the Middleton Place-Summerville Seismic Zone (MPSSZ). The Brevard Fault Zone and the Pax Mountain fault system cross into the northern part of Greenville County. In addition to these faults, the county is susceptible to earthquakes in other locations, especially near dams.

South Carolina experiences multiple earthquakes annually, but most are low-level events with magnitudes less than 4.0. According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), 265 low-level events occurred in South Carolina from 2013-2023.

- On April 23, 2022 an earthquake occurred in Taylors in Greenville County. The 2.2 magnitude earthquake was felt at 10:02 p.m. local time. The epicenter was reported to be 8.2 km (4.2 miles) from Taylors at a depths of 2 km (1.24 miles). Approximately 28 people reported feeling the earthquake, and no damage was reported.

See the *2023 South Carolina Earthquake Plan* for details.

## Sinkholes, Landslides, and Mass Wasting

### Sinkholes

Small sinkholes are associated with poorly compacted soil and are generally related to a “karst” topography. Karst is a type of topography that occurs when soluble bedrocks such as limestone, dolomite, and gypsum dissolve. This dissolution creates a void under the ground such as a cave, and a sinkhole can occur when such voids collapse.

- In November 2018, a large sinkhole formed on a commercial property at the intersection of Haywood Rd. and Airport Rd. in the City of Greenville damaging a state roadway and private property. Greenville Police reported the sinkhole was the size of an SUV and 10 feet deep.
- In May 2022, a sinkhole opened up in the parking lot of Greenville Technical College on S. Pleasantburg Dr. One (1) truck fell into the sinkhole.



### Landslides

According to the USGS, landslides are geologic hazards that occur in all states, and cause \$1-2 billion dollars in damage, and over 25 average annual fatalities.

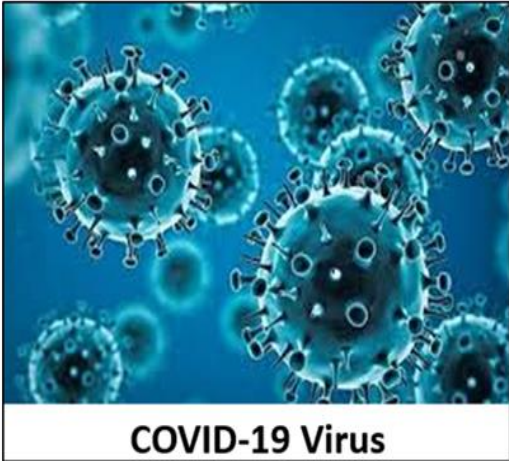
Mass wasting is the downward movement of rock material. Landslides are a type of mass wasting, which refers to the sudden collapse of a slope, also known as slope failure. Other types of mass wasting include mudflow, earthflow, creep, rock fall, slump, and these are characterized by their downward movement and the amount of moisture.

The Upstate of South Carolina most closely fits the typical landslide topography as outlined by the USGS, with steep slopes in Greenville County at Caesars Head and Glassy Mountain. According to the USGS, Greenville County ranges from the Moderate to High Susceptibility and Low to Moderate Incidence to landslides.

- In May 2013, heavy rain from a storm caused a “medium sized” landslide along a portion of Dividing Waters Road in Travelers Rest just off of Highway 11. While not Greenville County, later that year, Pickens County reported a 30’ culvert failed during a rainstorm.

### Communicable Disease

Infectious disease outbreaks or other public health emergencies may occur in Greenville County with little or no notice. Infectious disease can present special requirements for disease surveillance, rapid delivery of vaccines, antibiotics, or antiviral drugs, allocation of limited medical resources, and expansion of health care services to meet a surge in demand for care.



**COVID-19 Virus**

- On March 13, 2020, a State of Emergency was declared for South Carolina due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The virus is a respiratory illness that is spread from person to person. From 2020 to 2023, Greenville County had 208,642 cases and 1,826 fatalities due to of COVID-19.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS**

### **Transportation**



**Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport**

Greenville County is home to several airports including the Greenville Downtown Airport, Donaldson Center Airport, and Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, half of which is in Greenville County with the other half in Spartanburg County.

