

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2014

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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### OKLAHOMA, Panhandle

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#### (OK-Z001) CIMARRON, (OK-Z002) TEXAS, (OK-Z003) BEAVER

01/01/14 00:00 CST	0	Drought
01/31/14 23:59 CST	0	

The month of January was another dry month for the Oklahoma Panhandle, with only three light snowfall episodes during the month. As short term dryness continued, drought conditions worsened gradually throughout the month. Extreme (D3) Drought conditions in the central Oklahoma Panhandle expanded, while Severe (D2) Drought conditions persisted in the far western and eastern parts of the Panhandle. Guymon recorded 0.18 inches of precipitation for the month (0.22 inches below normal).

Winter wheat was in need of moisture, with some dryland wheat feared dead already. Upper soil zones remained drier than normal in most of the Oklahoma Panhandle, but moisture levels were near normal in those areas which received the best snowfall during the month. Deeper soil zones ranged from less than 50 percent of normal in the driest areas to greater than 150 percent of normal mainly in the western and eastern Panhandle. The Palmer Drought Severity Index remained at a rating of Near Normal for the Oklahoma Panhandle. No countywide burn bans were in effect.

Reservoirs and streamflows across the majority of the Oklahoma Panhandle were at below normal levels.

Economic losses due to the drought through January were predominately the result of supplemental watering, reduction of cattle herd sizes, winter wheat losses, and supplemental feed for cattle on drought-thinned rangeland and pastures.

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#### (OK-Z001) CIMARRON, (OK-Z002) TEXAS, (OK-Z003) BEAVER

01/04/14 18:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
01/05/14 06:00 CST	0	

A cold front moved through the Oklahoma Panhandle during the day of the 4th. This allowed temperatures to quickly drop below freezing during the early evening hours. Overnight, an upper level shortwave moved out of southeastern Colorado which provided the large scale lift behind the front for precipitation to begin across the Central High Plains. These snow showers slowly sagged southward, and caused precipitation to begin across the Oklahoma Panhandle shortly after 6 PM CST. Snow showers persisted until midnight on the 5th for the western Oklahoma Panhandle and until 6 AM CST across the eastern Oklahoma Panhandle. While storm total amounts were around an inch and produced isolated slick spots on area roads, no reports of vehicle accidents were relayed in relation to the snow.

The following is a list of snow total amounts: 1.0 inch of snow at Kenton (Cimarron County); 1.0 inch of snow at Guymon (Texas County); and 2.0 inches of snow at Forgan (Beaver County).

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#### (OK-Z001) CIMARRON

01/23/14 07:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
01/23/14 13:00 CST	0	

Light snow showers moved across the western Oklahoma Panhandle on the 23rd. The large scale lift needed to overcome the stable post-cold frontal airmass was provided by the combination of a weak shortwave trough moving southeastward out of the Rocky Mountains, and the positioning of the entrance region of the jet stream over the western Panhandle. Light snow showers developed across the western Oklahoma Panhandle shortly after 7 AM CST and slowly moved southward. These showers would persist until 1 PM CST before moving south of the Panhandle. A trained storm spotter in Kenton (Cimarron County) reported a snow storm total of 1.0 inch, and a member of the public reported a snow storm total of 2.0 inches in Felt (Cimarron County). No reports of slick roads or vehicle accidents were associated with this snow, but breezy winds caused visibilities to reduce to a quarter mile at times on area roads.

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#### (OK-Z003) BEAVER

01/27/14 22:30 CST	0	Winter Weather
01/28/14 03:30 CST	0	

A weak upper level shortwave and jet streak moving southward out of southeastern Colorado provided the large scale forcing for light snow showers to develop across the eastern Oklahoma Panhandle during the overnight hours of the 27th and the early morning hours of the 28th. These snow showers developed over southwestern Kansas and moved into the eastern Oklahoma Panhandle around 10:30 PM CST on the 27th. These showers slowly moved southward before exiting the Oklahoma Panhandle around 3:30 AM CST. The sheriff's Office in Beaver (Beaver County) reported 2 inches of storm total snow, and the NWS COOP observer in Gate (Beaver County) reported 1.5 inches of snow. No reports of slick roads or vehicle accidents were relayed in association to this snow.

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### TEXAS, North Panhandle

(TX-Z001) DALLAM, (TX-Z002) SHERMAN, (TX-Z003) HANSFORD, (TX-Z006) HARTLEY, (TX-Z007) MOORE, (TX-Z008) HUTCHINSON, (TX-Z010) HEMPHILL, (TX-Z011) OLDHAM, (TX-Z012) POTTER, (TX-Z013) CARSON, (TX-Z016) DEAF SMITH, (TX-Z017) RANDALL, (TX-Z018) ARMSTRONG

01/01/14 00:00 CST	0	Drought
01/31/14 23:59 CST	0	

The month of January was another dry month for most of the Texas Panhandle, with only 2 or 3 light snowfalls being reported across the far northern parts of the Panhandle. As short term precipitation deficits worsened, drought conditions returned to the eastern Texas Panhandle. Severe (D2) to Exceptional (D4) Drought conditions continued in the western Texas Panhandle. The eastern half of the Texas Panhandle remained below Severe (D2) Drought rating. Amarillo recorded 0.03 inches of precipitation for the month (0.69 inches below normal), Dalhart recorded 0.01 inches of precipitation (0.51 inches below normal), and Borger recorded 0.07 inches of precipitation (0.52 inches below normal).

