

Mid November 2001 Floods over Central and South Central Texas

More cloud cover and much more rain came to parts of Central and South Central Texas in November 2001, compared to October. Like October some stormy weather showed up for the 2nd month in a row in the Fall of 2001. So far the Fall of 2001 is kind of similar to the Fall of 2000 with flood and severe weather events. Last year in November severe weather events came November 2nd, 5th, 12th, and 23rd, 2000. Returning to the Fall of 2001, overall November 2001 has been warmer and much wetter than normal.

A significant flood and severe weather event came Wednesday November 14th to Friday November 16th. A slow moving low pressure system aloft began to affect parts of Central and South Central Texas Wednesday the 14th, as the first wave of rain came across the area, with showers and thunderstorms. This weather system stalled just west and northwest of the area Thursday the 15th and Friday the 16th, additional waves of rain and thunderstorms swept across Central and South Central Texas. In this event floods, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes were observed.

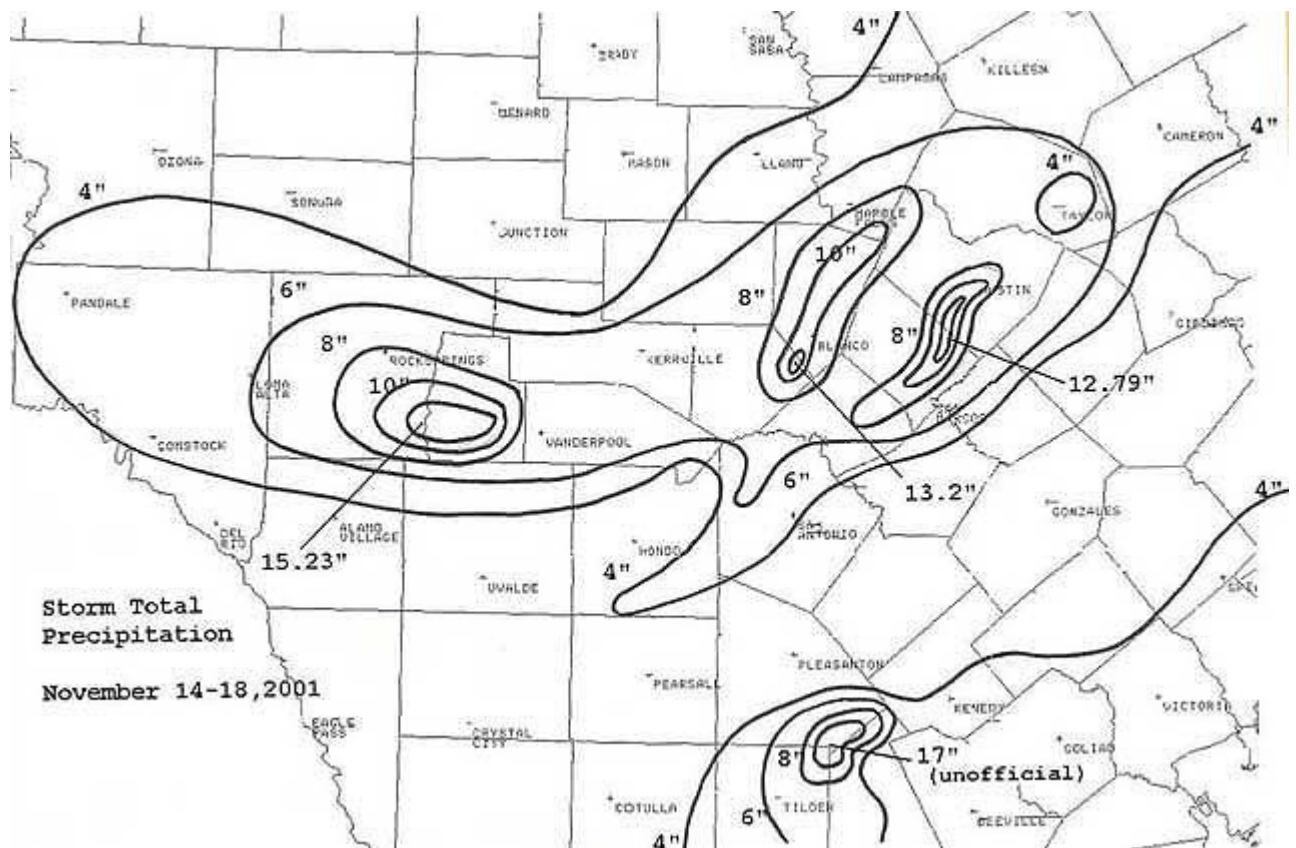
On Wednesday the 14th, the first wave of flooding along with thunderstorms pounded the region. Over the western Texas Hill Country flash flooding was observed. Camp Wood in Edwards County had 8.37 inches of rain, followed by Tarpley in Bandera County with 5.80 inches of rain. In Val Verde County, 22 miles northeast of Comstock 4.49 inches of rain fell and Cauthorn Ranch had 2.21 inches, while Del Rio International Airport had 0.22 inches for November 14th. Medina Lake had 2.10 inches; Laguna, 19 miles northwest of Uvalde, 1.65 inches; and Hondo Municipal Airport 1.50 inches. After these floods and thunderstorms affected western parts of South Central Texas in the early morning, the wave of rain and thunderstorms then moved across the Texas Hill Country in the day; San Antonio around noon to early afternoon and the Austin Area in the afternoon. Rainfall amounts were the greatest over the Hill Country, where 1.70 inches fell near Fredericksburg and 2.53 inches fell near Johnson City.

