

Rainfall & Flood Event Report

August 4, 2017

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The morning of August 4, 2017 began with significant atmospheric moisture in Clark County. Dewpoints over 60°F were reported by multiple weather stations operated by the district, which is a favorable parameter for flash flooding conditions.

Early afternoon thunderstorms began developing in the Spring Mountains and in the Las Vegas Valley, with the first flood advisory being issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) at 1:17pm for the Las Vegas Valley. Shortly afterwards, at 1:27pm, NWS issued a flash flood warning for the Kyle Canyon and Lee Canyon areas. A third flash flood warning impacting Clark County was issued at 4:46pm for Sandy Valley and areas east of Parumph, Nevada, which led to a few road closures, but otherwise had minimal impact.

NWS radar data was unavailable in the early afternoon hours; however, CCRFCD raingauge data reported rainfall amounts at or above 1.50 inches within Harris Springs (south of SR157), and 2.17 inches of precipitation was reported at the Rainbow Canyon gauge (see figure 1). The Mount Charleston Fire Protection District reported receiving 2.80 inches. Despite the strong storms, no loss of life occurred in the Spring Mountains.

Thunderstorms that developed along the Flamingo wash were not as strong or long in duration as the ones near Mt. Charleston; however, they did develop quickly. The McCarran Terminal Doppler Weather Radar (TWDR) was operational, thus weather radar coverage withing the Las Vegas Valley was possible with this event.

Around 1:00pm, storms were developing west of Las Vegas Boulevard between Sahara Avenue and Russel Road, and quickly moved to the east-northeast. CCRFCD raingauges in the area reported less than 0.50 inches; although slightly higher rainfall amounts could have occurred between gauges.

Multiple rescues of people by Clark County firefighters and the general public, within the Flamingo Wash, were reported by several media outlets. Unfortunately, one person, Michael Joseph Hames, was found dead in the wash, and his body was recovered by County fire officials. His drowning was confirmed by the Clark County coroner.

