10 MOST SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENTS OF THE 1900S
FOR AUSTIN, DEL RIO AND SAN ANTONIO AND VICINITY

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AUSTIN/SAN ANTONIO TX
239 PM CST TUE DEC 28 1999

...10 MOST SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENTS OF THE 1900S
   FOR AUSTIN...DEL RIO AND SAN ANTONIO AND VICINITY...

SINCE ONE OF THE MAIN FOCUSES OF WEATHER IN CENTRAL AND
SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS INVOLVES PERIODS OF VERY HEAVY RAIN
AND FLASH FLOODING...NOT ALL HEAVY RAIN AND FLASH FLOOD
EVENTS ARE LISTED HERE.  MANY OTHER WEATHER EVENTS OF
SEASONAL SIGNIFICANCE ARE ALSO NOT LISTED HERE.  FOR MORE
DETAILS ON SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENTS ACROSS CENTRAL AND
SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS IN THE PAST 100 YEARS...SEE THE
DOCUMENT POSTED ON THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
AUSTIN/SAN ANTONIO WEBSITE AT

http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/ewx/wxevent/100.pdf

EVENTS LISTED BELOW ARE SHOWN IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER...
FIRST STARTING WITH AUSTIN AND VICINITY...FOLLOWED BY
DEL RIO AND VICINITY...AND ENDING WITH SAN ANTONIO AND
VICINITY.

AUSTIN AND VICINITY...

1. SEPTEMBER 8 - 10...1921 - THE REMNANTS OF A HURRICANE MOVED
   NORTHWARD FROM BEXAR COUNTY TO WILLIAMSON COUNTY ON THE
   9TH AND 10TH.  THE CENTER OF THE STORM BECAME STATIONARY
   OVER THRALL...TEXAS THAT NIGHT DROPPING 38.2 INCHES OF
   RAIN IN 24 HOURS ENDING AT 7 AM SEPTEMBER 10TH.  IN 6
   HOURS...23.4 INCHES OF RAIN FELL AND 31.8 INCHES OF RAIN
   FELL IN 12 HOURS.  STORM TOTAL RAIN AT THRALL WAS 39.7
   INCHES IN 36 HOURS.  THIS STORM CAUSED THE MOST DEADLY
   FLOODS IN TEXAS WITH A TOTAL OF 215 FATALITIES.

2. MAY 4...1922 - A TORNADO STRUCK AUSTIN... TEXAS CAUSING 13
   FATALITIES AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS IN DAMAGES.

3. 1935 - MAY AND JUNE FLOODS.  HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING IN CENTRAL
   AND SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS...INCLUDING AUSTIN.  9.21 INCHES OF
   RAIN IN MAY AND 9.71 INCHES IN JUNE 1935 FOR AUSTIN.
   IN JUNE OF 1935...HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING OCCURRED ACROSS
   PARTS OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY EAST TO AUSTIN AND ALSO IN
   THE UVALDE AND LA PRYOR AREAS.  RAINS AMOUNTING TO NEAR 20
   INCHES OCCURRED IN SOME PLACES IN EARLY TO MID JUNE 1935.
   EXTENSIVE FLOODING WAS OBSERVED ALONG THE LLANO... COLORADO
   AND PEDERNALES RIVERS...INCLUDING JUNCTION... LLANO...
   FREDERICKSBURG AND DOWNSTREAM TO AUSTIN.  EXTENSIVE FLOODING
   AFFECTED AUSTIN BY JUNE 14 AND 15...1935...WHERE THE
   COLORADO RIVER GOT UP TO JUST 1 FEET BELOW THE WORST
RECORDED FLOOD FOR AUSTIN...THAT CAME IN JULY OF 1869. FLOODING ALONG THE LLANO RIVER WAS THE HIGHEST OF RECORD AT THAT TIME.

4. JANUARY 31...1949 - THE COLDEST MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF RECORD...-2 AT AUSTIN MUELLER AIRPORT...FOLLOWED BY A HIGH OF 33. AT BERGSTROM AFB THE LOW WAS -5 AND HIGH WAS 30 ON JANUARY 31...1949. IN LATE JANUARY AND EARLY FEBRUARY OF 1951 AN ARCTIC OUTBREAK PRODUCING COLD OF LONG DURATION. LOW OF 7 FEBRUARY 2...1951 AT AUSTIN MUELLER AIRPORT AND 8 AT BERGSTROM AFB WAS OBSERVED.

