

Columbia County, GA

Risk-assessment baseline packet

County FIPS: 13073 Release: 2026-10 Data as of: 2026-09-30 Storm Events data through: 2026-06-30

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Summary

Plan status as of 2026-09-30: Approved, expires 2031-08-23. Plan: Columbia County (FEMA plan 111818), approved 2026-08-24.

Since the plan was approved on 2026-08-24: no new hazard declaration; details under "What changed since your last plan".

Highest expected annual loss (FEMA National Risk Index, modeled total; see B1-a): Inland Flooding (\$30,928,820 a year), Tornado (\$7,880,686) and Earthquake (\$2,998,233).

The tables that follow are organized by the items of FEMA's Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool, Element B (B1-a to B2-c); each heading says which item its tables support.

TERMS USED

EAL: expected annual loss: FEMA's modeled average yearly loss from a hazard.

NRI: FEMA's National Risk Index (version 1.20, December 2025).

NFIP: National Flood Insurance Program.

RL, SRL: repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss: flood-insured properties with repeated claims (definitions in B2-c).

FMA, HMGP: Flood Mitigation Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, FEMA mitigation grants.

PA: FEMA Public Assistance: disaster aid to governments and some nonprofits.

Zone-level: NOAA logged the event for a National Weather Service forecast zone, which may include parts of neighboring counties.

County-coded: NOAA logged the event to this county.

FIPS: the federal code for a place; 13073 is this area.

D0 to D4: U.S. Drought Monitor categories, from abnormally dry (D0) to exceptional drought (D4).

F/EF, EFU: Fujita and Enhanced Fujita tornado ratings; EFU is an unrated tornado.

kt, CONUS: knots (1 kt is about 1.15 mph); the contiguous United States.

CFR: Code of Federal Regulations.

A4-a, E1-a: other items of FEMA's Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool (sources, and changes since the last plan).

Dollars: nominal (as reported, labeled with the year), not adjusted for inflation.

GEMA/HS: Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency.

GMIS, Hazus: Georgia Mitigation Information System; Hazus is FEMA's loss-estimation software.

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Plan clock

Status:Approved, expires 2031-08-23

Approved:2026-08-24

Plan:Columbia County (FEMA plan 111818)

Days to expiry:1,788

What changed since your last plan (approved 2026-08-24)

New federal declarations:none

Repetitive loss now:FMA RL 0, SRL 2 (44 CFR 77.2); any definition: 10

Sources: 1, 2, 4, 6 (numbered list at the end)

Storm Events records since approval:not yet covered: Storm Events data run through 2026-06-30, before the approval date, so there is no period to count yet

Repeat-flood change:this release sets the baseline count.

Plan status for every jurisdiction listed in this county

Source: 1

Jurisdiction	Type	Status	Plan	Approved	Expires	Days to expiry negative = days since expiry
Columbia County (unincorporated area)	Unincorporated	Approved, expires 2031-08-23	Columbia County (FEMA plan 111818)	2026-08-24	2031-08-23	1,788
Grovetown city	City	Approved, expires 2031-08-23	Columbia County (FEMA plan 111818)	2026-08-24	2031-08-23	1,788
Harlem city	City	Approved, expires 2031-08-23	Columbia County (FEMA plan 111818)	2026-08-24	2031-08-23	1,788

State plan status and tribal plans in this state: see the state page.

Supports FEMA checklist item B1-a: hazard identification

GEMA template A: Hazard identification

Hazards NRI does not cover (local data needed)

- dam failure (incl. upstream dams)
- levee failure
- flash flood as its own subtype
- ice jams
- debris flows
- erosion (riverine and coastal)
- land subsidence and sinkholes
- expansive soils

The 18 National Risk Index hazards, ranked by expected annual loss (EAL)

Sources: 5, 6

Rank by EAL	Hazard	NRI risk rating	EAL rating	EAL buildings <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	EAL agriculture <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	Cost of expected deaths and injuries <i>FEMA's dollar value per year, not property damage</i>	EAL total (see note) <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	Storm Events records, 1996 to 2026-06-30 <i>count</i>	Storm Events coverage note
1	Inland Flooding	Relatively Moderate	Relatively Moderate	\$30,891,942	\$1,082	\$35,796	\$30,928,820	43	
2	Tornado	Relatively Moderate	Relatively Moderate	\$1,484,895	\$154	\$6,395,637	\$7,880,686	5	
3	Earthquake	Relatively Low	Relatively Low	\$2,225,621	n/a	\$772,612	\$2,998,233		Storm Events does not record earthquakes.
4	Hurricane	Relatively Low	Relatively Moderate	\$2,496,787	\$5,356	\$115,482	\$2,617,625	3	
5	Heat Wave	Relatively Low	Relatively Moderate	\$89	\$4	\$1,644,741	\$1,644,834	0	No recorded events in Storm Events since 1996 (data through 2026-06-30).
6	Cold Wave	Relatively Low	Relatively Moderate	\$4,922	\$777	\$1,618,814	\$1,624,512	0	No recorded events in Storm Events since 1996 (data through 2026-06-30).
7	Strong Wind	Relatively Moderate	Relatively Moderate	\$521,067	\$682	\$924,832	\$1,446,581	201	Includes 3 High Wind and 3 Strong Wind records (NOAA non-thunderstorm wind types, outside NRI's Strong Wind definition).
8	Ice Storm	Relatively High	Relatively High	\$603,301	n/a	\$188,100	\$791,400	4	
9	Lightning	Relatively Moderate	Relatively Moderate	\$97,875	n/a	\$581,746	\$679,622	4	
10	Hail	Relatively Low	Relatively Low	\$312,069	\$1,224	\$334,544	\$647,837	95	
11	Wildfire	Relatively Low	Relatively Low	\$147,143	\$7	\$23,728	\$170,877	0	No recorded events in Storm Events since 1996 (data through 2026-06-30).
12	Winter Weather	Relatively Low	Relatively Low	\$41,137	\$3	\$10,254	\$51,395	10	