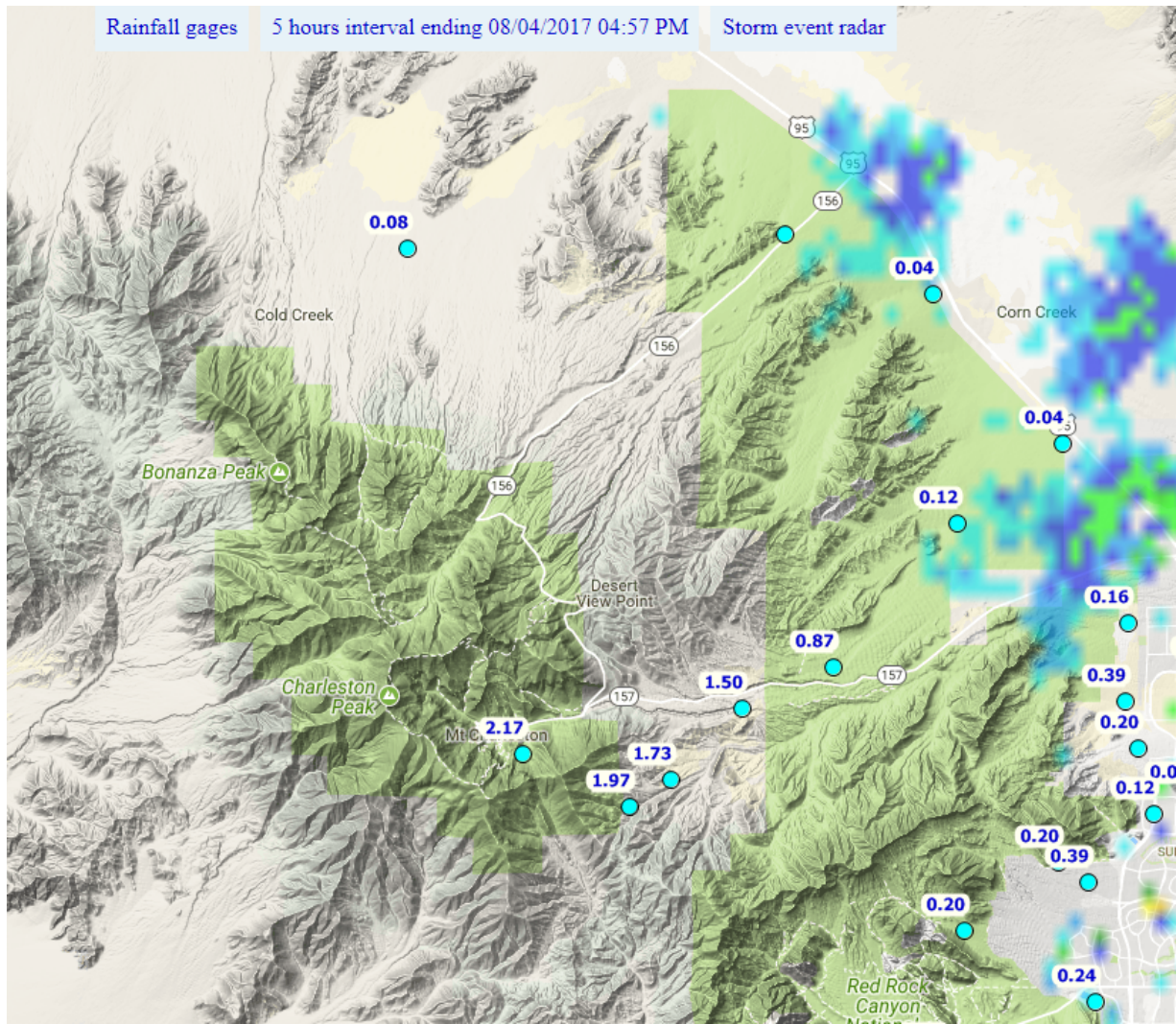


Figure 1 – CCRFCD Raingauge Map

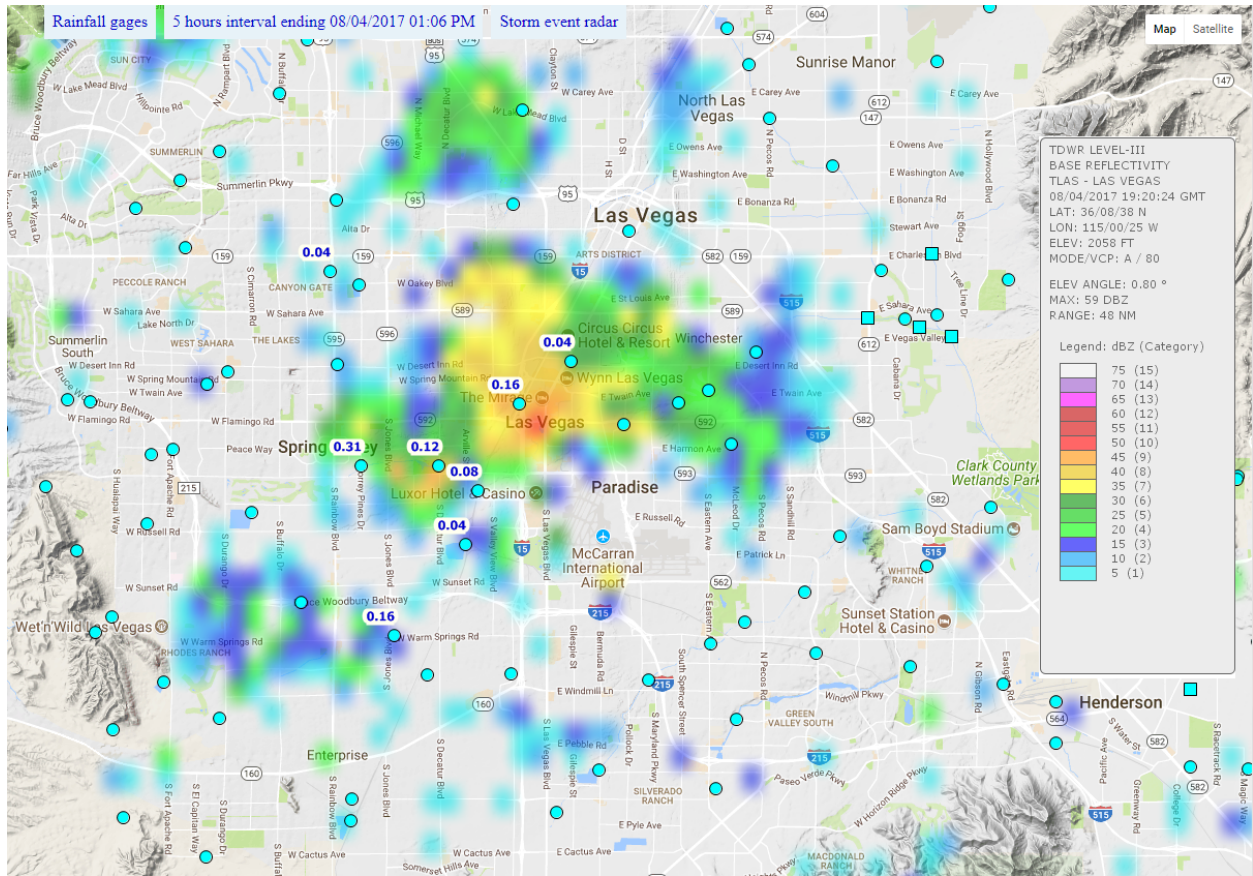


