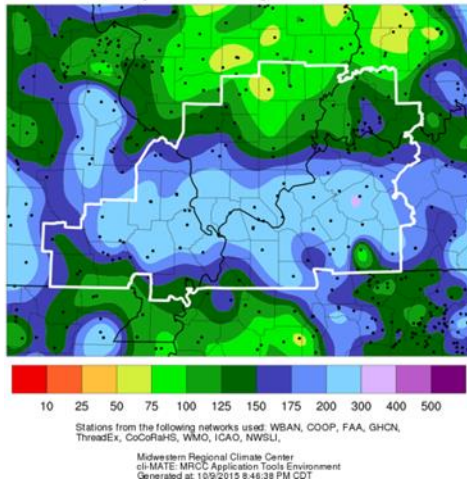


During the months of June and July, major flooding occurred on the Mississippi River upriver from the confluence of the Ohio River. The state of Illinois experienced its wettest June on record, followed by a very wet July. The map below indicates July rainfall anomalies in percent (courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center). The area outlined in white is the coverage area of the Paducah NWS office.

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Percent of 1981-2010 Normals

July 01, 2015 to August 01, 2015



**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:** At the Cape Girardeau river gage, the river crested at 43.08 feet on the night of July 2. Flood stage is 32 feet. This was comparable to the flood of July, 2008.

**AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS:** About 18,000 acres were flooded, which included 11,000 acres of cropland in Cape Girardeau County alone. Crop losses were estimated in the millions of dollars.

**TRAVEL IMPACTS:** Highway 177 was closed at the northern city limits of Cape Girardeau. A motorist disregarded the closure and stalled in the water. Emergency crews rescued the driver, who was not injured. About a dozen Cape county roads were closed and impassable, including County Roads 525 and 535. In other counties along the river, county roads were closed.

**OTHER IMPACTS:** Three floodgates were closed in the Cape Girardeau floodwall. The combination of the floodwall and pumping stations prevents downtown Cape Girardeau from flooding during major floods. Facilities at riverfront parks were closed, including the campground and boat ramp at Trail of Tears State Park. Railroad tracks through the county were shut down. Near and east of Dutchtown, Highway 74 was covered with six inches of backwater from flooding of the Mississippi River diversion channel. Most residents of Dutchtown have accepted a government buyout of their property, leaving only a few permanent residents behind. Three homes on Scott County Road 308 alongside the Mississippi River were underwater, with up to a foot of water covering the first floor. Residents of small communities such as Thebes and Gale, Illinois were forced to evacuate or use boats to access their homes. Most roads leading to riverfront property were cut off by floodwaters.

**MITIGATION PROJECTS:** Across the county, flood risk reduction measures that were installed after the massive flood of 2011 helped mitigate damage. Personnel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were

assessing the effectiveness of these measures, which included trenches and relief wells. The Corps of Engineers conducted daily inspections of levees for seepage and other problems.

**DURATION:** The Mississippi River was above flood stage from early June through the 1<sup>st</sup> of August at Cape Girardeau.