



Tropical Storm Chantal Brings Catastrophic Flooding in 2025

Tropical Storm Chantal Causes Historic Flooding Across Roxboro and Surrounding Counties:

Following a 4 a.m. landfall in South Carolina on July 6, 2025, Tropical Storm Chantal triggered historic flooding across North Carolina. The storm unleashed over 11 inches of rain upon the region, flooding the South Hyco River watershed and causing critical, uncontrollable water rises at Lake Roxboro and Hyco Lake.

Severe Damage at Lake Roxboro Spillway:

Following high initial water levels, intense rainfall caused Lake Roxboro to overtop its spillway by 2:00 a.m. on July 7, resulting in significant structural damage, including severe erosion and undermining. In response to a 4:00 a.m. inspection report, Person County Sheriff Jason Wilborn ordered evacuations for homes near the Hyco River and Highway 158 West due to escalating bridge flooding.

Impact on City Infrastructure:

Devastating flooding has crippled key infrastructure in Roxboro. The city's primary pump station on the South Hyco River is severely damaged after being completely flooded, along with the secondary station at Main City Lake. The crisis extended to Hyco Lake, where overflow triggered widespread destruction, ripping boat houses and docks from their moorings and sending them downstream. With initial damages surpassing \$16 million and statewide losses topping \$6 billion, North Carolina and South Carolina governors have declared a State of Emergency, opening the door for critical FEMA aid.

Ongoing Assessment and Safety Measures:

Inspections of the Lake Roxboro Dam and Spillway are ongoing. The City has been advised to keep water levels below normal capacity to reduce pressure on the structure and prevent further spillway damage. Notably, preliminary findings indicate the dam performed as designed, holding back the storm's floodwaters to protect the community.

Next Steps for Spillway Repairs:

Roxboro continues cooperating with FEMA and engineers to evaluate repairs or a full redesign of the Lake Roxboro Spillway, prioritizing long-term structural safety. Due to recent rain and repairs at the Hyco River station, water levels have stabilized, allowing us to hold the lake slightly below normal until state and federal authorities approve the final plan. Contractor selection is projected for late 2026, with construction anticipated to extend into 2027.

Permit Renewals for the Upcoming Season:

Lake Roxboro will operate under normal conditions for the upcoming permit year, similar to active pumping periods. Residents should expect water levels to remain a few feet below pond stage, which is not expected to hinder summer recreation. Looking ahead, the City will review permit renewals for the 2027-2028 season based on construction progress. Should construction significantly limit access during peak months, we will consider adjusting permit and boat fees. Any changes will be communicated in advance.

Action Required:

Please ensure your email and contact information are updated on your renewal application. Guest permit holders should also verify their contact details and are required to have a copy of the Lake Ordinance.

Staying Informed:

We will provide regular updates as new information becomes available.

- **Official Sources:** City of Roxboro Website & Facebook Page
- **Community Sources:** Lake Roxboro Facebook page and contact email list managed by Mark and Leslie Zimmerman.
- **Info Hub:** <https://www.cityofroxboro.com/government/lake-roxboro-city-lake>

Once a contractor is selected and a timeline is set, written notices will be sent.

The City of Roxboro would like to thank everyone that helped, and continue to help with all of the flood related clean up efforts on Lake Roxboro. There are too many names to mention all, but the city would like to thank everyone that were out on the lake and helped with removing and securing boats, docks and debris following the flood and also help keep everyone informed of any updates as they are released by the city. Most of the debris has been removed but there are some that are secured away from boating traffic that will be removed when repairs begin. If you see anything floating in high traffic areas please report to the Lake Warden.

Dock/Ramp Permit Plates:

Due to significant flooding from Tropical Storm Chantal in July 2025, many lake permit plates were lost or damaged. The City of Roxboro is conducting a comprehensive inventory and plan to replace these plates to restore compliance and safety. Please review the following information regarding the replacement process:

1. Inventory and Replacement Timeline: The Lake Warden is creating a new inventory of missing plates. Replacement plates will be ordered and distributed **after all permits have been renewed** to ensure efficiency. This process may take a while to complete.

2. How to Report a Missing/Damaged Plate: Method A: Email or call the Lake Warden directly. Please provide your permit number if known. **Method B:** Note that your plate is missing on your permit renewal application when submitting it to City Hall. *Note: The city will make every effort to maintain the original permit numbers assigned to your property.*

3. Expedited Replacement (Do It Yourself): If you prefer to personally attach your replacement plate, please contact the Lake Warden. Arrangements will be made for the plate to be delivered to you at the lake.

4. Installation Requirements: All plates must be attached to the property owner's dock, ensuring easy access and clear view from the lake.

Dock + Ramp: If you have both, attach both plates side-by-side to the front or side of the dock.

Ramp Only: Attach the plate on a 4x4 post in the ground or on a tree close to the water/ramp.

5. Questions? If you have questions, please contact the Lake Warden directly.

Flood Related Repairs:

1. Protection of the Buffer Zone: No Clearing: The Lake Roxboro Buffer Zone must be protected. Clearing vegetation or trees is strictly prohibited.

2. Pre-1999 "Grandfathered" Structures: Existing Structures: Structures (docks, steps, sidewalks, buildings) built before the 1999 ordinance are permitted to remain, but cannot be improved or expanded. **Repairs & Maintenance:** Any type of repair (replacing boards, painting, remodeling) requires **prior permission** from the City of Roxboro. **Removal Requirement:** If a structure becomes unusable or requires significant repairs, it must be removed from city property, and the area must be brought up to current, compliant standards. **Unauthorized Improvements:** Making improvements without permission will result in a requirement to remove the *entire* structure.

3. Flood-Damaged Structures & Rebuilding: Report Damage: Landowners must report all damage on the city's shoreline to the Lake Warden. **Inspection:** The Lake Warden may inspect buildings (inside and out) before they can be used. **No Replacement:** Structures damaged or destroyed by the flood cannot be rebuilt under their old "grandfathered" status. **New Construction:** Any new construction replacing destroyed structures must comply with current 2026 Lake Ordinances.

4. Dock/Ramp Regulations & Permits: Size Limit: Maximum allowed size for any dock (including steps/walkways) is **260 square feet** over land and water. **Approval Needed:** All repairs or replacements must be approved by the City and Lake Warden *before* work begins. **Permit Procedure:** Landowners must complete a new construction permit at City Hall. **Flood Repair Fees:** No permit fees will be charged for storm-related repairs.

5. Prohibited Items: Plumbing & Appliances: Buildings cannot have plumbing or appliances (refrigerators, stoves, ovens) inside or outside.

Summary of Actions Required:

- If damaged: Contact the Lake Warden to report damage and request inspection.
- To repair/replace: Complete the new construction permit from the City of Roxboro and submit it to City Hall. Each land owner is responsible for the removal of structures, wood, or other debris left floating in the lake. Any structures left in the lake, should be secured away from boat traffic until it is removed.
- To maintain: Do not paint, remodel, or replace boards on old structures without prior approval.

BOAT PERMITS FOR LAND OWNERS AND GUEST REDUCED TO 7:

As our lake community continues to grow, we want to make sure everyone can safely enjoy the water. To reduce congestion, the City has introduced a new cap of 7 permits per boat ramp/property, which covers both owner and guest boats.

Key Changes:

7 Total: Sum of personal + guest permits.

Locality Rule: Guest permits can only be used at the ramp where they were purchased.

Eligibility: Must have a ramp to buy guest permits.

Pontoons: Season-long parked pontoons are exempt.

Note: Please keep track of your permit stickers, as the City is not responsible for lost ones.