



Recent Events

The following is a list of events that required special monitoring by members of the Lafayette RACES Group. Since members hold dual membership in Skywarn, all activities for both groups are reported on this site to simplify reporting. All radar images on this page are courtesy of American Weather Concepts at <http://www.weatherconcepts.com>

The official Lafayette Skywarn Group site is at [Lafayette Skywarn Group - Weather](#).

January 1-2, 1999

The January 1-2, 1999 tornado outbreak across much of Acadiana was one of the most severe on record. As the weather moved eastward across the state, the National Weather Service Office in Lake Charles recorded tornadoes in Nome, Buna, Ragley, Carlyss, Dry Creek, Sugartown, Mittie, Hayes, Jennings, Iota, Perry, Delcambre, New Iberia, and Patterson. A Tornado Warning was issued for Lafayette and hail was reported by a Lafayette Skywarn Group observer in Scott. This tornadic thunderstorm was tracked across Lafayette Parish by the National Weather Service and Lafayette Skywarn and, fortunately, did not develop into a tornado. For more information on these tornadoes including maps of the storm tracks visit <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/FTPROOT/LCH/010299.htm#robert>

January 7, 1999

A Flash Flood Watch was issued for Lafayette Parish. At 10:20 AM a Flash Flood Warning was issued for Lafayette parish and the situation was monitored by the Lafayette Skywarn Group. Some minor flooding in Carencro was reported but, fortunately, no widespread flooding was observed. A Skywarn observer in Opelousas reported that over 6 inches of rain in a 24-hour period was accumulated at his location.

January 21-22, 1999

On January 21, 1999 the National Weather Service in Lake Charles notified the Lafayette Skywarn Group that severe weather would move through the Acadiana Region by 7:00 to 8:00 on the morning of the 22nd. The front slowed down but finally reached Lafayette at 9:00 AM. At 9:30 the NWS issued a Tornado Watch for Lafayette parish. A Tornado Warning was issued for Lafayette by 2:00 PM and hail was reported by a Lafayette Skywarn Group observer in Scott. This tornadic thunderstorm was tracked across Lafayette Parish by the National Weather Service and Lafayette Skywarn and, fortunately, did not develop into a tornado.

January 29, 1999

The National Weather service issued a Tornado Watch for Lafayette Parish. The situation was monitored by the Lafayette Skywarn Group but severe weather did not develop across the region.

February 27, 1999

A cold front moved through Acadiana in the late evening. The national Weather Service indicated that thunderstorms over the area would be likely, some possibly severe. At 9:25 PM a Lafayette Skywarn Group observer southeast of Duson reported dime-sized hail. Another Skywarn Group observer reported dime-sized hail in Broussard. These cells did not produce tornadoes and no tornadoes were associated with this front as it moved through the region. Approximately 40/100 of an inch of rain was reported by a Skywarn observer near Lafayette High School.

March 2, 1999

A cold front moved through Acadiana in the late evening. This front had a history of producing tornadoes, damaging wind and hail in eastern Texas and western Louisiana. At 8:19 PM the National Weather Service issued a Severe Thunderstorm Warning for Vermilion Parish followed by a Severe Thunderstorm Warning for Lafayette Parish at 8:43 PM. As storms associated with the front moved across the region dime-sized hail was reported by Lafayette Skywarn Group observers southeast of Duson and across a broad portion of the City of Lafayette. These cells did not produce tornadoes and no tornadoes were associated with this front as it moved across the region. Approximately 57/100 of an inch of rain was reported by a Skywarn observer near Lafayette High School.

March 8-9, 1999

A cold front moved through Acadiana in the late evening. At 5:00 PM a Tornado Watch was issued for Acadia, Lafayette, Evangeline, St. Landry and Upper St. Martin Parishes effective until 11:00 PM. The Tornado Watch was cancelled for these Parishes by 10:30 PM however it remained in effect for St. Landry parish until 04:00 AM. A Tornado Warning was issued for St. Landry Parish at approximately 10:45 PM as a tornadic thunderstorm moved across the northern portion of the parish but no tornadoes resulted. The situation was monitored by the Lafayette Skywarn Group but severe weather did not develop across the region.

March 11-13, 1999

A strong cold approached Acadiana on Thursday, March 11th, 1999, and finally passed through the region during the morning and afternoon hours of Saturday, March 13th.

