

Midland, Texas

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS

REPORT FOR:

MONTH

YEAR

May

2003

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

6/1/03

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 May.

Dryline convection continued during the month of May. Most events included high-based, fast-moving convection that exited the HSA quickly. However, a few flash flood events were noted, particularly during the last week of the month.

On May 12th, severe thunderstorms formed over the Davis Mountains and slowly moved southeast into Brewster County. While hail and Damaging winds were the main threats, heavy rainfall accompanied some of these storms as they moved into a more moisture-rich airmass. Water covered U. S. Highway 90 up to 1' deep 25 miles east of Alpine, and lesser flooding was reported on State Highway 118. US 90 was closed for a short period of time.

On the 24th, the first significant flash flood event of the spring season occurred. Severe thunderstorms flash-flooded portions of Pecos County during the early afternoon, but quickly spread north and east to Andrews, Ector, Glasscock, Howard, Martin, Midland, Mitchell, and Scurry Counties. Numerous roads were flash flooded. Roads had to be closed in Fort Stockton, and numerous cars stalled in high water in Big Spring. The worst flooding occurred in Odessa. Ratliff Stadium flooded, and several homes were damaged. Numerous roads were barricaded, but not before a motorist drove into a ditch and drowned after being pulled into a storm drain.

On the afternoon of May 25th, storms developed again, this time in Brewster, Eddy, Howard, Martin, Midland, and Pecos Counties. Again, numerous roads flooded. In Midland, several vehicles stalled in high water. One vehicle was swept into Midland Draw, prompting a vehicle rescue. Waters in many areas did not recede until the early morning hours of the 26th.

On May 27th, storms resulted in flash flooding in Brewster, Eddy, and Terrell Counties. In Brewster County, United States Highway 90 was flooded up to 1' deep between Alpine and Marathon. Numerous streets were flooded in Carlsbad in Eddy County, and the runway at the Dryden Airport in Terrell County was inundated with 1.5' of runoff.

Finally, on the 31st, storms flash-flooded Dawson, Howard, and Midland Counties, flooding numerous roads.

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

Lamesa, Dawson County	2.79"
Odessa, Ector County	2.89"
Odessa Schlemeyer Field, Ector County	4.26"
Marathon, Brewster County	5.15"

The average of all stations reporting was 1.15”.

Midland International Airport received 2.94” of precipitation for the month. Normal for the month of May is 1.79”. Total for the year so far is 4.12”, 0.07” above normal. This is the first time Midland has surpassed its yearly normal since the end of April 2002.

Despite the relatively abundant rainfall for May, most areas remain in severe drought. Only the southeastern/eastern portions of the HSA are in moderate drought.

Reservoir levels across the HSA are averaging 32% of conservation capacity, about the same as in April. Champion Creek Reservoir remains the lowest, at about 5% capacity, while Moss Creek Lake is the highest, at around 88% capacity. The flood threat remains low.

River products issued:

RVS = 0 FLS = 9 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