Rank by EAL	Hazard	NRI risk rating	EAL rating	EAL buildings <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	EAL agriculture <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	Cost of expected deaths and injuries <i>FEMA's dollar value per year, not property damage</i>	EAL total (see note) <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	Storm Events records, 1996 to 2026-06-30 <i>count</i>	Storm Events coverage note
13	Drought	Very Low	Very Low	n/a	\$23,480	n/a	\$23,480	0	Declared 1 time; no Storm Events record of this type.
14	Landslide	Very Low	Very Low	\$590	n/a	\$80	\$671	0	No recorded events in Storm Events since 1996 (data through 2026-06-30).

Total = buildings + agriculture + population equivalence; FEMA values each expected death (or 10 injuries) at \$13.7 million (2024 dollars).

NRI risk rating combines expected annual loss with social vulnerability and community resilience; EAL rating rates expected annual loss alone. Both compare this county with all U.S. counties.

Local data needed: state and local wildfire and landslide records (Storm Events records these hazards only in part).

Not applicable to this county per NRI, with no federal declaration and no Storm Events record since 1996: avalanche, coastal flooding, tsunami and volcanic activity. That is the evidence for leaving them out of the plan.

The state hazard mitigation plan also lists hazards for this county; FEMA asks the plan to explain any hazard it leaves out.

Supports FEMA checklist item B1-b: hazard location

GEMA template B: Hazard profile (events and probability)

Affects the whole county (national data give no location within it): Cold Wave, Drought, Hail, Heat Wave, Ice Storm, Lightning, Strong Wind and Winter Weather.

Inland Flooding: The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) is the required location source for flooding. See the FEMA Flood Map Service Center (<https://msc.fema.gov>) for this county.

Hazards that vary within the county: highest-rated census tracts

Source: 5

Hazard	Highest-rated census tracts <i>NRI risk rating, score 0 to 100</i>
Earthquake	tract 305.05 (Relatively Moderate, 81.2); tract 302.01 (Relatively Moderate, 81.1); tract 303.08 (Relatively Moderate, 80.2)
Hurricane	tract 302.01 (Relatively Moderate, 85.0); tract 301.08 (Relatively Moderate, 84.5); tract 303.11 (Relatively Moderate, 82.2)
Landslide	tract 304.03 (Relatively Low, 82.3); tract 304.01 (Very Low, 79.7); tract 305.05 (Very Low, 77.1)
Tornado	tract 305.03 (Very High, 96.3); tract 303.08 (Very High, 93.8); tract 305.05 (Very High, 93.4)
Wildfire	tract 304.03 (Relatively Moderate, 88.5); tract 305.03 (Relatively Low, 87.6); tract 304.01 (Relatively Low, 86.0)

Up to 3 census tracts per hazard, highest National Risk Index rating first, then highest score; a tract number is the Census tract number (for example 305.05 is Census Tract 305.05). FEMA's Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool maps the National Risk Index for every tract: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/resilience-analysis-and-planning-tool>

Supports FEMA checklist item B1-c: hazard extent

GEMA template B: Hazard profile (events and probability)

Extent: scale, observed range and worst recorded event per hazard

Sources: 6, 7

Hazard	Scale	Records <i>count and years</i>	Observed range	Worst recorded event	Most damaging (when different)	How it applies to jurisdictions	Note
Cold/Wind Chill, Extreme Cold/Wind Chill	wind chill	0					
Frost/Freeze (outside NRI's Cold Wave definition)	crop damage	0					
Drought	U.S. Drought Monitor scale (D0 to D4)	0					Storm Events enters a drought at D2 or worse east of the Rockies and D3 or worse from the Rockies west (NWS Instruction 10-1605); NRI drought counts D3 and D4 only.
Earthquake	Modified Mercalli (local data)	0					Storm Events does not record earthquakes; the USGS earthquake catalog is the source.
Hail	hail size (inches)	106 records, 1975 to 2024	0.25 in to 2 in (median 0.88 in); 106 with a recorded value	2 in hail, 2002-03-31	Hail, 2011-04-28, \$30,000 property; \$12,000 crops (2011 dollars)	Event records naming jurisdictions in the plan: Grovetown city (26 records), Harlem city (7 records).	
Excessive Heat, Heat	heat index (in event narratives)	0					
Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Tropical Depression	Saffir-Simpson	3 records, 2018 to 2024 (3 zone-level)		Strongest recorded: Tropical Storm record, 2024-09-27, \$225,000,000 property; \$500,000 crops (2024 dollars), 1 direct death (reported for the zone); NWS zone GAZ064		Countywide (zone-level records).	Storm Events files every zone of a storm's episode under the storm's type; flooding from the storm is filed as Flood or Flash Flood records.
Ice Storm	Sperry-Piltz ice scale (local data)	4 records, 2004 to 2014 (4 zone-level)		No damage reported in 4 records.		Countywide (zone-level records).	
Flash Flood, Flood, Lakeshore Flood	damage and flood days (flood depth: FIRM)	43 records, 1996 to 2025		Flash Flood, 2012-08-07, \$280,000 property; \$0 crops (2012 dollars)		Event records naming jurisdictions in the plan: Grovetown city (6 records), Harlem city (2 records).	Flood depth: see the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map. Storm Events damage is often \$0 or blank for floods, major ones included; FEMA Public Assistance by declaration (B1-d) shows which floods cost the most.
Debris Flow	none (count and damage only)	0					

