

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

July

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

8/1/02

*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 July.**

The beginning of July saw abundant rains throughout the HSA, as a couple of low pressure systems moved over West Texas and Southeast New Mexico. As the airmass was tropical, severe events were few, but much rainfall was observed.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, a thunderstorm flooded portions of Redford in Presidio County, including some residences.

On the evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, thunderstorms hit Hope in Eddy County, flooding roads in town and up to 10 miles eastward. Riverside also reported flooded streets. US Hwy 285 north of Carlsbad flooded all the way up to Lakewood. The storms carried over into the morning of July 4<sup>th</sup>, flooding Dark Canyon west of Carlsbad. This led to major flooding of roads and underpasses in and around Carlsbad, prompting the barricading of some. Several homes and a few vehicles were flooded as well. Shortly thereafter, thunderstorms developed in Lea County, and minor street flooding was reported in Lovington.

Thunderstorms redeveloped later during the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> over Eddy County, flooding Firehouse Road 5 miles northwest of Artesia. Thunderstorms then developed farther southeast, and flash-flooded St. Hwy 137, 13 miles north-northwest of Garden City in Glasscock County. Meanwhile, back in Eddy County, thunderstorms persisted, inundating County Rd. 229 with 3' of water 3 miles east of Artesia. Carlsbad was flooded once again, and County Rd. 229 and other roadways were barricaded. Runoff coming out of Dark Canyon Road kept low water crossings in Carlsbad under water until the afternoon of July 5<sup>th</sup>. Carrying over into the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup>, thunderstorms developed farther south, flooding streets in Alpine in Pecos County, as well as US Hwy 90 up to 5 miles east of Alpine.

Thunderstorms redeveloped later during the evening of July 5<sup>th</sup>, flooding St. Hwy 118, 6-8 miles northwest of Alpine in Jeff Davis County. Meanwhile, Eddy County was hit for the third day straight. Walnut Creek 8 miles south of Hope flooded, putting 3' of runoff over County Rd. 12. 3 miles north of Carlsbad, the truck bypass route through Happy Valley was flooded as well.

On the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>, thunderstorms moved west into Scurry County, flooding US Hwy 84, 5-8 miles north of Snyder, and causing two accidents. Street flooding was reported in Snyder as well. Thunderstorms developed later that afternoon in Lea County, resulting in street flooding in Lovington. Thunderstorms then developed in Andrews, Dawson, Howard, and Martin Counties, inundating St. Hwy 115 from Andrews to Patricia. Portions of St. Hwys 176 and 349 in Martin County were also flooded. During the evening, thunderstorms once again developed over Eddy County, flooding roadways in and around Carlsbad with up to 2' of runoff. Meanwhile, farther southeast in Pecos County, thunderstorms produced heavy rains that resulted in the closures of US Hwy 285 and St. Hwy 18. In Brewster County, US Hwy 90 between Marathon and Altuda was closed, and County Rd. 2886 in Terrell County was flooded as well. Flooding in Terrell County continued overnight into July 7<sup>th</sup>. On County Rd. 2886, 12 miles north of County Rd. 2400, an 18-wheeler was flooded, with water reaching the cab windows.

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, activity began to taper off. However, thunderstorms developed in Midland County, depositing up to 14" of runoff in streets in the city of Midland.

On the 18<sup>th</sup>, thunderstorms developed over Alpine in Brewster County. Street flooding was reported in town, and Alpine Creek ran high, prompting multiple barricading of low water crossings. One vehicle was flooded at an underpass.

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, thunderstorms flash-flooded streets in Jal in southern Lea County. Farther southeast, thunderstorms redeveloped south of Marathon in Brewster County, flooding a few streets there.

The 28<sup>th</sup> brought numerous thunderstorms to Midland County. Numerous county roads were flooded.

July 29<sup>th</sup> saw thunderstorm development farther south over the lower Trans Pecos area. US Hwy 285 flooded in Pecos County between Fort Stockton and Sanderson, stopping traffic in numerous places. Portions of St. Hwy 18 and County Rd. 1776 also were inundated. Thunderstorms developed farther west during the evening, flooding secondary roads south of Marfa in Presidio County.

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

|                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Lajitas, Brewster County          | 4.48" |
| Panther Junction, Brewster County | 4.70" |
| Mount Locke, Jeff Davis County    | 5.43" |
| Castolon, Brewster County         | 5.74" |

The average of all stations reporting was 2.37".

Midland International Airport received 1.48" of precipitation for the month. Normal for the month of July is 1.89". Total for the year so far is 4.07", 3.58" below normal.

As a result of abundant precipitation in July, short-term drought conditions across most of West Texas and Southeast New Mexico are in near-normal conditions. Only areas in the HSA north of Midland are in moderate drought.

Reservoir levels across the HSA are averaging about 25% of conservation capacity, about 5% lower than In June. Champion Creek Reservoir remains the lowest, at about 6% capacity, while Lake Colorado City is the highest, at around 57% capacity. The flood threat remains low.

River products issued:  
RVS = 3 FLS = 15 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