

551.515(08)(73)

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS, MAY, 1929

[The table herewith contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A more complete statement will appear in the Annual Report of the Chief of Bureau]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards ¹	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks	Authority
Perry County, Mo.....	1	2 p. m.....	3-6 mi.	-----	\$100,000	Hail, wind and rain.	2 barns and 1 dwelling unroofed; many windows broken; crops and autos damaged; several persons and some livestock injured; path 20 miles. Damage chiefly to buildings; 13 person injured.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Tucker, Okla., to Fort Smith, Ark.	1	2:15-2:37 p. m.	60	-----	54,000	Tornado.....	Character of damage not reported; path 12 miles.	Do.
Jethro, Ark.....	1	2:25 p. m.....	600	-----	50,000	do.....	Character of damage not reported; path 12 miles.	Do.
Cora to Raleigh, Ill.....	1	3 p. m.....	2-6 mi.	-----	720,000	Hail, rain and wind.	Roofs pierced; windows broken; greenhouses practically demolished; fruit ruined; path 6 miles long.	Do.
Frankston, Tex.....	1	3 p. m.....	300	-----	2,500	Tornado.....	Buildings damaged.....	Do.
Rex, Ark.....	1	3:30 p. m.....	400	-----	40,000	do.....	Village practically wiped out; 6 persons injured; path 5 miles.	Do.
Dallas, Tex.....	1	4 p. m.....	-----	-----	-----	Wind.....	Buildings considerably damaged.....	Do.
Wheatley, Ark.....	1	6:45 p. m.....	200	9	250,000	Tornado.....	Numerous structures blown down or damaged; telephone communication cut-off; 20 persons injured.	Do.
Newport, Tenn. (10 miles south of).	1	P. m.....	-----	-----	-----	Heavy hail.....	Much damage to roofs, orchards and gardens....	Do.
Seligman, Mo.....	1	P. m.....	15 mi.	-----	15,000	do.....	Vegetation beaten and roofs damaged over an area 15 miles square.	Do.
Hamilton (northern) and adjacent Counties, Ohio.	1-2	-----	-----	-----	-----	Wind, hail, and thunderstorm.	Considerable damage to trees and greenhouses; truck crops injured.	Do.
Rye Cove, Va.....	2	2 p. m.....	-----	13	100,000	Tornado.....	A school building and several homes wrecked. other houses unroofed; trees uprooted; about 50 persons injured.	Do.
Woodville, Va.....	2	3:30 p. m.....	-----	1	200,000	do.....	2 churches, a school building, and 4 homes demolished; others damaged; about 20 persons injured.	Do.
Jacksonville Heights, Fla., and vicinity.	2	4:20 p. m.....	160	1	25,000	Tornadoic wind.....	Several cottages demolished; trees and roofs damaged; 8 persons injured; path, 2 miles.	Do.
Morgantown, W. Va., to Uniontown, Pa.	2	4:20 p. m.....	-----	-----	-----	Probably tornado.	A number of houses wrecked or damaged; several persons injured; trees prostrated.	Do.
Bath County, Va.....	2	6 p. m.....	250-800	-----	75,000	Tornado.....	Much destruction of farm property; over head wires blown down; poultry killed; many persons injured; path 17 miles.	Do.
Hamilton, Va., to Taneytown, Md.	2	7:30-10 p. m.	100-130	2	150,000	do.....	Farm property damaged or destroyed; poles broken; trees uprooted; several persons injured.	Do.
Lagrange to Catlett, Va.....	2	8 p. m.....	-----	4	50,000	do.....	Several homes and farm buildings demolished; others damaged; livestock killed; autos wrecked.	Do.
Montgomery and Howard Counties, Md.	2	9 p. m.....	150-250	4	80,000	do.....	Buildings partially or entirely destroyed on 6 farms.	Do.
Cooke to Washington Counties, Tenn.	2	-----	-----	2	-----	do.....	Large trees twisted; a score of homes damaged or demolished; 4 persons injured at Cherokee.	Do.
Franklin County, Ohio.....	2	P. m.....	-----	2	25,000	Tornadoic wind.....	City workhouse at Columbus demolished; other minor damage; 6 persons injured.	Do.
South Carolina.....	2	-----	-----	-----	900,000	Wind.....	Much sprout cotton and corn seriously injured, necessitating replanting.	Do.
Washington, D. C.....	2	P. m.....	-----	-----	-----	do.....	Some property damage; 62 trees uprooted or broken off.	Do.
Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan.	2-3	-----	-----	-----	775,000	Snow and wind.....	Overhead wires down; highways obstructed; much damage to orchards.	Do.
South Allapattah, Fla.....	5	2:30 p. m.....	2,640	-----	30,000	Hail.....	Damage chiefly to crops.....	Do.
Berlin, N. H.....	5	4 p. m.....	-----	-----	300,000	Tornado.....	A number of buildings wrecked, others damaged.	Boston Herald, Mass.
Bolivar and Coahoma Counties, Miss.	7	-----	-----	-----	-----	Wind and hail.....	Crops injured; property damaged.....	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Fairfax, Okla.....	7	11 p. m.....	-----	-----	-----	Heavy hail.....	Fruit, crops, and other property damaged.....	Do.
Peach County, Ga.....	8	-----	-----	-----	-----	Severe hail.....	Great damage to peach crop.....	Do.
Alexandria, La.....	9	-----	3,520	-----	5,000	do.....	Considerable damage to roofs over area 2 miles square.	Do.
Johnson, Kans. (20 miles northeast of).	10	6 p. m.....	200	-----	900	Small tornado.....	Minor damage to farm buildings over path 1 mile long.	Do.
Alexander, Kans. (near).....	10	P. m.....	-----	-----	-----	do.....	Minor damage reported.....	Do.
Otis, Kans. (near).....	10	do.....	-----	-----	-----	do.....	do.....	Do.
Chanute, Kans. (near).....	11	5 p. m.....	33	-----	1,500	do.....	Farm buildings damaged; a barn completely demolished; 1 person injured.	Do.
Huntsdale to Bethel, Mo.....	11	6 p. m.....	880	-----	12,000	Heavy hail.....	Crops, roofs, and windows damaged over path 4 miles long.	Do.
Fort Wayne, Ind., and vicinity.	11	-----	-----	-----	15,500	Wind and electrical.	Power and light service impaired; tower damaged by lightning.	Do.
Pancoatburg (near) to Five Points (near), Ohio.	14	4 p. m.....	-----	-----	3,000	Tornado.....	Small damage to trees and property.....	Do.
Radnor (near), Ohio.....	14	7 p. m.....	-----	-----	4,100	do.....	Character of damage not reported.....	Do.
Wooster (near), Ohio.....	14	9 p. m.....	-----	-----	-----	Probably tornado.	A home unroofed; trees uprooted.....	Do.
Claremore, Okla. (6 miles northeast of).	15	P. m.....	-----	-----	-----	Tornado.....	Minor property damage.....	Do.
Marinette, Wis.....	15	do.....	-----	-----	30,000	Severe squall.....	Considerable damage to church steeples, farm buildings, and silos.	Do.
Tiskilwa to Hollowayville, Ill.	15	-----	160	-----	6,000	Probably tornado.	Trees blown down and a few barns wrecked over path 15 miles long; 2 persons injured.	Do.
Portland, Me.....	16	1:40 p. m.....	-----	-----	25,000	Tornado.....	Several buildings wrecked, others damaged.....	Do.
Kezar Falls and South Hiram, Me.	16	P. m.....	-----	-----	2,000	Wind.....	Numerous buildings wrecked or unroofed; trees twisted; timber damaged.	Do.
Catron County, N. Mex.	16	-----	220-880	-----	-----	Tornado.....	A house, fences, and forest trees damaged.....	Do.
McCamey, Tex.....	17	11:15 a. m.....	100	-----	2,000	do.....	Buildings damaged.....	Do.
Electra, Tex.....	17	2 p. m.....	15 mi.	-----	175,000	Wind.....	Extensive damage to crops and buildings; 1 person injured.	Do.
Dundee, Tex.....	17	2:30 p. m.....	440	-----	20,000	Tornado.....	Damage chiefly to buildings; 3 persons injured.....	Do.
Clara, Tex., and vicinity.....	17	4 p. m.....	880	-----	-----	Wind.....	Oil derricks and buildings badly damaged; 1 person injured.	Do.
Del Rio, Tex. (near).....	17	4:30 p. m.....	3,500	-----	6,500	Hail.....	Crops injured.....	Do.
Byers, Tex.....	17	do.....	880	-----	10,000	Wind.....	Buildings damaged.....	Do.
Waco, Tex. (near).....	17	5:30 p. m.....	880	-----	8,000	do.....	Crops and buildings damaged.....	Do.
Springfield, Mo.....	18	8:55 a. m.....	33	-----	1,200	Small tornado.....	Minor damage to buildings; path three-fourths mile long.	Do.
Westfield, Tex.....	18	12:30 p. m.....	20	-----	5,000	Tornado.....	Buildings damaged; poultry killed; 4 persons injured.	Do.
Charles County, Md. (southeastern).	19	-----	-----	-----	-----	Thunder gust.....	Barns unroofed; windows broken; trees uprooted.	Do.

