

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - April 2013

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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**TEXAS, South**

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z251) KENEDY, (TX-Z252) STARR, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO, (TX-Z254) WILLACY, (TX-Z255) CAMERON, (TX-Z256) COASTAL WILLACY, (TX-Z257) COASTAL CAMERON

04/01/13 00:00 CST	0	Drought
04/30/13 23:59 CST	0	

Persistent long term dry conditions and above normal temperatures allowed for drought conditions to worsen across Deep South Texas and the RGV. A couple of frontal passages moved through the area during the first part of the month and triggered a few isolated showers and thunderstorms, mainly over Starr and Zapata counties and along Willacy county. However, any rainfall that fell was not significant enough to affect the drought conditions. Drought conditions continued to deteriorate across the region, with exceptional (D4) drought conditions affecting nearly all of the region, with the exception of the extreme southeast section of Cameron County.

**HIDALGO COUNTY --- 0.3 SSE MC ALLEN [26.20, -98.23]**

04/28/13 11:20 CST	5K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 42 kt)
04/28/13 11:20 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

Broadcast media reported a tree blown down causing damage to a carport. Nearby KMFE ASOS reported a 42 kt wind gust.

**HIDALGO COUNTY --- 0.4 ENE EDINBURG [26.30, -98.16], 0.7 SE MERCEDES [26.14, -97.91]**

04/28/13 11:20 CST	0	Heavy Rain
04/28/13 12:00 CST	0	Source: CoCoRaHS

Observed rainfall from Automated Weather Observation System platforms, CoCoRaHS observers, cooperative observers, and Emergency Management personnel of 1.4 to 1.8 inches in Edinburg, and between 2 and 4 inches in Mercedes - much of the rain falling in less than one hour - created nuisance urban and field flooding due to rapid runoff after months of very dry weather. Up to 2 feet of water accumulated in poor drainage locations of Edinburg and Mercedes.

**CAMERON COUNTY --- 0.5 NE SANTA ROSA [26.26, -97.83], 3.3 NNW PORT BROWNSVILLE [25.99, -97.45]**

04/28/13 12:15 CST	0	Heavy Rain
04/28/13 13:00 CST	0	Source: CoCoRaHS

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), spotters, cooperative observers, and Automated Surface Observing Systems recorded between 2 and 3.5 inches of torrential rain in less than an hour, generally on a line from Santa Rosa to east of Cameron Park. The torrents included much of Brownsville, Los Fresnos, and Harlingen. At Brownsville (2.65 inches) and Harlingen/Valley Airport (2.37 inches), new daily records were set. The heavy rainfall flooded previously parched farm and ranch fields with over a foot of water in some spots, particularly north of Los Fresnos, where the most rain (over 3 inches) fell. Brief nuisance urban flooding was noted in Harlingen, portions of Brownsville, and Los Fresnos.

**CAMERON COUNTY --- RANCHO VIEJO [26.03, -97.55], 0.8 N EVAN [25.99, -97.50]**

04/28/13 12:19 CST	2K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
04/28/13 12:25 CST	0	Source: NWS Employee

NWS employee reported tree limbs blown down in Rancho Viejo. Wind gusts were estimated at 50 to 60 mph. A few minutes later, estimated gusts to 60 mph lifted a trampoline into and over a fence, and bent other fencing material in North Brownsville.

**CAMERON COUNTY --- 2.4 NNW LAURELES [26.13, -97.51], 2.8 NE LAURELES [26.13, -97.47]**

04/28/13 12:23 CST	50K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 56 kt)
04/28/13 12:32 CST	0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

In North Los Fresnos, two tin roofs were lifted from old, poorly constructed trailers in a colonia neighborhood just east of the intersection of FM 510 and FM 1847 (Arroyo Blvd). Severe water and structural damage occurred at each residence; insulation was peeled from the roofs and some walls had cracked or collapsed. Both structures were uninhabitable. Nine persons were displaced. Farther west along FM 510, a power pole was leaning at a 45 degree angle, and a mesquite tree was uprooted near the intersection of FM 803 and Henderson Road, about 4 miles to the southwest of the residential damage.

**CAMERON COUNTY --- 0.3 SSE LA PALOMA [26.05, -97.67]**

04/28/13 12:25 CST	2K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
04/28/13 12:25 CST	0	Source: NWS Employee

A communication tower knocked was knocked down by strong winds near La Paloma.

**A small but potent line of strong to severe thunderstorms dumped torrential rains, produced frequent lightning strikes, and slammed heavy winds across much of the Rio Grande Valley during the afternoon of April 28th.**

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A microburst powered up when it reached Cameron County, and ultimately caused significant damage to two poorly built mobile trailers in northern Los Fresnos. Surrounding damage in Olmito, Rancho Viejo, and other neighborhoods included dozens of snapped mesquite limbs, several uprooted trees, and at least one leaning power pole.

Heavy rainfall - the highest for any single event since January - dropped between 1 and 4 inches across portions of the Lower and Mid Valley. Pockets of urban and farm field flooding were noted as much of the rain fell within an hour and runoff or fast rising water was common.

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(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z254) WILLACY, (TX-Z255) CAMERON

04/30/13 00:00 CST

0

Drought

04/30/13 23:59 CST

0

Drought conditions begin to improve across the Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas by the end of the month. An upper level disturbance and a weak low pressure system over the northern Sierra Madre mountains produced strong thunderstorms on the 27th. Most of the activity affected the western portions, producing widespread rainfall amounts of generally 2 inches or less. The combination of the upper level disturbance and old boundaries produced another round of strong thunderstorms on the 28th. These storms affected mainly the central and coastal counties of Deep South Texas. Rainfall amounts of 1 to 4 inches fell across southern Hidalgo, and portions of Willacy and Cameron counties. This was the first significant rainfall event since early January 2013. Despite the end of month rain event, dry conditions persisted during the month. Extreme (D3) drought conditions returned across much of Zapata, Jim Hogg and western Brooks counties, along with southeastern Hidalgo and southern Cameron counties. Exceptional (D4) drought conditions continued across Starr, Hidalgo, eastern Brooks, Kenedy, and Willacy counties, by April 30th.