

## Flooding Hits Hard in High Country

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Thursday, 04 July 2013 06:43

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Waves of heavy rain raked the High Country all Wednesday afternoon and overnight into Thursday, with flash flooding hitting a number of areas. First reports of road flooding came in from far western Avery County, where areas off of US 19E were reported underwater, specifically the Roaring Creek area to Molly's Branch, Henson's Creek and other areas—areas still under emergency control early Thursday. Reports say over a foot of water was across roadways in the Frank and Burleson areas. Avery emergency services evacuated some area campgrounds, blocked off roads in the area, deemed too dangerous to cross, with rapid rise reported in the Toe River and feeder streams. One man reported that the dirt portion of Roaring Creek washed away just below his location, and he was stuck on the higher ground, with Avery emergency crews working to get him out. In Ashe County, Emergency Services sent crews to the Laurel Knob area off NC 194 to a report of flooding inside a home. The woman told dispatchers she might not be able to get out of the house, and reported water flowing into her garage and into the living area of the home. A vehicle flipped over into Big Horse Creek due to flooding on Big Horse Creek Road in Ashe, the lone occupant calling his father to say he was OK, but emergency resources were sent to deal with traffic control and try to retrieve the vehicle from the creek. Flooding is took a heavy toll on Ashe roads, with the four lane in Ashe county closed for a time due to flooding, as well as NC 88 between Warrensville and Lansing. The large band of heavy rain, traveling from south to north, is still hitting the mountains this morning, dumping its load of moisture, grounds unable to absorb any of it after days of soaking rain.