5. 1951-56 LONG DROUGHT YEARS...PROBABLY DRIEST IN SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS. ALTHOUGH IT WAS A LONG DROUGHT...IT WAS BRIEFLY INTERRUPTED BY 2 FLOODS IN 1952 AND 1954.

6. 1981 FLOODS

MAY 24...1981 - THE MEMORIAL DAY FLOOD...CAUSED BY A 4 TO 10 INCH TORRENTIAL NIGHT TIME RAINS OVER AUSTIN...KILLED 13 PERSONS.

AUGUST 30 - 31...1981 - THE REMNANTS OF A MINIMAL TROPICAL STORM PRODUCED AN AREA OF HEAVY RAIN 50 TO 70 MILES WIDE AND 200 MILES LONG FROM SEGUIN TO NORTH OF HOUSTON. AT HALLETSVILLE...THE ENSUING FLOOD ON ROCKY CREEK PRODUCED A CREST OF 5 FEET ON THE TOWN SQUARE FLOODING THE COUNTY JAIL...19 PERCENT OF THE BUSINESSES...AND 70 PERCENT OF THE HOMES. THE FLOOD...CALLED THE HALLETSVILLE FLOOD...KILLED 5 PERSONS.

7. IN THE 1980S...TWO SEVERE ARCTIC OUTBREAKS IN DECEMBER...


8. DECEMBER 18 - 23...1991 - STEADY RAINS FROM SAN ANTONIO NORTHWARD TO NORTH OF AUSTIN PRODUCED MAJOR FLOODING ACROSS ALL OF
CREEKS AND RIVERS FROM THE SAN ANTONIO ON THE SOUTH TO THE BRAZOS ON THE NORTH. THE EXTENSIVE FLOODS FROM THE HIGHLAND LAKES TO THE COAST CAUSED TREMENDOUS LOSS OF PROPERTY. AUSTIN AND SAN ANTONIO RECORDED THEIR WETTEST DECEMBER ON RECORD.

9. MAY 27...1997 - THE JARRELL TORNADO...A RARE F5 TORNADO...CUT ACROSS JARRELL...TEXAS LEVELING THE AREA IN ITS PATH. IT KILLED 27 PERSONS IN JARRELL...1 IN CEDER PARK AND 1 IN PERDENALES VALLEY. THE SYSTEM SPANNEW WIDESPREAD SEVERE WEATHER WITH HAIL...DAMAGING WINDS...AND FLASH FLOODING ACROSS MOST OF SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS.

10. OCTOBER 17 - 18...1998 - TORRENTIAL RAINS FROM TRAVIS COUNTY SOUTHWARD PRODUCED DAMAGING FLOODS IN ONION CREEK...THE COLORADO...SAN MARCOS...GUADALUPE...AND SAN ANTONIO RIVERS. LESSER FLOODING OCCURRED UPSTREAM OF THE HILL COUNTRY DAMS. A 35 INCH RAINFALL CENTER OCCURRED A COUPLE OF MILES SOUTHEAST OF SAN MARCOS. THIRTY ONE PERSONS LOST THEIR LIVES WITH THIS EVENT.

DEL RIO AND VICINITY...

1. 1914 - THE WETTEST YEAR OF RECORD FOR DEL RIO WITH 37.75 INCHES OF PRECIPITATION.

2. APRIL 1927 - AN F5 TORNADO STRUCK ROCKSPRINGS...TEXAS DESTROYING MOST OF THE TOWN. THE TORNADO...OVER 1 MILE WIDE...CAUSED 72 FATALITIES IN ROCKSPRINGS AND 2 IN LEAKEY.

