

NWS FORM E-5 (11-88) (PRES. by NWS Instruction 10-924)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA)	
		NWFO NEW ORLEANS/BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA	
MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS		REPORT FOR: MONTH APRIL YEAR 2004	
		SIGNATURE Paul S. Trotter, Meteorologist-In-Charge	
TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2 NOAA / National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283		DATE MAY 14, 2004	

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)

...Stormy April Weather Produced Flooding in South Mississippi...

April started with a series of weak frontal systems that stalled over southern Mississippi and southeastern Louisiana. Little rainfall developed with these systems. Minor flooding started in mid-March on the Atchafalaya River at Morgan City, LA. On April 1, the river fell below its 4.0-foot flood stage, after cresting at 4.8 feet on March 25. The river briefly rose above flood stage later in the day on April 1 and quickly receded.

After a period of calm weather, stormy weather approached southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi around April 7. Rainfall developed over the next few days through April 13. Total amounts varied from a few tenths to over 2.00 inches across southeastern Louisiana. New Orleans (MSY) reported 2.59 inches on April 11 alone. McComb, MS recorded 1.37 inches for the period. Behind this system, high pressure developed over the region and persisted.

The area of high pressure eroded by April 24 over southeast Louisiana and south Mississippi, as a cold front pushed approached. Scattered thunderstorms, with very heavy rainfall, spread into the region by April 25. The following stations recorded the greatest rainfall: New Orleans (MSY) 7.67 inches; Lutcher 5.62 inches; Algiers 4.93 inches; Reserve 4.52 inches; and Kentwood 4.37 inches. Heavy rainfall continued through April 26 as the cold front slowly passed through the region.

Due to the heavy downpours over south Mississippi on April 25 and April 26, the West Hobolochitto Creek, the East Hobolochitto Creek and the Biloxi River rose above their flood stages. During the evening of April 25, the copious rainfall contributed to the failure of an earthen dam in Pearl River County near Carriere. The immediate area around the 10-acre pond had minor flooding; two homes were slightly impacted. Major flooding developed on the West Hobolochitto Creek on April 25 at McNeil, MS. The river crested 5.2 feet above its 15-foot flood stage on April 26. Moderate flooding developed on the East Hobolochitto Creek on April 26 at Caesar, MS. The river crested 2.5 feet above its 15-foot flood stage on April 26. Minor flooding developed April 26 on the Biloxi River at Lyman, MS. The river crested at 12.9 feet, 0.9 feet above its flood stage. All flooding ended on April 27. Flash floods caused damages over several areas of southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi during the two-day event.

After a brief reprieve from the heavy rainfalls, return flow from the Gulf of Mexico led to warmer temperatures and higher humidity again by April 29. Heavy rain and severe weather developed over southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi. By April 30, heavy downpours produced flash floods in Point Coupee and Lafourche Parishes, as well as other parts of southeast Louisiana. For some areas, the majority of their monthly total occurred in this event. Some of the greatest rainfall amounts were:

Location	Rainfall 4/26 to 5/1	April Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal
Galliano	10.10	10.51	+6.08
LSU-Citrus	6.29	11.30	+7.15
Lutcher	5.52	8.34	
Marrero	5.50	11.74	
New Orleans (MSY)	*	14.81	+9.79

*New Orleans (MSY)/Armstrong International Airport recorded 7.67 inches on April 25.