

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - March 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

03/01/15 00:00 CST		0	Drought
03/31/15 23:59 CST		0	

After a snowy start to the year, March was a relatively dry month for most of the Oklahoma Panhandle. Most areas measured less than one inch of liquid equivalent precipitation for the month, with this falling during one event late in the month. Severe (D2) to Extreme (D3) Drought conditions remained across the Oklahoma Panhandle, with generally worse conditions in the central and eastern portions of the Panhandle. Guymon recorded 1.01 inches of precipitation (0.42 inches below normal) during March.

As temperatures began to warm and spring winds returned, the winter wheat crop began to suffer drought stress with the month's low precipitation. Rangeland and pasture saw little change in March, and 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 (slight to moderate agriculturally dry), with locations in the central and 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 much below normal during March, resulting in severe hydrologic drought.

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

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

03/03/15 21:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
03/04/15 18:00 CST		0	

As much as 2 inches of snow accumulated across the central and eastern portion of the Oklahoma Panhandle from the evening of the 3rd through the afternoon of the 4th.

The following is a list of snowfall amounts by county: 2 inches at Guymon (Texas County); 1.7 inches at Floris (Beaver County).

TEXAS, North Panhandle

(TX-Z001) DALLAM, (TX-Z002) SHERMAN, (TX-Z003) HANSFORD, (TX-Z004) OCHILTREE, (TX-Z005) LIPSCOMB, (TX-Z006) HARTLEY, (TX-Z007) MOORE, (TX-Z008) HUTCHINSON, (TX-Z009) ROBERTS, (TX-Z010) HEMPHILL, (TX-Z011) OLDHAM, (TX-Z012) POTTER, (TX-Z013) CARSON, (TX-Z014) GRAY, (TX-Z015) WHEELER, (TX-Z018) ARMSTRONG, (TX-Z019) DONLEY, (TX-Z020) COLLINGSWORTH

03/01/15 00:00 CST		0	Drought
03/31/15 23:59 CST		0	

After a snowy start to the year, March was a dry month for most of the Texas Panhandle. Most precipitation was light and fell during only two events during the month. Most areas measured less than one half inch of liquid equivalent precipitation. Extreme (D3) to Exceptional (D4) Drought conditions expanded to affect all of the northeastern half of the Texas Panhandle by the end of March. Conditions across the rest of the Panhandle remained a mix of Moderate (D1) Drought to Severe (D2) Drought. Amarillo recorded 0.21 inches of precipitation for the month (1.18 inches below normal), Dalhart recorded 0.08 inches of precipitation (1.09 inches below normal), and Borger recorded 0.27 inches of precipitation (1.14 inches below normal).

Soil moisture was rated from short to adequate during March. As temperatures began to warm and spring winds returned, the winter wheat crop began to suffer drought stress with the month's low precipitation. Rangeland and pasture saw little change in March, and 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 (slight to moderate agriculturally dry), with locations in the eastern Panhandle generally drier. Deeper soil moisture was below 50 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.

Streamflows across the Texas Panhandle ranged from below normal to much below normal during March, indicative of moderate to severe hydrologic drought. 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 March while voluntary to mandatory mild water restrictions were continued.

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(TX-Z001) DALLAM, (TX-Z004) OCHILTREE, (TX-Z005) LIPSCOMB, (TX-Z006) HARTLEY, (TX-Z007) MOORE, (TX-Z013) CARSON, (TX-Z014) GRAY, (TX-Z015) WHEELER, (TX-Z018) ARMSTRONG, (TX-Z020) COLLINGSWORTH

	03/03/15 21:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	03/05/15 00:00 CST		0	

Wintry precipitation, including freezing drizzle and snow, impacted portions of the Texas Panhandle from late during the evening of the 3rd through the evening of the 4th.

The following is a list of snowfall amounts by county: 3 to 5 inches at Wellington (Collingsworth County); 1.5 to 3.5 inches at Pampa (Gray County); 3 to 5 inches at Clarendon (Donley County); 2 to 3 inches at Dalhart (Dallam and Hartley counties); 1.5 to 3 inches at Shamrock (Wheeler County); 2 inches at Claude (Armstrong County); 1 to 1.3 inches at Panhandle (Carson County).

GRAY COUNTY --- 8.7 ESE LEFORS [35.40, -100.67]

	03/31/15 16:55 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	03/31/15 17:00 CST		0	Source: Public

A member of the public located 8 miles east-southeast of Lefors estimated the largest hail stones to be quarter size. This occurred as a cluster of multicell thunderstorms moved east across the county. No other hail reports were received in Gray County although the storms generally remained over rural areas.

LIPSCOMB COUNTY --- 7.4 NW HIGGINS [36.19, -100.12]

	03/31/15 17:28 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	03/31/15 17:28 CST		0	Source: Public

A cluster multicells strengthened near Glazier just north of Canadian in Hemphill County and then moved northeast into Lipscomb County . One report of pea to marble size hail was received at 6:15 PM CST before the storm crossed into Lipscomb County . At 6:28 PM CST , one quarter size hail report was received by the public between Lipscomb and Higgins.

Thunderstorms formed near and east of a weak dryline during the late afternoon hours across the eastern Texas Panhandle. These storms persisted into the evening hours producing small hail and gusty winds. The strongest storms produced quarter size hail.