3. MAY AND JUNE 1935 - MAY AND JUNE...1935 FLOODS. HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING IN SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS...INCLUDING THE DEL RIO AREA. FOR DEL RIO MAY 1935 BROUGHT 4.89 INCHES OF RAIN...AND JUNE HAD 13.71 INCHES. ON MAY 31...1935 VERY HEAVY RAINS NEAR D' HANIS IN MEDINA COUNTY OF 22 TO 24 INCHES OF RAIN IN ONLY 2 HOURS AND 45 MINUTES. THE HEAVIEST RAINS OCCURRED AT WOODWARD RANCH ABOUT 17 MILES ABOVE D' HANIS ON THE SECO CREEK. EXTENSIVE FLOODING OCCURRED ALONG SECO CREEK.

IN JUNE OF 1935...HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING OCCURRED ACROSS PARTS OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY EAST TO AUSTIN AND ALSO IN THE UVALDE AND LA Pryor AREAS. RAINS AMOUNTING TO NEAR 20 INCHES OCCURRED IN SOME PLACES IN EARLY TO MID JUNE 1935. IN MID JUNE OF 1935...HEAVY RAINS STRUCK ON THE WEST NUECES AND NUECES RIVER PLUS SYCAMORE CREEK. FLOODING WAS NOTED FROM NORTH OF BRACKETTVILLE TO ALONG SYCAMORE CREEK TO THE RIO GRANDE...A FEW MILES BELOW DEL RIO...AND EAST TO UVALDE. RAINS IN UVALDE ON JUNE 15...1935 CAME IN WITH 12.5 INCHES IN 12 HOURS AND 17.6 INCHES IN 24 HOURS.

4. JANUARY 31...1949 - COLD ARCTIC OUTBREAK. LOW OF 17 AND HIGH OF 40 ON JANUARY 31ST IN DEL RIO. IN LATE JANUARY AND EARLY FEBRUARY 1951 AN ARCTIC OUTBREAK PRODUCED COLD OF LONG DURATION. THE LOW OF 11 THAT OCCURRED IN DEL RIO ON
FEBRUARY 2...1951 WAS THE 2ND COLDEST LOW OF RECORD FOR DEL RIO. THE COLDEST OF RECORD FOR DEL RIO CAME DECEMBER 23...1989 WHEN THE LOW WAS 10.

5. 1951-56 LONG DROUGHT YEARS...PROBABLY DRIEST IN SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS. ALTHOUGH IT WAS A LONG DROUGHT...IT WAS BRIEFLY INTERRUPTED BY 2 FLOODS IN 1952 AND 1954.


7. IN THE 1980S...TWO SEVERE ARCTIC OUTBREAKS IN DECEMBER...


8. JANUARY 1985 - RECORD SNOWFALL OCCURRED FROM DEL RIO EASTWARD TO SAN ANTONIO. DEL RIO RECORDED 8.5 INCHES OF SNOW. NEARLY A YEAR LATER ANOTHER HEAVY SNOW EVENT CAME TO DEL RIO JANUARY 7TH AND 8TH...1986...WHEN 8.2 INCHES OF SNOW FELL.

9. SUMMER OF 1998 - 69 CONTINUOUS DAYS OF OVER 100 DEGREE RECORDED IN DEL RIO...HOTTER THAN TEMPERATURES RECORDED IN 1980...THE PREVIOUS LONG HOT SPELL.

10. AUGUST 22 TO 24...1998 - TROPICAL STORM CHARLEY MOVED INLAND ACROSS SOUTH TEXAS DROPPING TORRENTIAL RAINS. ON AUGUST 22 AND 23...IT MOVED INTO THE DEL RIO AREA DROPPING 17.03 INCHES OF RAIN AT DEL RIO...MOST OF IT OCCURRING WITHIN A 12 HOUR PERIOD. THE ENSUING
FLASH FLOOD DOWN SAN FELIPE CREEK DEVASTATING THE COMMUNITY ALONG THE CREEK AND CAUSING 9 FATALITIES. ALL RIVERS AND CREEKS FROM HONDO WESTWARD EXPERIENCED FLOODING FROM THIS EVENT.

SAN ANTONIO AND VICINITY...

