

SAFEGUARDING WV'S FUTURE

THE COST OF INACTION

Between 2011 and 2024, West Virginia faced **23 major disasters** across all 55 counties, with Lincoln County experiencing the most. Repeated flooding, landslides, and mudslides caused widespread damage, requiring more than **\$950 million** in federal assistance—about \$531 per resident. **While this aid supports short-term recovery, it cannot replace lost jobs, tax revenue, or long-term economic stability, leaving communities vulnerable without state investment.**

Reducing this risk requires full implementation of the 2024 Flood Resiliency Plan, including streambank stabilization, stormwater improvements, and critical infrastructure upgrades to protect communities and limit future damage.

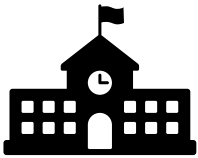
FLOOD RESILIENCE ROADMAP

West Virginia can reduce long-term flood impacts by building capacity from funding and communication to emergency response and long-term mitigation through a comprehensive approach.

- SB 390 and the funding bills will permit the Flood Resiliency Fund to provide early warning systems to our communities
- Communication & Early Warning: Sirens, local radio, digital messaging, backup power, multi-language alerts
- Action & Recovery: Evacuation coordination, shelters, responder dashboards to support vulnerable populations and speed up recovery
- Mitigation: Stream and river bank stabilization, stormwater improvements and infrastructure upgrades

WEST VIRGINIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AT RISK

(West Virginia University GIS, 2025)



38% of schools are at risk in a 100-year flood event



57% of fire stations are at risk in a 100-year flood event



46% of roads and 58% of bridges are at risk in a 100 year flood event.



39% of wastewater sites are at risk in a 100-year flood event

Flooding is a frequent and costly hazard in West Virginia, with over 1,600 total flood events between 2010 and 2021, ranging in intensity and including the 2016 flood that caused \$1.2 billion in losses and 23 deaths (West Virginia Emergency Management, 2016).

