Flooding Fiasco

In recent days flooding has ravaged many parts of the South. The AccuWeather.com Forensics Team can provide meteorological data and expert analysis needed after an event of this magnitude occurs.

For example, on a past case the AccuWeather.com Forensics Team was called upon by a defendant’s counsel to determine the amount of rain that fell in a particular area. The rain led to an overflow of a drainage ditch. The flooding damaged multiple vehicles at an automobile dealership. Located upstream along the ditch was a recently constructed shopping plaza, which was suspected as the cause of the flooding.

But not all rain that causes flooding is created equal. The insurance industry and developers rely on average, expected rainfall return periods to help determine how much rain will typically fall in a certain area during a certain time. Simply put, there is an average amount of rain expected to occur in an area for various time intervals ranging from minutes to days, weeks and months. For example, 3 inches of rain in one hour may be a once in 100 year event for a certain area, while 3 inches of rain in 24 hours may occur once a year for the same area. All developers and contractors are expected to allow for sufficient drainage to meet a specified XX-year event.

After first determining how much rain fell, by use of surface observations and Doppler radar, the AccuWeather.com Forensics Team determined that the event exceeded the once in 50 year average expected rainfall return period for the location. At times the rainfall surpassed a once in 300 year event! After reviewing the extensive research done by the AccuWeather.com Forensics Team, it was determined that the township, developer and construction company involved with the shopping center were not liable for the damages incurred at the automobile dealership.

This proceeding provides an excellent example of the types of cases in which the AccuWeather Forensics department has the experience and expertise to determine what took place meteorologically at any given time and place. Contact us today at 814-235-8626 for more information.