



Goal 3: Public Infrastructure

Desired Community Condition: The storm water systems protect lives and property.



Indicator: Storm Water System Tort Claims

Progress Rating: Local Trend: STABLE National Comparison: NOT APPLICABLE

Indicator Description

The storm water system provides drainage of rain and snow melt runoff water to protect people and property from flood damage. If the system is performing effectively, limited damage would result. The number of tort claims made by Albuquerque residents is used as a measure of the effectiveness of the storm water system. Albuquerque residents make tort claims against the City when their property has been damaged by storm water flooding or failure of City storm water system equipment. A common tort claim against storm water system components is damage to vehicles from storm drainage covers, loosened by high storm water volumes. Claims may be related to the number and severity of storm events in Albuquerque.

The City, State of New Mexico, and Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) are all responsible for providing storm water drainage. The State is responsible for the channel that runs between the eastbound and westbound lanes of I-40, AMFCA is responsible for the large diversion channels and the smaller channels that feed it, and the City is responsible for remaining areas.

Why is this indicator important?

An adequately sized and properly maintained storm water system protects lives and property from flooding and from improperly installed, missing, or damaged components. It also prevents or minimizes major or minor inconveniences due to flooding of roadways, which detracts from the ability of residents to conduct their daily activities. An increase in tort claims may indicate the need for cleaning, maintenance or increasing the capacity of storm water system components.

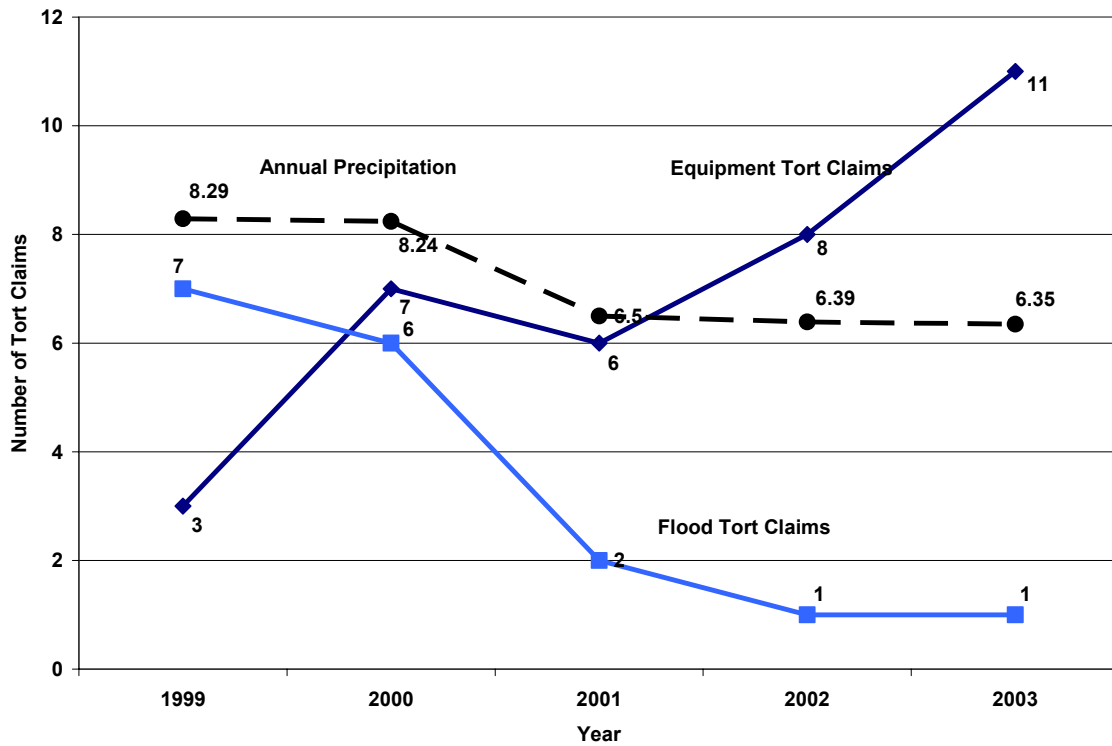
Data Sources

City of Albuquerque Risk Management Division; “2003 Climatological Data, Annual Summary with Comparative Data,” National Center for Climactic Data; City of Albuquerque Municipal Development Department, Hydrology Division

What can we tell from the data?

- The number of storm water system component tort claims has increased from three to eleven per year since 1999. Most of the claims involve storm water covers damaging vehicles.
- The number of flood tort claims has decreased from seven in 1999 to one in 2003. The flood tort claims curve resembles the annual precipitation curve.

Number of Storm Water System Equipment and Flood Tort Claims and Annual Precipitation Measured at the Albuquerque International Sunport



Months with Significantly Higher than Average Precipitation 1999-2003

Year	Reported Precipitation (inches)	Average Precipitation (1974-2003) (inches)	Year Total Precipitation (inches)
1999			8.29
March	1.10	0.49	
August	3.04	1.45	
2000			8.24
March	1.27	0.49	
October	2.66	0.84	
2001			6.50
October	2.66	0.84	
2002			6.39
September	1.53	0.92	
2003			6.35
February	1.02	0.39	