

Nine inches of rain fall on DPMC

Two weeks ago, Mother Nature picked a novel way to remind everybody in the Complex that we've entered the hurricane season. With little warning, she dumped more than nine inches of rain on DPMC on June 5.

According to Environmental Conservation records, this large amount of water fell in the unbelievably short time between 9 p.m. Thursday night and 9 a.m. Friday morning. Between 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Friday, the Complex absorbed two inches of rain an hour.

As a result of the storm, many employees were unable to drive through flooded streets to work. Also, many streets, railroad tracks and other areas within DPMC were covered in water.

But there were also good things to report. Jim Braus, Complex general manager, said, "Most employees were able to get to work—although some had to go to a great deal of effort to do so. Consequently, there were far less disruptions in everyday operations than during storms in 1979, 1976 and 1975.

"It was also easier to travel within the Complex this time than during many of those past storms. This is partially due to many recent improvements in our storm drainage system. But it's also due to the hard work of a large number of Complex employees who met the challenges posed by this storm."

Braus added, "We need to keep in mind this storm is just a test for the problems we could experience if a hurricane pays us a visit. We need to keep a proper respect for heavy rains and stay on the alert for them."

Hurricanes could still pose a major threat to DPMC. This is largely because of subsidence—the sinking of land in this area caused largely by past removal of large amounts of subsurface water. While the subsidence rate is less than it was 10 years ago, the Complex is five to six feet lower than when Carla became the last hurricane to strike this area in 1961.

But while the June 5 storm posed far less of a threat to the Complex than a hurricane would have, high water was common in many places. Among them were areas in Aromatics West, around Distilling Units (DU) 1 and 3 and in Specialties.

Rick Robinson, process manager, Aromatics West, said six-inch water stood outside control rooms of the Aromatics Concentration (ACU) and Benzene Extraction (BEU) units.

However, water at Aromatics West didn't reach as high as it did during a 1979 storm—when water was six-inches-deep inside ACU's control room. The lower water level resulted from a flood control project completed in Aromatics West about a year ago. But Robinson explained a study is under way to find ways to improve drainage still further around ACU and BEU.

A review of drainage around DU-1 and DU-3—where water was knee-high in some places during the height of the storm—is in the planning stage according to Pete Lanchak, process manager, Distilling.

Operations were not disrupted at either ACU, BEU or at DU-1 or DU-3 during the storm. As at most places within the Complex, high water at those areas had subsided by late Friday morning.

While much of the high water was handled by drainage systems which have weathered other storms, that at Specialty Resins was brought under control by a new valve system installed by Environmental Conservation only last year.

But in spite of the many drainage improvements that have been made at the Complex, Jerry Ivie, manager, Environmental

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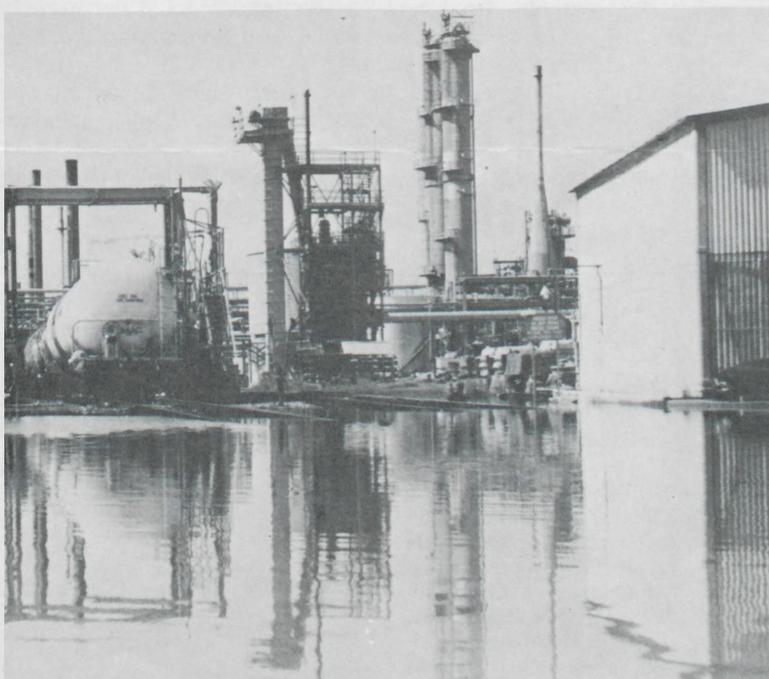


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This stop sign looks lonely as it waits for the water around it to go down so more traffic will come its way.