1. SEPTEMBER 9...1921 - THE REMNANTS OF A HURRICANE MOVED OVER SAN ANTONIO DROPPING 18 INCHES OF RAIN IN NORTHERN BEXAR COUNTY. THE ENSUING FLOOD WAVE DOWN OLMOS AND OTHER AREA CREEKS INUNDATED DOWNTOWN SAN ANTONIO WITH 12 FEET OF WATER. 51 FATALITIES OCCURRED THAT NIGHT IN THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO. THE CENTER OF THE STORM BECAME STATIONARY OVER THRALL...DROPPING 38.2 INCHES OF RAIN IN 24 HOURS ENDING AT 7 AM SEPTEMBER 10TH. IN 6 HOURS...23.4 INCHES OF RAIN FELL AND 31.8 INCHES OF RAIN FELL IN 12 HOURS. STORM TOTAL RAIN AT THRALL WAS 39.7 INCHES IN 36 HOURS. THIS STORM CAUSED THE MOST DEADLY FLOODS IN TEXAS WITH A TOTAL OF 215 FATALITIES.

2. MARCH TO JUNE 1935 - MARCH 5...1935 - VERY POWERFUL HAIL/WIND STORM AFFECTED SAN ANTONIO. ONE MILLION DOLLARS PROPERTY DAMAGE. MAY AND JUNE...1935 FLOODS. HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING IN SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS...INCLUDING AUSTIN AND SAN ANTONIO. FOR SAN ANTONIO MAY 1935 BROUGHT 14.07 INCHES OF RAIN...NETTEST MAY OF RECORD...AND JUNE HAD 8.41 INCHES. AFTER ONE EPISODE OF HEAVY RAINS IN MAY 1935...WATER GOT INTO STORES ON ALAMO PLAZA IN SAN ANTONIO. ON MAY 31...1935 VERY HEAVY RAINS NEAR D' HANIS IN MEDINA COUNTY OF 22 TO 24 INCHES OF RAIN IN ONLY 2 HOURS AND 45 MINUTES. THE HEAVIEST RAINS OCCURRED AT WOODWARD RANCH ABOUT 17 MILES ABOVE D' HANIS ON THE SECO CREEK. EXTENSIVE FLOODING OCCURRED ALONG SECO CREEK.

IN JUNE OF 1935...HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING OCCURRED ACROSS PARTS OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY EAST TO AUSTIN AND ALSO IN THE UVALDE AND LA PRYOR AREAS. RAINS AMOUNTING TO NEAR 20 INCHES OCCURRED IN SOME PLACES IN EARLY TO MID JUNE 1935. WEST OF SAN ANTONIO IN MID JUNE OF 1935...HEAVY RAINS STRUCK ON THE WEST NUECES AND NUECES RIVER PLUS SYCAMORE CREEK. FLOODING WAS NOTED FROM NORTH OF BRACKETVILLE TO ALONG SYCAMORE CREEK TO THE RIO GRANDE...A FEW MILES BELOW DEL RIO...AND EAST TO UVALDE. RAINS IN UVALDE ON JUNE 15...1935 CAME IN WITH 12.5 INCHES IN 12 HOURS AND 17.6 INCHES IN 24 HOURS.

3. JANUARY 31...1949 - ZERO DEGREES AT SAN ANTONIO...THE COLDEST TEMPERATURE OF RECORD IN SAN ANTONIO...OCCURRED IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JANUARY 31...1949...WITH SNOW ON THE GROUND. THE HIGH THAT DAY WAS 38. IN LATE JANUARY AND EARLY FEBRUARY OF 1951 AN ARCTIC OUTBREAK PRODUCED COLD OF LONG DURATION...LONGEST BELOW 32 FOR SAN ANTONIO. TOTAL TIME BELOW FREEZING FOR SAN ANTONIO WAS 108 HOURS AND 28 MIN. FROM MIDNIGHT JAN. 29 TO 12:28 PM FEB. 2...1951. LOW OF 6 FEBRUARY 2...1951 WAS NOT REACHED AGAIN IN SAN ANTONIO UNTIL
DECEMBER 23...1989.

4. 1951-56 LONG DROUGHT YEARS...PROBABLY DRIEST IN SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS. ALTHOUGH IT WAS A LONG DROUGHT...IT WAS BRIEFLY INTERRUPTED BY 2 FLOODS IN 1952 AND 1954.

