

Decision Support Services for

Southeast Louisiana and Southwest Mississippi Heavy Rainfall and Flooding – August 2016

Timeline of Products Issued:

- Sat Aug 6, 220pm - Hazardous Weather Outlook was updated to include potential for heavy rainfall during the mid-latter part of the following week
- Mon Aug 8, 1014a – A Hydrologic Outlook (ESFLIX) was issued with the headline “Heavy Rainfall May Produce Elevated River Levels in Coming Days” and mentioning that a flood watch may be posted at a later time
- Mon Aug 8, 451p – First graphic posted to social media and NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge website showing potential for heavy rainfall later in the week
- Tues Aug 9, 139p –Flood Watch was issued for St. Tammany Parish in Southeast Louisiana as well as the coastal counties of Southern Mississippi
- Wed Aug 10, 951a – Flood Watch was expanded to include parishes north of Lake Pontchartrain
- Thu Aug 11, 432a – Flood Watch was replaced with a Flash Flood Watch and expanded to include the remainder of Southeast Louisiana and Southern Mississippi
- Thu Aug 11, 854a – first Flash Flood Warning issued for parts of coastal Mississippi
- Thu Aug 11, 928a – first Flash Flood Warning issued for parts of the Louisiana River Parishes (southwest of Lake Pontchartrain)
- Thu Aug 11, 1019a – first Flood Warning issued for the Amite and Comite Rivers
- Thu Aug 11, 516p – first Flash Flood Warning issued for part of Southwest Mississippi
- Fri Aug 12, 209a – first Flash Flood Warning issued for parishes north of Baton Rouge
- Fri Aug 12, 423a – first Flash Flood Warning issued for Baton Rouge and surrounding areas
- Fri Aug 12, 618a –first Flash Flood Emergency was issued for parts of Southwest Mississippi
- Fri Aug 12, 621a – first Flash Flood Emergency was issued for areas north of Baton Rouge
- Fri Aug 12, 1005a – first Flash Flood Emergency was issued for parts of Baton Rouge metro area

Notable Briefings and Media Interviews:

- Mon Aug 8, 359p – First email briefing sent to emergency managers of southeast Louisiana and southern/southwest Mississippi highlighting potential threat for heavy rain later in the week. Email briefings continued twice daily (morning and afternoon) through the event and into the response and initial recovery phases.
- Tue Aug 9, 200p – First webinar briefing held for emergency managers of southeast Louisiana and southern/southwest Mississippi highlighting the heavy rain and flood threat later in the week. Webinar briefings continued daily through the afternoon of Thursday August 12, then SE Task Force through 9/1.
- Tue Aug 9 – Two live interviews were done with The Weather Channel at 510p and 610p to discuss the heavy rain and flood threat. Multiple daily skype interviews with The Weather Channel and Weather Nation continued through Friday Aug 12.
- Thu Aug 11- Activation of Integrated Warning Team, conference call with all 3 media markets to coordinate the message to the public.
- Fri Aug 12, 9am – A phone briefing was provided to Waterford III Nuclear Power Plant in St. Charles Parish concerning the heavy rain and flash flood threat that day.
- Fri Aug 12, 930a – Emergency managers in East Baton Rouge and East Feliciana Parishes were specifically briefed about the expected record river levels along the Amite and Comite Rivers
- Wed Aug 17 - Daily phone briefings began for the FEMA Region VI JFO. These briefings are still ongoing through the recovery phase.
- Sat Aug 27 - An NWS forecaster was deployed to Baton Rouge to provide on-site briefings to FEMA Region VI staff working on recovery in anticipation of possible impacts from a tropical cyclone. The deployment lasted 2 days until it was clear there would be no major local impact.

Other Notable Actions:

- Briefings to LA Department of Transportation concerning impacts to Interstates.
- Numerous tropical impacts briefings to the New Orleans Federal Executive Board , U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the United States Coast Guard District 8.