

NWS FORM E-5
(11-88)
(PRES. by WSOM E-41)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA)

Midland, Texas

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS

REPORT FOR:

MONTH

YEAR

August

2002

TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2
NOAA / National Weather Service
1325 East West Highway, Room 7230
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

SIGNATURE

J. DeBerry
In Charge of HSA

DATE

9/1/02

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924)

[X] No flood stages were reached in this HSA in August.

August evolved into the "normal" summertime weather pattern for the HSA, with high humidity, yet above-normal temperatures, as a broad ridge of high pressure anchored itself over the south central US. As such, for lack of any other low-level foci, most rainfall events were confined to the mountains, where orography triggered most convection.

On August 1-2, wet microbursts flooded portions of Midland in Midland County. Underpasses flooded, with runoff reaching the windshields of a few cars. Storms then developed further northwest, flooding numerous homes in Eunice in Lea County, as well as streets in Lovington. In Gaines County, US Hwy 180 flooded just south of Seminole, and County Rd 1788 flooded northeast of Andrews in Andrews County. Further west, I-10 flooded east of Van Horn in Culberson County. In Pecos in Reeves County, 6-8" of runoff flooded a few intersections. Dark Canyon in Eddy County flooded, putting some low-lying roadways in and around Carlsbad under as much as 3' of water. The Black River flooded roadways as well.

Activity then died down for a few days, until the 10th, when thunderstorms flooded secondary roads in and around Artesia in Eddy County.

On August 13th, an early cold front moved southeast through the HSA, spawning severe thunderstorms which produced mainly large hail and damaging winds. However, some flash flooding was reported. In both Glasscock and Midland Counties, rural roadways were inundated with as much as 2' of runoff in places.

On the evening of the 20th, thunderstorms developed from the Davis Mountains to the Upper Trans Pecos. A wet microburst flooded low water crossings just east of Alpine in Brewster County, and several homes and businesses in the city of Alpine were flash flooded as well. Farther north, US Hwy 285 and County Rd 436 were flooded with 6" of runoff south of Orla in Reeves County. Thunderstorms later developed north into Southeast New Mexico and eastward into Texas. Minor street flooding was reported in Tatum in Lea County, and several roads also flooded east of Seminole in Gaines County. In Big Spring in Howard County, street flooding forced the closure of numerous roads. Wildhorse Creek overran St. Hwy 350 with 1' of water.

Thunderstorms developed over the Davis Mountains again on August 21st. Low water crossings west-Northwest of Fort Davis in Jeff Davis County were inundated by as much as 2' of runoff.

The last flooding event of the month occurred August 30th, when thunderstorms developed over Eddy County, flooding streets in Carlsbad.

Some locations in the HSA that received notable amounts of precipitation for August were:

Marfa, Presidio County	3.57"
Forsan, Howard County	3.60"
Mount Locke, Jeff Davis County	3.86"
Chisos Basin, Brewster County	5.51"

The average of all stations reporting was 1.35".

Midland International Airport received 0.17" of precipitation for the month. Normal for the month of August is 1.77". Total for the year so far is 4.24", 5.18" below normal.

Short-term drought conditions across West Texas east of the Pecos/south of Midland are experiencing an unusually-moist spell, while areas north of Midland, as well as all of Southeast New Mexico, are in near-normal conditions. Only West Texas west of the Pecos is in moderate drought.

Reservoir levels across the HSA are averaging about 25% of conservation capacity, about the same as in July. Champion Creek Reservoir remains the lowest, at about 6% capacity, while Lake Colorado City is the highest, at 55% capacity. The flood threat remains low.

River products issued:
RVS = 0 FLS = 8 FLW = 0

cc:mail: DOA IBWC-ELP IBWC-PRS SWFED USGS-CNM USGS-SJT
cc:email: HIC W/SR2 W/SR3 W/SR-ABQ W/SR-ELP W/SR-FWR W/SR-LBB W/SR-MAF W/SR-SJT