



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



December 2003

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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### TEXAS, South Panhandle

**TXZ021>044**

**Parmer - Castro - Swisher - Briscoe - Hall - Childress - Bailey - Lamb - Hale - Floyd - Motley - Cottle - Cochran - Hockley - Lubbock - Crosby - Dickens - King - Yoakum - Terry - Lynn - Garza - Kent - Stonewall**

<b>01</b>	<b>0000CST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>240M</b>	<b>Drought</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>2300CST</b>				

The long-term drought persisted across the South Plains, extreme southern Texas Panhandle, and Rolling Plains through December. Very few locations across the region received any rainfall at all during the month and average monthly rainfall amounts from the 37 NWS cooperative stations averaged only 0.01 inches. Soil moisture conditions remained very dry. Water supplies from area lakes remained extremely low and conservation capacities of Lake Meredith, Mackenzie Lake, and White River Lake were near record low levels.

The Lubbock International Airport received 8.83 inches of rain during 2003 making it the 2nd driest year on record in the Lubbock area since records began in 1911. This precipitation amount was 47 percent of the normal average annual rainfall for the area. Other locations that received notably low precipitation during 2003 included 7.82 inches in Morton (43 percent of normal), 7.91 inches in Muleshoe (48 percent of normal), 9.00 inches in Plainview (45 percent of normal), and 9.29 inches in Levelland (47 percent of normal).

Crop damage estimates from across the South Plains, extreme southern Texas Panhandle, and Rolling Plains indicate that an estimated 800,000 bales of cotton were lost due to the drought in 2003. Most of this damage occurred to dry land crops during July and August.

**TXZ036**

**Crosby**

<b>09</b>	<b>1705CST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>High Wind (MG52)</b>
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The West Texas Mesonet station located six miles northwest of White River Lake measured a 60 mph non-convective wind gust

**TXZ021>024-027>031-033>037-039>042**

**Parmer - Castro - Swisher - Briscoe - Bailey - Lamb - Hale - Floyd - Motley - Cochran - Hockley - Lubbock - Crosby - Dickens - Yoakum - Terry - Lynn - Garza**

<b>15</b>	<b>1100CST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50K</b>	<b>High Wind (MG58)</b>
	<b>1530CST</b>				

A strong upper level storm moved into the Southern Plains resulting in a very strong pressure gradient over West Texas. Westerly winds increased to 40 to 45 mph and gusted to as high as 67 mph over the South Plains area. The high wind turned over several tractor trailers on Interstate 27 between Lubbock and Plainview, blew down power lines, and produced minor damage to homes. Widespread blowing dust reduced the visibility to less than one quarter of a mile across much of the region.

The West Texas Mesonet recorded a number of high wind events across the region during the late morning through mid afternoon hours. The measured peak wind gust at each of the stations exceeding high wind criteria follows: 67 mph gust 1 NE Morton in Cochran County, 65 mph gust at Reese Center in Lubbock County, 65 mph gust 3 N Plains in Yoakum County, 64 mph gust 2 NE Friona in Parmer County, 62 mph gust 1 NE Amherst in Lamb County, 62 mph gust 2 S Muleshoe in Bailey County, 61 mph gust 7 E Silverton in Briscoe County, 61 mph gust 3 N Hart in Castro County, 61 mph gust 2 NE Dimmitt in Castro County, 60 mph gust 6 S Anton in Hockley County, 60 mph gust 4 S Levelland in Hockley County, 60 mph gust 6 S Olton in Lamb County, and a 59 mph gust 1 S Plainview in Hale County.