Hazard	Scale	Records <i>count and years</i>	Observed range	Worst recorded event	Most damaging (when different)	How it applies to jurisdictions	Note
Lightning	annualized frequency (the measure FEMA's Local Mitigation Planning Handbook names)	4 records, 2010 to 2022		Lightning, 2022-04-06, \$200,000 property; crops not reported (2022 dollars)		Event records naming jurisdictions in the plan: Grovetown city (1 record), Harlem city (1 record).	Storm Events lists lightning with damage or casualties.
High Wind and Strong Wind (outside NRI's Strong Wind definition)	wind speed (kt and mph)	6 records, 2008 to 2022 (6 zone-level)	35 kt (40 mph) to 50 kt (58 mph) (median 46.5 kt (54 mph)); 6 with a recorded value	50 kt (58 mph) estimated gust, High Wind, 2022-01-03; same speed and measurement basis also recorded on 2008-10-24, 2017-09-11; NWS zone GAZ064	High Wind, 2008-10-24, \$20,000 property; \$10,000 crops (zone total, 2008 dollars)	Countywide (zone-level records).	
Thunderstorm Wind	wind speed (kt and mph)	216 records, 1966 to 2026	43 kt (49 mph) to 91 kt (105 mph) (median 55 kt (63 mph)); 196 with a recorded value	91 kt (105 mph) estimated gust, Thunderstorm Wind, 2016-06-17, 1 direct injury	Thunderstorm Wind, 2005-05-20, \$350,000 property; \$0 crops (2005 dollars)	Event records naming jurisdictions in the plan: Grovetown city (28 records), Harlem city (11 records).	
Tornado	Enhanced Fujita (Fujita before Feb 2007)	8 records, 1957 to 2019	F/EF0 to F/EF2 (median F/EF2); 8 with a recorded value	EF2 tornado, 2009-04-10, 5.95 mi within this county, 880 yd wide, \$1,000,000 property; crops not reported (2009 dollars)	Tornado, 1978-05-08, \$2,500,000 property; crops not recorded (1978 dollars)	Event records naming jurisdictions in the plan: Grovetown city (1 record).	Before 1996 a tornado is listed once, under the county where it began, with its whole path's rating and length; from 1996 on, each county lists its own segment. Length is not used to rank tornadoes (see Methods).
Wildfire	acres burned (local data)	0					
Winter Storm, Heavy Snow, Blizzard, Lake-Effect Snow, Winter Weather, Sleet	none in data (snowfall: local data)	10 records, 2002 to 2026 (10 zone-level)		No damage reported in 10 records.		Countywide (zone-level records).	

In event narratives only (local data needed): wind chill, temperature, heat index, ice thickness, acres burned and snow depth; any physical measure of debris flow and lightning.

Storm Events records are more complete after 1996; before 1996 only Tornado (from 1950), Hail and Thunderstorm Wind (from 1955) exist. Zone-level records from zones that no NWS zone-county file places in this county (mostly before 2020) are not counted here (the Methods page explains the zone matching).

Dollars are nominal (as reported), labeled with the year; not adjusted for inflation.

Supports FEMA checklist item B1-d: previous occurrences

GEMA template B: Hazard profile (events and probability)

Federal declarations for this county: 14 declarations covering 8 separate hazard incidents counted in this packet (declarations for the same incident count once; non-natural and evacuation-only declarations are not counted).

Storm Events records since the plan: not yet covered: Storm Events data run through 2026-06-30, before the approval date, so there is no period to count yet.

Federal disaster declarations for this county

Sources: 1, 2, 3

Declared	Incident began	FEMA number	Type	Title	Mapped hazard	County Public Assistance <i>federal share obligated, nominal dollars</i>	Flags	Notes
2026-01-24	2026-01-22	EM-3642-GA	Emergency	Severe Winter Storm	Winter Weather	no Public Assistance recorded	in the 12 months before plan approval; within last 5 years	
2024-09-30	2024-09-24	DR-4830-GA	Major disaster	Hurricane Helene	Hurricane	\$89,138,486.22	within last 5 years	
2024-09-26	2024-09-24	EM-3616-GA	Emergency	Hurricane Helene	Hurricane	no Public Assistance recorded	within last 5 years	same incident as DR-4830
2020-03-29	2020-01-20	DR-4501-GA	Major disaster	COVID-19 Pandemic	Non-natural, not counted	no Public Assistance recorded		
2020-03-13	2020-01-20	EM-3464-GA	Emergency	COVID-19	Non-natural, not counted	no Public Assistance recorded		same incident as DR-4501
2018-10-10	2018-10-09	EM-3406-GA	Emergency	Hurricane Michael	Hurricane	no Public Assistance recorded		
2017-09-15	2017-09-07	DR-4338-GA	Major disaster	Hurricane Irma	Hurricane	\$241,944.43		
2017-09-08	2017-09-07	EM-3387-GA	Emergency	Hurricane Irma	Hurricane	no Public Assistance recorded		same incident as DR-4338
2014-03-06	2014-02-10	DR-4165-GA	Major disaster	Severe Winter Storm	Ice Storm	\$8,351,040.54		
2014-02-11	2014-02-10	EM-3368-GA	Emergency	Severe Winter Storm	Ice Storm	no Public Assistance recorded		same incident as DR-4165
2005-09-05	2005-08-27	EM-3218-GA	Emergency	Hurricane Katrina Evacuation	Hurricane: evacuation support, not a local hazard event; not counted	no Public Assistance recorded		
1998-03-11	1998-02-14	DR-1209-GA	Major disaster	Severe Storms and Flooding	Inland Flooding	PA not declared for this county		
1990-10-19	1990-10-11	DR-880-GA	Major disaster	Severe Storms & Flooding	Inland Flooding	no Public Assistance recorded		
1977-07-20	1977-07-20	EM-3044-GA	Emergency	Drought	Drought	no Public Assistance recorded		

County Public Assistance: applicants the FEMA record places in this county, including any state agencies FEMA files there; statewide rows are listed on the state page; federal share obligated, nominal dollars.

