



The Historical Flood of May 8-10, 1995

Ten Years Later

Impact



Pictures were taken by the National Weather Service Slidell



7 Deaths
\$3.1 Billion in losses
\$1.85B insured
\$1.25B est. uninsured
44,000 homes and businesses
Over 1 million people impacted
Federal Disaster Areas
Seven Louisiana Parishes
Four Mississippi Counties

1995 Forecasting Technology

In 1995, a computer system called Automation of Field Operations and Services, or AFOS for short was operational. AFOS (pictured to the right and below) was developed by the Ford Motor Company and represented 1960s technology. The systems have been in place in National Weather Service Forecast offices since the early 1980s.



utilize the radar data at a separate workstation and satellite data at a separate Micro-Swis Satellite Workstation.

All graphics were in black and white. A maximum of three products could be overlaid on one another. Looping capabilities were crude and text editing was cumbersome. In addition, the forecaster was unable to view radar data and satellite data at an AFOS workstation. He or she had to



2005 Forecasting Technology

In 1997, The Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) was the final installation of the National Weather Service's modernization plan at Slidell. State-of-the-art computer hardware and software allow forecasters to view many different types of meteorological data on one system. Each AWIPS workstation consists of three graphics monitors and one text workstation. There are five AWIPS workstations in our office.



overlaid on one another. Prior to AWIPS, forecasters had to use several different machines to view all of these data.

Flash Flood Monitoring and Prediction, or FFMP is a powerful software tool on AWIPS that allows meteorologists to better forecast the onset of flash flooding. This software monitors radar estimated rainfall rates and amounts, then compares the accumulated totals with flash flood guidance (FFG) values produced by RFCs (River Forecast Centers). A variety of graphical displays help the forecaster determine any areas which have increased potential for flooding.



The three graphics workstations are capable of displaying up to 15 different windows, each containing its own display of weather information. Forecasters interrogate radar and satellite imagery, lightning data, upper air data generated by weather balloons, observed surface weather, and a plethora of numerical model guidance. These fields can be looped, zoomed, and even