

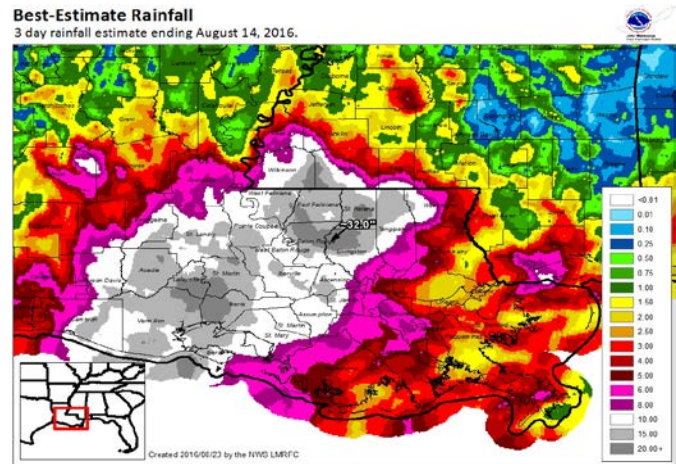
On August 12, the Governor of Louisiana declared a State of Emergency for the entire state. As a result of historical rainfall from August 11 to August 14, river levels in East and West Feliciana, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Livingston, Ascension, and East and West Baton Rouge Parishes shattered previous records. On August 16, 2016, Louisiana's Governor announced that 20 Louisiana parishes were declared a major disaster by the federal government.

Collaboration

The New Orleans-Baton Rouge Weather Forecast Office (WFO) and the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center (LMRFC) are co-located in Slidell, Louisiana. Our two NWS offices have a long history of hydrometeorological forecasting collaboration due to the regions vulnerability to coastal storms including major hurricanes. As demonstrated just 5 months prior in the historical March 2016 flood event, the interdisciplinary staffs of the WFO and LMRFC worked as one to produce the highest quality hydrologic forecasts for record-breaking river levels, impact based decision support services to highlight impending threats, and data services inclusive of geospatial maps for first responders and recovery officials to use in disaster declarations and recovery grants.

Communication

Prior to the event, the WFO and LMRFC forecast staffs formulated a common operating picture and talking points to insure federal, state, and local decision makers received a consistent message on the impending heavy rainfall event. Working around the clock, consistency of messaging and communication of impacts were constantly coordinated to support rescue and evacuation efforts. The tremendous collaboration to develop forecasts for an event that had never been experienced before carried over to the successful development of our offices' messaging to the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) during the complete phase of a disaster that caused over 8.7 billion dollars and affected more than 55,000 homes with 80% uninsured by flood insurance.



River System	Map Number	Location	August 2016 Crests		Previous Record Crests	
			Height (ft)	Date	Height (ft)	Date
Comite	1	Olive Branch	29.96	Aug 13	23.37	Mar 18, 1961
Comite	2	Comite- Joor Road	34.22	Aug 14	30.64	May 19, 1953
Tickfaw	3	Liverpool	13.76	Aug 12	13.30	Apr 6, 1983
Tickfaw	4	Montpelier	25.84	Aug 12	22.31	May 23, 1974
Tickfaw	5	Holden	22.16	Aug 13	21.04	Apr 7, 1983
Tangipahoa	6	Amite	26.28	Aug 13	24.73	Mar 11, 2016
Tangipahoa	7	Robert	27.33	Aug 14	27.10	Mar 14, 1921
Amite	8	Darlington	22.54	Aug 13	22.05	Jan 25, 1990
Amite	9	Denham Springs	46.20	Aug 14	41.50	Apr 8, 1983
Amite	10	Bayou Manchac Pt	21.5	Aug 14	18.85	Apr 8, 1983
Amite	11	Port Vincent	17.5	Aug 15	14.65	Apr 9, 1983
Amite	12	French Settlement	9.4 (Est)	Aug 16	8.2 (Est)	Apr 9, 1983