

<b>NWS FORM E-5</b> (11-88) (PRES. by NWS Instruction 10-924)	<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b> NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA)	
		<b>NWFO NEW ORLEANS/BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA</b>	
<b>MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS</b>		REPORT FOR: MONTH <b>FEBRUARY</b> YEAR <b>2004</b>	
		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 <b>March 18, 2004</b>	

*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)*

**...Wet Weather and Floods Over the Lower Mississippi River Valley in February 2004...**

*For the first two days of February, flooding that started in late January continued on the Lower Pearl River. As the water receded, a cold front pushed southeast and combined with a low pressure system over the western Gulf of Mexico. Light rainfall developed across Louisiana and south Mississippi by February 2. Heavy rainfall started February 4 and ended February 6. Urban flooding occurred over metropolitan New Orleans and in the Baton Rouge area. The greatest rainfall reported within the region occurred at Oaknolia, LA, where the total was in excess of 5 inches. At Baton Rouge, amounts between 4 and 5 inches were reported at some locations.*

*Areal rainfall totals averaged from one to 2.5 inches across the southern portions of Louisiana and Mississippi. Precipitation averages were as much as 170% of normal. With soils totally saturated, flooding began to develop on February 6. Moderate to major floods occurred on the Comite River, the Bogue Chitto River, and the Lower Pearl River. Minor floods occurred on the Amite River, the Tickfaw River, and the Tangipahoa River. Waters receded by February 9, except on the Lower Pearl River.*

*Rain developed again by February 10 and persisted through February 14 over southern Mississippi and Louisiana. Most areas had rainfall amounts of over one inch on February 11; McComb, MS had 3.01 inches. For the week, the greatest rain total reported in the region was in New Orleans, where over 7 inches was recorded. More than 6.0 inches of rain occurred during the week at the University of New Orleans and at Norwood. Weekly rainfall averages were almost three times the normal amounts for that time of year.*

*With the rivers still swollen, this heavy rainfall produced floods starting February 12. Minor floods occurred on the Atchafalaya River, the Amite and Comite Rivers, the Tickfaw River, and the Tangipahoa River. Minor to moderate floods occurred on the Bogue Chitto River. Moderate flooding persisted on the Lower Pearl River. The Pascagoula River went into a minor flood. Waters receded by February 17 at most locations. The Pascagoula River flooded until February 19. The Atchafalaya River and the Lower Pearl River remained in flood.*

*Severe weather and heavy rainfall developed by February 23, as a warm front slowly migrated up from the Gulf of Mexico and became near-stationary across the southern portions of Louisiana and Mississippi. Rainfall amounts averaged over two inches across south Mississippi and 1 to 2 inches over much of southeast Louisiana. The greatest reported totals were 4.46 inches in New Orleans and 3.38 inches in Boothville, LA. Minor flooding developed in New Orleans and in St. Charles Parish. On February 24, a wave formed along the stationary front and produced episodes of heavy rain and flash floods, especially across the southern Louisiana parishes. By February 25, three separate surface low pressure systems developed along the Louisiana coast and produced copious rainfall, along with severe weather. The complex weather system gradually shifted east by February 26 and fair weather returned over the area until late February 29. For the week, rainfall averaged two times the normal amounts.*

*With the copious rainfall over the region starting February 23, minor to moderate floods occurred on the Tangipahoa River, the Tchefuncte River, and the Bogue Chitto River. In south Mississippi, the West Hobolochitto Creek, the Biloxi River, the Wolf River, and the Tchoutacabouffa River had minor floods. Minor flooding redeveloped on the Pascagoula River. Water receded at most locations by February 29. Floods persisted on the Lower Pearl River, the Atchafalaya River, and the Pascagoula River into March 2004.*

LOCATION	FEBRUARY AVERAGE RAINFALL
Southwest Mississippi	9 to 10 inches
Florida Parishes of Louisiana	9 to 10 inches
South Central Mississippi	10 to 12 inches
Coastal Mississippi	7 to 8 inches
Southeast Coast of Louisiana	7 to 8 inches

