

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - November 2011

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

LAGUNA MADRE FROM PORT OF BROWNSVILLE TO ARROYO COLORADO COUNTY --- 2.0 E PORT ISABEL [26.08, -97.17]

11/26/11 21:00 CST	25K	Marine Strong Wind (MG 43 kt)
11/27/11 04:00 CST	0	Source: Coast Guard

The U.S. Coast Guard station at South Padre Island recorded a wind gust to 49 mph at 10 PM on the 26th, and gusts continued above 40 mph through 4 AM. Two small moored boats reportedly capsized along the bayshore near the Sea Ranch Marina, virtually adjacent to the Coast Guard Station, sometime during the night. No injuries or fatalities were reported, and damage was unknown as of this writing.

A strong cold front whipped across the Lower Texas marine waters late on November 26th and early on the 27th, followed by occasional Gale force wind gusts which continued into the morning hours. Gusts at the South Padre Island Coast Guard Station and Port Isabel C-MAN site ranged from 40 to 49 mph between 10 PM and 4 AM; Some of these gusts reported capsized and sunk two moored small craft along the Laguna side of South Padre Island during the pre dawn hours of the 27th.

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

11/01/11 00:00 CST	0	Drought
11/30/11 23:59 CST	0	

Broad upper level high pressure ridging from the Gulf of Mexico into the northern Mexico, punctuated by moderate to vigorous upper level troughs moving from the Pacific Coast through the central and southern Plains, then diving into the southeast U.S. - each bringing dry cold fronts - helped intensify the drought a little bit. By the second week of the month, Severe (D2) Drought in southeast Hidalgo/southwest Cameron was replaced by Extreme (D3) drought; Exceptional (D4) Drought continued in the heart of the Citrus belt of Hidalgo County.

Conditions worsened further at month's end, when the first "blue norther" cold front swept through the area. Northwest winds gusting up to 40 mph or higher ushered in extremely dry air, as afternoon humidity fell below 10 percent on the 27th, and continued with lighter winds on the 28th and 29th. A dry freeze on the 28th cured whatever fuels hadn't been previously.

(TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO

11/10/11 15:00 CST	0	Wildfire
11/10/11 21:00 CST	0	

Continued Exceptional (D4) Drought conditions combined with gusty north winds 15 to 25 mph, warm temperatures in the 70s, and afternoon humidity between 15 and 20 percent to allow a wildfire to grow rapidly and spread from ranchland in southern Brooks County into northern Hidalgo County.

(TX-Z257) COASTAL CAMERON

11/26/11 22:00 CST	2K	Strong Wind (MAX 36 kt)
11/27/11 04:00 CST	0	

A strong cold front whipped across the Lower Rio Grande Valley late on November 26th and early on the 27th, followed by occasional Gale force wind gusts which continued into the morning hours. Gusts at the South Padre Island Coast Guard Station and Port Isabel C-MAN site ranged from 40 to 49 mph between 10 PM and 4 AM; Gusts exceeded 40 mph at the South Padre Island Heliport on the south side of the resort town. These gusts collapsed a protective awning at a car wash.

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

11/28/11 03:00 CST	0	Frost/Freeze
11/28/11 08:00 CST	0	

A true "blue norther" drove pure Canadian high pressure directly into South Texas and northern Mexico, beginning on November 27th and continuing through early on the 29th before the high drifted into the southeast U.S. Extremely dry and relatively chilly air invaded Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley; temperatures bottomed out in the mid 20s to lower 30s for all but the southeast corner of the Rio Grande Valley on the 28th.

The event was a rare "dry" freeze, as humidity through the coldest periods remained below 50 percent. Ambient temperatures varied greatly depending on the height of the sensor taking the measurements. At eye level, temperatures fell to or just below freezing in

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many areas, but remained a few degrees above freezing in others. Just above the ground, and in wind protected hollows, temperatures fell into the 20s; local "hard" freezes, defined as 2 or more hours with temperatures below 28 degrees, likely occurred. Agricultural damage was not known as of this writing.