

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - March 2011

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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GULF OF MEXICO

LAGUNA MADRE FROM 5NM N OF PT MANSFIELD TO BAFFIN BAY TX COUNTY --- 28.1 SSW S BAFFIN BAY [26.80, -97.47]

	03/05/11 10:54 CST	0	Marine Thunderstorm Wind (MG 40 kt)
	03/05/11 11:06 CST	0	Source: C-MAN Station

The Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network site at Rincon del San Jose, along Laguna Madre in Kenedy County, recorded a nearly two hour period of peak gusts of 34 knots or higher from just before 11 AM CST to a little after 1230 PM CST on March 5th. The initial surge, which reached 40 knots at 1100 AM, arrived with a band of showers and storms along a moderate cold front. Gusts continued at or above gale force due to gradient winds behind the front until 1236 PM CST.

LAGUNA MADRE FROM PORT OF BROWNSVILLE TO ARROYO COLORADO COUNTY --- 8.6 ENE ARROYO CITY [26.26, -97.29]

	03/05/11 11:00 CST	0	Marine Thunderstorm Wind (MG 36 kt)
	03/05/11 11:05 CST	0	Source: C-MAN Station

The Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network site at Realitos Peninsula, just south of the Arroyo Colorado, recorded a peak gust of 36 knots at around 11 AM March 5th as a developing line of showers and storms moved into the region immediately behind a cold front.

LAGUNA MADRE FROM PORT OF BROWNSVILLE TO ARROYO COLORADO COUNTY --- 1.4 S PORT ISABEL [26.05, -97.20], 2.1 E PORT ISABEL [26.07, -97.17]

	03/05/11 12:00 CST	0	Marine Thunderstorm Wind (MG 35 kt)
	03/05/11 13:15 CST	0	Source: C-MAN Station

Several stations between Port Isabel and South Padre Island recorded wind gusts of 35 knots as a quick developing line of showers and thunderstorms plowed into the Lower Texas Gulf waters, immediately behind a cold front. Peak winds reached 35 knots at the Port Isabel C-MAN observing station on the south end of town; the South Padre Island Coast Guard station recorded 34 knots, each around 12 PM CST; and the South Padre Island Heliport, about a mile from the Coast Guard station, recorded 35 knots as the line passed between 1215 and 1245 PM.

WATERS FROM BAFFIN BAY TO PT MANSFIELD TX EXT FROM 20 TO 60NM COUNTY --- 45.1 ESE S BAFFIN BAY [26.97, -96.69]

	03/05/11 12:04 CST	0	Marine Thunderstorm Wind (MG 39 kt)
	03/05/11 12:51 CST	0	Source: Buoy

The NOAA Buoy 42020, approximately 35 NM northeast of Port Mansfield, recorded a peak wind of 39 knots as a broken line of showers and a few storms moved across the Lower Texas Gulf waters immediately behind a moderate cold front on March 5th. Gusts continued frequently between 36 and 39 knots (estimated persistence) as the precipitation moved through, and near gale force gusts prevailed for several hours under cloudy skies as Canadian high pressure built across the waters.

COASTAL WATERS FROM PT MANSFIELD TO RIO GRANDE RIVER TX OUT 20NM COUNTY --- 1.3 WSW SOUTH PADRE ISLAND [26.07, -97.15], 11.4 E SOUTH PADRE ISLAND [26.06, -96.95]

	03/05/11 12:15 CST	0	Marine Thunderstorm Wind (MG 35 kt)
	03/05/11 13:30 CST	0	Source: C-MAN Station

Peak winds reached 35 knots at the South Padre Island Heliport, about a mile from the Coast Guard station and one half mile from the Gulf shoreline, recorded 35 knots as the line passed between 1215 and 1245 PM. Radar data and proximity to the coast suggest the showers and storms continued at similar intensity across American waters for about 30 minutes after the first gust; later gusts were behind the front, associated with building Canadian high pressure.

LAGUNA MADRE FROM PORT OF BROWNSVILLE TO ARROYO COLORADO COUNTY --- 8.6 ENE ARROYO CITY [26.26, -97.29]

	03/05/11 12:18 CST	0	Marine Thunderstorm Wind (MG 38 kt)
	03/05/11 12:42 CST	0	Source: C-MAN Station

The Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network site at Realitos Peninsula, just south of the Arroyo Colorado, recorded a second set of peak wind gusts just after noon on March 5th, as a line of showers and storms immediately behind the cold front intensified and passed through the Lower Texas gulf of Mexico waters. Gusts peaked at 38 knots at 1224 PM, but were persistently at or above 34 knots starting at 1218 PM.

One of the only fronts in March arrived on the Lower Texas Gulf of Mexico and Laguna waters during the late morning and early afternoon of March 5th, bringing a broken and developing line of showers and thunderstorms and a surge of gale-force northwest winds immediately behind its passage, with sharply falling temperatures from the 70s into the 50s and rapidly building seas to near 10 feet before conditions gradually improved during the evening and overnight.

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TEXAS, South

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z252) STARR, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO

03/01/11 00:00 CST	0	Drought
03/31/11 23:59 CST	0	

Dry conditions continued across portions of Deep South Texas in March. The dry conditions intensified to severe drought (D2) conditions across western and southwestern portions of the Rio Grande Valley in early March. A bout of showers and a few storms ahead of a cold front on the 5th would temporarily drop Jim Hogg and Zapata County out of D2 conditions by the 8th.

(TX-Z253) HIDALGO

03/17/11 14:00 CST	5K	Wildfire
03/17/11 18:00 CST	0	

A wildfire, feeding on increasingly dry fuels along with relatively hot, dry, and windy conditions, closed a small portion of a major thoroughfare in the Rio Grande Valley, and destroyed on structure before being quickly contained and controlled.

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS

03/22/11 00:00 CST	0	Drought
03/31/11 23:59 CST	0	

A continued lack of significant rainfall resulted in the spread of the severe D2 drought conditions across the western and central portions of Deep South Texas the later portions of March.

(TX-Z254) WILLACY, (TX-Z255) CAMERON

03/29/11 00:00 CST	0	Drought
03/31/11 23:59 CST	0	

Continued rain free weather, above to much above normal temperatures, and plenty of wind as the sun angle increased with springtime increased the area of severe (D2) drought to reach into all of the Lower Rio Grande Valley by month's end.