

**MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS**

REPORT FOR:  
MONTH: **JANUARY** YEAR: **2004**

TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2  
NOAA / National Weather Service  
1325 East West Highway, Room 7230  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

SIGNATURE  
**Paul S. Trotter, MIC**  
In Charge of HSA  
DATE **February 25, 2003**

*When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (WSOM E-41).*

**...Heavy Rainfall Produced Minor Floods in January 2004...**

In early January, fair skies and mild temperatures over southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi quickly eroded, as a strong cold front pushed into the region by January 5. Significantly colder air and heavy rainfall resulted, though rain over southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi was generally light. The greatest storm total occurred at Napoleonville, LA where 2.26 inches accumulated by January 6.

A low pressure system moved from the western Gulf of Mexico and produced widespread rain over southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi, starting January 8. Areal rainfall averaged from 0.5 to 1.5 inches for the two-day rain event. The greatest amount occurred at Convent, LA where 1.70 inches fell.

The **Lower Pearl River** was already swollen from rains in Louisiana and Mississippi earlier in January. The heavy rainfall that ended on January 9 helped push the river to its flood stage **at Bogalusa, LA** by January 12. The river crested at 18.0 feet on January 13 and quickly receded. Only minor flooding developed.

After January 16, the weather over the Lower Mississippi River valley became dynamic as a near-stationary frontal boundary drifted across the region. Severe weather developed on January 17, accompanied by widespread, moderate to heavy rainfall. Storm totals of 2.0 to 4.0 inches occurred at several locations. The greatest point totals occurred in southeastern Louisiana, where Buras and Bootheville had 4.6 inches and 3.9 inches, respectively for the two-day period ending January 18.

Heavy rainfall pushed the **Atchafalaya River** to its 4-foot flood stage **at Morgan City, LA** for a short time on January 17.

Severe weather and widespread heavy rainfall developed again on January 25. Rainfall totals over east-central and southeastern Louisiana, along with much of southern Mississippi, were generally less than 0.75 inch. The heaviest rainfall, 1.90 inches, occurred at Oaknolia, LA on January 25; McComb, MS had 1.35 inches.

With the **Atchafalaya River** already high from previous flooding, this heavy rain pushed the river to 4.1 feet **at Morgan City** for a few hours on January 25. The Atchafalaya River went into flood again on January 26 and crested at 4.1 feet on January 27. Only minor flooding developed.

Widespread rain fell across southeastern Louisiana and Mississippi from January 29 through the end of the month, as another cold front combined with a low pressure area over the western Gulf of Mexico. Rainfall totals of 1.0 to 2.0 inches were common across the region. The greatest measured rain fell at Carenco, LA where 2.05 inches accumulated by January 30.

By late January 28, the **Lower Pearl River** was again above 18.0 feet **at Bogalusa**, due to heavy rainfall upstream in Mississippi. With downpours from the last storm system, the Lower Pearl River remained above its flood stage. At Bogalusa, the river crested at 19.0 feet on January 30, but remained above the flood stage into February. Generally minor flooding occurred.