Reflections dance on a lake created near CA by the storm. But it dried up fast when the rain stopped.

Classifieds

FOR SALE

1974 Ford Courier pickup. With camper top (paneled, insulated and carpeted), custom upholstery, white spoke rims, white letter tires. Must see to appreciate. \$2,400. Call 476-1524.

1979 Monte Carlo Landau. Automatic, air, power steering and brakes, velour interior, 267 V-8. \$4,695, negotiable. Call 643-1939.

1981 Dodge Aires K. Air, power brakes and steering, cruise. \$7,000. 1973 off-road SL-100 Honda. Good mechanical condition. \$2,000. Call 472-8795.

1980 Ford Mustang. Air, power, AM-FM cassette player. Call 1-426-7380.

1981 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham sedan. Loaded, V-8-6-4, 5,000 miles. Cost \$18,500 new. Sell for \$15,500. Call 488-7370 after 5 p.m.

1979 Datsun 510 station wagon. Automatic, air, AM-FM, 16,000 miles.

\$4,500. Call 944-7343.

Turbo-400 transmission. Fits Pontiac, long tail. \$75. Call 458-7294.

Fourteen-foot SDW Ouachita johnboat. Big-wheel trailer, 33 HP Johnson (runs good). Excellent for duck hunting. \$700. Call 452-0509.

Twenty-five and a half acres in West Arkansas. Large, two-story, all-masonry brick home, three bedrooms, two baths, two-car garage, elevator, double windows, carpet and vinyl. Large masonry shop, storage building. Spring water with storage system, creek, pond, meadow. Plenty wood for fireplace. Magnificent view. Call 501-304-5119.

Hotpoint refrigerator. Frost-free, icemaker. \$240. Kenmore gas dryer. \$155. Stratalounger chair. \$45. Floor polisher. Carpet and wood, new. \$45. Old Singer botton. \$30. Antique dressing table. \$200. Call 946-4051.

Sears Kenmore gas oven. One year old. \$150. Heavy oak coffee table. \$50. 1973 Ford pickup. \$1,200. Call 479-4138 or 280-8513.

Three window air conditioning units. Two one-ton and one two-ton. \$250 for all or will sell separately. 1972 CL-100 Honda. Good condition. \$300. Call 479-9854.

Dynamo Foosball table. Home model. Excellent shape. \$300. Call 328-4285.

Farchild TV game. Three tapes. All for \$50. Call 476-5321.

Solisor 100-300 200 mm lens. With Macro-Cannon mount and meter-coupled. Case and filter. \$225. New chain ladder for emergency escape from 1½ story or two-story house. \$20. Call 930-0375.

Nine-week-old Doberman. Red and rust. Largest male of litter. Distemper shots, wormed, tail bobbed and fifth toe clipped. AKC-registered. \$175. Call 422-9604 after 4:30 p.m.

FOR RENT

3-1 home with carport. In Pearland, fenced with utility building. Call 485-3221.

FREE

Doghouse occupied by dog. Seven-month-old English pointer. Needs a good home. Call 482-8344.

Two 12-week-old male kittens. Be the first on your block to own a kitten with six toes on front paws. Call 473-3746.

WANTED

Child care in my home. Ages three and up, Monday-Friday. Call 479-0699.

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Operations, pointed out that far more rainfall was received here than our facilities were totally equipped to handle. "This storm was sneaky. We had no idea we would get that much water," Ivie said.

As a result of the water, South storm impoundment ponds, which holds 60 million gallons of water, and North impoundment ponds, which accommodates 45 million, were both full.

High water flushed out a small amount of hydrocarbons as it rose within the Complex. But although extremely large amounts of rainfall fell, Ivie pointed out Environmental Conservation was able to capture for treatment most of the storm water which might have been contaminated to assure it would meet environmental quality standards before it was recycled into the ship channel.

Ivie said, "Our Environmental Conservation people followed our operating procedures almost without exception. They knew what their orders said and followed them. Although some procedures will need modification to adequately handle future storm situations, most of our procedures proved they are good ones. I thought our people for the most part were very alert to rapidly changing conditions during the storm because this wasn't your ordinary Friday."

Flea market cancelled

The SCORA Flea Market - Garage Sale, which was set Saturday, has been canceled. This was due to a low number of booth reservations being received.



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