



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



March 2004

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
<b><u>ARKANSAS, Southeast</u></b>									
Chicot County 4 W Lake Vlg	20	2220CST			0	0	1K		Hail(0.75)
Ashley County Crossett	20	2251CST			0	0	2K		Hail(1.75)
<b><u>LOUISIANA, Northeast</u></b>									
Morehouse Parish 3 SW Bonita	20	2310CST			0	0	1K		Hail(0.75)
<b><u>MISSISSIPPI, Central</u></b>									
Grenada County Grenada	05	1730CST 1900CST			0	0	2K		Flash Flood
Heavy rains caused a few streets to flood in Grenada.									
Leflore County Greenwood	05	1730CST 1900CST			0	0	2K		Flash Flood
Heavy rains caused a few streets in Greenwood to flood.									
Holmes County 4 NW Ebenezer	05	1751CST 1752CST			0	0	2K		Thunderstorm Wind (EG55)
Several trees were blown down along Spell Road. A few trees were snapped on Mann Road.									
Holmes County 6 SW Lexington to 6 S Lexington	05	1753CST 1755CST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind (EG55)
A few trees were snapped and blown down.									
Holmes County 3 WSW West	05	1801CST 1802CST	0.2	50	0	0	5K		Tornado (F0)
A weak tornado briefly touched down 3 miles west-southwest of West. As the tornado moved northeast it tore siding off a building, blew an antenna down, damaged a poorly constructed outbuilding and blew down several small trees.									
Holmes County 8 SSE Lexington to 1 N Durant	05	1900CST 1912CST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind (EG55)
A couple of trees were blown down. Along county road 145, several large limbs were snapped.									
Attala County 5 N Kosciusko to 12 NNE Kosciusko	05	1930CST 1937CST			0	0	3K		Thunderstorm Wind (EG58)
A few trees were blown down 5 miles north of Kosciusko. Further north, a few trees were snapped at their base along Shady Grove Road.									
Holmes County Brozville	05	2030CST 2200CST			0	0	3K		Flash Flood
Heavy rains caused a few roads to flood near Brozville.									
Rankin County Pelahatchie	05 06	2330CST 0100CST			0	0	2K		Flash Flood
Heavy rains caused a few roads to flood. As the water rose a few homes were threatened. The water subsided before any homes were affected.									



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### MISSISSIPPI, Central

#### Scott County

Morton	05 06	2346CST 0100CST			0	0	2K		Flash Flood
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Heavy rains caused a few streets to flood in Morton.

#### Lamar County

11 W Purvis to 17 W Purvis	12	1235CST 2000CST			0	0	6M		Flash Flood
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#### Marion County

3 E Pinebur to 9 S Columbia	12	1400CST 2230CST			0	0	2.5M		Flash Flood
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*The breach in the Big Bay Lake dam.*

On March 12, 2004, at approximately 1235 PM CST, the Big Bay Lake dam, on Bay Creek failed. This lake is located 11 miles west of Purvis Mississippi on Bay Creek Road in Lamar county. Big Bay Lake was 1100 acres and held nearly 3.75 billion gallons of water. This lake was emptied in a little over 2 hours. The original earthen dam was 57 feet high. Beneath the dam is Bay Creek which flows into Lower Little Creek about 1 mile south of the dam. Lower Little Creek flows west into Marion county and then into the Pearl River 9 miles south of Columbia.

The most catastrophic damage occurred within the first 5 miles below the dam along Bay Creek and Lower Little Creek. The first major impact of the flood waters occurred as a 15 to 20 foot wall of water crossed Columbia-Purvis Road. Here numerous trees were flattened as the water rushed through. Next was Tatum-Salt Dome Road where 75 yards of the road was washed out. Several homes were moved off of their foundation here while numerous automobiles were swept 1/4 mile into the woods and lodged up in trees. Areas along Robbins Road were among the hardest hit as 10 to 15 feet of water moved through this location. This road basically parallels Lower Little Creek for slightly over a mile. Just about all homes along this road were severely damaged or destroyed. Every home that was not attached to a concrete slab was moved off its foundation. All automobiles in the area were swept 1/4 mile from their original location. Robbins Road meets up with Caney Church Road where a large section of the road was washed out. The next road was Luther-Saucier Road. Here a small section of the road was washed out. Just west of Luther-Saucier Road is McGraw Road. Here the water was 5 feet deep. Three homes along this road were moved off their foundation.

As the flood waters entered Marion county they seemed to slow and become more confined to the creek channel. However, several homes were flooded by 3 to 5 feet of water while 1 to 3 feet of water flowed over portions of Highway 13. This occurred in and near the community of Pinebur. A large section of Pine Burr Road was washed out where the creek crossed the road. Large sections of asphalt were removed from the road bed and placed neatly in residents yards.

A total of 121 homes or businesses were damaged by the flood waters. Of the 121 damaged structures, 52 were completely destroyed, 40 sustained major damage and 29 sustained minor damage. In addition, 30 roads were damaged or closed by the flood waters. The affected area stretched some 17 miles west of the dam to where Lower Little Creek meets the Pearl River.



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

**MISSISSIPPI, Central**

The best way to describe the damage is "Incredible". The power of the flood water was amazing as it produced damage that was comparable to F2, F3 and F4 tornado damage.

**Bolivar County**

**Cleveland**

20	2025CST 2028CST				0	0	10K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (EG60)</b>
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Thunderstorm winds caused minor damage to a few homes.

**Bolivar County**

**Shaw**

20	2125CST 2127CST				0	0	5K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (EG55)</b>
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A few power lines were blown down.