Statewide declarations

Source: 2

Declared	Incident began	FEMA number	Type	Title	Mapped hazard
1964-11-04	1964-11-04	DR-180-GA	Major disaster	Flooding	Inland Flooding
1964-09-10	1964-09-10	DR-177-GA	Major disaster	Hurricane Dora	Hurricane (primary); also designated: Inland Flooding
1963-03-26	1963-03-26	DR-150-GA	Major disaster	Severe Storms & Flooding	Inland Flooding
1961-03-02	1961-03-02	DR-110-GA	Major disaster	Floods	Inland Flooding
1954-03-17	1954-03-17	DR-16-GA	Major disaster	Tornado	Tornado
1953-05-02	1953-05-02	DR-1-GA	Major disaster	Tornado	Tornado

FEMA recorded these with designated area Statewide and no county, so they are listed on every county page in the state and not counted with county rows. Local data needed: whether each one affected this county.

Previous occurrences by hazard, with explicit no-event rows

Sources: 2, 6, 7

Hazard	Storm Events records, all years on file <i>(years in the Period column)</i>	Since plan approval records	In the 12 months before plan approval records	Last 5 years records	Declared incidents, all years separate disasters	Declared since approval separate disasters	Period	Statement
Cold Wave	0		0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No recorded events, 1996 to 2026-06-30, NOAA NCEI Storm Events
Drought	0		0	0	1	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No Storm Events records of this type; 1 federal declared incident (see declarations table)
Earthquake	0		0	0	0	0		Storm Events does not record earthquakes; the USGS earthquake catalog is the source.
Hail	106		0	16	0	0	1955 to 2026-06-30	
Heat Wave	0		0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No recorded events, 1996 to 2026-06-30, NOAA NCEI Storm Events
Hurricane	3		0	2	3	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Ice Storm	4		0	0	1	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Inland Flooding	43		0	13	2	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Landslide	0		0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No recorded events, 1996 to 2026-06-30, NOAA NCEI Storm Events
Lightning	4		0	1	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Strong Wind	222		1	43	0	0	1955 to 2026-06-30	Includes 3 High Wind and 3 Strong Wind records.
Tornado	8		0	0	0	0	1950 to 2026-06-30	

Hazard	Storm Events records, all years on file <i>(years in the Period column)</i>	Since plan approval <i>records</i>	In the 12 months before plan approval <i>records</i>	Last 5 years <i>records</i>	Declared incidents, all years <i>separate disasters</i>	Declared since approval <i>separate disasters</i>	Period	Statement
Wildfire	0		0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No recorded events, 1996 to 2026-06-30, NOAA NCEI Storm Events
Winter Weather	10		2	5	1	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	

Notable Storm Events records

Sources: 1, 6, 7

Date	Event type	Magnitude or extent	Damage <i>nominal dollars</i>	Deaths, injuries <i>direct only</i>	Location	Flags	Why listed
2024-09-27	Tropical Storm		\$225,000,000 property; \$500,000 crops (zone total, 2024 dollars)	1, 0	NWS zone GAZ064 (COLUMBIA), zone-level	within last 5 years	deaths or injuries recorded
2022-04-06	Lightning		\$200,000 property; crops not reported (2022 dollars)	0, 0	HARLEM	within last 5 years	B1-c worst recorded: Lightning
2022-01-03	High Wind	50 kt (58 mph) estimated gust	damage not reported	0, 0	NWS zone GAZ064 (COLUMBIA), zone-level	within last 5 years	B1-c worst recorded: High Wind and Strong Wind
2017-04-03	Thunderstorm Wind	70 kt (81 mph) estimated gust	damage not reported	0, 2	LEAH		deaths or injuries recorded
2016-06-17	Thunderstorm Wind	91 kt (105 mph) estimated gust	damage not reported	0, 1	LEAH		B1-c worst recorded: Thunderstorm Wind
2016-02-24	Strong Wind	43 kt (49 mph) estimated gust	damage not reported	0, 4	NWS zone GAZ064 (COLUMBIA), zone-level		deaths or injuries recorded
2012-08-07	Flash Flood		\$280,000 property; \$0 crops (2012 dollars)	0, 0	MARTINEZ		B1-c worst recorded: Flash Flood, Flood, Lakeshore Flood
2009-04-10	Tornado	EF2, 5.95 mi within this county, 880 yd wide	\$1,000,000 property; crops not reported (2009 dollars)	0, 0	PUMPKIN CENTER to GROVETOWN		B1-c worst recorded: Tornado
2008-10-24	High Wind	50 kt (58 mph) estimated gust	\$20,000 property; \$10,000 crops (zone total, 2008 dollars)	0, 0	NWS zone GAZ064 (COLUMBIA), zone-level		B1-c most damaging: High Wind and Strong Wind
2005-05-20	Thunderstorm Wind	80 kt (92 mph) estimated gust	\$350,000 property; \$0 crops (2005 dollars)	0, 0	EVANS		B1-c most damaging: Thunderstorm Wind
2002-03-31	Hail	2 in	damage not reported	0, 0	EVANS		B1-c worst recorded: Hail
1978-05-08	Tornado	F1, 4.1 mi path length (whole path, pre-1996), 100 yd wide	\$2,500,000 property; crops not recorded (1978 dollars)	0, 0	location not recorded		B1-c most damaging: Tornado

The full list is in the Excel file, sheet "B1-d Storm Events history" (400 rows).

