TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

OCTOBER 15-22, 2006
Severe Weather & Flood Event

by Sam Shamburger, Journeyman Forecaster, & Montra Lockwood, Service Hydrologist

Flash flooding near St. Louis High School in Lake Charles, LA on October 18
Since Hurricane Rita, rainfall has been a scarce commodity across Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana. A few weather systems have brought some rainfall during that time, including a few very heavy rain events over Southeast Texas and extreme Southwest Louisiana. However, the series of heavy rainfall events from October 15th through October 22nd signifies a change in the weather pattern across the region, partly in response to developing El Nino conditions in the Pacific Ocean.

These series of strong storm systems were the result of warm fronts moving north from the Gulf of Mexico, pulling tropical moisture into the area. This moisture combined with increasing upper level moisture from southwesterly winds aloft. As these warm fronts shifted north, upper level disturbances traveling in the upper flow aided in the development of widespread showers and thunderstorms during the seven day period.

The first in the series of storm systems brought initially welcome rainfall on Sunday, October 15th, since the area was experiencing abnormally dry conditions. However, the continued heavy rainfall on Monday October 16th saturated soils across much of the region, leading to creeks and bayous filling with water runoff. Serious flooding began in many locations with numerous road closures and water approaching homes. Southeast Texas and West-Central Louisiana were especially hard hit as continuous bands of heavy rainfall moved repeatedly across Hardin, Tyler, Jasper, and Newton Counties, as well as Vernon Parish.

Rainfall totals from this first storm system ranged from only one inch in portions of South-Central Louisiana, to as high as 10-15 inches in a 20 mile wide band from Sour Lake to Kountze to Jasper to Toledo Bend Dam to Anacoco. This heavy rainfall caused minor to moderate river flooding on several rivers in the area.

This first storm system also was unusually strong for October, with a deep area of low pressure that brought widespread high winds and severe weather to the region. This area of low pressure helped spawn several severe thunderstorms with tornadoes across Southeast Texas and Louisiana, causing some damage to homes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Flood Damage</th>
<th>Tornado Damage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson County</td>
<td>45 homes damaged</td>
<td>10 homes destroyed, 17 homes damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>100 homes damaged, 42 destroyed</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardin County</td>
<td>100 homes &amp; 1 church damaged</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler County</td>
<td>95+ homes damaged</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasper County</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton County</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>1 home damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Parish</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>1 home destroyed, 1 home damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermilion Parish</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>1 home damaged</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The second and third storm systems in the series also brought widespread additional rainfall to Southeast Texas and much of Louisiana, as well as more severe weather in some locations. Rainfall totals from these two systems once again ranged from as little as one inch in areas near the coast, to as much as 8 inches in parts of Southeast Texas, Central Louisiana, and Southwest Louisiana. Unlike the previous system, heavy rainfall also fell in portions of South-Central Louisiana. All of this additional rainfall led to moderate and major river flooding on numerous rivers in Southeast Texas and western Louisiana. Some rivers reached their highest levels ever recorded, leading to widespread flooding of roadways, homes, and businesses.

Overall, this series of storm systems was one of the most active severe weather and flooding events in the history of the National Weather Service office in Lake Charles. Numerous weather watches and warnings were issued over the seven day period from October 15th through October 22nd.

| # of Watches and Warnings issued by NWS Lake Charles Oct 15 - Oct 22 |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tornado Watch            | 4                        |
| Tornado Warning          | 35                       |
| Severe Thunderstorm Warning | 20                      |
| Special Marine Warning   | 21                       |
| Flash Flood Watch        | 1                        |
| Flash Flood Warning      | 34                       |
| Flood Watch              | 2                        |
| Flood Warning            | 25*                      |
| Coastal Flood Warning    | 1                        |
| Urban & Small Stream Flood Advisory | 10*        |

* = incomplete data
Strong easterly winds on Sunday October 15th caused tide levels to run 1 to 2 feet above normal. These winds increased further Sunday evening into Monday October 16th, while switching to a more southerly direction. This caused the tide levels to rise even further, with some areas seeing tide levels 3 to 5 feet above normal. These readings were the highest seen since Hurricane Rita in September 2005.

