

SE Texas Not Done As Harvey's Disastrous Rains & Torrents Spread to New Orleans

By Greg Porter and Jason Samenow August 29 at 11:50 AM



Rescue boats fill an inundated street as flood victims are evacuated in Houston on Aug. 28. (David J. Phillip/AP)

The flood of epic proportions is not finished with Houston and large parts of southeast Texas. After 30 to 45 inches of rain, quite possibly the greatest rain storm in U.S. history, another 10 inches could still fall. Meanwhile, excessive rains have pushed into New Orleans, which was under a flash flood warning Tuesday morning.

In the 24 hours ending Tuesday morning, 4-12 inches of new rain had fallen across in Houston, adding more water to a landmass that is fully saturated.

Rivers and bayous remained near and above record levels, and Houston's two major reservoirs, Addicks and Barker, west of the city are overflowing for the first time ever.

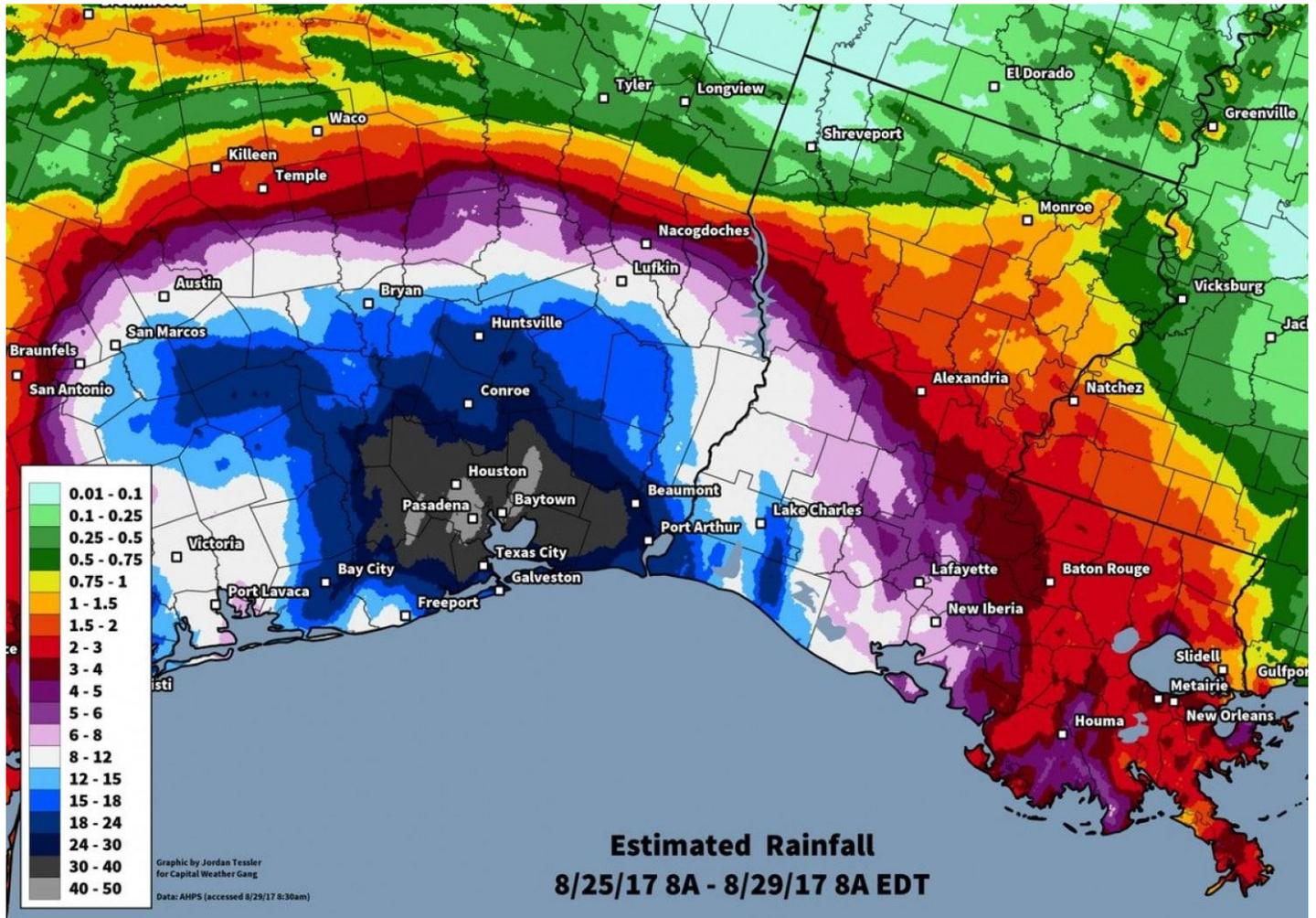
[Houston dam spills over for the first time in history, overwhelmed by Harvey rainfall]

