A light rain began to fall over Southeastern Ken- tucky late on July 25th. By 6:00 AM on July 26th, thunderstorms had developed. Storms continued to roll in throughout the day, bringing as much as an inch and a half of rain by 8:00 PM. This heavy rainfall combined with a long dry period that had been going on for much of the summer, caused the rivers and streams to rise. During the late hours of the 27th and early morning of the 28th, these rivers and streams reached their peak levels. The result was widespread flooding, with many areas experiencing record-breaking levels.

Most of Eastern Kentucky saw at least some rain, with heavy downpours occurring in many areas. In some places, the rainfall was so heavy that it caused flash flooding, with water levels rising rapidly and flowing quickly. In others, the rain was spread out over a longer period of time, resulting in more gradual rises in water levels. The impact of the flooding was felt throughout the region, with many roads and bridges becoming impassable, and water levels in rivers and streams rising to levels not seen in many years.

In the days following the storm, efforts were made to assess the damage and begin the recovery process. Countless local and state officials worked tirelessly to provide aid and assistance to those affected by the flooding. The Kentucky Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) activated its Emergency Operations Center, and Governor Beshear declared a state of emergency in 20 counties. The Kentucky National Guard was activated to provide support, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved a major disaster declaration.

In the weeks and months following the flooding, the recovery process continued. Many individuals and businesses were left without homes, jobs, or access to basic necessities. The task of rebuilding and restoring order was massive, and it required the cooperation and efforts of many different organizations and individuals. Despite the challenges, however, the people of Kentucky were able to come together and support one another during this difficult time.