

# FLOOD IN FLORENCE

On November 4, 1966 in Tuscany the weather was terrible, it has been raining for days and rivers and streams are getting bigger especially the Arno.

In the night between 3 and 4 November begins to exult. The first city to be affected is Arezzo; a few hours later in Reggello also the stream Resco. Near Florence a house is overthrown causing the first seven victims in Florence the people unaware since the authorities decided not to make the bells think that the arno had a capacity of 4000 m<sup>3</sup> per second, that is 400 times larger than normal.

The flood arrives in Florence at 5:30 am and at 7:00 arrives in Piazza Cavallegeri.

The nightmare begins and people find themselves on the streets overwhelmed by a flood of mud and water.



Imagine the scene: you don't know what is happening and suddenly you see 3m of water coming towards you at 60 km/h. The first building affected was the National Central Library, then the historic center, also Piazza del Duomo and Piazza della Signoria.

Many public buildings were damaged and millions of cars were submerged.

The water has reached 4,92m as witnessed by some plaques on the walls of the city.

The city was flooded with millions of cubic meters of water.

There were 17 victims and you think that according to some, the dead would have been many more if the flood had been another day. November 4th is the day of the armed forces and national unity and until 76 was considered a holiday so most people were at home.

All were looking for the culprit: for this disaster there were dams.

Consider that the Vajont disaster was three years earlier, and the fear of dams was great.

After several investigations, it was understood that the dams had nothing to do with it, but that they helped a minimum to contain the flood of the Arno.

What were the causes? They were the overlapping of several weather events such as rain.