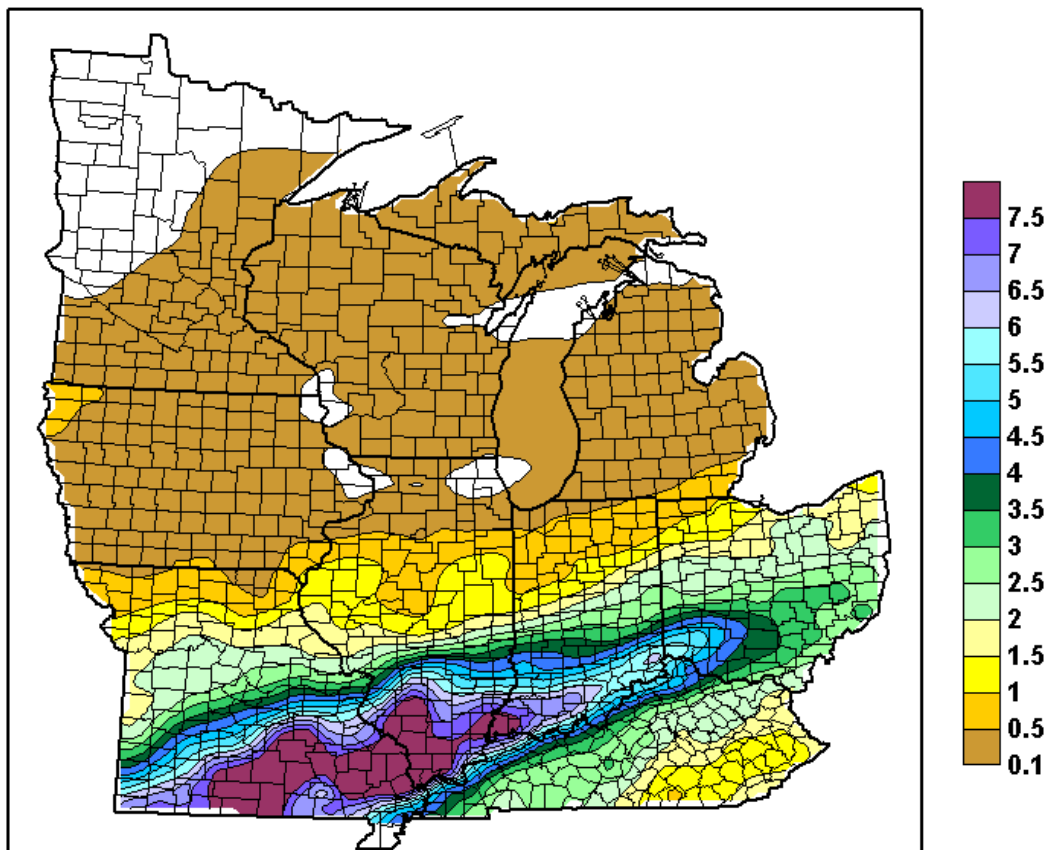


Overview

A large upper trough with a closed upper low slowly moved east across the Central United States March 17th through the 19th. This allowed a strong southerly flow to transport copious amounts of moisture from the deep south into the Midwest. Several waves of low pressure moved along a nearly stationary frontal boundary that remained just south of the forecast area, across northern Arkansas and extreme southern Illinois. Several rounds of rain and thunderstorms brought locally heavy rainfall to much of the forecast area, with the greatest amounts confined along and south of Interstate 44 in Missouri and Interstate 70 in Illinois. Total rainfall ranged from less than an inch across portions of west central Illinois to almost 10 inches in southern Reynolds County, Missouri. The excessive rainfall led to flash flooding of low lying areas and major flooding on local rivers and creeks for the next week. Many people were affected by this event, with millions of dollars in damage recorded across the forecast area.

