

# ALABAMA

Flood-related disasters are the costliest and most frequent type of disaster facing the United States. From 2000 to 2018, flood-related events cost more than **\$830 billion in economic losses**,<sup>1</sup> accounted for **73% of presidential disaster declarations**,<sup>2</sup> and caused more than **6,200 deaths**.<sup>1</sup> Floods are an **immediate threat to 53 military installations** across the nation.<sup>3</sup>

These numbers reflect what Americans and people across the globe already know: **floods are affecting our way of life**. Addressing the challenges posed by flooding and other extreme weather impacts will require individuals, communities, and state and federal governments to work collaboratively to build a more sustainable future for us all.

*Surging Waters: Science Empowering Communities in the Face of Flooding* is a report produced by AGU that shows how science is essential to finding solutions to mitigate flooding now and in the future. For more information, visit [www.scienceisessential.org](http://www.scienceisessential.org).

## TO EMPOWER COMMUNITIES TO UNDERSTAND AND ADDRESS THEIR FLOOD RISK, POLICY MAKERS CAN:

- 1 Support robust and steadily increasing funding** to science-based federal agencies.
- 2 Support science centers and programs** that research region-specific flooding concerns and incentivize scientists working within their communities.
- 3 Support legislation** that ensures science can be conducted and inform policy freely and openly.
- 4 Support policies** to manage flooding and its impacts that account for a changing world.



Between 2000 and 2018, **floods and flash floods** caused \$2.2 billion in property damages in Alabama. In the same period, hurricanes caused **\$7.4 billion in damages**.<sup>4</sup>



The Alabama Emergency Management Agency recognizes flooding as the **#1 natural hazard** posing risk to people and property in the state.<sup>5</sup>



Flooding is an **immediate threat** to the **US Army Reagan Operations Center** in Huntsville, AL.<sup>3</sup>

The **U.S. Geological Service Water Science Centers** fund and conduct water research and monitoring **driven by state priorities**

**CONTACT THE ALABAMA OFFICE:**  
Montgomery, AL: 334-395-4131

The **NOAA National Sea Grant College Program** supports coastal communities through research and extension programs **shaped by local needs**.

**CONTACT THE ALABAMA OFFICES:**  
Mobile, AL: 251-438-5690  
Orange Beach, AL: 251-974-1510  
Email: [info@masgc.org](mailto:info@masgc.org)

### BETWEEN 2010 AND 2019...

The **Lower Mississippi Gulf Water Science Center**<sup>6</sup> spent **\$7.1 MILLION**

**Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant**<sup>7</sup> spent **\$1.5 MILLION**

...on Alabama's flood research and education priorities.

Alabama is also home to **NOAA's National Water Center**, the nation's hub for water forecasting.

**PREPARE YOUR DISTRICT FOR FLOODS:** [ready.gov/floods](http://ready.gov/floods). Assess your home or office's flood risk: [msc.fema.gov](http://msc.fema.gov).  
**NEED HELP NOW?** Contact the Alabama State Emergency Management Agency: **205-280-2312**

1. NOAA. U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters. National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) (2019). Available at: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>. (Accessed: 23rd July 2019) 2. The Pew Charitable Trusts. *Infrastructure Upgrades Can Help U.S. Businesses Better Withstand Disasters* (2019). Available at: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2019/05/15/infrastructure-upgrades-can-help-us-businesses-better-withstand-disasters>. (Accessed: 5th July 2019) 3. US Department of Defense. Report on effects of a changing climate. (2019). 4. NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information. Storm Events Database. Available at: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>. (Accessed: 14th August 2019) 5. Hagerty. State of Alabama Mitigation Plan Draft. (State of Alabama, 2018). 6. Gain, S; Lower Mississippi Gulf Water Science Center. Personal communication. (2019). 7. Swann, L; Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium. Personal communication. (2019).