¹"Mi." signifies miles instead of yards.

Severe local storms, May 1929—Continued

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Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks	Authority
New Jersey (central and northern).	19					Wind	Power and communication lines and houses damaged.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Ysleta, Tex.	20	P. m.				Hail	Much cotton destroyed or damaged.	Do.
Moriarty, N. Mex.	21					Tornado and hail	Minor property damage.	Do.
Fabens, Tex.	22	5 p. m.	1,760			Hail	Some cotton and considerable fruit destroyed.	Do.
Del Rio, Tex. (near)	23					Tornado	Severe damage to crops.	Do.
Smithville, Okla.	25	4 p. m.	33		700	Wind	Every business house except one damaged.	Do.
Cuthbert, Tex. (near)	25		3 mi.		250,000	Heavy hail	Damage principally to crops and buildings; poultry and livestock killed.	Do.
Sealy, Tex.	26	12:15 a. m.	500		12,500	Tornado	Several homes and 2 churches demolished.	Do.
Beaumont, Tex.	26	3 a. m.		1	25,000	Wind	Oil derricks wrecked; plate glass broken.	Do.
Pasadena, Tex.	26	do	20		2,000	Tornado	Crops and buildings damaged.	Do.
Hyannis, Nebr. (near)	26	5 p. m.	16		250	do	Slight damage to buildings on one ranch.	Do.
Encinal, Tex. (near)	26	8:20 p. m.	880			Hail	Young cotton killed.	Do.
Albert Lea, Minn. (near)	26				10,000	Tornado	Considerable property loss.	Do.
Lyon County, Iowa.	28	5 p. m.			2,700	do	Character of damage not reported.	Do.
Plymouth, Clay, and Palo Alto Counties, Iowa.	28	do			3,500	Wind	do	Do.
Yoakum, Tex.	28	11 p. m.	400		700	Tornado	2 buildings damaged.	Do.
Johnstown Pa.	28			2		Thunderstorm	Grandstand struck by lightning; 6 persons injured.	Do.
Columbus, N. Mex.	30					Tornadic wind	Wire service impaired; several buildings wrecked.	The New Mexican (Santa Fe, N. Mex.)
Florence, N. J.	31					Thunderstorm and wind.	Buildings damaged; wires broken by falling trees.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.

627.41 (73) RIVERS AND FLOODS

By H. C. FRANKENFIELD

The Mississippi River was above the flood stage from the mouth of the Ohio River southward at the end of May, and probably will not fall below that stage at New Orleans, La., until the end of June. Discussion of this flood will therefore be included in the report for June.

The outstanding floods of the month of May were those of the rivers of central and eastern Texas. They were caused by rains attendant upon a series of slow moving and often poorly defined barometric depressions from the Southern Plateau and the extreme Southwest during the last two decades of May. After a month of generally dry weather, these depressions brought light rains as early as May 10 and heavy general rains on May 12-13, and still heavier ones on May 17-18, 25-26, and especially May 28-30. As a whole the month was the wettest of record for the State of Texas, with an average rainfall of 7.70 inches against the previous high record of 7.68 inches in May, 1914. The greatest fall of the month, 22.55 inches, occurred at Rockland on the Neches River, with a maximum fall, as recorded by the observer, of 11.05 inches between 4 p. m. and midnight, May 27.

Resulting floods were, of course, severe and the heavy downstream rains, coming as they did when the middle and upper portions of the rivers were at or above the flood stages, intensified the high stages as the crests advanced.

The floods were greatest and most destructive in the Trinity and Brazos Rivers and their tributaries. The Sabine River flood was moderate, while those in the Colorado and Guadalupe Rivers were quite pronounced. The Neches flood was also moderate.

The most spectacular floods of the State were those of the Buffalo River and White Oak Bayou above and through Houston on May 31. They were due to the heavy rains of May 28-30, and the stages reached were said to have been the highest since 1879, although there are no actual gage readings to substantiate this statement. Levels run by the city engineer of Houston, Mr. Fugate, showed a stage on May 31 of about 32 feet above mean tide immediately below the confluence of the two streams which is usually at tide level. Mr.

Fugate also computed previous high stages as follows: 1854, 32.3 feet; 1879, 34.3 feet; 1907, 24.9 feet.

A considerable area of the city of Houston was flooded, and damage and loss amounted to about \$1,000,000.

Timely warnings were issued for all floods, and the aggregate savings of livestock and other movable property reached a very gratifying figure. Unfortunately the growing season was so well advanced that the greatest losses will come from crop destruction. How much relief may be obtained from later plantings is problematical, but in any event the actual losses will run into millions of dollars.

Loss and damage as reported were as follows. The figures given are very incomplete:

Drainage	Tangible property	Crops			Livestock and other movable property	Suspension of business	Total	Saved through warnings
		Mature amount	Prospective					
			Acres	Amount				
Sabine	\$50,000	\$15,000	1,700	\$26,000			\$91,000	
Neches	25,000	25,000	2,500		\$15,000		65,000	
Trinity	254,250		29,970	2,239,000	2,500	\$63,500	2,559,250	\$187,500
Brazos	83,000	438,000	173,950	1,779,625	11,500	28,000	2,345,125	616,000
Total	417,250	478,000	208,120	4,044,625	29,000	91,500	5,060,375	803,500

¹ Plus \$1,026,175 not itemized.

Later report will be made regarding loss and damage figures for the floods in the Colorado, Guadalupe, and Nueces Rivers.

There were no floods of consequence in the Atlantic and East Gulf drainage areas, although high stages prevailed throughout the month in the Santee River, which river has been in flood almost continuously since February 10.

Little or no damage resulted from these floods, except in the lowest bottom lands along the Black Warrior River below Tuscaloosa, Ala., and the Tombigbee River below Demopolis, Ala. In this district the reported loss of property amounted to \$129,300, of which \$23,900 was in tangible property, \$14,000 in prospective crops (12,400 acres), \$14,000 in livestock and other movable property,