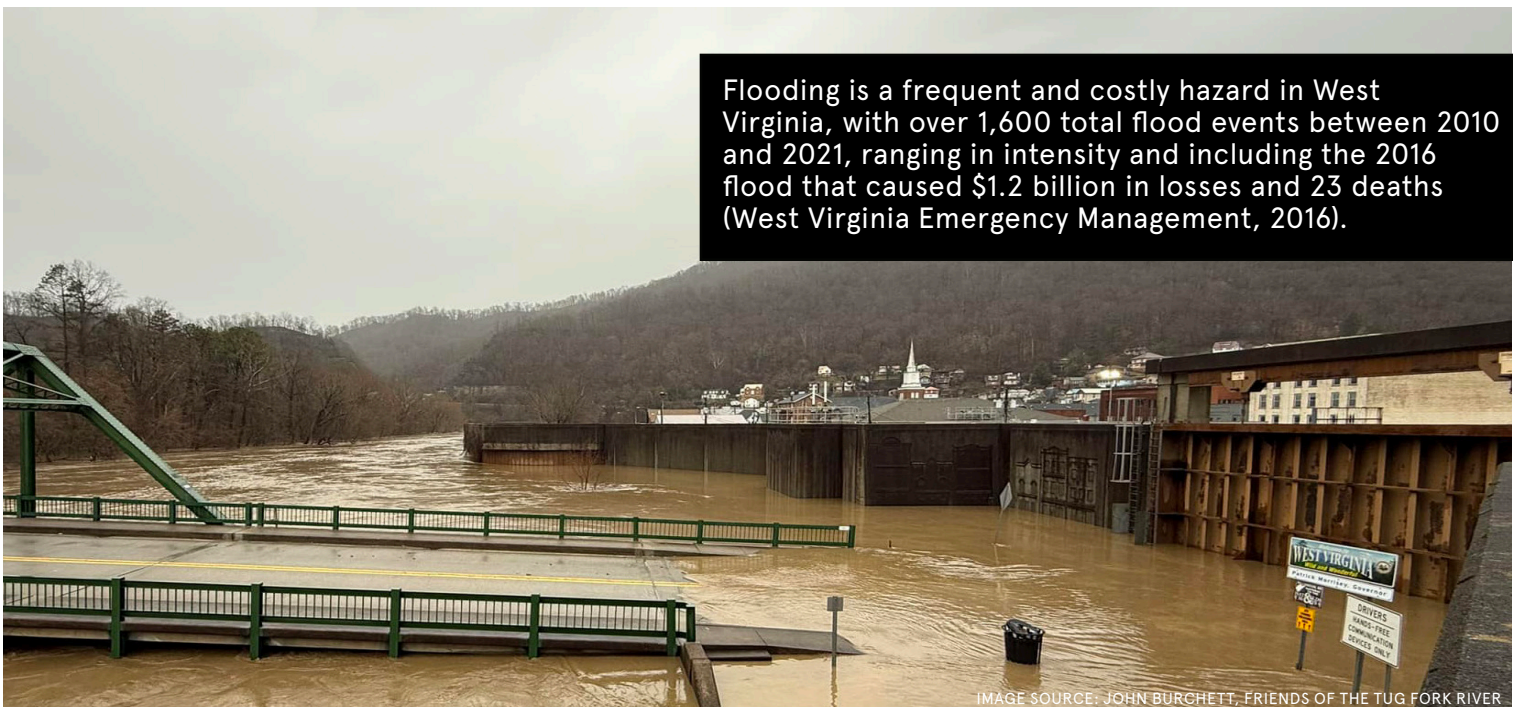
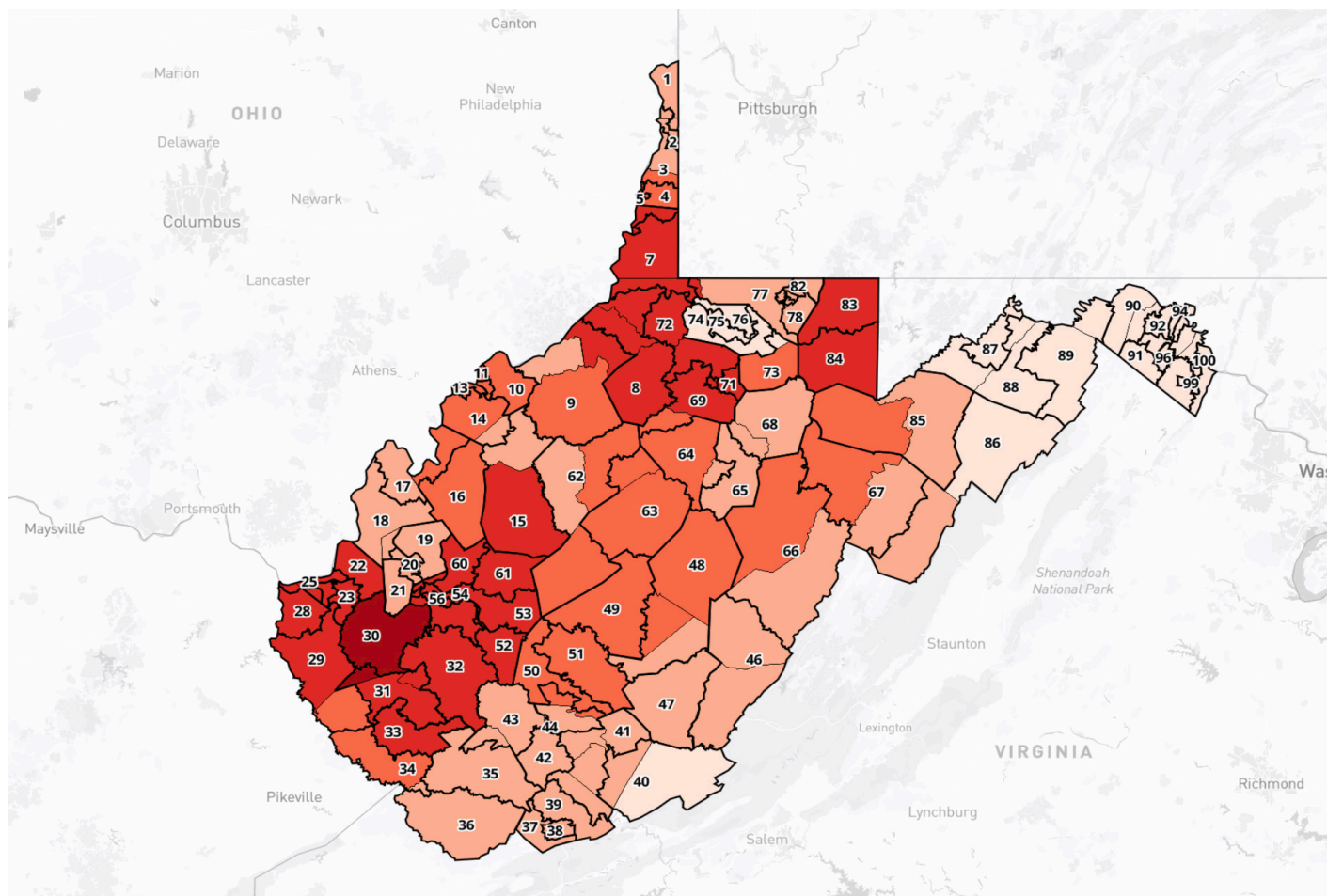


IMAGE SOURCE: JOHN BURCHETT, FRIENDS OF THE TUG FORK RIVER

WHY EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS ALONE ARE NOT ENOUGH

Early warning systems alone are not enough to keep communities safe. Many residents do not evacuate even when warned due to factors such as risk perception, trust, mobility limitations, or lack of resources. Alerts can fail when power or cellular infrastructure is down or when messages are unclear or not actionable. As a result, warning systems are most effective only when paired with strong response capacity and broader resilience measures—an urgent need in West Virginia, where disaster declarations remain high and counties continue to face repeated, severe flood impacts.

Disaster Ocurrences: State House Districts 2011-2024



Major Disaster Declarations (2011-2024)

- 0 occurrences
- 1 occurrence
- 2-3 occurrences
- 4-6 occurrences
- 7-9 occurrences
- 10+ occurrences

FOR MORE INFORMATION SCAN THE QR CODE
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