

Midland, Texas

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS

REPORT FOR:

MONTH

YEAR

March

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

4/1/02

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 March.

The synoptic pattern changed for the better in March, and a couple of vigorous, upper-level closed low pressure systems moved right through the HSA, both characterized by slow eastward progression and abundant rainfall.

The first storm system occurred March 19th. Severe weather was expected with this system, but all severe activity occurred in a better storm environment east of the HSA. Instead, much-needed rain was welcomed across the northeastern HSA.

The second storm system moved through the 29th-30th, tracking eastward just south of the west-east Texas/New Mexico border and right over Midland. The only flooding reported was street flooding in Penwell in Ector County, for which an Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisory was issued. Flooding elsewhere was likely, but difficult to pinpoint because radar estimates were likely hail-contaminated. This stresses the value of a good Cooperative Observer network to provide ground truth.

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

Snyder, Scurry County	4.10"
Lamesa 1 SSE, Dawson County	4.24"
Tatum, Lea County	4.38"
Knapp 2 SW, Scurry County	4.58"

The average of all stations reporting was 1.11".

Midland International Airport received 0.88" of precipitation for the month. Normal for the month of March is 1.53". However, the total for the year so far is 1.96", 0.40" above normal.

As a result of the above-mentioned precipitation in March, short-term drought conditions in Texas west of the Pecos have remained moderate. Areas that are east of the Pecos/south of Midland are still experiencing near-normal conditions, as well as areas farther north, and in Southeast New Mexico.

As a result from water supply planning in anticipation of increased water use/shortages during the summer months, reservoir capacities have increased as various agencies have transferred water into them from reservoirs in wetter locations outside the HSA. Reservoir levels across the HSA are averaging about 44% of conservation capacity. Champion Creek Reservoir is the lowest, at about 5% capacity, while Lake Avalon is the highest, at around 76% capacity. The flood threat remains low.

River products issued:

RVS = 0 FLS = 1 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