

MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS

REPORT FOR:
MONTH YEAR
November 2010

TO: Hydrologic Information Center, W/OS31
NOAA's National Weather Service
1325 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

SIGNATURE
Althea Austin-Smith,
Service Hydrologist
DATE
12/07/2010

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions below the small box, 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.

Summary: The San Juan ASOS reported 7.96 inches of rain for the month of November; 1.79 inches greater than the normal of 6.17 inches. The ASOS rainfall report from Cyril E. King Airport in St. Thomas was 5.33 inches for the month of November; 0.05 inches more than the normal of 5.28 inches.

“November 2010 began with [Tropical Storm Tomas](#) south of the local area. Some squally weather with gusty winds and periods of moderate to heavy rainfall prevailed across the Caribbean waters in association with the outer bands of Tomas. A generally unsettled pattern prevailed days after due to deep tropical moisture over the local islands feeding the storm. A significant improvement in weather conditions was experienced by the second half of November, when an overall drier weather pattern prevailed across the local Islands. However, quick passing showers embedded in the trade the wind flow were common across the local islands each morning...Across the U.S. Virgin Islands, November 2010 was above normal in terms of precipitation and below normal in terms of temperature. At the [Christiansted Airport](#) on St Croix, the monthly precipitation total of 10.71” was 5.16” above normal.” (Excerpts from SJU’s climate reports ... for more local climate details ... see <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/sju/?n=nov2010cr>)

The bulk of the significant flooding experienced this month was on the U.S. Virgin Islands where the flooding led to disaster declarations. While a few rivers in Puerto Rico managed to rise to the minor flood categories and there were some reports of urban, poor drainage and flash flooding; mostly in the Central and Southern sections of Puerto Rico, the lack of quantitative streamflow data for the Virgin Islands should not minimize the destructive flooding that occurred during early November, especially on the island of St. Croix. As noted above, the monthly rainfall total for St. Croix was almost double the normal of 5.55 inches. This departure from normal was exceeded on one day in Frederiksted, St. Croix; November 10th where a spotter reported 7.04 inches of rain from 0630 – 1300 L. This high intensity tropical rainfall resulted in serious to catastrophic flash flooding across the island.

While the other islands of St. John and St. Thomas also reported serious flooding from this event, [St. Croix’s problems](#) was the most extreme and unfortunately, there was a report of one fatality. (See the LSRs for details) “On Nov. 24, 2010, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, announced that federal disaster aid was available to supplement the U.S. Virgin Islands’ recovery efforts in areas struck by severe storms, flooding, rockslides, and mudslides associated with Tropical Storm Tomas from Nov. 8–12. The territory has previously received two disaster declarations this year, for Hurricane Earl and Tropical Storm Otto.”

Flood Photos from Saint Croix Virgin Islands – Nov. 2010



LSRs due to inland Flooding for the month of November

0930 PM 11/05/2010	FLASH FLOOD	PONCE PONCE	17.99N 66.61W PR EMERGENCY MNGR
ROAD 14 AND LAS AMERICAS AVENUE WERE REPORTED FLOODED.			
1041 PM 11/05/2010	FLASH FLOOD	PONCE PONCE	17.99N 66.61W PR OTHER FEDERAL
U.S.G.S RIVER SENSOR INDICATED RIO CERRILLOS WENT OUT IF ITS BANKS.			
1230 AM 11/06/2010	FLASH FLOOD	AIBONITO AIBONITO	18.14N 66.27W PR OTHER FEDERAL
U.S.G.S RIVER SENSOR INDICATED RIO LA PLATA IN AIBONITO WENT OUT OF ITS BANKS.			
0146 AM 11/06/2010	FLASH FLOOD	COMERIO COMERIO	18.22N 66.22W PR OTHER FEDERAL
RIO DE LA PLATA AT COMERIO WENT OUT OF ITS BANKS.			
0700 AM 11/06/2010	FLASH FLOOD	4 ENE PONCE PONCE	18.01N 66.55W PR EMERGENCY MNGR
ACCESS ROAD TO THE AIRPORT AT MERECEDITA IS IMPASSABLE.			