Greenville County has the largest roadway network in South Carolina. According to ArcGIS, Greenville County has over 4,000

lane miles of roads including 1,465 miles of roadways that are maintained by the State and 1,670 miles of roadway maintained by the County. Greenville County has several Interstates throughout the county such as I-85, I-185, I-385 and several other highways.



**I-85 / I-385 Interchange**

Additionally, there are three (3) major commercial railroads in the County; Norfolk Southern, CSX, and Amtrak. Any accidents or incidents connected to these transportation facilities could have major economic impact on the County.

## Hazardous Materials

The county's industrial capacity and network of interstate highways and railways result in vulnerabilities to hazardous materials releases from both moving and stationary sources.

According to the *South Carolina State Hazard Mitigation Plan*, Greenville County has the most Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) and Superfund sites in the State.

In 2023, 438 facilities in Greenville County reported chemical inventories as required by the Federal Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) regulations. These facilities contain hazardous and/or extremely hazardous substances exceeding the Threshold Planning Quantity as classified by Section 302/304 of the Federal Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA, Title III).

These facilities are located throughout the county in both rural and densely populated areas and do not include retail gas stations, warehouses, most power sub-stations, or telephone relay battery storage sites.

Hazardous materials may be transported via road, railways. An accident/incident along the interstate highways and railways that supply industries with chemical and petroleum products could result in a moderate to large accidental release of hazardous materials from a transportation source.

- In February 2007, Southern Railroad reported a hydraulic fluid spill/leak had occurred at the Greenville Yard. That same year, a chlorine leak occurred on White Horse Road in Greenville resulting in one (1) plant worker needing medical attention. The accident occurred when wrong chemicals were combined incorrectly.
- In July 2008, several lanes of Pleasantburg Rd. were closed in Greenville after an accident occurred causing a vehicle to spill an herbicide onto the roadway.

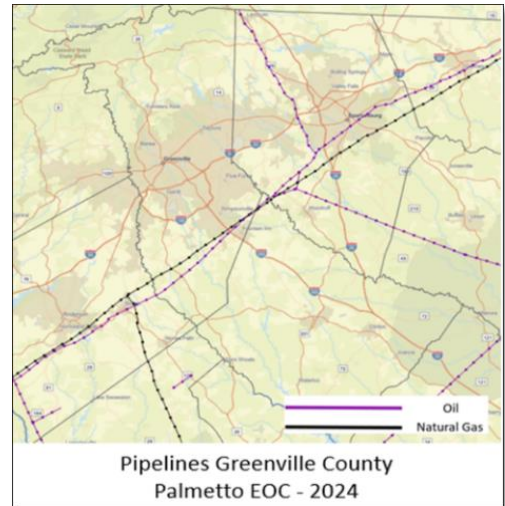


- In June 2014, New Life Chemical & Equipment near Mauldin Rd and I-85 reported smoke in the building that housed sodium hydrosulfite. The chemical was stored in the wrong containers, and was exposed to humidity overnight. Between 75 and 100 emergency workers, including HAZMAT worked at the scene.
- In May 2023, over 100 gallons of fuel was spilled on to Interstate 85 between the Augusta and White Horse Road exits following an accident caused a tractor-trailer carrying fuel to dump its load onto the roadway.

## Pipelines

Both Colonial Pipeline Company and Kinder Morgan have gas/petroleum pipelines that run through the southern portion of Greenville County. Pipeline incidents (e.g., breaks, leaks) could have environmental, health, and economic impacts to the County.

- In June 1996, a 36-inch diameter pipeline operated by Colonial Pipeline ruptured at the Reedy River in Greenville County. The rupture released over 950,000 gallons of fuel into the Reedy River and surrounding region causing significant environmental damage. Diesel fuel polluted a 23-mile segment of the Reedy River killing approximately 35,000 fish and harmed other wildlife in the area.



