



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



October 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	
<u>TEXAS, Mid - South</u>									
Live Oak County									
Lagarteo	07	1805CST			0	0			Flash Flood
			Sheriff report of flooded roads with numerous stranded vehicles.						
Live Oak County									
Lagarteo	08	1625CST			0	0			Flash Flood
			Numerous reports of flooding and closed roads.						
San Patricio County									
Mathis	08	1630CST			0	0			Flash Flood
			Numerous reports of flooding with roads closed due to torrential rainfall.						
Aransas County									
Countywide	09	0840CST			0	0			Flood
	11	2100CST							
Bee County									
Countywide	09	0840CST			0	0			Flood
	11	2100CST							
Jim Wells County									
Countywide	09	0840CST			0	0			Flood
	11	2100CST							
Kleberg County									
Countywide	09	0840CST			0	0			Flood
	11	2100CST							
Live Oak County									
Countywide	09	0840CST			0	0			Flood
	11	2100CST							
Nueces County									
Countywide	09	0840CST			2	0			Flood
	11	2100CST							
			M14IW, M13IW						
Refugio County									
Countywide	09	0840CST			0	0			Flood
	11	2100CST							
San Patricio County									
Countywide	09	0840CST			0	0			Flood
	11	2100CST							
Aransas County									
Countywide	13	0030CST			0	0			Flood
		0730CST							
Bee County									
Countywide	13	0030CST			0	0			Flood
		0730CST							
Calhoun County									
Countywide	13	0030CST			0	0			Flood
		0730CST							
Goliad County									
Countywide	13	0030CST			0	0			Flood
		0730CST							
Jim Wells County									
Countywide	13	0030CST			0	0			Flood
		0730CST							
Kleberg County									
Countywide	13	0030CST			0	0			Flood
		0730CST							
Live Oak County									
Countywide	13	0030CST			0	0			Flood
		0730CST							



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	
<u>TEXAS, Mid - South</u>									
Nueces County									
Countywide	13	0030CST 0730CST			0	0			Flood
Refugio County									
Countywide	13	0030CST 0730CST			0	0			Flood
San Patricio County									
Countywide	13	0030CST 0730CST			0	0			Flood
Victoria County									
Countywide	13	0030CST 0730CST			0	0			Flood
Refugio County									
Tivoli	30	0345CST Sheriff report of dime sized hail.			0	0			Hail(0.75)
Live Oak County									
6 NE Three Rivers	30	1715CST Sheriff report of quarter sized hail.			0	0			Hail(1.00)
Bee County									
2 N Beeville	30	1800CST Police report of quarter sized hail.			0	0			Hail(1.00)

Record setting rains producing extensive flooding occurred from October 9-13, 1997 across portions of the South Texas Coastal Bend. A high pressure area across the eastern U.S. and Gulf of Mexico combined with an area of low pressure from northern Mexico to force an influx of very moist and unstable tropical air into the Texas coastal plains.

Residual moisture from once Hurricane Pauline over the southwest Mexican Pacific coast also contributed to the tropical moisture feed. A series of weak upper level disturbances interacted with the deep tropical airmass to produce numerous "training" bands of showers and thunderstorms across the Texas coastal plains from October 9-12. During the early part of the event, a low-level inverted trough was analyzed across the Coastal Bend of South Texas. An upper level area of high pressure had built across the area resulting in very light steering winds aloft. Strong easterly winds with a long fetch across the Gulf of Mexico resulted in the threat of coastal flooding throughout the period. Low level winds increased and veered to more of a southerly direction late on the 11th into the 12th in advance of a cold front pushing into the Central Plains. This resulted in a great reduction in the precipitation across the area on the 12th with no flooding observed. However, convergence ahead of the front late on the 12th and into the early morning hours of the 13th resulted in a redevelopment of numerous showers and thunderstorms across the area along with widespread flooding. The Storm Total estimates from the WSR-88D at Corpus Christi, TX, as well as reports from observers, indicated rainfall totals ranging from 8 to 22 inches. The greatest flooding occurred in the Corpus Christi area of Nueces county with an estimated \$5 million in flood damages. Unfortunately, two teenage brothers (ages 14 and 13) drowned after being swept away by flood waters while playing near a drainage basin in Annville, TX (near Corpus Christi) in Nueces county. The majority of the agricultural crops had already been harvested so damage to crops was minimal. There were literally hundreds of automobiles stranded during the flood event.