At 4:32 PM, March 11, the National Weather Service issued a Flash Flood Warning for Acadia, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Upper St. Martin and Vermilion parishes until 7:25 PM. Doppler radar estimated that 3 to 6 inches of rain had fallen along the I-10 corridor and 1 to 3 additional inches were expected. The Flash Flood Warning for Vermilion Parish was extended until midnight. Most of the I-10 corridor through Acadiana remained on a Flash Flood Watch through Saturday morning, March 13. A Skywarn Observer near Lafayette High School reported 2.75 inches of rainfall between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM, Thursday, March 11.

Friday brought less rainfall totals to the region and reports of localized flooding from the Thursday rains. No severe weather occurred on Friday, March 12.

At about 5:00 AM Saturday, March 13, 1999, a Tornado Watch was issued for Acadia, Lafayette, Vermilion,, St. Landry, St. Mary, Iberia, and Upper and Lower St. Martin parishes. At 8:22 AM a Tornado Warning was issued for St. Landry parish as the cold front spawned numerous intense thunderstorms in the region. At 11:33 AM a Tornado Warning was issued for Vermilion parish and at 12:34 PM a Tornado Warning was issued for Upper St. Martin parish. No tornadoes resulted from these storms. The Tornado watch was cancelled for these parishes at 2:44 PM, Saturday afternoon as the cold front cleared the region. A three day rainfall total of 4.55 inches was reported near Lafayette High School for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The Lafayette Skywarn Group monitored the situation over the three day period by constant examination of Doppler Radar and monitoring of National Weather Service reports.

May 10, 1999

A weak cold front moved through Acadiana. At 11:23 AM a Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued for Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry and Upper St. Martin Parishes. This Severe Thunderstorm Warning was further extended to Lower St. Martin and St. Mary Parishes at 11:45 AM. AT 12:03 PM a Tornado Warning was issued for Upper St. Martin parish. The Severe Thunderstorm Warning for Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry and Upper St. Martin was cancelled by 12:45 PM. The situation was monitored by the Lafayette Skywarn Group and no tornadoes resulted across the region as a result of these storms and the front moved through Acadiana without significant incident.

May 11, 1999

Unstable atmospheric conditions continued to persist across much of Southern Louisiana in association with a weak, slow-moving cold front. At 12:31 AM a Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued for Vermilion parish. No significant event was associated with this warning.

May 12, 1999

Continued atmospheric instability in association with a weak, slow-moving cold front. A Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued for Iberia, Upper St. Martin and St. Mary parishes. This warning was cancelled by 7:25 AM and no significant weather was reported.

May 30, 1999

A Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued for St. Landry Parish at 2:38 PM as severe thunderstorms approached and developed across much of Acadiana in association with a high pressure system moving into the region. This warning was cancelled at 3:25 PM.

To the south, a Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued for Iberia Parish at 3:51 PM by the National Weather Service in Lake Charles as a severe thunderstorm developed near New Iberia. At 5:48 PM a Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued for Vermilion Parish as another severe thunderstorm developed 8 miles southwest of Abbeville. No significant severe weather developed over the region.

May 31, 1999

At 6:09 PM a Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued for Lafayette Parish by the National Weather Service in Lake Charles as a severe thunderstorm developed near Lafayette. These storms were moving slowly and remained over the region for an unusually long time. Golf ball size hail was reported in the city of Lafayette. At 7:03 PM a Flash Flood Warning was issued for Lafayette Parish because of an estimated 3 to 4 inches of rainfall between 6:00 and 7:00 PM with an estimated of 2 to 3 inches still possible. A Flood Warning was issued for the Vermilion River at Lafayette at 7:00 PM since the river was expected to crest at 12.5 ft; flood stage is 10.0 ft. At 7:10 PM another Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued as another severe thunderstorm developed 3 miles south of Lafayette. The following bulletin was reissued at 7:22 PM by the National Weather Service in Lake Charles:

...SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING HAS BEEN RE-ISSUED FOR LAFAYETTE PARISH UNTIL 8:15 PM...
 ...FLASH FLOOD WARNING IN EFFECT FOR LAFAYETTE PARISH UNTIL 8:05 PM...
 AT 7:19 PM...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR CONTINUED TO INDICATE SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS OVER LAFAYETTE PARISH...MOVING SOUTHEAST AT 5 MPH. THESE STORMS WILL BE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING LARGE HAIL...TORRENTIAL RAIN AND GUSTY WINDS TO 60 MPH. SIGNIFICANT FLOODING IN THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE WILL BE POSSIBLE. THIS IS A DANGEROUS STORM SITUATION. TAKE COVER NOW.

