

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2015

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

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

	01/01/15 00:00 CST	0	Drought
	01/31/15 23:59 CST	0	

The year started off on a fairly snowy note for the Oklahoma Panhandle, with decent snowfall events near the beginning and end of January. Most areas measured one half to 1 inch of liquid equivalent precipitation throughout the month. Severe (D2) to Extreme (D3) Drought conditions remained across the Oklahoma Panhandle, with generally worse conditions in the central portion of the Panhandle. Guymon recorded 1.21 inches of precipitation (0.81 inches above normal) throughout January.

Soil moisture was rated from short to adequate during January. The moisture received during the month helped to sustain the season's winter wheat crop and improve rangeland conditions in a few areas. Cattle herd sizes remained limited due to prolonged drought and high cattle prices. Upper soil zones were mostly in the 10 to 30 percent full range (moderate agriculturally dry), with locations in the eastern Panhandle generally drier. Deeper soil moisture was still below 70 percent of normal in much of the Oklahoma Panhandle, especially the eastern half. The Palmer Drought Severity Index indicated a rating of Near Normal conditions for the Oklahoma Panhandle. No countywide or statewide burn bans were in effect.

Streamflows and reservoir levels across the Oklahoma Panhandle were below normal to much below normal during January.

Economic losses due to the drought through January were predominantly the result of early losses in some late-planted winter wheat and supplemental feed for cattle on drought-thinned rangeland and pastures.

(OK-Z001) CIMARRON

	01/03/15 00:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
	01/03/15 18:00 CST	0	

(OK-Z002) TEXAS, (OK-Z003) BEAVER

	01/03/15 02:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
	01/03/15 19:00 CST	0	

A cold air mass in place, increasing moisture, and the approach of a storm system set the stage for a relatively significant winter weather episode across the Oklahoma Panhandle. Snowfall increased in coverage across the area during the early morning hours of Saturday and continued through Saturday afternoon. The snow was heavy at times reducing the visibility to around one quarter of a mile.

The following is a list of snow accumulation amounts by county: 5 inches at Guymon (Texas County); 8 inches at Boise City (Cimarron County); 1 inch at Beaver (Beaver County).

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

	01/03/15 18:00 CST	0	Cold/Wind Chill
	01/04/15 09:00 CST	0	

An arctic air mass and north winds behind a departing weather system that brought snow to the region resulted in dangerously cold wind chill values.

The following is a list of minimum wind chill values: -5 to -12 at Boise City (Cimarron County); -5 to -10 at Beaver (Beaver County); -5 to -8 at Guymon (Texas County).

(OK-Z003) BEAVER

	01/14/15 00:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
	01/14/15 08:00 CST	0	

Light snow accumulated across the Oklahoma Panhandle during the early morning hours of the 14th. Some sleet and freezing drizzle occurred as well. Most locations received under one inch of snow accumulation.

The following is a list of locations that received at least an inch of snowfall: 1 inch at Beaver (Beaver County).

(OK-Z001) CIMARRON

	01/21/15 06:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
	01/22/15 18:00 CST	0	

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(OK-Z002) TEXAS, (OK-Z003) BEAVER				
	01/21/15 15:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	01/21/15 18:00 CST		0	

A vigorous weather system moving out of the Southwestern United States into the southern Plains resulted in significant snowfall across the Oklahoma Panhandle on the 21st and 22nd. Ahead of this system, moist air was lifted over a cold front that stretched across the southern High Plains. On Wednesday morning, enhanced lift ahead of the upper-level low generated a band of precipitation from northeastern New Mexico into the northern Texas Panhandle and the Oklahoma Panhandle.

The following is a list of snowfall totals per county: 6 inches at Felt (Cimarron County); 1-2 inches at Beaver (Beaver County); 3 inches at Guymon (Texas County).

TEXAS, North Panhandle

(TX-Z013) CARSON, (TX-Z015) WHEELER, (TX-Z016) DEAF SMITH, (TX-Z018) ARMSTRONG, (TX-Z020) COLLINGSWORTH				
	01/01/15 00:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	01/01/15 10:00 CST		0	

A light wintry mix of precipitation continued from New Years Eve into the morning hours of New Years Day, primarily across the southern Texas Panhandle. Although precipitation amounts were very light, a preceding cold air mass resulted in below freezing road surfaces and very light freezing rain and freezing drizzle caused a thin coating of ice leading to hazardous travel conditions.

The following is a list of locations that experienced a minor glazing of ice on roadways which resulted in difficult travel and in some cases vehicle accidents: Claude (Armstrong County); Hereford (Deaf Smith County); Pampa (Gray County); Panhandle (Carson County); Shamrock (Wheeler County); and Wellington (Collingsworth County).

