

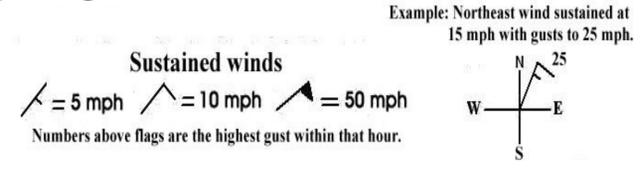
Hurricane Rita

A Comparison of Winds and Storm Surge

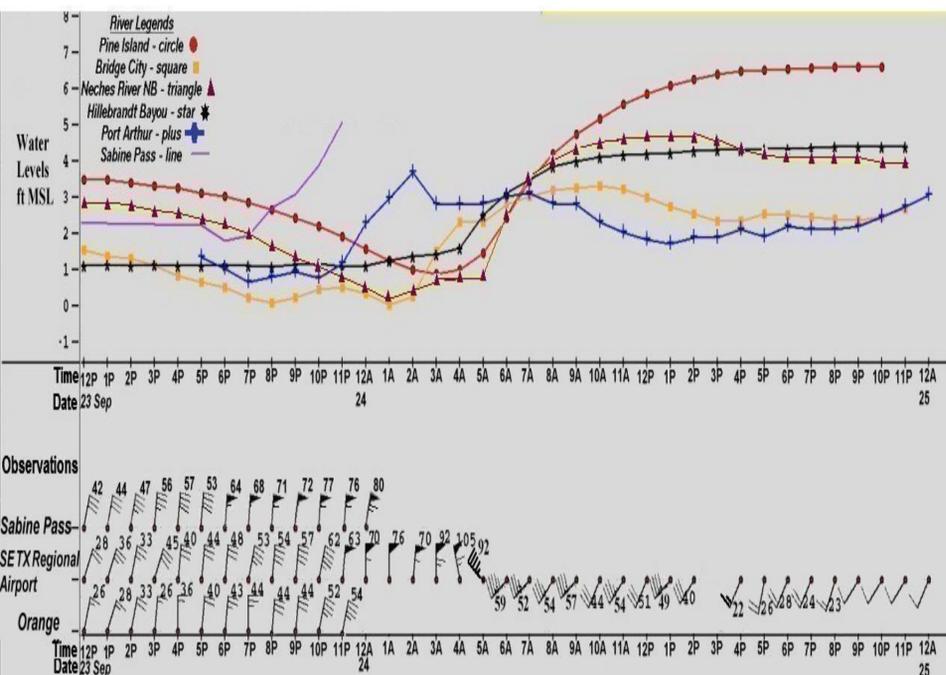


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Map Legend

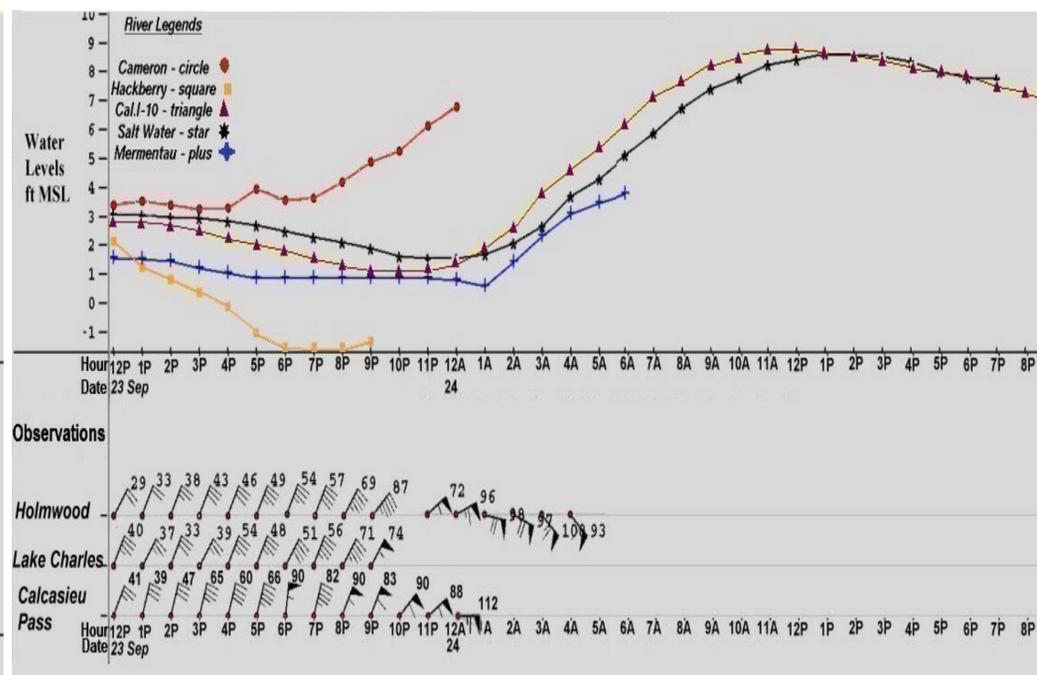


Southeast Texas



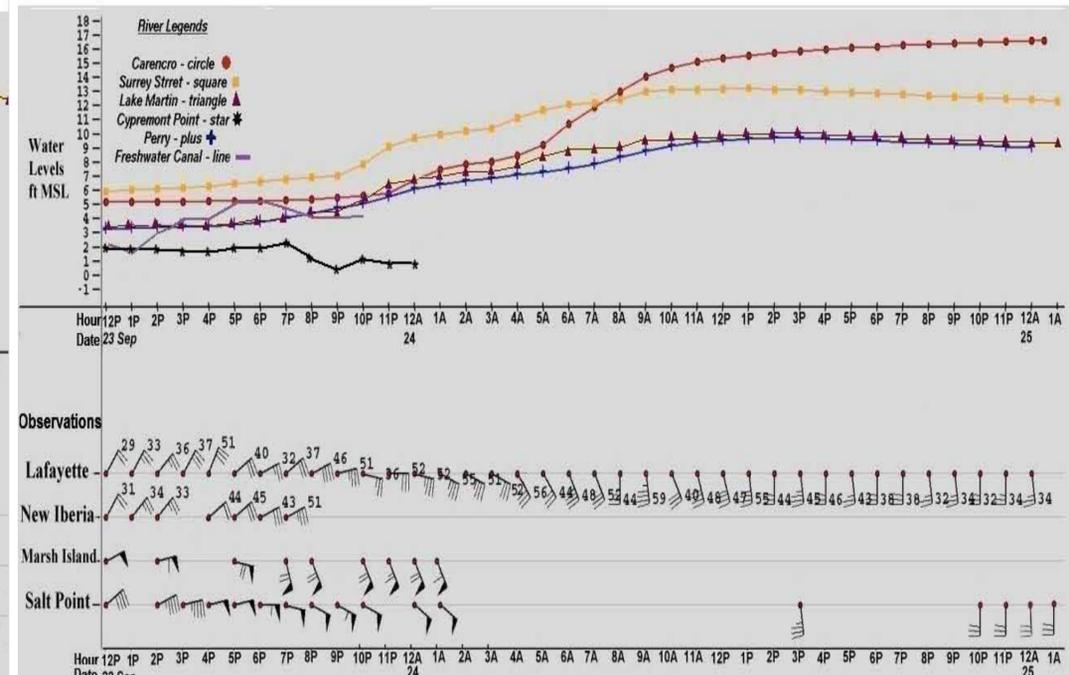
Southeast Texas River and Wind Gage Locations.

Southwest Louisiana



Southwest Louisiana River and Wind Gage Locations.

South Central Louisiana



South Central Louisiana River and Wind Gage Locations. Inset shows detailed gage locations in Lafayette.



Before

Landfall

- North to northeast winds prevailed becoming widespread at tropical storm force about 10 to 12 hours before landfall
- Winds reached hurricane force along the coast about 2 to 3 hours before landfall
- Water levels generally steady or decreasing
- At Sabine Pass, water levels began rising about 6 hours before landfall

- Northeast winds prevailed becoming widespread at tropical storm force nearly 12 hours before landfall
- Winds reached hurricane force along the coast about 9 hours before landfall
- Water levels generally steady or decreasing
- At Cameron, water levels began rising about 6 to 7 hours before landfall

- Northeast to east winds inland increasing to tropical storm force, east to southeast winds along coast increasing to hurricane force about 8 to 9 hours before landfall
- Water levels generally steady then begin rising about 5 to 6 hours before landfall

Landfall

- Northerly winds continued, with hurricane force winds spreading inland
- Winds peaked within a few hours of landfall

- Winds shifted east then southeast, with hurricane force winds spreading inland
- Winds peaked within a few hours of landfall
- Water levels began rising in response to the storm surge moving inland

- Southeast winds near hurricane force along the coast, tropical storm force inland
- Water levels rising steadily

After

Landfall

- Water levels began rising at inland gages
- Winds quickly shifted west then southwest 3 to 4 hours after landfall, and decreased to tropical storm force
- Water levels showed a general rise at most locations, but less dramatically than at locations east of landfall

- Southeast winds continued at hurricane force for a few hours, gradually decreasing but remaining at tropical storm force for up to 12 hours after landfall
- Water levels continued rising, cresting about 10 to 12 hours after landfall

- Southeast winds at tropical storm force continued for several hours, gradually turning south and decreasing gradually
- Water levels continued rising, cresting about 12 hours after landfall