

<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>MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS</b>		<b>NWFO NEW ORLEANS/BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA</b>	
		REPORT FOR: MONTH <b>SEPTEMBER</b> YEAR <b>2004</b>		
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, Meteorologist-In-Charge		
		DATE <b>October 15, 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)*

### **...Hurricane Ivan Brought Some September Rain to Southeastern Louisiana and Southern Mississippi...**

A cold front passed through the area during the first week of September and brought cooler and drier air into the region. High pressure dominated the weather through September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Significant rain developed on September 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, as a boundary moved across southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi. Rainfall amounts for the week were generally light. However, local rain amounts over 2.0 inches were reported during the two-day period. For the week, rain totals were below normal across the region, except over southeast Louisiana, where rainfall averaged around 0.5 inch above the normal.

Through September 12<sup>th</sup>, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms developed as a near-stationary frontal boundary lingered along the coastal Louisiana parishes. While isolated amounts over 1.0 inch were recorded, areal average rainfall amounts for the period were generally near 0.1 inch or less for southeast Louisiana and for southern Mississippi.

Hurricane Ivan moved into the Gulf of Mexico and approached the Mississippi Gulf coast and southeastern Louisiana by September 14<sup>th</sup>. "Ivan" spared this region when the hurricane moved inland on September 16<sup>th</sup> near Gulf Shores-Orange Beach, Alabama. During "Ivan's" approach, the storm passed within 70 miles of the mouth of the Mississippi River. In Louisiana, extreme eastern portions of St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes were most impacted by the storm. In Louisiana, the greatest **72-hour** storm total rainfall amounts were 2.05 inches at Buras and 1.05 inches at LSU Citrus Research Station in Plaquemines Parish. Slidell measured 0.48 inch; New Orleans Lakefront logged 0.08 inch; and New Orleans International Airport only recorded a trace of rainfall. Virtually no rain fell with "Ivan" west of New Orleans. During the **72-hour** period, the heaviest downpours occurred over Jackson County, Mississippi, where 3.73 inches fell at Vancleave; 5.70 inches fell just northeast of Pascagoula; and 6.29 inches fell in Pascagoula.

Very little flooding resulted from Hurricane Ivan, though water briefly ponded on roadways during the heavy rainfall episodes. In Slidell, water from Lake Pontchartrain backed up on local bayous and creeks, especially near Palm Lake. Further south in extreme eastern portions of St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes, some roadways were impacted by storm surge flooding. In Mississippi, brief rises occurred on the local streams and rivers. Areal average rainfall over coastal Mississippi for the week through September 19<sup>th</sup> was 1.42 inches. Areal average rainfall for the week was 0.08 inch over south-central Louisiana, 0.42 inch over southeast Louisiana and 0.44 inch over east-central Louisiana.

Behind the hurricane, a cold front brought in cooler, drier air over the region. However, by September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the remnants of "Ivan" had moved back into the Gulf of Mexico and reached tropical storm strength. Tropical Storm Ivan moved inland again near the Texas-Louisiana state line. The heaviest rainfall with "Ivan's" second landfall occurred over other parts of Louisiana. For the week of September 20<sup>th</sup> to September 26<sup>th</sup>, much of the region remained relatively dry. In Louisiana, areal average rainfall amounts were 0.20 inch in east central Louisiana, 0.58 inch in southeast Louisiana, and 1.76 inches over south central Louisiana. In southern Mississippi, areal average rainfall amounts were generally less than 0.1 inch.

With "Ivan", the Mississippi River rose to flood stage at Morgan City on September 23<sup>rd</sup> then quickly fell that same day.

As the month ended, a cold front pushed through on September 29<sup>th</sup> and produced isolated rain showers over the area. Many locations recorded no rain. Areal averages were less than 0.1 inch for southeastern Louisiana and for southern

Mississippi.