

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - October 2011

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

LAGUNA MADRE FROM ARROYO COLORADO TO 5NM N OF PT MANSFIELD TX COUNTY --- 1.8 ENE PORT MANSFIELD [26.56, -97.40]				
	10/09/11 15:15 CST		0	Marine Thunderstorm Wind (MG 36 kt)
	10/09/11 15:15 CST		0	Source: COOP Observer

The harbormaster at Port Mansfield reported a gust of 41 mph with a strong thunderstorm during the late afternoon of October 9th. By proxy, it is assumed that similar winds occurred in the Port Mansfield channel and adjacent waters of the Laguna Madre, about a mile east of the report location.

Outflows from overnight storms in south and central Texas combined with an approaching upper level disturbance and hot, humid air across the Rio Grande Valley and adjacent Gulf waters to produce additional storms and storm clusters. A number of the cells produced winds around or in excess of 30 knots; one cell produce Gale Force Gusts in the central Laguna Madre.

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				
	10/01/11 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	10/31/11 23:59 CST		0	

October 2011 continued the string of area wide below average rainfall, ensuring no change to the persistent Extreme to Exceptional Drought across the Rio Grande Valley/Deep South Texas region. Rain on the 1st of the month dropped up to 2 inches or more in Starr and Jim Hogg County; boundaries acting on hot, humid air on the 9th produced the most widespread rains of the month, stretching from Zapata and Brooks County, then enhanced by the Gulf Coast sea breeze from Kenedy south to Cameron County, where pockets of 2 to more than 3 inches fell. Areas of western Hidalgo and eastern Starr County, facing severe rainfall deficits where less than 5 inches of rain fell in water year 2011 (October 2010 to September 2011) missed the rain.

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA				
	10/04/11 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	10/31/11 23:59 CST		0	

A few showers and thunderstorms moved across the Rio Grande Plains on September 29th and again on October 1st, improving long term drought conditions slightly across Zapata County. Additional rainfall on October 9th would lock in Extreme (D3) conditions through month's end, with the usual dry season underway.

KENEDY COUNTY --- ARMSTRONG [26.92, -97.80]				
	10/09/11 14:15 CST		0	Heavy Rain
	10/09/11 15:30 CST		0	Source: COOP Observer

The cooperative observer at Armstrong reported 3.64 inches of rain from mid afternoon thunderstorm clusters passing through central Kenedy County on October 9th. Estimated rainfall of 2 to 3 inches also fell in northern Willacy County as the clusters moved and developed toward the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

The combination of southeast moving outflow boundaries in south and central Texas with an approaching, though weakening, upper level disturbance and hot, humid, unstable air across the Rio Grande Valley triggered scattered to numerous thunderstorms from the ranchlands of Zapata, Jim Hogg, and Brooks County, toward and down the coast from Kenedy County through Cameron County. The storms near the coast were enhanced by the sea breeze, and dumped 2 to nearly 4 inches from northern Willacy through central Kenedy County.