



Dam/Levee Failure

Occurs when any artificial barrier that impounds or diverts water is suddenly released in an uncontrollable manner, resulting in a flood wave that can damage buildings and infrastructure. Athens County has seven High Hazard Potential dams and two Significant Hazard Potential dams.



Drought and Extreme Heat

Droughts occur when water levels drop. They can occur anywhere, and they increase the risks of flash floods, wildfires, and landslides. Extreme heat events can occur anywhere in Athens County. Droughts occurred annually 2000, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2022, 2023 in Athens County.



Earthquake

Earthquakes are sudden and rapid movements caused by the abrupt shifting of Earth's tectonic plates deep beneath the surface. Although earthquakes are very rare, they are unpredictable and can be catastrophic.



Flooding

Floods are typically riverine, coastal, or shallow. Flash floods are floods that occur quickly, even occurring without visible signs of precipitation. Athens County has experienced 101 floods and flash floods since 1995. These events caused approximately \$17.7 million in property and crop damage.



Invasive Species

Invasive species are any species within Athens County that are not native to the area. These species can cause ecological or economic damage.



Landslides, Land Subsidence, and Rockfalls

A landslide occurs when rocks, earth, or other materials move down a slope. Common causes include rain, floods, and development practices along slopes. Land subsidence is when Earth's surface settles or suddenly sinks. These are common with abandoned mines.



Severe Summer Weather

Severe storms include hailstorms, heavy rain, high wind, and thunder/lightning storms. There have been 281 events in Athens County since 1995, causing approximately \$6 million in property and crop damage.



Severe Winter Weather and Extreme Cold

Winter storms can include extreme cold, freezing rain, ice, snow, high winds, or any combination of these conditions. There have been 93 events in Athens County since 1995, causing approximately \$287,000 in property damage.



Tornadoes

Tornadoes usually occur during severe thunderstorm events. Athens County has experienced at least four tornadoes since 1995. Tornadoes have caused approximately \$770,000 in property damage.



Wildfire

Wildfires are fires that occur in the wilderness or countryside and can spread quickly. Athens County has an average of eight wildfire events per year between 2018 and 2022.