## Nuclear Power Plant (Radiological Release)



### Nuclear Facilities

Greenville County is located within the 50-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of the Oconee Nuclear Station. In the event an incident occurs at the facility, and if radiological material is released residents from communities around the facility may be need to be evacuated. Greenville County is identified as a host county for those evacuees. See the *Greenville County Radiological SOG* and the *South Carolina Operational Radiological Emergency Response Plan* for additional information.

### Transportation of Nuclear Materials

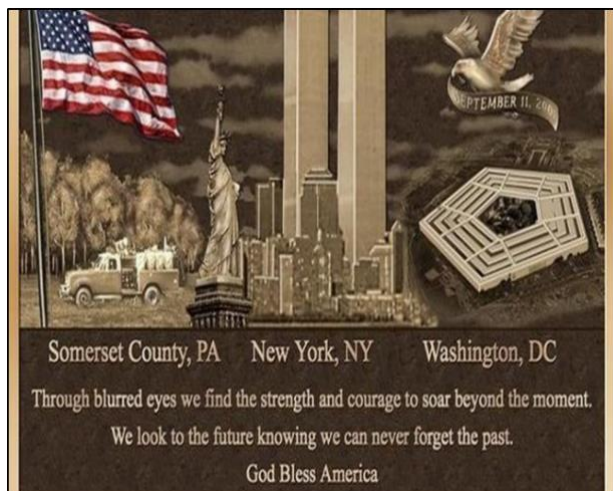
The SCDES maintains situational awareness of the transport of radiological waste and materials into and through the State of South Carolina.

The SCDES maintains the processes and procedures to address potential releases of radiological materials/waste during transportation.

### Dam/Levee Failure

See Flood Section, Page 5

## HUMAN CAUSED HAZARDS



### **Domestic Security**

After the attacks of September 11, 2001, homeland security (also known as domestic security) became a major focus for the United States. Domestic security is defined as preventing or defending against threats directed towards the interior of the country.

### **Terrorism and Cyber Terrorism**

There are many critical and high-profile facilities, high concentrations of population, and other potentially attractive venues for terrorist activity

that make the county vulnerable to a variety of terrorist methods.

Cyber terrorism is a risk for all organizations, including county government. Though the county uses technology that consists of firewalls, proxy servers, and virus walls to provide a secure perimeter around the network, these can be ineffective when users fail to follow or implement cybersecurity requirements.

### **Workplace/School Violence/Civil Unrest**

Violence in schools and workplaces, including fights or active shooters, are a major threat in today's communities. These actions threaten lives and security and can be emotionally devastating on communities. Incidents such as active shooters or civil unrest can grow rapidly and quickly overwhelm first responders and their capabilities to protect life and property.

- On March 21, 2022, the Greenville County School District received reports of shots fired inside the Tanglewood Middle School. One (1) student victim was transported to a local hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries. Another student at the same school was later arrested for the incident.

## Civil Unrest

Civil unrest is defined as conflict between different groups of individuals living in the same community. While civil protests can be peaceful most of the time, there is the potential where situations can turn violent overwhelming law enforcement's ability to maintain peace or regain control.

- In July 2016, protesters attending a Black Lives Matter rally marched through the downtown area of Greenville. Several people were later arrested after about 150 individuals attempted to break through a police line and shut down Interstate 385.
- In August 2017, approximately 200 people gathered in downtown Greenville calling for the relocation of "The Confederate Monument". Other groups arrived in support of keeping the statue where it was. While tensions were high, police were able to keep parties separated and no arrests were made.
- In early 2020, many communities around the nation began demonstrations and protests regarding a Minnesota man, George Floyd, who died while in police custody. In May of that year, protesters marched up and down Main Street in downtown Greenville, joining nationwide protests. Protesters and police officers engaged in minor skirmishes for 12 hours in downtown Greenville.
- In June 2022, about 1,500 people gathered in the courtyard at One City Plaza in Greenville in protest of a Supreme Court ruling that ended Americans' constitutional right to abortion. Several people were arrested for blocking traffic, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest.