Figure 2 - Storms Developing

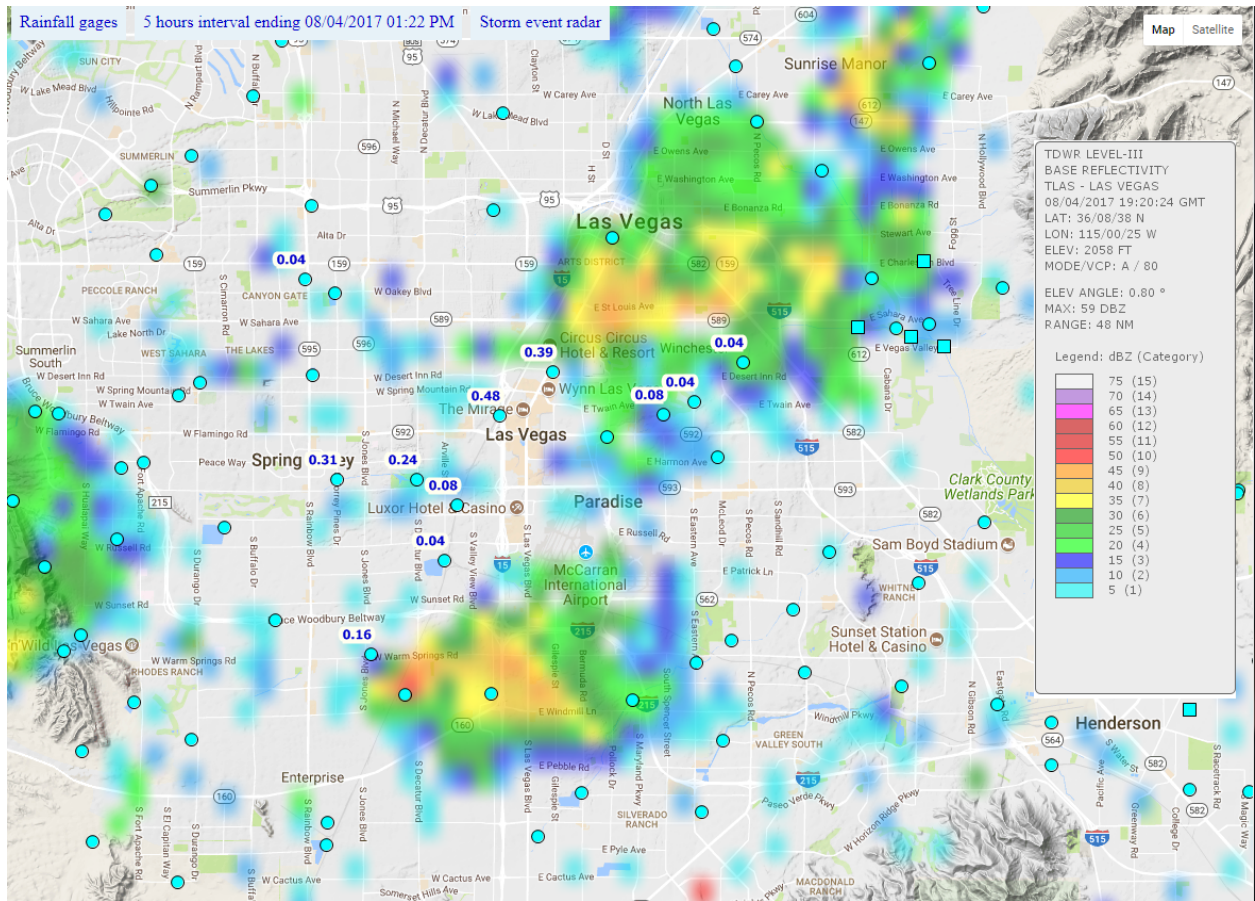


Figure 3- Storms Passing

