

# **RAINFALL EVENT**

## **MAY 13, 1989**

On the evening of May 13, 1989, a thunderstorm with moderate precipitation intensities moved through Las Vegas. This storm resulted in localized flooding, particularly on the west side of the city. While most of the major washes experienced some flow as a result of this event, only one major channel flow was reported.

Most of the rainfall associated with this storm occurred between 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. PST. While the National Weather Service reported a total of .63 inches at McCarran International Airport, other raingauges operated by the U.S. Geological Survey recorded depths of .04 inches - .56 inches. Based on the most intense rainfalls recorded, this storm had a recurrence interval of approximately two years, using the Clark County Regional Flood Control District depth-duration-frequency criteria.

The most intense rain was recorded on the west side of the city where there were reports of hail associated with the rainfall. Significant rainfall depths were also recorded in the northeast section of the Valley; however, the rainfall intensities in that area were not as great as on the westside. Included with this report are graphical and tabular summaries of the rainfall data.

A streamflow gauge located on Las Vegas Creek (Washington Avenue Channel) at Lamb Boulevard recorded water depths slightly in excess of eight feet at approximately 7:00 p.m. PST. This flow exceeded the channel capacity upstream of Lamb Boulevard, but returned to the channel immediately downstream, according to Larry Haugeness, Las Vegas Public Works Department. This was the only significant channel flow recorded as a result of this event.

Several instances of localized flooding were reported during and following this event. Reports were made of clogged stormdrains along Brush Street between Alta Drive and Charleston Boulevard, as well as U.S. 95 and Ramsey Street. Water ponded at both of these locations to depths of approximately three feet. Flooding was also reported along Shadow Mountain Place north of Vegas Drive. Many of the residences in that area are below the street grade and regularly report flooding. Photos taken a few days after the flooding at Ramsey Street are included with this report. Also included is a copy of the event report prepared for the Las Vegas Director of Public Works.

The newly completed Meadows Detention Basin was approximately one-half full as a result of the runoff generated by this storm, and the Angel Park Detention Basin had one foot of water in it. No estimates of the volumes associated with these depths have been calculated at this time.