

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2015

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
<b>TEXAS, North Panhandle</b>				
<b>GRAY COUNTY --- 9.9 ESE LEFORS [35.37, -100.66], 9.9 ESE LEFORS [35.37, -100.66]</b>				
	12/12/15 17:53 CST		0	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.04 mi , W: 50 yd)
	12/12/15 17:54 CST		0	Source: Storm Chaser
A brief tornado touchdown was observed by a storm chaser. No damage was reported.				
<b>GRAY COUNTY --- 1.3 ENE LEFORS [35.44, -100.80]</b>				
	12/12/15 18:31 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	12/12/15 18:31 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
Nickel to quarter size hail was reported in Lefors. The hail was mostly nickel size.				
<b>GRAY COUNTY --- 5.3 SSE LEFORS [35.36, -100.78]</b>				
	12/12/15 18:32 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	12/12/15 18:32 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement
Quarter size hail was reported on FM 291 6 miles south-southeast of Lefors.				
<b>LIPSCOMB COUNTY --- 1.5 SSW FOLLETT [36.41, -100.14]</b>				
	12/12/15 20:42 CST		0	Hail (1.25 in)
	12/12/15 20:42 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager
Hail up to the size of half dollars was reported to be covering the road approximately 2 miles south of Follett.				
<b>Sufficient moisture for instability combined with wind shear to produce a favorable environment for severe thunderstorms across the southeast portion of the Texas Panhandle. Severe thunderstorms are quite rare for this geographical area during the month of December. Three hail events were documented along with one brief tornado.</b>				
<b>(TX-Z008) HUTCHINSON</b>				
	12/20/15 19:12 CST		0	Wildfire
	12/21/15 18:40 CST	1	0	
<p>The Sunday Evening wildfire began around 1912CST about four miles southeast of Pringle Texas in the central Texas Panhandle or just east of County Road 12 and State Highway 207 and was moving in a northeasterly direction. The wildfire consumed two thousand one hundred and ninety-seven acres and was caused by downed power lines. One home was threatened but saved and there were no reports of homes or any other structures being damaged or lost. There were also no reports of damage to any farm fencing or livestock. There was one report of an injury, however there were no reports of fatalities. Although the wildfire was contained around 0730CST on Monday December 21, the wildfire rekindled again by 1500CST on Monday December 21. The wildfire was finally contained by 1840CST on Monday December 21. A portion of the wildfire was located in the Canadian River breaks making it extremely difficult for firefighters and fire trucks to gain access to the wildfire because of the rugged terrain. A total of eleven fire departments and other fire agencies, including the Texas Forest Service, the National Park Service at Lake Meredith, and multiple personnel from area ranches, responded to the wildfire. The Texas Forest Service provided dozers and other heavy equipment to assist with wildfire operations.</p>				
<b>(TX-Z008) HUTCHINSON</b>				
	12/26/15 14:30 CST		0	Wildfire
	12/27/15 01:30 CST		0	
<p>The Christmas After wildfire began around 1430CST about three miles northeast of Stinnett, Texas in central Hutchinson county east of County Road 11 and north of Farm to Market Road 1526. The wildfire consumed an estimated three hundred acres and was caused by downed power lines. There were no reports of homes or any other structures being threatened and no homes or other structures were damaged or lost. There were also no reports of injuries or fatalities. The wildfire was contained around 0130CST to 0200CST on Sunday December 27. A total of nine fire departments and other fire agencies responded to the wildfire including the Texas Forest Service.</p>				
<b>(TX-Z001) DALLAM, (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-Z016) DEAF SMITH, (TX-Z017) RANDALL, (TX-Z018) ARMSTRONG, (TX-Z019) DONLEY, (TX-Z020) COLLINGSWORTH</b>				
	12/26/15 21:00 CST		0	Blizzard
	12/28/15 08:00 CST		0	

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A blizzard impacted much of the Texas Panhandle from late on the 26th through early on the 28th. Sustained winds over 35 mph were ongoing the evening of the 26th across much of the Texas Panhandle and these winds continued through the event. The 24 hour average wind speed at Amarillo was 35 mph on December 27th while peak wind gusts reached 64 mph. Some additional observation sites in the area indicated peak gusts reached 70 mph during the event. The strong winds caused significant drifting of snow, even in areas that received a relatively minor amount of accumulation. Visibility was significantly reduced due to the blowing snow, and for at least a short period fell to less than one quarter mile at many locations. Deaf Smith County was most significantly impacted in the area served by the National Weather Service in Amarillo, but adjacent counties to the south of Deaf Smith County received snowfall totals that rivaled all-time record levels. See the Storm Data entry by the National Weather Service in Lubbock for details on snowfall amounts and impacts in areas further south.

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*Significant drifting occurred across Deaf Smith County.*