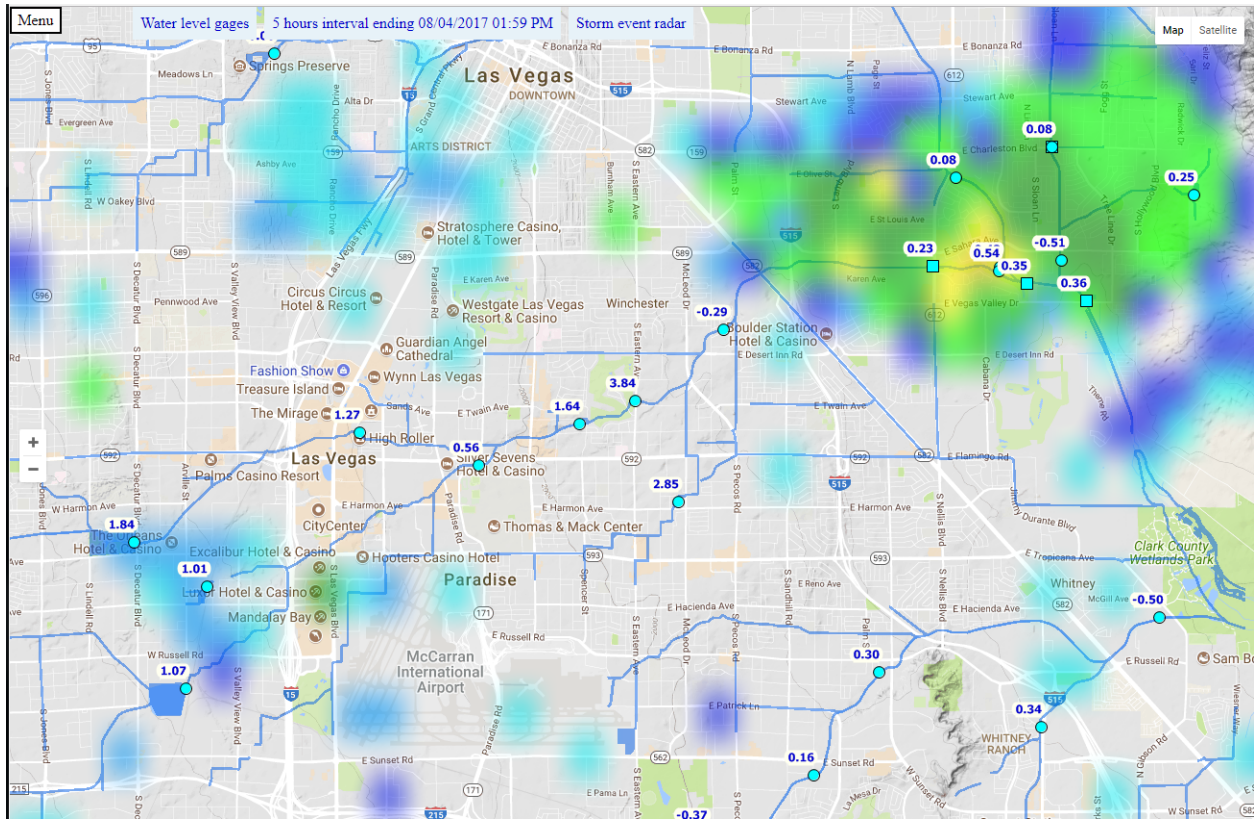


Figure 5- Water Level 3.84 Feet at Eastern Av. (1:39pm) with 1,300 CFS.