**LOCATION**

(Click on a location for more information)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>HIGHEST TIDE (MLLW)</th>
<th>HIGHEST TIDE (MSL)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calcasieu Pass</td>
<td>4.65 FT</td>
<td>3.42 FT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cypremort Point</td>
<td>3.47 FT</td>
<td>2.54 FT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Canal Locks</td>
<td>5.18 FT</td>
<td>3.90 FT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Charles</td>
<td>3.25 FT</td>
<td>2.58 FT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabine Pass North</td>
<td>4.22 FT</td>
<td>3.25 FT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Coastal Flooding Pictures 10/16/06**

- Flooded roads near the Calcasieu River
- Flooded roads along the Calcasieu River in North Lake Charles
- I-10 Beach is submerged in Lake Charles

Photo by Stephen Carboni, Forecaster
OCTOBER 15-16, 2006
Peak Wind Gusts

An area of low pressure brought unusually strong southeasterly and southerly winds to Southeast Texas and Louisiana on 10/15 and 10/16.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>MAX WIND GUST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria Dean Lee LAIS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>50 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcasieu Pass LA Tidal Gage</td>
<td>NOAA</td>
<td>49 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Rim State Park TX</td>
<td>NDBC</td>
<td>48 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Barre LA R&amp;D Research LAIS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>48 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowley LA Rice Research LAIS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>48 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self Strip LA (5N Fort Polk)</td>
<td>ASOS</td>
<td>46 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodville TX RAWS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>45 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Texas Regional Airport</td>
<td>ASOS</td>
<td>44 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria International Airport</td>
<td>ASOS</td>
<td>40 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Charles Regional Airport</td>
<td>ASOS</td>
<td>39 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Iberia Acadiana Regional Apt</td>
<td>ASOS</td>
<td>38 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buna TX RAWS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>39 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardner TX RAWS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>39 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McFadden NWR TX RAWS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>39 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosepine LA LAIS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>39 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esler Field LA (Pineville)</td>
<td>ASOS</td>
<td>37 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafayette LA Regional Airport</td>
<td>ASOS</td>
<td>37 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holmwood LA RAWS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>36 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fullerton Strip LA (12 SE Fort Polk)</td>
<td>ASOS</td>
<td>32 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Point LA</td>
<td>ASOS</td>
<td>31 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peason Ridge LA (17 N Fort Polk)</td>
<td>ASOS</td>
<td>31 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren TX RAWS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>30 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Fort Polk LA RAWS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>29 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeanerette LA LAIS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>28 MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Polk LA RAWS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>27 MPH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASOS = Automated Official Weather Station
COOP = Cooperative Observer Manual Weather Station
MESONET = Automated Unofficial Weather Station
OCTOBER 15-16, 2006
Low Pressure Readings

An area of low pressure brought unusually low pressure readings to the area on October 16. Some of these pressure readings across central Louisiana were nearly as low as readings measured during Hurricane Rita.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>LOWEST PRESSURE (in of Hg)</th>
<th>LOWEST PRESSURE (mb)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria International Airport</td>
<td>29.38&quot;</td>
<td>994.9 mb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Texas Regional Airport</td>
<td>29.42&quot;</td>
<td>996.3 mb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Polk LA</td>
<td>29.43&quot;</td>
<td>996.6 mb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Charles Regional Airport</td>
<td>29.46&quot;</td>
<td>997.6 mb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafayette LA Regional Airport</td>
<td>29.53&quot;</td>
<td>1000.0 mb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Iberia Acadiana Regional Apt</td>
<td>29.54&quot;</td>
<td>1000.3 mb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OCTOBER 15-22, 2006
7-Day Rainfall Totals

National Weather Service
Louisiana
7 Day - Estimated Precipitation Ending at 12Z
Updated October 22, 2006 14:14Z