By 7:50 PM the thunderstorms had decreased in intensity and the Severe Thunderstorm Warning was cancelled for Lafayette Parish at 8:05 PM. This was one of the most severe thunderstorm events in Lafayette Parish this year. Numerous trees were down across the city and a power outage resulted across a portion of the parish. A Skywarn Observer near Lafayette High School reported 2.38 inches of rain in the 24 hour period ending at 3:30 PM May 1, 1999.

June 6, 1999

At 2:59 PM the National Weather Service issued a Severe Thunderstorm Warning for Iberia parish followed at 3:22 PM by a Severe Thunderstorm Warning for Vermilion parish. These warnings expired at 4:20 PM. The situation was monitored by members of the Lafayette Skywarn Group but no severe weather was observed at the reporting locations.

At 12:23 PM the National Weather Service issued a Severe Thunderstorm Warning for Lafayette Parish. "...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM 6 MILES SOUTH OF LAFAYETTE MOVING NORTHWEST AT 15 MPH..."

The event was monitored by the Lafayette Skywarn Group and no severe weather was observed. The warning was cancelled at 12:50 PM.

August 14, 1999

At 3:41 PM the National Weather Service in Lake Charles issued a Severe Thunderstorm Warning for Vermilion parish effective until 4:30 PM.

"...AT 338 PM CDT... NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM 16 MILES WEST OF ABBEVILLE OR 6 MILES EAST OF GUEYDAN MOVING SOUTH AT 15 MPH.

The event was monitored by the Lafayette Skywarn Group and no severe weather was observed.

August 22, 1999

Due to the presence of hurricane Bret on the lower Texas coast, the Lafayette RACES Group maintained a vigil on the storm and monitored the Texas ARES net and the National Hurricane Center's Hurricane Watch net.

The following bulletin was released by the National Weather Service in Lake Charles on Sun Aug 22 10:08:07 CDT 1999.

WWUS31 KLCH 221506
 HLSLCH
 LAZ041>045-051>055-TXZ215-216-222000-

HURRICANE LOCAL STATEMENT
 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LAKE CHARLES LA
 1005 AM CDT SUN AUG 22 1999

...COASTAL FLOOD WATCH FROM HIGH ISLAND TO LOWER ATCHAFALAYA RIVER...

...DANGEROUS CATEGORY 4 HURRICANE BRET INCREASING SEAS AND TIDES ALONG THE SOUTHEAST TEXAS AND SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA COAST...

...THIS STATEMENT IS PRIMARILY INTENDED FOR PEOPLE IN JEFFERSON AND ORANGE COUNTIES IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS...AND CAMERON...CALCASIEU...JEFF DAVIS...ACADIA...VERMILION...LAFAYETTE...IBERIA...ST MARY...UPPER AND LOWER ST MARTIN PARISHES IN SOUTHERN LOUISIANA...

...HURRICANE BRET AT 10 AM CDT...

CENTRAL LOCATION: 26.5 N 96.5 W
PRESSURE: 944 MB OR 27.88 INCHES
WIND INTENSITY: 140 MPH WITH HIGHER GUSTS
MOVEMENT: NORTHWEST AT 10 MPH

...PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS/EVACUATIONS...

PEOPLE IN LOW-LYING...FLOOD PRONE AREAS IN JEFFERSON AND ORANGE COUNTIES...AND CAMERON...CALCASIEU...VERMILION...IBERIA...AND ST MARY PARISHES SHOULD MONITOR THE TRACK OF BRET VERY CLOSELY.

...SURGE/TIDE INFORMATION...

ON SUNDAY...HIGH TIDES WILL OCCUR AT SABINE PASS AT 1136 AM...AND AT CAMERON AT 1134 AM. THERE WILL BE NO HIGH TIDE IN VERMILION BAY.

ON MONDAY...HIGH TIDES WILL OCCUR AT SABINE PASS AT 306 AM AND 1239 PM...AT CAMERON AT 240 AM AND 1227 PM...AND VERMILION BAY AT 405 AM.

CURRENT TIDE READING AT SABINE PASS IS 2.2 FEET... CAMERON IS 1.7 FEET. TIDES ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE DURING THE DAY REACHING TO 3 TO 3.5 FEET SUNDAY NIGHT AND EARLY MONDAY.

SEAS ALONG THE COAST CONTINUE TO BUILD ALONG THE COAST. THIS WILL RESULT IN ADDITIONAL FLOODING AND BEACH EROSION IN EXPOSED AREAS.

THREE FOOT TIDE LEVELS WILL RESULT IN WATER UP TO HIGHWAY 82 IN CAMERON PARISH. THREE AND A HALF FOOT LEVELS WILL BEGIN TO FLOOD HIGHWAY 82.