Location is the place NOAA recorded, as written in its data; it need not be a jurisdiction in this plan.

Local data needed: state-declared emergencies, from your state emergency management agency (federal data do not include them).

Tribal and special-area declarations in this state are listed on the state page.

Supports FEMA checklist item B1-e: probability of future events

GEMA template B: Hazard profile (events and probability)

Probability: FEMA annualized frequency and descriptor per hazard

Sources: 5, 6

Hazard	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled) <i>unit per row</i>	Unit	In plain terms	Descriptor	Descriptor basis	NRI events or days in its record period (hail, wind and tornado are area-weighted, so can be fractional)	NRI period	Location	Note
Cold Wave	0.211	event-days per year	about 0.211 days per year		Storm Events event-days in 0 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (0%)	4	2005-11-12 to 2024-11-12 (19 years)	countywide	No Storm Events cold wave record, 1996 to 2025.
Drought	48.2	event-days per year	about 48.2 days per year		Storm Events event-days in 0 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (0%)	1,470	2000 to 2025 (25.25 years; D3 and D4 only)	countywide	No Storm Events drought record, 1996 to 2025
Earthquake	0.00249	annual probability at a location	chance a given location in the county has at least minor-damage shaking in a year: 0.249%			not shown	modeled	see B1-f	No descriptor (Storm Events does not record earthquakes).
Hail	2.67	events per year	about 2.67 per year	Highly likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	101.4 (modeled)	1986 to 2023 (38 years)	countywide	
Heat Wave	3.95	event-days per year	about 3.95 days per year		Storm Events event-days in 0 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (0%)	64	2005-11-12 to 2024-11-12 (19 years)	countywide	No Storm Events heat wave record, 1996 to 2025
Hurricane	0.0598	events per year	about 1 in 17 years	Possible	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	18	1851 to 2024 (Atlantic)	see B1-f	NRI counts hurricane and tropical storm tracks passing within storm-force wind range; federal declarations are in B1-d.
Ice Storm	0.978	event-days per year	about 0.978 days per year	Likely	Storm Events event-days in 3 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (10%)	66	1946-12-31 to 2014-02-12 (67 years)	countywide	
Inland Flooding	0.929	event-days per year	about 0.929 days per year	Likely	Storm Events event-days in 20 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (66.7%)	26	1996 to 2023 (28 years)	see B1-f	
Landslide	0.198	events per year (modeled)	about 1 in 5 years	Likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	not shown	modeled	see B1-f	
Lightning	60.1	days per year with a strike	about 60.1 days per year	Highly likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	not shown	1995 to 2023 (29 years; CONUS)	countywide	
Strong Wind	3.15	events per year	about 3.15 per year	Highly likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	120	1986 to 2023 (38 years)	countywide	
Tornado	0.165	events per year	about 1 in 6 years	Likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	not shown	1950 to 2023 (EF2+); 1986 to 2023 (EF0-1)	see B1-f	

Hazard	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled) <i>unit per row</i>	Unit	In plain terms	Descriptor	Descriptor basis	NRI events or days in its record period (hail, wind and tornado are area-weighted, so can be fractional)	NRI period	Location	Note
Wildfire	0.000556	annual probability at a location	chance a given location in the county burns in a year: 0.0556%		Storm Events records in 0 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (0%)	not shown	modeled	see B1-f	No descriptor: no Storm Events record 1996 to 2025
Winter Weather	1.68	event-days per year	about 1.68 days per year	Likely	Storm Events event- days in 6 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (20%)	32	2005-11-12 to 2024-11-12 (19 years)	countywide	

FEMA annualized frequency (modeled) is the National Risk Index v1.20 (December 2025) estimate of how often a hazard affects this county in a year; it is not recorded events divided by years, and its unit differs by hazard (events, event-days, or days with a lightning strike per year). For earthquake, wildfire, coastal flooding and tsunami the value is the chance (or number of events) at a location in the county, not across the county, so no "1 in N years" is given and the descriptor comes from Storm Events where it has a record (none for earthquake). The Methods page gives each hazard's method, from FEMA's National Risk Index Technical Documentation v1.20.

Where NRI gives event-days, the descriptor comes from the share of years with a Storm Events record; NRI's source records more events, so the two differ.

Descriptor scale used in this packet (defined per unit)

Sources: 5, 6

Unit	Descriptor	Definition
events per year	Highly likely	1 or more per year
events per year	Likely	about once in 1 to 10 years
events per year	Possible	about once in 10 to 100 years
events per year	Unlikely	less than once in 100 years
annual probability	Likely	10% to under 100% chance in a given year
annual probability	Possible	1% to under 10% chance in a given year
annual probability	Unlikely	under 1% chance in a given year
event-days (share of years)	Highly likely	event-days recorded in 90% or more of years
event-days (share of years)	Likely	event-days recorded in 10% to under 90% of years
event-days (share of years)	Possible	event-days recorded in some years but under 10% of years
lightning strike-days	Highly likely	cloud-to-ground strikes on 1 or more days per year

Intensity bands: historical frequency (Storm Events)

Source: 6

Hazard	Band	Years	Events <i>county-coded records</i>	Years in period	Events per year <i>events / years</i>
Hail	1.00-1.99 in	1996 to 2025	39	30	1.3
Hail	2.00 in+	1996 to 2025	1	30	0.0333
Thunderstorm Wind (counted as NRI Strong Wind)	50-64 kt	1996 to 2025	166	30	5.53
Thunderstorm Wind (counted as NRI Strong Wind)	65 kt+	1996 to 2025	26	30	0.867
Thunderstorm Wind (counted as NRI Strong Wind)	unmeasured or below 50 kt	1996 to 2025	2	30	0.0667
Tornado	EF0-1	1996 to 2025	2	30	0.0667
Tornado	EF2-3	1996 to 2025	3	30	0.1
Tornado	EF4-5	1996 to 2025	0	30	0
Tornado	unrated (EFU)	1996 to 2025	0	30	0

The bands show how often events of each severity were recorded in this county, to profile how severe events have been (FEMA's probability item asks for the range of intensities).