Harvey has also spread its misery beyond the Texas border. Southwestern portions of Louisiana have received double digits totals from the storms. New Orleans has received

several inches of rain from Harvey, and can expect up to an additional 5-10 through Thursday — the majority falling Tuesday.

New Orleans has already had it's own problems with flooding this summer, and in a somewhat cruel twist of fate, Tuesday marks the 12th anniversary of Katrina's landfall in Louisiana.

Rainfall totals



Rainfall totals through 8 a.m. Tuesday from Harvey. (Jordan Tessler)

The total rainfall numbers from Harvey have added up to historically extreme levels. At least 5 million people in the region around Houston have seen at least 36 inches of rain. On Tuesday morning, a rain gauge in the southeast part of the city moved past 49 inches for the storm which breaks the Texas and Lower 48 states record for the most amount of rain ever recorded from a tropical system – pending verification.

“The 3-to-4 day rainfall totals of greater than 40 inches (possible 50 inches in locations surrounding Santa Fe and Dickinson) are simply mind-blowing that has led to the largest

flood in Houston-Galveston history,” the National Weather Service office Serving Houston wrote.

Link: Updated rainfall totals from Harvey

Parts of Texas have seen more rain in the past four days than some major cities see in an entire year. That includes Washington D.C., which averages an annual precipitation amount of 39.74 inches.



4 Day Rainfall Totals – Mid – Mid 08/25 - 08/28

National Weather Service Houston/Galveston

Here are some of the higher rainfall totals from across the area from midnight Friday August 25th through 1159 PM August 28th.