FOUR FOOT TIDE LEVELS WILL CAUSE FLOODING IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: IN JEFFERSON COUNTY...SABINE PASS. IN CAMERON PARISH...HIGHWAY 82 BETWEEN HOLLY BEACH AND JOHNSON BAYOU...ALSO SECTIONS OF DOWNTOWN CAMERON. IN VERMILION PARISH...LOW AREAS NEAR PECAN ISLAND AND INTRACOASTAL CITY. IN ST MARY PARISH...LOW AREAS NEAR CYPRE MORT POINT AND BURNS POINT.

IF THE PATH OF BRET TURNS FURTHER NORTH THAN CURRENTLY EXPECTED... FLOODING WOULD OCCUR IN MORE LOCATIONS IN JEFFERSON AND ORANGE COUNTIES...AND CAMERON...CALCASIEU...AND IBERIA PARISHES.

UNLESS THE TRACK OF HURRICANE BRET TURNS MORE NORTHWARD...THIS WILL BE THE FINAL HURRICANE LOCAL STATEMENT. COASTAL FLOOD STATEMENTS WILL BE ISSUED UNDER THE HEADER OF NEWCFWLCH ABOUT 3 PM.

RINARD

No significant event was associated with this hurricane in Acadiana.

September 7, 1999

At 4:09 PM CST the National Weather Service in Lake Charles issued a Tornado Warning for St. Landry parish until 4:55 PM. Though a tornado was reported to touch-down in a field in St. Landry Parish by a Sheriff's deputy, no reports or observations of severe weather were reported by Skywarn spotters in St. Landry parish.

At 4:42 PM a Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued for Acadia parish until 5:35 PM. No further reports or bulletins were issued on this storm as it moved through the region.

Skywarn spotters in Lafayette parish reported no severe weather associated with these warnings.

October, 1999

No severe weather events reported throughout Acadiana in October.

November, 1999

No severe weather events reported throughout Acadiana in November.

December 12, 1999

Due to the combination of moist Gulf air flowing from the southwest and an advancing cold front from the northwest, numerous thunderstorms moved across Acadiana. The most severe of these passed through Acadiana at 09:00 AM CST. A Skywarn spotter near Lafayette High School reported 0.54 inches of rain in about 30 minutes as this storm moved through the area (see Figure 1).

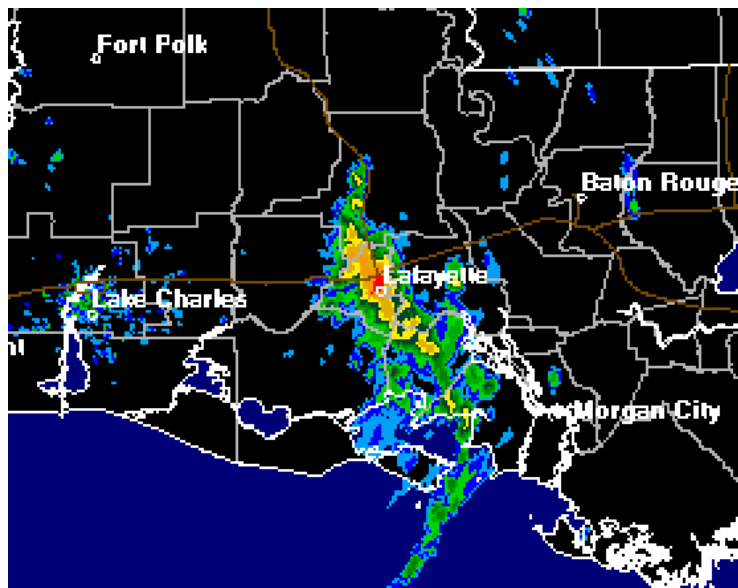


Figure 1.

At 12:10 PM the National Weather Service issued a Tornado Watch for all of Acadiana. The front passed through at about 5:30 PM (see Figure 2). An additional 0.12 inch of rain was reported near Lafayette High School as the front passed through for a total of 0.66 inches of rain this day. The Tornado Watch was cancelled at 6:49 PM CST. The event was monitored by the Lafayette Skywarn Group and no severe weather was observed.



Figure 2.

December 31, 1999-January 1st, 2000

The Lafayette RACES Group provided assistance to the Lafayette City-Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness during their Y2K Event Monitoring Center operations from 7:00 AM December 31st, 1999 until 01:00 AM January 1st, 2000. No Y2K related problems were reported.

[Return to Lafayette RACES Homepage](#)