7-Day NWS County MPE Precipitation (inches) valid at 06:00 CST on 03/21/2008



Flooding

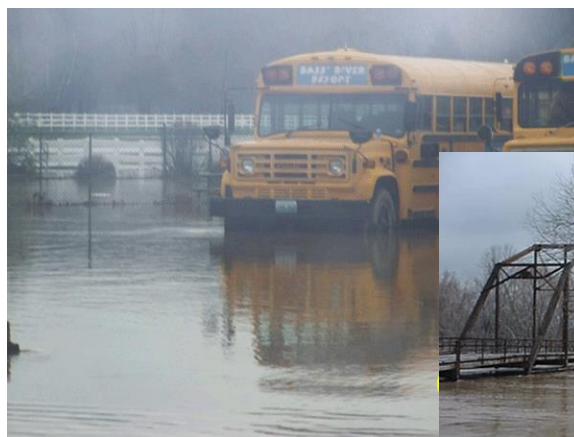
Ellington, Missouri Flash Flood

Ellington, Missouri received 2.77 inches of rainfall between 6 am and 10 am Tuesday March 18th from a series of thunderstorms that continuously went over the same area. This caused small creeks in town, including Logan Creek, to become roaring rivers. Much of the town experienced flooding and unfortunately one person was killed when trying to clear debris from underneath a bridge in front of his house.



Meramec River at Steelville, Missouri

The Meramec River crested at 26.84 feet (nearly 15 feet above flood stage) on March 19th, 2008 at 6 pm at Steelville, Missouri. This is approximately 0.4 feet, or three inches, below the record crest of 27.22 feet that was observed on July 27th, 1998. This flood event ranks as the second highest flood of record at this point on the Meramec River.



Flooding

Meramec River at Sullivan, Missouri

The Meramec River crested at 31.69 feet (nearly 17 feet above flood stage) on March 20th at 2 am at Sullivan, Missouri. This around 1.75 feet below the record stage of 33.50 feet that was observed on August 1st, 1915. This flood crest will rank as the fourth highest flood of record for this point on the Meramec River.



Meramec River at Eureka, Missouri

The Meramec River at Eureka, Missouri crested at 40.06 feet at 9 pm on March 22nd. This is the fifth highest flood crest ever recorded at this forecast point.



Flooding

Meramec River at Valley Park, Missouri

The Meramec River at Valley Park, Missouri crested at 37.83 feet at 7 am on March 22nd. This is the fourth highest flood crest ever recorded at this forecast point.



Meramec River at Pacific, Missouri

The Meramec River at Pacific, Missouri crested at 29.60 inches at 4 pm on March 21st. This is the third highest flood crest ever recorded at this forecast point.



Flooding

Meramec River at Arnold, Missouri

The Meramec River at Arnold, Missouri crested at 39.35 feet at 4 pm on March 22nd.



Bourbeuse River at Union, Missouri

Bourbeuse River at Union, Missouri rose to 25.89 feet at 7 am on March 21st, which is more than 10 feet above flood stage. This is the 6th highest crest in the history of this forecast point.



Flooding

Huzzah Creek - Highway 8 (Near Steelville, Missouri)

The Huzzah Creek, near Steelville, Missouri rose nearly 13 feet in less than 12 hours and crested at 15.69 feet at 11 pm on March 18th.



Big River at Byrnesville, Missouri

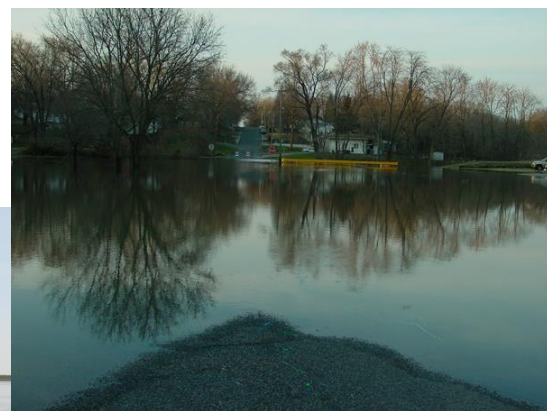
The Big River at Byrnesville crested at 27.57 feet at 2 p.m. on March 20th, which is more than 11 feet above the flood stage of 16 feet. This is the fifth highest flood crest ever recorded at this forecast point.



Flooding

Gasconade River at Rich Fountain, Missouri

The Gasconade River at Rich Fountain, Missouri crested at 32.64 feet at 4 pm on March 21st. This is the fourth highest crest ever recorded at this forecast point and only a few inches below the record crest of 33.27 feet which was recorded December 6th, 1982.



Kaskaskia River at Vandalia, Illinois

The Kaskaskia River at Vandalia, Illinois crested at 26.48 feet at 7 pm on March 21st. This was a major flood crest.



Flooding

Big River at Richwoods, Missouri

The Big River at Rochwoods crested at 28.70 feet at 3 pm on March 19th.



Any questions regarding this event review should be address to w-lsx.webmaster@noaa.gov