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FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF

FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2026

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Flooding at Rice Street Jail

Shortly after 5:00 a.m. today, detention staff reported a water leak from a toilet in a bathroom located in the third-floor medical unit area to jail maintenance. Maintenance personnel responded and attempted to tighten the coupling at the source of the leak. During the repair effort, the pipe coupling failed, resulting in widespread flooding that affected multiple areas on the third floor and levels below.

Areas impacted include the front entrance and lobby, medical clinic, officer's dining room, portions of the server room, and courtrooms. An estimated 70,000 gallons of water was released during this time. To facilitate repairs, water service to the building was temporarily shut off and has since been restored.

On October 11, 2025, a pipe burst during a planned repair causing flooding. At that time, several servers were damaged. The servers were replaced at a cost of \$1 million. Today, these servers were affected by the water. We are still assessing the full damage.

As of 5:00 p.m., water restoration contractors are still onsite extracting standing water and assessing any additional remediation needs.

Due to the closure of the front lobby, all employees and contractors are being directed to enter through the back entrance. The front parking lot should only be used by individuals picking up residents who have been released. The front lobby is expected to remain out of service until at least 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 1.

Importantly, no inmate resident housing units were affected by the flooding. Additionally, although we are experiencing freezing temperatures, this was not caused by the weather or frozen pipes.

Videos: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15c0Uu3ZyNBZWwix9yaps0BC80aonNnC>

ABOUT THE FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE: The mission of the Fulton County Sheriff's Office is Service; through laser-focused efforts to protect the citizens of Fulton County with coordinated law enforcement operations, special strategic teams, and community outreach methods. The Sheriff's Office is constitutionally responsible for the security of all courtrooms, executing arrest warrants, and serving civil papers. In addition, the Sheriff's Office is responsible for the administration and operation of the Fulton County Jail.

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