

<b>NWS FORM E-5</b> <small>(11-88)</small> <small>(PRES. by NWS Instruction 10-924)</small>	<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b> <b>NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION</b> <b>NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE</b>	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA)	
		<b>NEW ORLEANS/BATON ROUGE, LA</b>	
<b>MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS</b>		REPORT FOR:	
		MONTH <b>AUGUST</b>	YEAR <b>2012</b>
TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2 NOAA / National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283		SIGNATURE	
		KENNETH GRAHAM METEOROLOGIST-IN-CHARGE	
		DATE	<b>SEPTEMBER 15, 2012</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)*

An X inside this box indicates that no flooding occurred within this hydrologic service area.

***...Widespread Flooding Developed with Hurricane Isaac over Mississippi and Louisiana...***

Throughout August, a series of frontal boundaries brought unstable weather, with periods of heavy rain to southwest Mississippi, coastal Mississippi, and southeastern Louisiana. Areal rainfall totals for the weather week ending August 5<sup>th</sup> ranged from near a half inch to 1.0 inch. For the next week, areal rainfall totals generally averaged from 2.0 to 3.5 inches. More thunderstorms during the weather week ending August 19<sup>th</sup> produced areal average rain totals of 1.5 inches to 2.4 inches. By August 26<sup>th</sup>, areal average rainfall totals were generally 0.75 to 2.5 inches. At the end of the month, Hurricane Isaac brought copious rainfall and flooding across the Lower Mississippi River Valley and coastal Mississippi, with areal average rain totals well over 15.0 inches across the region.

The weather week opened on August 27<sup>th</sup> with Tropical Storm (TS) Isaac over the southeastern Gulf of Mexico. By the evening of August 28<sup>th</sup>, TS Isaac became Hurricane Isaac, just before making landfall in Louisiana between Buras and Port Fourchon. As feeder bands repeatedly pushed across the region, the hurricane's forward speed slowed to around 5 miles per hour. This development portended the development of extensive regional flooding.

Slow and wobbling over southern Louisiana, "Isaac" developed a new, unexpected storm track. Persistent strong winds, storm surge, and copious rains became protracted over southeastern Louisiana, coastal Mississippi, and parts of southwestern Mississippi. Aside from storm surge over the coastal Louisiana parishes and Mississippi counties, Hurricane Isaac caused a nearly 7-foot storm surge on Lake Pontchartrain and flooding across many communities. That flooding was exacerbated when waters from Lake Pontchartrain were pushed west into Lake Maurepas. Interstate 10 was closed at Laplace, LA in St. John the Baptist Parish. Nearly a hundred roads were closed in Livingston Parish – a good number due to storm surge flooding.

Heavy rainfall compromised the dam at Lake Percy Quinn in Pike County, MS and required the release of water from the lake to relieve the pressure on the structure. Precautionary mandatory evacuations were ordered downstream on the Tangipahoa River for residents in Pike County, MS and Tangipahoa Parish, LA. Heavy rainfall threatened a United States Corps of Engineers (USACE) lock on the Pearl River and necessitated the evacuation of about 1200 St. Tammany Parish residents. Numerous homes were inundated at Myrtle Grove and Braithwaite in Plaquemines Parish, when local levees were overtopped.

Significant flooding developed in the following Louisiana Parishes: Ascension; Assumption; East Baton Rouge; East Feliciana; Iberville; Jefferson; LaFourche; Livingston; Orleans; Plaquemines; St. Bernard; St. Charles; St. Helena; St. James; St. John the Baptist; St. Tammany; Tangipahoa; Terrebonne; Washington; West Baton Rouge; and West Feliciana. Significant flooding developed in the following Mississippi Counties: Hancock; Harrison; Jackson; and Pearl River.

In Louisiana, major flooding had developed by August 31<sup>st</sup> at Kentwood and at Robert on the Tangipahoa River; on the Tchefuncte River near Folsom; on the Amite River at Maurepas; and on the Bogue Chitto River at Franklinton. Moderate flooding developed at the Girl Scout Camp near Covington and in Covington on the Bogue Falaya River, as well as on the Tchefuncte River near Covington. Moderate flooding also occurred at Killian on the Tickfaw River and at French Settlement on the Amite River.

In Mississippi, new flood records were established on the Wolf River at Landon on August 31<sup>st</sup> and near Caesar on the East Hobolochitto Creek. Major flooding occurred on the Bogue Chitto River near Tylertown; on the West Hobolochitto Creek near McNeill; on the Biloxi River near Wortham and near Lyman; and on the Jourdan River near Kiln. Minor flooding occurred on the Tchoutacabouffa River near D'Iberville and on the Escatawpa River near Orange Grove.

Minor flooding developed at Denham Springs, Bayou Manchac Point and Port Vincent on the Amite River; on the Tickfaw River at Liverpool; on the Natalbany River at Baptist, at Osyka, MS on the Tangipahoa River; at Bush on the Bogue Chitto River, on the Lower Pearl River at Bogalusa, the West Hobolochitto Creek, the East Hobolochitto Creek, the Jourdan River, the Wolf River, the Biloxi River, the Tchoutacabouffa River, and the Escatawpa River.

Radar-estimated rainfall from around the region shows that much of southeastern Louisiana recorded over 10 inches of rain, while parts of the region had between 15 to 20 inches. Storm surge of 11 feet was measured at Shell Beach, and over 13 feet in Lake Borgne, according to the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Many homes and businesses were flooded in Hurricane Isaac, almost seven years to the date after Hurricane Katrina made landfall in August 2005. Two fatalities – a male and a female, both in their mid-40s – were attributed to the storm surge flooding at Braithwaite on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Two indirect fatalities were reported in the days after the storm – a heat related death occurred in Orleans Parish and an electrocution occurred in St. Tammany Parish.

By the morning of August 29<sup>th</sup>, Hurricane Isaac was centered near Morgan City. Over the next day, the storm moved inland and then progressed to the border of Arkansas by August 30<sup>th</sup>. Feeder bands from the storm continued to impact Mississippi and Louisiana through the first few days of September. A new flood record was established on the Wolf River near Gulfport on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Major flooding levels developed in September on the Bogue Chitto River at Bush; and at Pearl River and on the Lower Pearl River.

For more information on Hurricane Isaac, visit:

NWFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA  
National Hurricane Center

[http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lix/?n=psh\\_isaac](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lix/?n=psh_isaac)  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/archive/2012/refresh/ISAAC+shtml/>

**Monthly Reports by Agricultural Region**

	<b>Areal Average</b>	<b>Departure from Normal</b>
Southwest Mississippi (2 Sites)	13.89	N/A
South Central Mississippi (2 Sites)	9.15	+ 3.45
Coastal Mississippi	18.44	+12.26
Central Louisiana (2 Sites)	11.22	+ 5.77
East Central Louisiana	15.70	+10.19
South Central Louisiana (6 Sites)	12.59	+ 6.84
Southeast Louisiana	16.97	+10.67

**Extreme Rainfall for the Month (Inches and Departure from Normal)**

Pascagoula, MS	30.75	+23.49	Lutcher, LA	21.31	
Livingston, LA	26.58	+20.71	Poplarville, MS	21.07	+15.59
Houma, LA	23.36	+16.63	Slidell, LA/WFO	20.81	+15.17
Baton Rouge, LA	22.63	+15.84	Slidell, LA/ASD	20.81	
Terrytown, LA	21.94		Waveland, MS	20.78	+15.15

**Drought...**

Soil moisture contents were normal over the entire region throughout August 2012.