5. IN THE 1970S...TWO MAJOR FLOODS

MAY 11...1972 - HEAVY RAINS OVER EASTERN COMAL COUNTY BETWEEN 8 PM AND MIDNIGHT CAUSED A DEVASTATING FLOOD ON THE GUADALUPE RIVER AT NEW BRAUNFELS... TEXAS. SIXTEEN AND A HALF INCHES WERE RECORDED HALF WAY BETWEEN CANYON DAM AND NEW BRAUNFELS ON THE GUADALUPE RIVER WATERSHED. WIDE SPREAD DAMAGE TO HOMES AND BUSINESS OCCURRED AS THE FLOOD WAVE MOVED DOWNSTREAM THROUGH LAKE DUNLAP AND LAKE McQUEENEY. FIFTEEN PERSONS DROWNED AND DAMAGE REACHED INTO THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS.

AUGUST 1978 - AUGUST HILL COUNTRY FLOODS. THE REMNANTS OF TROPICAL STORM AMELIA CAUSED TRAGIC AND DISSASTROUS FLOODS OVER THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY. 48 INCHES OF RAIN FELL AT MEDINA IN 52 HOURS AND 27 FATALITIES IN THE HILL COUNTRY. HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODS MOVED TO NEAR ALBANY IN NORTH TEXAS, WHERE 8 FATALITIES OCCURRED.

6. LATE WINTER TO SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER OF 1973 - STORMY PERIOD THAT BROUGHT SEvere weather AND FLOODS. AFTER A SNOW IN JANUARY AND ANOTHER IN FEBRUARY...SEVERE WEATHER FOLLOWED IN MARCH WITH A TRAGIC TORNADO AT BURNET. ON MARCH 10...1973 THE BURNET TORNADO DAMAGED OR DESTROYED 40 BUSINESSES AND 161 HOMES. STORMY WEATHER CONTINUED INTO APRIL AND PART OF MAY. ON APRIL 15...1973 AN F4 TORNADO CUT A SWATCH ACROSS PEARSSALL...TEXAS KILLING 5 PERSONS AS IT CROSSED INTERSTATE 35. ANOTHER TORNADO...AN F2...CUT ACROSS MEDINA...TEXAS THE SAME DAY.

7. IN THE 1980S...TWO SEVERE ARCTIC OUTBREAKS IN DECEMBER...


8. JANUARY 1985 - RECORD SNOWS FALLS ACROSS SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS FROM DEL RIO TO SAN ANTONIO WITH SAN ANTONIO RECEIVING 13.5 INCHES...VIRTUALLY PARALYZING THE CITY.

9. 1987 FLOODS


JULY 17...1987 - OVERNIGHT TORRENTIAL RAINS ON THE UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER CAUSED A FLOOD WAVE TO MOVE DOWNSTREAM. THE FLOOD WAVE CAUGHT A CHURCH CAMP SCHOOL BUS TRYING TO LEAVE THE PROPERTY. OUT OF 40 STUDENTS...10 LOST THEIR LIVES IN THIS TRAGIC INCIDENT.

10. 1990S FLOODS

DECEMBER 18 - 23...1991 - STEADY RAINS FROM SAN ANTONIO NORTHWARD TO NORTH OF AUSTIN PRODUCED MAJOR FLOODING ACROSS ALL OF CREEKS AND RIVERS FROM THE SAN ANTONIO ON THE SOUTH TO THE BRAZOS ON THE NORTH. THE EXTENSIVE FLOODS FROM THE HIGHLAND LAKES TO THE COAST CAUSED TREMENDOUS LOSS OF PROPERTY. AUSTIN AND SAN ANTONIO Recorder THEIR WETTEST DECEMBER ON RECORD.

OCTOBER 17 - 18... 1998 - TORRENTIAL RAINS ACROSS BEXAR COUNTY NORTHWARD TO TRAVIS COUNTY CAUSED SEVERE FLOODING ON OLMOS...LEON...AND SALADO CREEKS IN SAN ANTONIO. THE SAN ANTONIO...GUADALUPE...SAN MARCOS... COLORADO RIVERS AND TRIBUTARIES EXPERIENCED A MAJOR FLOOD. THIRTY ONE PERSONS DROWNED...7 IN SAN ANTONIO.