1145 AM FLASH FLOOD FREDERIKSTED 17.71N 64.88W
11/10/2010 SAINT CROIX VI COUNTY OFFICIAL

VEHICLES STRANDED ON MELVIN EVAN HIGHWAY.

0103 PM FLASH FLOOD 3 W FREDERIKSTED 17.71N 64.93W
11/10/2010 AMZ732 VI TRAINED SPOTTER

ROUTE 63 WAS RENDERED IMPASSABLE. MUD WAS SEEN IN THE OCEAN AT BUTLER BAY ONE THIRD OF THE WAY TO THE HORIZON. SPOTTER REPORTED 7.04 INCHES OF RAIN FROM 0630-1300L. OWEN JOHNSON WAS SPOTTER.

0200 PM FLASH FLOOD FREDERIKSTED 17.71N 64.88W
11/10/2010 SAINT CROIX VI NEWSPAPER

A RIOTOUS 4 FOOT DEEP CATARACT ROLLED ACROSS CONCORDIA ROAD CARRYING TREES AND DEBRIS TOWARD THE SEA. WATER BEGAN AT ROTARY WEST, INCREASING TO MORE THAN 3 FEET DEEP FOR SEVERAL HUNDRED YARDS, MAKING THE ROAD IMPASSABLE TO VEHICLES SMALLER THAN A FIRETRUCK.

0200 PM FLASH FLOOD FREDERIKSTED 17.71N 64.88W
11/10/2010 SAINT CROIX VI NEWSPAPER

FREDERIKSTED GUT FLOODED AND WASHED AWAY SEVERAL SECTIONS OF EMANCIPATION DRIVE BETWEEN FORT FREDERIK AND CONCORDIA.

0400 PM FLASH FLOOD FREDERIKSTED 17.71N 64.88W
11/10/2010 SAINT CROIX VI LAW ENFORCEMENT

*** 1 FATAL *** A 51 YEAR OLD WOMAN WAS WASHED AWAY IN THE LATE AFTERNOON. THE GOVERNORS OFFICE HAS CONFIRMED THAT SHE WAS FOUND DEAD.

1150 PM HEAVY RAIN VEGA ALTA 18.42N 66.32W
11/11/2010 E0.00 INCH VEGA ALTA PR EMERGENCY MNGR

HEAVY RAIN HAS CAUSED CLOSURE OF ROAD 2 NEAR BARRIO PONDEROSA. QUEBRADA HONDA ALSO REPORTED OUT ITS BANKS.

0100 AM FLASH FLOOD VEGA ALTA 18.42N 66.32W
11/12/2010 VEGA ALTA PR EMERGENCY MNGR

RIO CIBUCO OUT OF ITS BANKS AND FLOWING OVER ROAD 620. ALSO ROADS 620 AND 647 NOW CLOSED. HIGHWAY 2 REMAINS CLOSED.

0928 AM FLASH FLOOD FREDERIKSTED 17.71N 64.88W
11/22/2010 SAINT CROIX VI EMERGENCY MNGR

SEVERAL ROADS CLOSED DUE TO FLOODING.

The approximate amounts of Hydrologic Products issued during the month of November are as follows:

Table 1 - Hydrologic Products Issued

Non-Routine Hydrologic Products Issued:	Approximate number of Products for the month
Hydrologic Outlooks (SJUESFSJU)	0
Flood Watches (SJUFFASJU)	17
Flood Warnings (SJUFLWSJU)	6
Flash Flood Warnings (SJUFFWSJU)	18
Flash Flood Statements (SJUFFSSJU)	14
Urban/Small Stream Flood Advisories (SJUFLSSJU)	104

For monthly “radar totals” use the archive of the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) - click on Puerto Rico and request the duration you would like to view...daily or monthly remembering that the 24 hour totals are from 12z – 12z (8am to 8am in PR) - [AHPS archive of radar totals/ images](#). Here are the [November 2010 totals](#).