Hail smaller than 1 inch is not counted: on 2010-01-05 the National Weather Service raised its severe-hail threshold from 3/4 inch to 1 inch, so smaller reports became less common after 2009 (NWS Service Change Notice 09-52). NRI hail frequency uses a 0.75 inch threshold.

Optional: future conditions. Not a required item in the 2025 FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide; some states ask for it. The federal Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation (CMRA) site gives county exposure to future climate conditions (<https://resilience.climate.gov/>).

Supports FEMA checklist item B1-f: hazards that vary across jurisdictions

GEMA template F: Multi-jurisdictional differences

Range of census tract risk within the county

Source: 5

Hazard	Tracts <i>rated of all</i>	NRI risk score, 0 to 100			Tracts by rating
		Min	Median	Max	
Cold Wave	25 of 25	30.8	51.3	74.2	Relatively Moderate 14, Relatively Low 11
Drought	14 of 25	70.1	79.2	84.3	Relatively Low 7, Very Low 7, No Rating 11
Earthquake	25 of 25	42.6	72.3	81.2	Relatively Moderate 6, Relatively Low 19
Hail	25 of 25	47.0	68.5	81.2	Relatively Moderate 12, Relatively Low 13
Heat Wave	25 of 25	28.4	61.6	85.4	Relatively High 1, Relatively Moderate 14, Relatively Low 10
Hurricane	25 of 25	53.2	74.7	85.0	Relatively Moderate 7, Relatively Low 18
Ice Storm	25 of 25	54.7	86.2	94.5	Relatively High 8, Relatively Moderate 15, Relatively Low 2
Inland Flooding	25 of 25	3.9	65.8	97.4	Very High 3, Relatively High 5, Relatively Moderate 11, Relatively Low 4, Very Low 2
Landslide	25 of 25	21.3	61.9	82.3	Relatively Low 1, Very Low 24
Lightning	25 of 25	37.6	71.8	92.3	Relatively High 8, Relatively Moderate 15, Relatively Low 2
Strong Wind	25 of 25	41.8	78.1	89.9	Relatively High 10, Relatively Moderate 14, Relatively Low 1

Hazard	Tracts <i>rated of all</i>	NRI risk score, 0 to 100			Tracts by rating
		Min	Median	Max	
Tornado	25 of 25	54.9	79.9	96.3	Very High 3, Relatively High 15, Relatively Moderate 7
Wildfire	25 of 25	25.7	78.6	88.5	Relatively Moderate 1, Relatively Low 18, Very Low 6
Winter Weather	25 of 25	22.6	38.7	61.5	Relatively Moderate 8, Relatively Low 17

Drought: Agriculture is all of NRI's expected annual loss for this hazard in the county, so the tract range mostly reflects where crop and livestock value is.

Rated tracts only: No Rating (score 0.0), Not Applicable and Insufficient Data tracts are counted but not used for the minimum, median and maximum.

The score ranks a tract against all U.S. tracts (100 = highest). The rating is FEMA's category for the tract's risk value, computed differently, so the two can disagree.

Frequency data for cold wave, drought, hail, heat wave, ice storm, lightning, strong wind and winter weather are county-wide or coarse (49 km grid or NWS zone), the same for every jurisdiction; the tract range mostly reflects where buildings and people are (crop and livestock value where a line above names agriculture).

Each jurisdiction (starting figures from federal data)

Sources: 1, 3, 4, 6

Jurisdiction	Type	Plan status	Repetitive loss	Public Assistance to this jurisdiction	Event records naming this place
			<i>FMA RL and SRL (44 CFR 77.2); repeat-flood, any definition</i>	<i>FEMA records matched by applicant name; federal share obligated, nominal dollars</i>	<i>all years; since its plan</i>
Columbia County (unincorporated area)	Unincorporated	Approved, expires 2031-08-23	FMA RL 0, SRL 2; any 10	\$93,953,891.74	0 total; Storm Events data end 2026-06-30, before this plan's approval
Grovetown city	City	Approved, expires 2031-08-23	FMA RL 0, SRL 0; any 0	\$2,067,206.62	62 total; Storm Events data end 2026-06-30, before this plan's approval
Harlem city	City	Approved, expires 2031-08-23	FMA RL 0, SRL 0; any 0	\$1,462,101.01	21 total; Storm Events data end 2026-06-30, before this plan's approval

Repetitive-loss counts are for whole NFIP communities, which can extend beyond this county (see the note in B2-c).

County Public Assistance in B1-d also includes applicants filed under the county that are not jurisdictions in this plan (for example state agencies, special districts and nonprofits), so the jurisdiction rows add up to less.

Supports FEMA checklist items B2-a and B2-b: vulnerability and potential impacts

GEMA template C/D: Community exposure; Estimate of potential losses

Local data needed

The table below gives county-level starting figures; the plan describes impacts for each jurisdiction and its own assets.