[Map showing rainfall totals]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION (TEXAS)</th>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>7 DAY RAINFALL TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kountze</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>20.25&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren RAWS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>18.80&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silsbee 4N</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>18.07&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildwood</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>17.76&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toledo Bend Dam</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>17.23&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodville RAWS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>15.66&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodville</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>14.60&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buna RAWS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>13.60&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>12.69&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steinhagen Lake</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>12.60&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumberton</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>11.09&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange 9N</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>10.15&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaumont Research Center</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>10.01&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaumont Water Plant</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>9.30&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange Water Plant</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>8.77&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Texas Regional Airport</td>
<td>ASOS</td>
<td>8.33&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McFadden NWR RAWS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>7.48&quot;</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION (LOUISIANA)</th>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>7 DAY RAINFALL TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Fort Polk RAWS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>14.44&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deridder</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>14.38&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Polk RAWS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>14.27&quot;</td>
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<td>Rosepine LAIS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>13.84&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>13.76&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Town Bay</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>13.18&quot;</td>
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<td>Moss Bluff</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>12.11&quot;</td>
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<td>Red River Lock #2</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>11.89&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria LSU Dean Lee</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>11.85&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennings</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>11.60&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opelousas</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>11.52&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyce 7SW</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>11.49&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fullerton Strip 12SE Fort Polk</td>
<td>ASOS</td>
<td>11.44&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardner RAWS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>10.85&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leesville</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>10.80&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Station</td>
<td>Rainfall (in)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eunice</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>10.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esler Field</td>
<td>ASOS</td>
<td>10.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria 5SSE</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>10.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria Power Plant</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>9.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port of Lake Charles</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>9.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Water Barrier</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>9.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Barre R&amp;D Research LAIS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>9.15</td>
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<td>Crowley 2NE</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>8.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Houston Jones State Park</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>8.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bunkie</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>8.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Charles Regional Airport</td>
<td>ASOS</td>
<td>8.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowley Rice Research LAIS</td>
<td>MESONET</td>
<td>7.92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marksville</td>
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<td>7.58</td>
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<td>Oakdale</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>7.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elmer 2SW</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>7.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cameron Prairie NWR</td>
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<td>Sulphur</td>
<td>COOP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Arthur 10SW</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>6.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeanerette 5NW</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>5.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oberlin Fire Tower</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>5.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carencro</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>5.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafayette</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>5.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leland Bowman Lock</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>4.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeanerette LAIS</td>
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<td>Abbeville</td>
<td>COOP</td>
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<td>Lafayette Regional Airport</td>
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<td>Ville Platte</td>
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<td>4.25</td>
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<td>Rockefeller NWR</td>
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<td>4.16</td>
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<td>New Iberia</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>3.85</td>
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<td>Kaplan</td>
<td>COOP</td>
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<td>New Iberia Acadiana Regional Apt</td>
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<td>2.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan City</td>
<td>COOP</td>
<td>2.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ASOS = Automated Official Weather Station*

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OCTOBER 15-22, 2006
River Flooding

Highest River Levels across Southeast Texas from 10/15/06 to 10/22/06

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RIVER LOCATION</th>
<th>CREST</th>
<th>HISTORICAL LEVEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Village Creek at Kountze</td>
<td>28.33 FT</td>
<td>1st (official)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neches River at Weiss Bluff</td>
<td>21.10 FT</td>
<td>1st (estimated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neches River at Beaumont</td>
<td>11.70 FT</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Island Bayou at Sour Lake</td>
<td>31.03 FT</td>
<td>7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neches River at Evadale</td>
<td>19.46 FT</td>
<td>8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabine River at Deweyville</td>
<td>27.93 FT</td>
<td>8th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VILLAGE CREEK 4 NE KOUNTZE

Universal Time (UTC)

Latest observed value: 15.75 ft at 8:30 AM CDT 25 Oct 2006. Flood Stage is 17.0 ft. The forecast data shown here are guidance values only. Please refer to your local NWS office for the latest official public river forecasts.

