



Breaking: Saudi Arabia cuts ties with Iran



Could what happened in South Carolina happen here?

E-MAIL

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

GOOGLE

LINKEDIN

14



RANDALL HILL/REUTERS

David Carroll (right) pulled boat carrying neighbors in Conway, South Carolina.

By Matt Rocheleau

GLOBE STAFF OCTOBER 06, 2015

More than 2 feet of rain dropped in some areas of South Carolina over the past few days, setting

records and causing widespread flooding, damage, and death.

It's been dubbed a 1,000-year storm.

Is that kind of rain possible here in New England?

The answer is yes, though it would be extremely rare, experts said.

Such rainfall would be “quite possible really anywhere along the Eastern Seaboard,” said Paul Walker, senior meteorologist for AccuWeather.com. “Anywhere a storm comes in and stalls and is pulling in tropical moisture you could see heavy rains like this.”

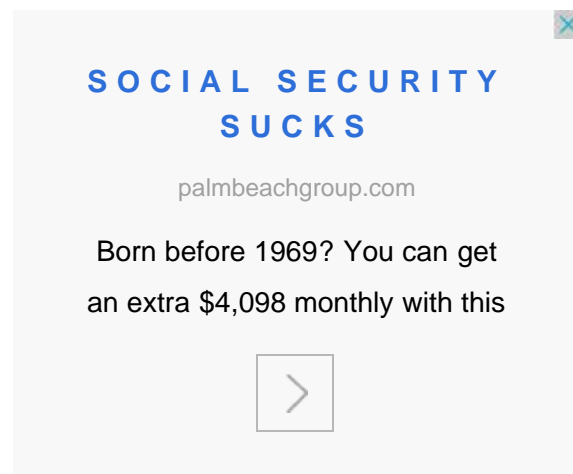
In a 24-hour period spanning Aug. 18 and 19, 1955, the town of Westfield received 18.15 inches of rain, a record not only for Massachusetts, but for all of New England, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Boston received about a foot of rain during the same period.

The rain was dumped by Hurricane Diane. Following closely on rain from another hurricane, the downpours caused devastating flooding.

Bob Henson, meteorologist and blogger for Weather Underground, said that “outside of a hurricane, it would be difficult” for New England to get the amount of rain South Carolina saw this week, particularly over such a large area.

“One of the amazing things about the rain in South Carolina is that an area about half the size of Massachusetts saw between 20 and 25 inches over three days,” said Henson.

On average, a total of about 42 inches of precipitation falls

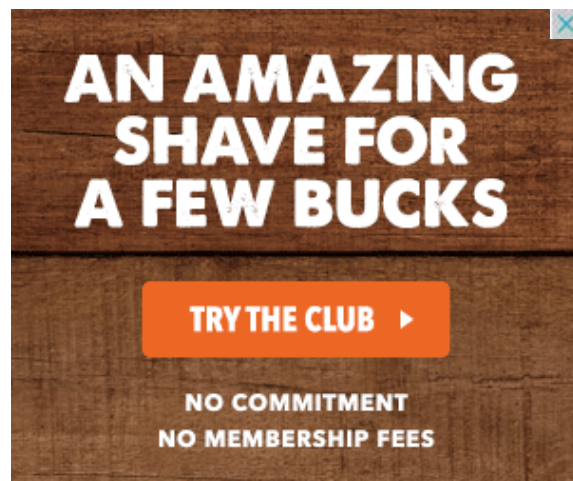


**SOCIAL SECURITY
SUCKS**

palmbeachgroup.com

Born before 1969? You can get
an extra \$4,098 monthly with this

>



**AN AMAZING
SHAVE FOR
A FEW BUCKS**

TRY THE CLUB ▶

**NO COMMITMENT
NO MEMBERSHIP FEES**

on Boston each year.

The National Weather Service's Hydrometeorological Design Studies Center estimates that Boston can expect about a foot of rain within a 24-hour stretch, and about 18 inches within a four-day period, once every 1,000 years. Relatively similar odds are predicted for other parts of Massachusetts.

By comparison, Charleston, S.C., had better chances of getting a foot of rain within 24 hours. Such rains are predicted roughly every 200 to 500 years there. But the chances of getting 18 inches within four days were the same in Boston and Charleston — once every 1,000 years.

Henson said that “in many parts of the globe, heavy rains are getting heavier,” particularly in the Northeast. Henson said the increasing intensity of rainfall is attributable to climate change.

“A warmer atmosphere and warmer oceans around the world are allowing more moisture to escape and enter the atmosphere,” he said. “So you have more fuel for rainstorms.”

Walker said that the record rains in South Carolina over the past several days were caused by a west-to-east-moving storm that got stuck over the area because its path was blocked by the slow-moving Hurricane Joaquin farther out in the Atlantic Ocean.

“It couldn't move off to the east, and that's what caused all the problems,” said Walker.

The rainfall in South Carolina was not directly attributable to Joaquin, but some moisture from the hurricane was pulled in by the other storm and then dumped on the area, he said.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele)

Get [Today's Headlines](#) from the Globe in your inbox:

[Privacy Policy](#)

SHOW 14 COMMENTS

Top 10 Trending Articles

Most Viewed

Most Commented

Most Shared

How feds gained an inner look at Mass. drug running

Ben Volin: Were the Patriots playing for No. 1 seed or health?

Nick Cafardo: Baseball's big hitters aren't connecting on fre...

Saudi Arabia cuts ties with Iran

Globe reporters, editors mobilize to aid home delivery teams

10 years later, did the Big Dig deliver?

MY ACCOUNT

Patriots fall to Dolphins, may have to settle for No. 2 seed

DOWNLOAD CUSTOMER SERVICE APP

Church allowed abuse by priest for years

E-mails show lawyer leveraging political relationships at Bo...

SOCIAL

FACEBOOK

Coast Guard reviewing policies after rescue gone wrong off ...

GOOGLE+

CONTACT

HELP

FAQS

GLOBE NEWSROOM

ADVERTISE

MORE

EPAPER

NEWS IN EDUCATION

ARCHIVES

PRIVACY POLICY

TERMS OF SERVICE

TERMS OF PURCHASE

YOUR AD CHOICES

WORK AT BOSTON GLOBE MEDIA