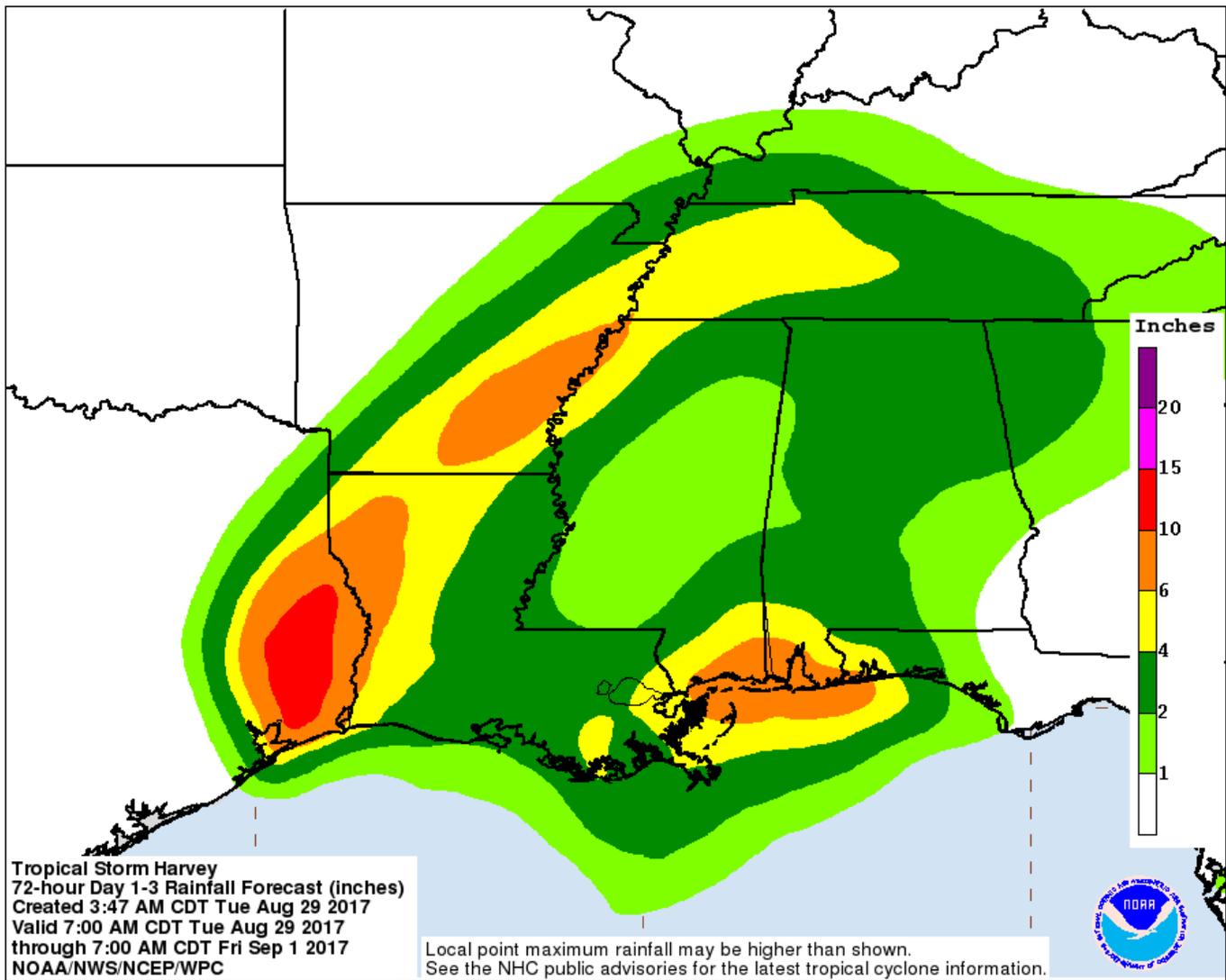
Rainfall Totals		Rainfall Totals (ASOS)	
South Houston	43.00	Bush IAH	28.33
Clear Lake City	41.52	Houston Hobby	33.88
Friendswood	40.64	Galveston	14.20
Pasadena	40.20	College Station	15.73
Baytown	37.40	Pearland	31.67
Alief	32.72	Tomball	25.57
Jersey Village	31.16	NWS Houston	42.11
Meyerland	30.88	Huntsville	18.94
Barker Reservoir	30.86	Conroe	19.98

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Image 8/29/2017
Produced 3:55 AM

Houston’s Hobby Airport registered its wettest, second wettest and fifth wettest day on record in the past three days.

