



National Weather Service Austin-San Antonio TX



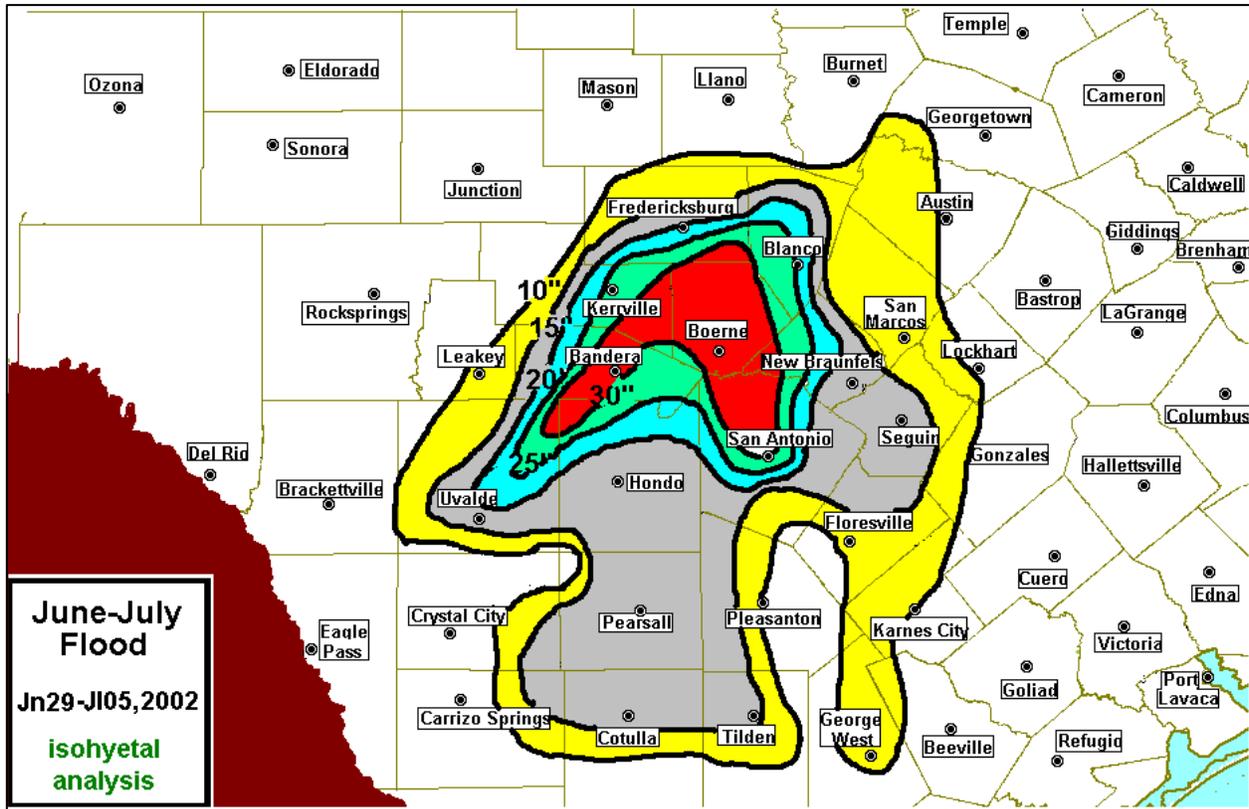
10 Years Later...Remembering the Floods of June 30-July 6, 2002

June 2002 was a month of precipitation extremes, beginning very dry, but ending in the last five days with widespread heavy rain and extreme flooding that continued into early July. On Tuesday afternoon June 25th, scattered showers and thunderstorms formed over the eastern part of South Central Texas. In the early evening hours, these storms moved west and dissipated, bringing only spotty rains to parts of South Central Texas. The next day (June 26th) began hot, with temperatures rising to 99°F at San Antonio, 103°F at Del Rio, and 97°F at Austin Camp Mabry and Austin Bergstrom. Showers and thunderstorms formed again in the afternoon and continued into the evening. Showers and thunderstorms continued to increase in coverage and intensity from the 27th through 29th.

The prior rainfall from the 26th through 29th preconditioned the soils, streams, and rivers to their water holding capacity, such that when heavy rains fell on June 30th and July 1st, significant flooding occurred. San Antonio International Airport received 9.52 inches of rain on July 1st, setting the record for that date, but also for the whole month of July. The previous July monthly record was 8.29 inches in 1990. Additional showers and thunderstorms continued July 2nd through 5th. Since the ground was already saturated, more flooding occurred. The heaviest rain fell over the Hill Country to the north and west of San Antonio. The upper level trough that focused the heavy rain over South Central Texas finally began to move north on the 6th and showers and thunderstorms tapered off to only scattered activity the 7th through 10th.

In total, 15.72 inches of rain fell in the first 10 days of July at San Antonio, with similar and even higher amounts at many other locations in the area. The final July 2002 total at San Antonio was 16.92 inches, making it the wettest July and the 2nd wettest month (after 18.07 inches in October 1998), for the period of record from 1871 to 2011. Austin Bergstrom picked up 3.56 inches and Austin Camp Mabry 4.39 inches in

the first 10 days of July. The final rainfall for July 2002 at Austin Camp Mabry was 4.94 inches, while 5.32 inches fell at Austin Bergstrom. Meanwhile, Del Rio only had 0.15 inches of rain in the first 10 days of July 2002, with a monthly total of 0.87 inches. Maximum rainfall amounts of 30-40 inches occurred between June 30th and July 6th (Figure 1) over portions of Bexar, Kendall, Gillespie, Kerr, Bandera, Uvalde, and Medina counties.