Flash Floods and Severe Weather followed the night of the 14th to the day and evening of the 15th. Very heavy rain and severe weather came Thursday, November 15th. In the early morning hours, thunderstorms and heavy rain pounded parts of the hill country east to South Central Texas. Heavy rain flooded the Austin Area, as well as parts of the Hill Country and southward to South Central Texas. In the mid to late afternoon, Tornado reports came in from near New Braunfels to Buda to the Austin Area. At Austin Bergstrom Airport winds gusted to 62 mph. Heavy rain reports around Austin were as follows: Austin Barton Creek and Loop 306 8.38 inches; Austin-Onion Creek 7.73 inches; Austin Great Hills 6.13 inches; and Austin Bull Creek and Loop 360 6.49 inches. Austin Bergstrom International Airport had 8.68 inches and Austin Mabry had 7.55 inches. Other heavy rain reports from west

to east of Austin include the following: Marble Falls 5.80 inches; Johnson City 5.51 inches; Horseshoe Bay 6.66 inches; Sandy 6.01 inches; Bertram 5.49 inches; Burnet 4.98 inches; Spicewood 4.53 inches; and Elgin 6.10 inches. Very heavy rain also swept across the San Antonio Area between 4 and 7 pm on November 15th, producing numerous street flooding and flooding in low lying areas. For November 15th, San Antonio International Airport had 2.18 inches and Randolph AFB 2.58 inches. To the north of San Antonio, Helotes had 2.58 inches and Spring Branch had 5.31 inches of rain. Del Rio had 0.27 inches of rain for the 15th.

On Friday, November 16th, mostly cloudy skies, with scattered showers and thunderstorms continued. Cloudy skies and scattered light rain amounts were observed Saturday the 17th, and on Sunday November 18th, skies began to clear out by the afternoon, after some patchy early morning drizzle and light rain.

The picture below shows storm total rainfall from November 15 to 18th, 2001.



November 2001 is the wettest November of record for the Austin City Climate Station, now Austin Mabry, mainly from the effects of the November 15th flood. From November 1st to 23rd, total rain at Austin Mabry is at 8.07 inches, exceeding

the previous record of 7.99 inches in 1907. For Austin Bergstrom, the 9.72 inches of rain so far in November makes November 2001 the 2nd wettest November of record. The wettest November was in 1974, when flooding rains also came to the Austin Area, and left 12.49 inches of rain at Austin Bergstrom.

The pictures below show Satellite Photos from November 15 and 16, 2001. The top left GOES 8 water vapor photo was at 1215 pm Nov. 15th; the top right GOES 8 water vapor photo was at 545 pm Nov. 15th. At the bottom left is a GOES 8 infrared photo at 815 pm Nov. 15th, and at the bottom right is a GOES 8 water vapor photo from 1215 pm Nov. 16.