With precipitation from the previous growing season not sufficient to replenish a full soil moisture profile, winter wheat struggled under the dry weather pattern. Winter wheat was in mostly fair to good condition during the month according to reports received by the Texas A&M Agrilife Program, but dryland planted wheat had very poor growth. Upper soil zones remained drier than normal in the Texas Panhandle but were driest across the southern and eastern parts. Deeper soil zones ranged from less than 30 to around 50 percent of normal in the western Texas Panhandle, but values of 110 to 150 percent of normal were scattered across the Texas Panhandle. The Palmer Drought Severity Index worsened to a rating of Severe Drought conditions for the Texas Panhandle. Countywide burn bans were supported in Moore, Hutchinson, Roberts, Hemphill, Carson, Wheeler, Deaf Smith, Randall, Armstrong, and Donley Counties.

Reservoirs and stream flows across the majority of the Panhandle were at near normal to much below normal levels, causing Moderate to Severe Hydrologic Drought especially in the southern Texas Panhandle. The reservoirs of Palo Duro and Greenbelt Lake were below 5 percent and 15 percent capacity respectively, and Lake Meredith is at zero percent capacity. Water watches for several public water systems persisted through January while voluntary to mandatory mild water restrictions have been enacted.

Economic losses due to the drought through January were predominately the result of supplemental watering, winter wheat losses, reduction of cattle herd sizes, and supplemental feed for cattle on drought-thinned rangeland and pastures.

(TX-Z001) DALLAM, (TX-Z002) SHERMAN, (TX-Z003) HANSFORD, (TX-Z004) OCHILTREE, (TX-Z006) HARTLEY, (TX-Z007) MOORE

01/04/14 19:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
01/05/14 06:00 CST	0	

A cold front moved through the Texas Panhandle during the day of the 4th. This allowed temperatures to quickly drop below freezing during the early evening hours. Overnight, an upper level shortwave moved out of southeastern Colorado which provided the large scale lift behind the front for precipitation to begin across the Central High Plains. These snow showers slowly sagged southward, and caused precipitation to begin across the Texas Panhandle shortly after 7 PM CST, and persisted until 6 AM CST across the Texas Panhandle. While storm total amounts were around an inch and produced isolated slick spots on area roads, no reports of vehicle accidents were relayed in relation to the snow.

The following is a list of snow total amounts: 1.0 inch of snow at Dalhart (Dallam County); 1.0 inch of snow in Stratford (Sherman County); 1.0 inch of snow in Spearman (Hansford County); 1.0 inch of snow at Perryton (Ochiltree County); 1.0 inch of snow at Hartley (Hartley County); and 1.0 inch of snow at Dumas (Moore County).

(TX-Z015) WHEELER

01/08/14 12:55 CST	0	Wildfire
01/08/14 16:00 CST	0	

A large wildfire began in Wheeler County on January 8, 2014 about five miles east southeast of Kellerville, Texas or fourteen miles southwest of Wheeler, Texas off of Farm to Market Road 2473 around 1255 CST. The wildfire consumed approximately eight hundred acres and threatened four homes. No structures were damaged or lost, and there were no reports of injuries or fatalities. The wildfire was brought under control around 1600 CST and a total of four fire departments responded to the wildfire. There was no information on the cause of the wildfire.

(TX-Z013) CARSON

01/20/14 13:44 CST	0	Wildfire
01/20/14 18:00 CST	0	

The 60 and T Wildfire began in Carson County on January 20, 2014 at approximately 1344 CST. The wildfire started about six miles east northeast of Panhandle near U.S. Highway 60 and County Road T on the south side of the highway, and just east of the county road. The wildfire consumed an estimated four hundred and ten acres, and no structures were threatened or damaged. There were also no reports of injuries or fatalities. The wildfire was brought under control around 1800 CST and a total of three fire departments responded

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to the wildfire. The cause of the wildfire was determined to be the catalytic converter or a faulty muffler from a vehicle.

(TX-Z001) DALLAM, (TX-Z006) HARTLEY

	01/23/14 08:00 CST	0		Winter Weather
	01/23/14 16:00 CST	0		

Light snow showers moved across the northwestern Texas Panhandle on the 23rd. The large scale lift needed to overcome the stable post-cold frontal airmass was provided by the combination of a weak shortwave trough moving southeastward out of the Rocky Mountains, and the positioning of the entrance region of the jet stream over the northwestern Panhandle. Light snow showers developed across the western Oklahoma Panhandle shortly after 7 AM CST and slowly moved southward entering the northwestern Texas Panhandle around 8 AM CST. These showers would persist until 4 PM CST before dissipating. The NWS COOP observer in Dalhart (Hartley County) reported a snow storm total of 1.5 inches, and a trained storm spotter reported a snow storm total of 2.0 inches in Texline (Dallam County). No reports of slick roads or vehicle accidents were associated with this snow, but breezy winds caused visibilities to reduce to a quarter mile at times on area roads.

(TX-Z003) HANSFORD, (TX-Z004) OCHILTREE, (TX-Z005) LIPSCOMB

	01/27/14 23:30 CST	0		Winter Weather
	01/28/14 04:00 CST	0		

A weak upper level shortwave and jet streak moving southward out of southeastern Colorado provided the large scale forcing for light snow showers to develop across the northeastern Texas Panhandle during the overnight hours of the 27th and the early morning hours of the 28th. These snow showers developed over southwestern Kansas and moved into the northeastern Texas Panhandle around 11:30 PM CST on the 27th. These showers slowly moved southward before diminishing over the central Texas Panhandle around 4 AM CST. The Lipscomb County Emergency Manager reported 2.0 inches of storm total snow in Booker. A member of the public reported 1.5 inches of storm total snow in Spearman (Hansford County), and the NWS COOP observer north-northwest of Farnsworth (Ochiltree County) reported 1.5 inches of storm total snow. No reports of slick roads or vehicle accidents were reported in relation to this snow.