Rain totals July 1-8 2002

Camp Verde....	31.17	inches
Sisterdale.....	28.10	
Comfort.....	27.74	
Boerne.....	25.95	
Utopia.....	24.02	
Canyon Dam....	15.44	
San Antonio.....	15.17	
Dilley.....	14.63	

Flood Facts:

- Rainfall totals of 30-40 inches
- Damage to 48,000 homes
- 10 Deaths
- 250 high water rescue calls
- \$250 Million in losses
- Record lake levels for Canyon and Medina Lakes

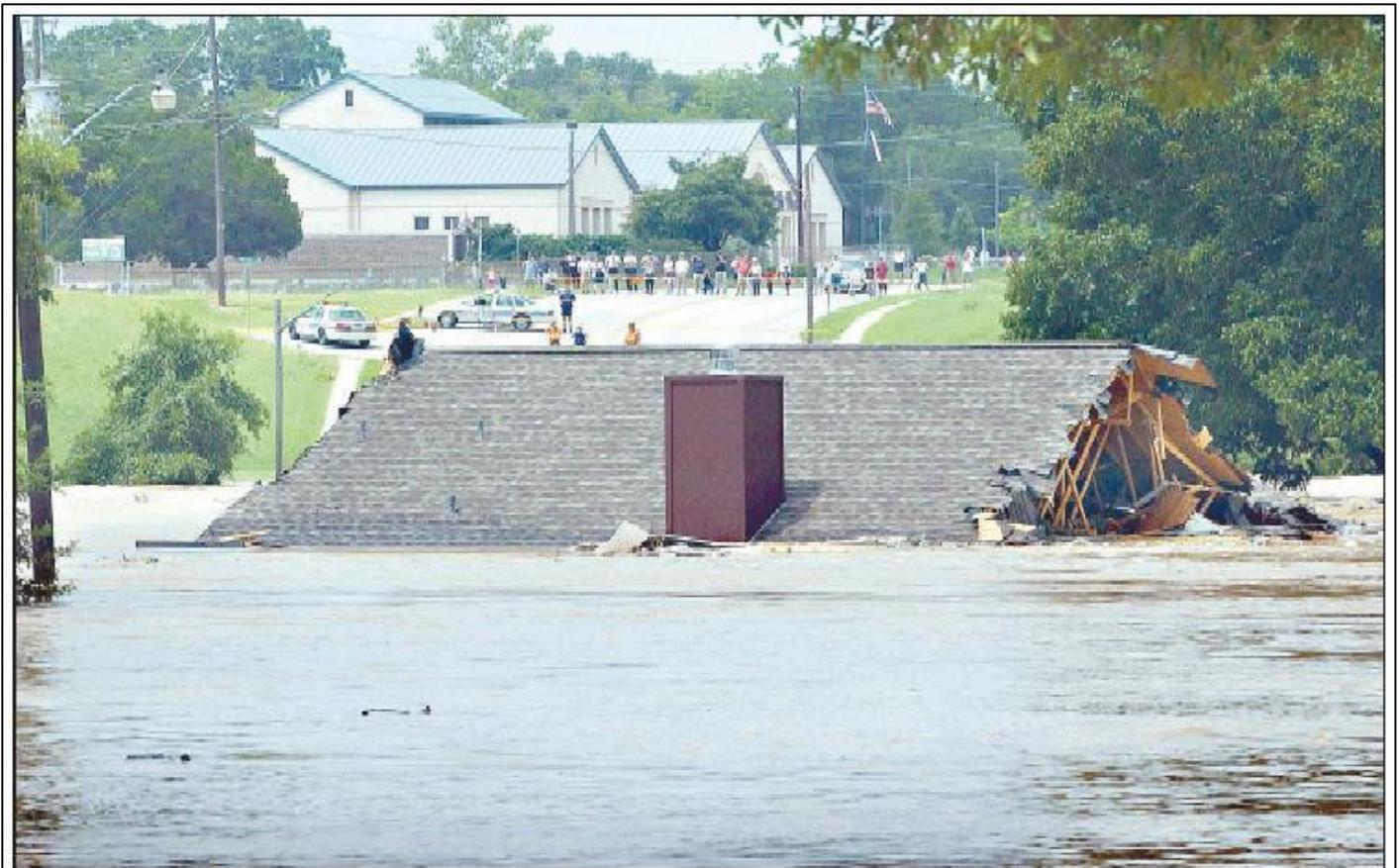
Canyon Lake Overflow...New Braunfels Flood



The emergency spillway is used for the first time in the history of Canyon Lake as the lake officially overflows on July 4, 2002



The overflow cuts through the hillside and creates a "Gorge". Sections of South Access Road are destroyed.



TOM REEL/STAFF

A shattered home from the Rivercrest subdivision in New Braunfels floats over the Commons Street bridge on the Guadalupe River.

The picture above is the likely the most famous image of the 2002 flood event as a New Braunfels residence flows down the Guadalupe River at the Common Street bridge.

South Central Texas Images...



Flooding devastates portions of San Antonio. Aerial shot of Highway 281 near the Quarry and Basse.



Flooding in San Antonio near I-10 and Loop 1604.



Medina River Bridge in Bandera
Photo By: Patrick Manchee