

NWS FORM E-5
(11-88)
(PRES. by WSOM E-41)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA)

Midland, Texas

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS

REPORT FOR:

MONTH

October

YEAR

2000

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

SIGNATURE

J. DeBerry/Dan Koch

In Charge of HSA

DATE

11/1/00

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)

[X] No flood stages were reached in this HSA in October.

The fall convective season finally started in October, as the subtropical jet moved south and allowed one storm system after another to dive southeast from the northeastern Pacific and move through the HSA.

The first significant rain event occurred October 14th, when severe thunderstorms broke out across the Big Bend and Trans Pecos regions. While the main threats were large hail and damaging winds, heavy rain fell on Castolon, and 5-6" of runoff flooded the campground roads there.

On the 16th thunderstorms developed throughout the entire HSA. The heaviest rains fell in Ector, Midland, and Pecos Counties. Six Shooter Draw 18 miles south of Fort Stockton flooded, and put Highway 385 under 2" of water there. Several roads in Midland County flooded, and heavy street flooding was reported in West Odessa.

Thunderstorms redeveloped on October the 17th over the northern HSA. Eddy County was hit hardest. Widespread flooding was reported in Carlsbad, and several county roads and highways were flooded. Street flooding was reported in Big Spring, and flooding was reported for the second day in a row in West Odessa.

On the 21st, thunderstorms flooded streets in Eunice and Penwell.

On October 23rd, thunderstorms developed in Old Mexico and crossed the border into the Big Bend Area. Marathon received 2-3" of rainfall, which led to widespread street flooding. Several residents were trapped in their homes due to high water, and one car was washed into a ditch. Numerous roads and highways in Terrell County were flooded as well. The storms then moved north into the Permian Basin. Numerous roads and highways in northern and western Ector County were flooded. West Odessa flooded, and two stranded motorists had to be rescued. 2-2.5" fell on the city of Midland, causing widespread street flooding.

The storms didn't let up, and carried into the 25th, stranding motorists in Gaines and Andrews Counties due to high water, and causing an accident or two in the process. Widespread road flooding occurred throughout Dawson County, including Lamesa. Big Spring in Howard County had street flooding as well. Meanwhile, further south at Sheffield, the Pecos River rose to 11.5' from the previous day's rains, but the flood stage of 12' was not reached. Thunderstorms further intensified on the evening of the 25th, flooding roads and highways in Ector County. In southwest Odessa, low-lying roads were under up to 2' of water, and many did not drain until late afternoon on the 26th. Area roads in Midland County flooded as well.

On October 26th, the Pecos at Sheffield was still running high, as was the Colorado River above Lake J. B. Thomas. The river crested at 14.24' at the gage site (JBGT2), just under the 15.0' flood stage.

Widespread road flooding occurred throughout Dawson County, including Lamesa. Big Spring in Howard County had street flooding as well.

On the 28th, a squall line developed and moved quickly east. However, widespread flooding occurred in Crane, Ector, Pecos, and Upton Counties. In McCamey, many homes had to be evacuated. The towns of Crane and Girvin reported major flooding as well. Ft. Stockton reported minor street flooding.

Finally, on October 31st, another squall line developed and moved through Gaines and Dawson Counties, flooding many county roads and highways.

Other locations that received notable amounts of precipitation were:

Sanderson, Terrell County	5.25"
Lamesa, Dawson County	5.39"
Gail, Borden County	5.80"
Marathon, Brewster County	5.82"

Midland International Airport received a total of 2.42" of precipitation for the month. Normal for the month of October is 1.74". Total precipitation for the year as of October 31st is 8.47". Normal is 13.71". Although the HSA is below yearly normal in precipitation, the long-term Palmer Drought Index indicates that the HSA's drought is over. This may be somewhat premature, and is likely temporary due to recent abundant rainfall. Fortunately, long-term forecasts call for near- to above-normal precipitation.

Reservoir levels across the HAS, with the exception of Brantley Lake, New Mexico, remain below conservation levels, and the flood threat remains low.

River products issued:

RVS = 8 FLS = 3 FLW = 3

cc:mail: DOA IBWC-ELP IBWC-PRS SWFED USGS-CNM USGS-SJT

cc:email: HIC W/SR2 W/SR3 W/SR-ABQ W/SR-ELP W/SR-FWR W/SR-LBB W/SR-MAF W/SR-SJT