- Critical facilities and lifelines per hazard
- A problem statement per jurisdiction per hazard
- Changes in development in hazard-prone areas since the last approval, or a statement of none (E1-a)
- Future assets

- The 2024 Georgia Hazard Mitigation Strategy says the State provides a Level 2 Hazus analysis as part of each county's plan update, and GMIS holds critical-facility data. Use them for B2-a and B2-b. <https://gema.georgia.gov/document/document/georgia-hazard-mitigation-strategy-2024/download>
- The 2024 Georgia Hazard Mitigation Strategy notes that FEMA restricted access to repetitive-loss property data. The current list comes from GEMA/HS or the state NFIP coordinator. <https://gema.georgia.gov/document/document/georgia-hazard-mitigation-strategy-2024/download>

County-level starter: exposure, expected annual loss and damage since the plan

Sources: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

Hazard	Building exposure <i>modeled dollars</i>	Agriculture exposure <i>modeled dollars</i>	Population exposed <i>people</i>	EAL buildings <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	EAL agriculture <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	Cost of expected deaths and injuries <i>FEMA's dollar value per year, not property damage</i>	EAL as % of exposure <i>buildings; agriculture where noted</i>	Storm Events damage since 2026-08-24 <i>county-coded records, property plus crops, nominal dollars</i>	Zone-level damage since plan <i>property plus crops, reported for the zone</i>	Public Assistance since plan <i>nominal dollars; see note</i>	Note
Cold Wave	\$33,380,263,689	\$3,582,062	155,619	\$4,922	\$777	\$1,618,814	under 0.0001%				
Drought	n/a	\$1,697,126	n/a	n/a	\$23,480	n/a	1.38% (agriculture)				NRI has no building exposure for this hazard; agriculture shown
Earthquake	\$52,440,445,582	n/a	156,010	\$2,225,621	n/a	\$772,612	0.00424%				
Hail	\$33,380,263,689	\$3,582,062	155,619	\$312,069	\$1,224	\$334,544	0.000935%				
Heat Wave	\$33,380,263,689	\$3,582,062	155,619	\$89	\$4	\$1,644,741	under 0.0001%				
Hurricane	\$33,374,349,618	\$3,582,062	155,571	\$2,496,787	\$5,356	\$115,482	0.00748%				
Ice Storm	\$33,379,190,706	n/a	155,610	\$603,301	n/a	\$188,100	0.00181%				
Inland Flooding	\$33,364,010,360	\$97,291	1,209	\$30,891,942	\$1,082	\$35,796	n/a (see note)				NRI counts the full building value of any census block with some flood loss; this is not the value of buildings in the floodplain. Use local FIRM overlays for B2-a/B2-b.
Landslide	\$589,592,324	n/a	2,595	\$590	n/a	\$80	0.0001%				
Lightning	\$33,380,263,689	n/a	155,619	\$97,875	n/a	\$581,746	0.000293%				
Strong Wind	\$33,380,263,689	\$3,582,062	155,619	\$521,067	\$682	\$924,832	0.00156%				
Tornado	\$33,380,263,689	\$3,582,062	155,619	\$1,484,895	\$154	\$6,395,637	0.00445%				
Wildfire	\$6,848,378,007	\$1,262,862	36,827	\$147,143	\$7	\$23,728	0.00215%				
Winter Weather	\$33,380,263,689	\$3,582,062	155,619	\$41,137	\$3	\$10,254	0.000123%				

Totals since 2026-08-24: Storm Events not yet covered: Storm Events data run through 2026-06-30, before the approval date, so there is no period to count yet; Public Assistance: no counted declaration since the plan.

FEMA does not split Public Assistance by hazard. A declaration mapped to several hazards is listed under each of them with its full amount, so the per-hazard column does not add up to the total; the unit total counts each declaration once.

NRI computes earthquake exposure on its own basis, so it exceeds the county building value in B2-a.

Supports FEMA checklist item B2-a: vulnerability (county context)

GEMA template I: Social vulnerability

County context

Source: 5

Measure	Value
Population	155,619
Building value (total, not at risk)	\$33,380,263,689
Agriculture value (total, not at risk)	\$3,582,062
NRI risk rating (all hazards)	Relatively Low
Expected annual loss, buildings and agriculture, all hazards	\$38,860,207
Expected annual loss, population equivalence, all hazards (NRI values each statistical life at \$13.7M; a modeled value of expected deaths and injuries, not property damage)	\$12,646,365
Social vulnerability rating	Very Low
Community resilience rating	Relatively Moderate
NRI version	December 2025

FEMA's all-hazard expected annual loss adds buildings, agriculture and population equivalence; this table gives the property part and the population-equivalence part as separate rows.

Social vulnerability: higher means people are more likely to be harmed and slower to recover. Community resilience: lower means the community is less able to recover. High social vulnerability and low resilience both raise the NRI risk rating.

Supports FEMA checklist item B2-c: repetitive loss properties

Repetitive loss in this county, both definitions

Sources: 1, 4

Definition	Properties	Severe repetitive loss	Properties
Repetitive loss, FMA definition (44 CFR 77.2)	0	Severe repetitive loss, FMA definition (44 CFR 77.2)	2
Repetitive loss, NFIP insurance definition	10	Severe repetitive loss, NFIP insurance definition	2

The state NFIP coordinator's list, the source FEMA's Handbook names, often uses the NFIP insurance definition (second row).

Repeat-flood properties: county and state-level rows

Sources: 1, 4

Scope	RL, FMA <i>properties</i>	SRL, FMA <i>properties</i>	RL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	SRL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	Any category <i>properties</i>	Mitigated <i>properties</i>	Currently insured <i>properties</i>
County total	0	2	10	2	10	0	6
of which: Columbia County (unincorporated area)	0	2	10	2	10	0	6
Statewide, no county in FEMA's file	2	2	5	2	6	1	6

The statewide row counts properties FEMA's file gives with no county in this state; they are listed for reference and are not in this county's counts.

