

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS

REPORT FOR:

MONTH

May

YEAR

1993

TO: Hydrologic Services Division, W22
National Weather Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

SIGNATURE

John W. Lipe
In Charge of River District

DATE

June 1, 1993

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)

__ No flood stages were reached in this river district for the month indicated above.

A brief and minor flood occurred on the upper Colorado river on Saturday May 22, 1993. This flood was caused by localized flash flooding around Colorado City during the early morning hours. Around 5:00 am CDT, an isolated thunderstorm developed over Colorado City. It dumped 7 inches of rain by 8:00 am, as measured by the city's police department. By 8:00 am, the thunderstorm was weakening and moving east out of the area.

The river rose very sharply as shown in the table below:

6:22 am	--	2.7 feet	(2 cfs)
7:00 am	--	6.1	(360 cfs)
8:00 am	--	11.0	(1294 cfs)
9:00 am	--	13.4	(1838 cfs)
10:00 am	--	14.6	(2240 cfs)
10:46 am	--	15.1	(2380 cfs)
1:44 pm	--	8.0	(1294 cfs)
1:00 am	--	3.0	(20 cfs)

Although Flood Stage is recorded as 8 feet, a recent visit to Colorado City, talking with the Mayor, County Judge, Soil Conservation Service, and Emergency Management coordinator indicated that no significant damage is likely at Colorado city until the stage gets above 15 feet. With the river cresting at 15.1 feet, no significant damage was reported..due to the river. Some damage was reported due to flash flooding in the city.

The following is a brief synopsis of the weather factors contributing to this flood: The area was under the influence of a weak 500 mb ridge. Wind speeds at 500 mb were generally out of the west between 5 and 15 knots. A surface high pressure system over the southeastern U.S. was helping enhance a moderate low level jet of warm moist air in to the area. Wind speeds at the 850 mb level were out of the south at 30 to 35 knots. The low level jet worked to feed moisture to the storm, while the weak steering currents allowed the storm to remain nearly stationary. These were identified as the primary causes of this flooding. Although there were other isolated thunderstorms over West Texas, no other rainfall amounts greater than 1 inch, were reported.

No other flooding was reported within the Lubbock Hydrologic Service area during the month of May.

CC: W/SR2, RFC FTW, IBWC EL PASO, RFC TUL, USGS, IBWC PRESIDIO,
USCE, LBB WSOs (MAF/ELP/SJT/AMA)