

Midland, Texas

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS

REPORT FOR:

MONTH

YEAR

August

2003

SIGNATURE

J. DeBerry

In Charge of HSA

DATE

9/1/03

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

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 August.

August was fairly uneventful, as a ridge of high pressure provided for warm, dry weather. However, a few notable events did occur.

On August 22nd, thunderstorms developed in Ector County, flooding portions of US Highway 385 10 miles south of Odessa.

On the 29th, the first significant cold front of the fall season approached the region, spawning numerous thunderstorms ahead of it, mostly in the Permian Basin and Pecos Valley. Flash flooding was reported in Hobbs in Lea County, where several vehicles flooded up to their windowsills. Bar ditches overflowed in Scurry County, and flooded US Highway 84. In Midland in Midland County, widespread street flooding was reported, and a few vehicles were flooded. In Upton County, US Highway 385 flooded northwest of McCamey. Farther south, in Pecos County, Interstate 10 flooded 10 miles east of Fort Stockton. Portions of US Highway 67 also flooded between interstate 10 and Girvin. Thunderstorms later developed over Howard County, and rendered several streets impassable in Big Spring. In Glasscock County, runoff flooded the intersection of State Highway 137 and 158.

On the night of August 30th and the morning of the 31st, the cold front moved into the region, and numerous thunderstorms developed, mainly over the Permian Basin and lower Trans Pecos. In Martin County, storms inundated portions of State Highway 349 with up to 6" of runoff. In Odessa in Ector County, widespread street flooding was reported, along with several vehicles stalled in high water with trapped motorists. State Highway 302 flooded 2 miles east of Notrees. Storms then moved into Pecos County, flooding US Highway 67 13 miles southwest of Fort Stockton. On US Highway 385 from 15 miles south of Fort Stockton to the Brewster County line, 2'-6' of runoff covered portions of the roadway. State Highway 18 and FM 1053 also flooded north of Fort Stockton. In Ward County, FM 1776 flooded in several sections southwest of Monahans, and 2' of water inundated State Highway 18 and several other roads in Grandfalls. In Crane County, FM 1601 flooded 17 miles northwest of Crane. Thunderstorm development continued farther north, where FM 1054 was barricaded 15 miles southwest of Gail in Borden County due to 1'-2' of water over the roadway. Storms redeveloped over Midland in Midland County, stalling vehicles on the service roads adjacent to Business Interstate 20, and widespread street flooding of up to 1' deep was reported in parts of town. Storms then moved into Brewster County, where flash flooding occurred on Blue Creek, sending debris across the roadway near Castolon.

As a result of the late-month rains, a few notable river rises occurred. Alamito Creek reached just above action stage on the morning of August 31st, and Gail near Lake J. B. Thomas did the same later that afternoon. Neither reached flood stage. However, with the exception of the upper Pecos, all reaches of the three rivers (and associated tributaries) within the HSA experienced flows not reached in some time during August.

Some locations in the HSA that received notable amounts of precipitation for August were:

Presidio, Presidio County	3.29"
Crane, Crane County	3.72"
Penwell, Ector County	3.79"
Big Spring, Howard County	6.01"

The average of all stations reporting was 1.38".

Midland International Airport received 1.91" of precipitation for the month. Normal for the month of August is 1.77". Total for the year so far is 9.56", 0.14" above normal.

Despite the rainfall for August, the entire HSA remains in drought, from severe in the northwest to dry in the southeast.

Reservoir levels across the HSA are averaging 34% of conservation capacity, about 1% higher than in July. Champion Creek Reservoir remains the lowest, at about 7% capacity, while Moss Creek Lake is the highest, at around 77% capacity. The flood threat remains low.

River products issued:

RVS = 1 FLS = 4 FLW = 0

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