Repeat-flood properties by jurisdiction in the plan (NFIP community)

Sources: 1, 4

Jurisdiction	NFIP community ID	RL, FMA <i>properties</i>	SRL, FMA <i>properties</i>	RL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	SRL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	Any category <i>properties</i>	Mitigated <i>properties</i>	Currently insured <i>properties</i>
Columbia County (unincorporated area)	130059	0	2	10	2	10	0	6
Grovetown city	130265	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harlem city	130266	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Counts by occupancy group for each jurisdiction are in the Excel file, sheet "B2-c Jurisdictions".

Jurisdiction rows are whole NFIP communities and need not add up to the county total: a community that extends into another county is counted in full on each jurisdiction row, while the county table counts only its part in this county.

County repeat-flood properties by occupancy group

Sources: 1, 4

Occupancy group	RL, FMA <i>properties</i>	SRL, FMA <i>properties</i>	RL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	SRL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	Any category <i>properties</i>	Mitigated <i>properties</i>	Currently insured <i>properties</i>
single-family residential	0	2	10	2	10	0	6
2 to 4 unit residential	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
other residential	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
non-residential	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
not reported	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

FEMA's occupancy groups have no institutional class; institutional properties are counted in non-residential or other residential in the table by occupancy group.

FMA RL and FMA SRL are the Flood Mitigation Assistance definitions (44 CFR 77.2), the ones the FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide cites. NFIP repetitive loss (the FEMA insurance definition) is 2 or more claims over \$1,000 in 10 years, and a property can leave that group once it is mitigated. Also shown: NFIP severe repetitive loss, any category, mitigated and currently insured. The Methods page gives the OpenFEMA field details.

Counts are aggregates of FEMA's public NFIP Multiple Loss Properties file (FEMA's data date 2026-08-02; file version 2026-08-04). No property is identified. County assignment is FEMA's geocode.

In this county 0 properties are FMA repetitive loss but not NFIP repetitive loss, and 10 properties are NFIP repetitive loss but not FMA repetitive loss.

Exact counts; no count suppression.

Sources

Tables cite these sources by number. The full list, for the plan's bibliography (FEMA review item A4-a):

1. FEMA, OpenFEMA HazardMitigationPlanStatuses v1, version 2026-09-29T134039Z, pulled 2026-09-30, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/HazardMitigationPlanStatuses> (API)
2. FEMA, OpenFEMA DisasterDeclarationsSummaries v2, version 2026-09-29T162832Z, pulled 2026-09-30, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v2/DisasterDeclarationsSummaries> (API)
3. FEMA, OpenFEMA PublicAssistanceFundedProjectsSummaries v1, version 2026-09-29T150754Z, pulled 2026-09-30, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/PublicAssistanceFundedProjectsSummaries> (API)
4. FEMA, OpenFEMA NfipMultipleLossProperties v1, version 2026-08-04T164045Z, pulled 2026-09-30, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/NfipMultipleLossProperties> (API)

5. FEMA, FEMA National Risk Index 1.20.0 (December 2025), county and census tract tables, version 1.20.0, pulled 2026-09-30, https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_Counties.zip (download, 25 MB), https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_CensusTracts.zip (download, 635 MB)
6. NOAA NCEI, NOAA NCEI Storm Events Database, details files (csvfiles v1.0), version c20260918, pulled 2026-09-30, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/swdi/stormevents/csvfiles/>
7. NOAA National Weather Service, NWS county-public forecast zones correlation file, version bp03mr20 to bp16ap26 (11 files; newest bp16ap26), pulled 2026-09-30, <https://www.weather.gov/gis/ZoneCounty>
8. U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2024 Gazetteer, 2020 place by county, CT county-to-cousub crosswalk, version 2024-gazetteer, pulled 2026-09-30, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gazetteer/2024_Gaz_counties_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gaz_cousubs_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gaz_place_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gaz_unsd_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gaz_elsd_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gaz_scsd_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/codes2020/national_place_by_county2020.txt, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ct_change/ct_cou_to_cousub_crosswalk.xlsx (used to match place names and codes; no table prints its values)

GEMA local plan template

Section headings show the GEMA local hazard mitigation plan template letter (A to I) next to the FEMA checklist item (template: <https://gema.georgia.gov/document/publication/local-hazard-mitigation-plan-update-template/download>). No letter is documented for repetitive loss; place B2-c where your GEMA template puts it.

What this packet is and what the plan adds

This packet is the federal data for the plan's risk assessment (the summary on page 1 says how it is organized); the plan and FEMA's review decide whether each item is met.

The plan adds what only the community has: local data on assets, critical facilities, development and each jurisdiction's impacts; local hazard history, including state-declared emergencies; the mitigation strategy; and adoption.

How the federal data are built: National Risk Index values are FEMA's model, not counts of events. Storm Events is more complete from 1996; zone-level records are placed by forecast zone, not by location in the county. Public Assistance for a jurisdiction is matched by applicant name. The Methods page gives every rule and the known edge cases.

OpenFEMA disclaimer

This product uses the Federal Emergency Management Agency's OpenFEMA API, but is not endorsed by FEMA. The Federal Government or FEMA cannot vouch for the data or analyses derived from these data after the data have been retrieved from the Agency's website(s).

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Cite this: Hazard Plain (2026). Columbia County, GA: risk-assessment baseline packet, release 2026-10 (data as of 2026-09-30; County FIPS 13073). Automated baseline. <https://hazardplain.org/ga/13073/> Built from FEMA OpenFEMA, the FEMA National Risk Index and NOAA NCEI Storm Events; source versions in the packet's Sources list.

Corrections: to report an error, name the packet, the table and what your records show. Contact: contact@hazardplain.org