(TX-Z001) DALLAM, (TX-Z002) SHERMAN, (TX-Z003) HANSFORD, (TX-Z005) LIPSCOMB, (TX-Z006) HARTLEY, (TX-Z007) MOORE, (TX-Z008) HUTCHINSON, (TX-Z009) ROBERTS, (TX-Z011) OLDHAM, (TX-Z012) POTTER, (TX-Z013) CARSON, (TX-Z014) GRAY, (TX-Z015) WHEELER, (TX-Z017) RANDALL, (TX-Z018) ARMSTRONG, (TX-Z019) DONLEY, (TX-Z020) COLLINGSWORTH				
	01/01/15 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	01/31/15 23:59 CST		0	

The year started off on a fairly snowy note for the Texas Panhandle, with a particularly notable heavy snow event near the end of January that brought over 1 foot of snow to the Interstate 40 corridor. Most areas measured greater than 1 inch of liquid equivalent precipitation throughout the month. Extreme (D3) to Exceptional (D4) Drought conditions remained along a line from east of Dalhart to near Wellington, and in the extreme northeastern Panhandle. Conditions across the rest of the Texas Panhandle remained a mix of Moderate (D1) Drought to Severe (D2) Drought. Amarillo recorded 1.61 inches of precipitation for the month (0.89 inches above normal), Dalhart recorded 1.72 inches of precipitation (1.20 inches above normal), and Borger recorded 1.23 inches of precipitation (0.64 inches above normal).

Soil moisture was rated from short to adequate during January. The moisture received during the month helped to sustain the season's winter wheat crop. Rangeland and pasture continued to improve in some areas, but cattle herd sizes remained limited due to prolonged drought and high cattle prices. Upper soil zones were mostly in the 10 to 30 percent full range (moderate agriculturally dry), with locations in the eastern Panhandle generally drier. Deeper soil moisture was still below 70 percent of normal in much of the Texas Panhandle. The Palmer Drought Severity Index indicated a rating of Near Normal conditions for the Texas Panhandle. Countywide burn bans were supported in several counties.

Stream flows across the Texas Panhandle ranged from near normal in the southwest to much below normal in the north during January. The reservoirs of Lake Meredith and Palo Duro were below 6 percent and 2 percent capacity respectively, and Greenbelt Lake was near 12 percent capacity. Water watches for several public water systems persisted through January while voluntary to mandatory mild water restrictions were continued.

Economic losses due to the drought through January were predominantly the result of early losses in some late-planted winter wheat and supplemental feed for cattle on drought-thinned rangeland and pastures.

(TX-Z001) DALLAM, (TX-Z006) HARTLEY, (TX-Z007) MOORE, (TX-Z011) OLDHAM, (TX-Z016) DEAF SMITH				
	01/02/15 19:00 CST		0	Winter Storm
	01/03/15 19:00 CST		0	

(TX-Z002) SHERMAN, (TX-Z003) HANSFORD, (TX-Z004) OCHILTREE, (TX-Z005) LIPSCOMB, (TX-Z008) HUTCHINSON, (TX-Z009) ROBERTS, (TX-Z010)

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HEMPHILL, (TX-Z012) POTTER, (TX-Z013) CARSON, (TX-Z014) GRAY, (TX-Z017) RANDALL, (TX-Z018) ARMSTRONG				
	01/02/15 21:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	01/03/15 19:00 CST		0	

A cold air mass in place, increasing moisture, and the approach of a storm system set the stage for a relatively significant winter weather episode across the Texas Panhandle. Snowfall increased in coverage across the area during the evening hours of Friday and continued through Saturday afternoon. The snow was heavy at times reducing the visibility to one quarter of a mile. Conditions were favorable for some sleet and freezing rain with minor accumulations, especially across the eastern portion of the Texas Panhandle. The eastern Texas Panhandle received relatively lower snowfall totals.

The following is a list of snow accumulation amounts by county: 6 to 7 inches at Hereford (Deaf Smith County); 6.5 inches at Dumas (Moore County); 6 inches at Dalhart (Hartley County); 6 inches at Vega (Oldham County); 6 inches at Texline (Dallam County); 1 to 2 inches at Spearman (Hansford County); 2.5 to 4 inches in Amarillo (Potter and Randall counties); 2 to 3 inches at Stratford (Sherman County); 1.5 to 2.5 inches at Borger (Hutchinson County); 1.5 inches at Panhandle (Carson County); 1 to 1.5 inches at Miami (Roberts County); 1 to 1.5 inches in Claude (Armstrong County); 1 inch at Perryton (Ochiltree County); 1 inch at Pampa (Gray County).

(TX-Z002) SHERMAN, (TX-Z003) HANSFORD, (TX-Z004) OCHILTREE, (TX-Z005) LIPSCOMB, (TX-Z007) MOORE, (TX-Z011) OLDHAM, (TX-Z012) POTTER, (TX-Z013) CARSON, (TX-Z014) GRAY, (TX-Z015) WHEELER, (TX-Z017) RANDALL				
	01/03/15 18:00 CST		0	Cold/Wind Chill
	01/04/15 09:00 CST		0	

An arctic air mass and north winds behind a departing weather system that brought snow to the region resulted in dangerously cold wind chill values.

