

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

November

YEAR

2001

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

12/1/01

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)

[] No flood stages were reached in this HSA in November.

November was noted for two major events. The first event occurred November 14th, when a vigorous upper-level cut-off low pressure system set up just west of the HSA, spawning numerous severe thunderstorms and widespread flash flooding. Flooding first occurred in Howard and Mitchell Counties by mid-morning. An Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisory was issued. Streets flooded in Big Spring, and a stretch of State Route 350 6 miles east of the city was barricaded. As the convection spread and storms intensified, soils quickly saturated, and a Flash Flood Watch was issued for Borden, Dawson, Glasscock, Howard, Martin, Mitchell, and Scurry Counties. Shortly thereafter, a Flash Flood Warning was issued for Glasscock and Howard Counties. In Glasscock County, State Route 137 was flooded under 2' of runoff north of State Route 158 at Johnson Draw. In Howard County, portions of Ranch Roads 818 and 2599 west of Big Spring were barricaded. Storms then developed into Midland County, and a Flash Flood Warning was issued. Flash flooding was reported at the intersection of Ranch Roads 1357 and 1379 and up to 2 miles north of the intersection.

Shortly after noon, a Flash Flood Warning was issued for Upton County, where State Route 329 flooded 6 miles east of Crane. Meanwhile, portions of State Route 158 in Midland County flooded, as well as State Route 349 in Midland and Upton Counties. Flooding was also reported on State Route 329 in Upton County. Shortly after mid-afternoon, a Flash Flood Warning was issued for Howard County. Ranch Road 33 was barricaded between US 87 and I-20, as well as Ranch Road 821 south of I-20. By late afternoon, the Flash Flood Watch was extended to include Reagan County. The storms then developed into eastern Pecos County, where a Flash Flood Warning was issued. Ranch Road 2886 was barricaded, as well as Ranch Road 305 at the Pecos River bridge. US 190 was also closed where it intersects RR 305, and water up to 1' deep was reported on US 285.

Due to the abundant rainfall in Pecos County, a river statement was issued for bankfull rises on the Pecos River at Sheffield on the evening of the 14th. Fortunately, the Pecos absorbed the runoff quite efficiently, and rises were minimal.

On November 15th, more thunderstorms were expected, and due to saturated soils from the previous day's rains, the Flash Flood Watch was extended to cover Crane, Ector, Midland, Pecos, Terrell, and Upton Counties. Dawson County was dropped from the watch.

Due to the previous day's rainfall over the upper Colorado River watershed, notable rises were noted on The river at Colorado City (CDCT2) and Cuthbert (CCTT2). Consequently, a River Flood Warning was issued for CDCT2. Flood stage is currently 8'. However, the FS is in the process of being changed to 15', as at 8' little property is affected. The river had a crest on the 18th at 8.2', but no damage was reported. Action stage at CCTT2 is 14'.

The next event of note for November occurred on the 27th-28th, when the first winter storm of the season plowed through the HSA. This was an unusual event, in that normally the first snow event of any season amounts to flurries. An Arctic airmass entrenched itself over the area, followed by a potent upper-level cut-off low pressure system. The system moved northeast through the area, and snow fell in all counties. Snowfall totals ranged from 0.5" in Reeves County to 10", reported in Greenwood in Midland County. Midland officially recorded 8.0", making this the 2nd greatest 24-hour snowfall event on record. The average across the HSA was 4.5" The snow melted quickly over the next few days, but no flooding was reported.

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

Garden City, Glasscock County	4.42"
Knapp 2SW, Scurry County	6.00"
Big Spring, Howard County	6.16"
Forsan, Howard County	7.36"

The average of all stations reporting was 1.67".

Midland International Airport received 1.47" of precipitation for the month. Normal for the month of November is 0.69". The total for the year was 9.75", 4.65" below normal.

As a result of November's abundant rainfall, short-term drought conditions in areas that are east of the Pecos/south of Midland are experiencing an unusually moist spell, while areas farther north, as well as Southeast New Mexico, are in near-normal conditions. Only Texas west of the Pecos remains in short-term drought, but even conditions there have improved from extreme to moderate.

Reservoir levels across the HSA remain below conservation levels, and the flood threat remains low.

River products issued:

RVS = 3 FLS = 1 FLW = 1

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