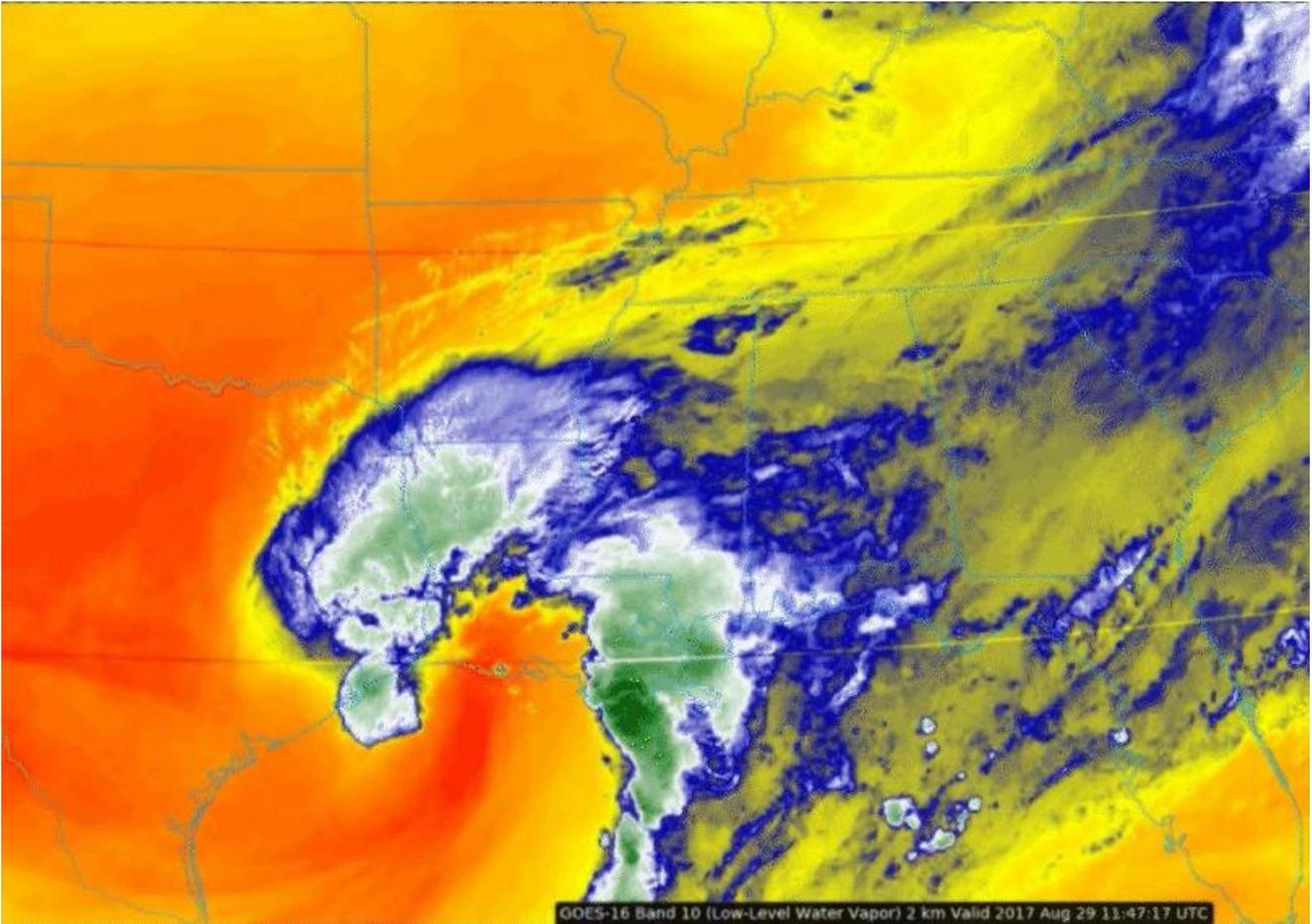
Forecast



Rainfall forecast Tuesday morning to Friday morning. (National Weather Service)

More heavy rain is expected in Southeast Texas on Tuesday and an additional 7 to 13 inches of rain is possible through Wednesday.

But there is light at the end of the tunnel. The National Hurricane Center is currently predicting that Harvey will make a second landfall along the Texas-Louisiana border on Thursday morning. But, in the mean time, drier air should start work into western portions of Houston as early as late Tuesday, with rain starting to taper of over the remainder of the area on Wednesday.



GOES -16 water vapor imagery from Tuesday morning shows dry air (red) is inching closer to Houston as Harvey slowly moves to the east.

In south central Louisiana, 5 to 15 inches of additional rain are possible, and 5 to 10 inches in Southeast Louisiana, before the storm moves away on Thursday. Rainfall amounts of 5 to 10 inches could also expand into coastal Mississippi and Alabama, causing areas of flooding.

Of course, in Houston, the flooding threat is far from over even after Harvey finally leaves the area. There is still the matter of all that water already on the ground. Much has been written in the past few days about how Houston's rapid urban development over the last few decades has exacerbated the city's flooding issues. It's becoming more evident that Houston will be dealing with the after effects of Harvey for months to years, long after the storm has moved away.