The following is a list of minimum wind chill values: -5 to -10 at Dumas (Moore County); -5 to -10; -5 to -9 at Amarillo (Potter County); -5 to -9 at Panhandle (Carson County); -5 to -9 at Pampa (Gray County); -5 to -10 at Vega (Oldham County); at Canyon (Randall County); -5 to -9 at Wheeler (Wheeler County); -5 to -8 at Spearman (Hansford County); -5 to -8 at Lipscomb (Lipscomb County); -5 to -8 at Perryton (Ochiltree County); -5 to -8 at Stratford (Sherman County).

(TX-Z005) LIPSCOMB, (TX-Z008) HUTCHINSON, (TX-Z011) OLDHAM				
	01/13/15 22:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	01/14/15 08:00 CST		0	

Light snow accumulated across portions of the Texas Panhandle during the early morning hours of the 14th. Some sleet and freezing drizzle occurred as well. Most locations received under one inch of snow accumulation.

The following is a list of counties that received an inch or more of snowfall: 1.6 inches at Borger (Hutchinson County); 1 inch at Lipscomb (Lipscomb County).

(TX-Z014) GRAY				
	01/17/15 12:30 CST		0.10M	Wildfire
	01/17/15 14:30 CST		0	

The large wildfire began about one mile north of McLean around 1230CST and consumed approximately six hundred and forty acres. One vacant home and one shed were completely destroyed, however there were no reports of injuries or fatalities. The wildfire was brought under control around 1430CST which was caused by high winds striking a power line.

(TX-Z001) DALLAM, (TX-Z002) SHERMAN, (TX-Z006) HARTLEY, (TX-Z007) MOORE, (TX-Z008) HUTCHINSON, (TX-Z009) ROBERTS, (TX-Z011) OLDHAM, (TX-Z012) POTTER, (TX-Z013) CARSON, (TX-Z014) GRAY, (TX-Z015) WHEELER, (TX-Z016) DEAF SMITH, (TX-Z017) RANDALL, (TX-Z018) ARMSTRONG, (TX-Z019) DONLEY				
	01/21/15 06:00 CST		0	Winter Storm
	01/22/15 18:00 CST		0	

(TX-Z003) HANSFORD, (TX-Z004) OCHILTREE, (TX-Z005) LIPSCOMB, (TX-Z010) HEMPHELL, (TX-Z020) COLLINGSWORTH				
	01/21/15 15:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	01/22/15 18:00 CST		0	

A vigorous weather system moving out of the Southwestern United States into the southern Plains resulted in significant snowfall across the Texas Panhandle on the 21st and 22nd. Ahead of this system, moist air was lifted over a cold front that stretched across the southern High Plains. On Wednesday morning, enhanced lift ahead of the upper-level low generated a band of precipitation from northeastern New Mexico into the Oklahoma Panhandle and the northern Texas Panhandle. As precipitation continued to fall, temperatures dropped to near freezing, and much of the rain changed to snow. Locations including Boise City, OK; Dalhart, TX; and Dumas, TX received 5 to 10 inches of snow. The transition to snow occurred across nearly the entire area by Wednesday evening.

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A narrow band of heavy snow developed along and near Interstate 40 between the New Mexico and Oklahoma state lines during the late evening. This particularly heavy band of snow resulted in accumulation rates of up to 4 inches per hour. The highest snowfall amounts were under this band of snow and included Amarillo where up to 13 inches of snow fell across portions of the city. 11 inches of snow was measured at the NWS office before midnight on the 21st setting a new daily snowfall record for Amarillo. This ranked number 11 on the list of all-time snowiest calendar days for the city. An additional inch fell after midnight for an official snow total of 12 inches. Though heavy snow limited travel and closed many businesses and schools, the moisture was welcomed in an a region experiencing ongoing drought conditions.

The following is a list of snowfall totals per county: 11 to 13 inches at Amarillo (Potter and Randall counties); 10 to 12 inches at Claude (Armstrong County); 8 to 11 inches at Pampa (Gray County); 9 to 10 inches at Dalhart (Dallam and Hartley counties); 7 to 8 inches at Vega (Oldham County); 7 inches at Dumas (Moore County); 6 to 7 inches at Clarendon (Donley County); 6 to 7 inches at Stratford (Sherman County); 6 inches at Miami (Roberts County); 5 to 6 inches at Borger (Hutchinson County); 5 to 6 inches at Wheeler (Wheeler County); 3 inches at Wellington (Collingsworth County); 3 inches at Perryton (Ochiltree County); 2 to 3 inches at Canadian (Hemphill County); 1 to 2 inches at Lipscomb (Lipscomb County).

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Location

Date/Time

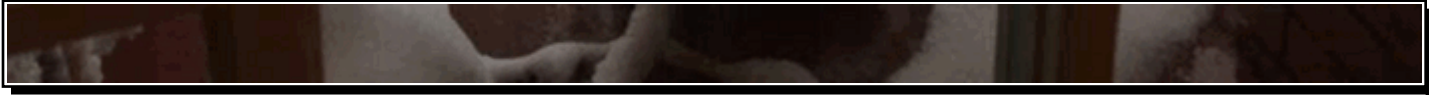
Deaths &
Injuries

Property &
Crop Dmg

Event Type and Details



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Heavy wet snow accumulates on a fountain in Amarillo, TX (Shana Reese).