Record Stage: 34.0’

Major Stage: 23.0’

Moderate Stage: 21.0’

Flood Stage: 17.0’

Graph Created (314am Oct 25, 2006)  Observed  Forecast (issued 843am Oct 25)

KOUT2 (plotting HGRG)  Gage 0’ Datum: 25.1’

Observations courtesy of the US Geological Survey
**PINE ISLAND BAYOU 5.1 SE SOUR LAKE**

Latest observed value: 29.32 ft at 9:01 AM CDT 25-Oct-2006. Flood Stage is 25.0 ft. Forecast data shown here are guidance values only. Please refer to your local NWS office for the latest official public river forecasts.

**SABINE RIVER 0.5 N DEWEYVILLE**

Latest observed value: 25.2 ft at 9:45 AM CDT 26-Oct-2006. Flood Stage is 24.0 ft. Forecast data shown here are guidance values only. Please refer to your local NWS office for the latest official public river forecasts.
Latest observed value: 9.5 ft at 7:00 AM CDT 26 Oct 2006. Flood Stage is 17.0 ft.

Record Stage: 26.4 ft
Major Stage: 24.0 ft
Moderate Stage: 21.0 ft
Flow Stage: 17.0 ft

Graph Created (11:28am Oct 26, 2006) - Observed

Observations courtesy of the US Geological Survey

RPIL1 (plotting HG1FG) "Gage 0" Datum: 118.1 ft
OCTOBER 16, 2006
Tornadoes

As a strong area of low pressure moved across the region on Monday, October 16th, with a warm front lifting northward from the Gulf of Mexico across Southeast Texas and Louisiana. Strong wind shear in the atmosphere and favorable atmospheric instability levels helped spawn several tornadoes across Southeast Texas and Louisiana. Although this table lists the known tornadoes that occurred, several more likely touched down unseen in the early morning darkness on October 16.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>F-SCALE</th>
<th>PATH WIDTH</th>
<th>PATH LENGTH</th>
<th>DAMAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 E China TX</td>
<td>F1</td>
<td>100 yards</td>
<td>3 miles</td>
<td>10 homes destroyed, 17 others damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 N Gueydan LA</td>
<td>F1</td>
<td>20 yards</td>
<td>1/2 mile</td>
<td>1 home damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 SE Iota LA</td>
<td>F1</td>
<td>20 yards</td>
<td>1/2 mile</td>
<td>1 home destroyed, 1 other damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 W Crowley LA</td>
<td>F0</td>
<td>50 yards</td>
<td>1 mile</td>
<td>none known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 S Midland LA</td>
<td>F0</td>
<td>20 yards</td>
<td>1/4 mile</td>
<td>none known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumberton TX</td>
<td>F0</td>
<td>20 yards</td>
<td>1/4 mile</td>
<td>none known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weirgate TX</td>
<td>F0</td>
<td>20 yards</td>
<td>1/4 mile</td>
<td>1 home damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitkin LA</td>
<td>F0</td>
<td>20 yards</td>
<td>1/4 mile</td>
<td>none known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effie LA</td>
<td>F0</td>
<td>20 yards</td>
<td>1/4 mile</td>
<td>none known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Chenier LA</td>
<td>F0</td>
<td>20 yards</td>
<td>1/4 mile</td>
<td>none known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morse LA</td>
<td>F0</td>
<td>20 yards</td>
<td>1/4 mile</td>
<td>none known</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Radar Images 10/16/06

Base Reflectivity Image from Houston Radar at 5:56 am showing the tornadic thunderstorm near China, TX

Storm Relative Velocity Image from Houston Radar at 5:56 am showing the mesocyclone near China, TX
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tornado Pictures from 10/16/06</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tornado west of Crowley, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo by Shari Hanks &amp; courtesy of Rob Perillo KATC-TV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tornado damage in China, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo by Roger Erickson, WCM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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