

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

YEAR

October

2002

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

SIGNATURE

J. DeBerry
In Charge of HSA

DATE

11/1/02

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 season firmly entrenched itself during October, sending a series of storm systems/cold fronts through the HSA.

The first significant cold front brought a line of thunderstorms to the area on October 6th. Little flooding was reported, but low water crossings in the vicinities of Pyote and Wickett in Ward County were filled.

Another, stronger cold front moved into the HSA on the 8th, resulting in much-needed heavy stratiform rains, as well as a few severe thunderstorms. Flash flooding was reported in Hobbs in Lea County, where the local fire department had to rescue a few motorists stranded in high water.

On the evening of October 14th, thunderstorms brought flash flooding to Terlingua Creek in Brewster County, prompting several water rescues by Big Bend National Park Rangers.

On the 18th, a much-anticipated upper-level closed low passed over the area, spawning a line of thunderstorms that developed over the central HSA during the late morning/early afternoon and moved east into the evening. The line was moving at 30-35 mph, so flooding was minimal. However, heavy rains from these storms did cause some flooding activity. The first report came out of Hobbs in Lea County, where US Hwy 62/180 was flooded 10 miles west of town. As the line entered Ector County, flash flood warnings were issued for both Ector and Midland Counties. Many streets flooded, some with as much as 2.5' of runoff. In Odessa in Ector County, 2 water rescues were performed as a result.

Finally, on October 28th, an upper-level low moved over the region, generating a line of thunderstorms that produced very heavy rainfall, flooding portions of the Permian Basin. In Dawson County, State Hwy 349 was overrun with runoff in low spots, while farther south in Midland County, widespread street flooding occurred in Midland.

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

Crane, Crane County 5.52"
Snyder, Scurry County 5.82"
Grandfalls, Ward County 6.41"
Sheffield, Pecos County 7.16"

The average of all stations reporting was 3.16".

Midland International Airport received 3.29" of precipitation for the month, making October 2002 the 10th wettest October on record, and the wettest month since August 2001 (3.44"). Normal for the month of October is 1.77". Total for the year so far is 7.61", 5.89" below normal.

As a result of abundant precipitation in October, short-term drought conditions across most of West Texas and Southeast New Mexico are in near-normal conditions. In fact, areas in the HSA south and east of Midland are having an unusual moist spell.

Reservoir levels across the HSA are averaging about 30% of conservation capacity, about 5% higher than In September. Champion Creek Reservoir remains the lowest, at about 6% capacity, while Lake Colorado City is the highest, at around 55% capacity. The flood threat remains low.

River products issued:

RVS = 2 FLS = 7 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