

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2016

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

(OK-Z002) TEXAS

	12/10/16 15:08 CST		0	Wildfire
	12/10/16 18:00 CST		0	

The Hwy 64 Command wildfire began around 1508CST about six miles north northwest of Guymon Oklahoma in Texas county. The wildfire started on the south side of U.S. Highway 64 and consumed approximately three hundred and fifty acres. There were no homes or other structures threatened and there also were no homes or other structures that were destroyed by the wildfire. There were also no injuries or fatalities reported. A break line finally stopped the wildfire from entering a river bed. The cause of the wildfire was unknown. The wildfire was contained around 1800CST and a total of six fire departments or other fire agencies responded to the wildfire including fire units from Guymon, Goodwell, Hooker, Hough, Texhoma, and Hardesty.

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

	12/16/16 14:00 CST		0	High Wind (MAX 61 kt)
	12/16/16 15:25 CST		0	

An extremely windy day across the Panhandles region of OK and TX. First half of the day, a positive tilted upper level trough over the NM/AZ border by late morning really compacted the height gradient downstream of its axis. This produced strong SW flow throughout the daylight hours with mostly clear skies and strong mixing, especially across central and western Panhandles were many areas reached High Wind Warning criteria.

(OK-Z002) TEXAS

	12/16/16 14:28 CST		16K	Wildfire
	12/16/16 21:30 CST		0	

The Optima Refuge Command wildfire began around 1428CST about four miles north of Hardesty Oklahoma in Texas county. The wildfire started just north of the northeastern end of the Optima National Wildlife Refuge and just south of E0230 Road. The wildfire consumed approximately forty-seven hundred acres. Within thirty minutes of the fire being reported, it grew in size of nearly one half mile wide and reaching one mile in length as first arriving firefighters from Hooker, Hardesty and Guymon were getting on scene. In the next four hours, the wildfire had spread to one mile wide and seven miles long before a cold front and firefighters were able to stop the advancing head of the fire at Road T and Mile 56. The cause of the wildfire was unknown. There was a report that four homes and sixteen other structures, including three large hog barn sites, were threatened but were saved. Also, two barns or outbuildings were destroyed. However, there were no reports of any injuries or fatalities. Firefighters reported flame lengths at times to be thirty to forty feet. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol and Texas County Sheriff Deputies had to shut down county roads ahead of the fire due to poor visibility due to smoke and firefighter operations. U.S. Highway 412 was closed for approximately thirty minutes due to heavy smoke conditions. The wildfire was contained around 2130CST and over twenty fire departments including the Oklahoma Forestry Services, three law enforcement agencies, two county Emergency Management Directors, twelve County Road maintainers, and dozens of water tankers responded to the wildfire. Also, units from Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas responded to the wildfire and air support was requested but not available due to weather conditions.

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The Optima Refuge Command wildfire in Texas County Oklahoma courtesy of the Guymon Oklahoma Fire Department.

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

12/17/16 12:07 CST	0	Extreme Cold/Wind Chill
12/17/16 12:07 CST	0	

An strong surface arctic cold front worked south across the Panhandles starting around 00Z on the 17th across the OK Panhandle moving slowly south until exiting the TX Panhandle around 12Z on the 17th. Behind the passing cold front, 850-700 hPa temperature gradient was quite steep and as a result, temperatures dropped throughout the day on the 17th with gusty northerly winds as the steep gradient worked south of the region with a strong 1030+ hPa High pressure system working south from the high Plains and was over portions of NW Oklahoma by the morning of the 18th. This allowed winds to subside and air temperatures to drop below zero across most of the Panhandles with many areas experiencing wind chills at -15F or below during the morning of the 18th.

BEAVER COUNTY --- 2.8 W SLAPOUT [36.62, -100.17]

12/25/16 09:40 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
12/25/16 09:40 CST	0	Source: Public

Damage to irrigation system with pictures sent to us via Twitter.

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

12/25/16 10:48 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 62 kt)
12/25/16 13:48 CST	0	

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Out ahead of the Pacific cold front, the entire Panhandles were in the warm sector with southerly moist flow. Elevated CAPE of around 500 J/Kg with 50 kts winds just above the surface as shown in the VAD profiles was enough to develop a small line of convection which reached peak intensity across the far northeastern Panhandles. Wind damage was reported in Beaver County, OK with damage to farm equipment. Once the cold front worked through the Panhandles in the late morning hours, dewpoint values dropped as an upper level trough worked northeast across the region. With an established steep 850-500 hPa height gradient under mostly clear skies, strong mixing developed and brought high wind warning criteria conditions throughout the daylight hours on Christmas Day.

TEXAS, North Panhandle

(TX-Z010) HEMPHILL

12/05/16 14:35 CST	0	Wildfire
12/05/16 18:30 CST	0	

The assit locust grove wildfire began around 1435CST about five miles west of Glazier Texas in Hemphill county. The wildfire started just south of Farm to Market Road 1920 or just southwest of the intersection of Kelley Ranch Road and Farm to Market Road 8 with Farm to Market Road 1920. The wildfire consumed approximately six hundred acres and was caused by downed power lines. There were no homes or other structures which were threatened by the wildfire and none were damaged or destroyed. There were also no reports of any injuries or fatalities. The wildfire was contained around 1830CST and a total of five fire departments or other fire agencies that responded to the wildfire.

(TX-Z013) CARSON

12/16/16 06:52 CST	0	Wildfire
12/16/16 09:00 CST	0	

The Skelly 1059 wildfire began around 0652CST about two miles northwest of Skellytown Texas in Carson county. The wildfire started just north of State Highway 152 and just west of Farm to Market Road 1059. The wildfire consumed approximately three hundred acres and was caused by downed power lines. There were no homes or other structures that were threatened by the wildfire and none were damaged or destroyed. There were also no reports of any injuries or fatalities. The wildfire was contained around 0900CST and there were a total of eight fire departments or other fire agencies that responded to the wildfire.

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

12/16/16 12:31 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 54 kt)
12/16/16 15:31 CST	0	

An extremely windy day across the Panhandles region of OK and TX. First half of the day, a positive tilted upper level trough over the NM/AZ border by late morning really compacted the height gradient downstream of its axis. This produced strong SW flow throughout the daylight hours with mostly clear skies and strong mixing, especially across central and western Panhandles were many areas reached High Wind Warning criteria.

(TX-Z013) CARSON

12/16/16 12:35 CST	0	Wildfire
12/16/16 20:00 CST	0	

The Carson 1059 wildfire began around 1235CST about two miles northwest of Skellytown Texas in Carson county. The wildfire started near the intersection of State Highway 152 and Farm to Market Road 1059. The wildfire consumed four thousand eight hundred and fifty-six acres and was caused by downed power lines. There were no homes or other structures that were threatened and none were damaged or lost. There were also no reports of any injuries or fatalities. The wildfire was contained around 2000CST and there were a total of twenty fire departments or other fire agencies that responded to the wildfire including the Texas A&M Forest Service.

(TX-Z019) DONLEY

12/16/16 14:09 CST	0	Wildfire
12/17/16 00:30 CST	0	

The 1260 wildfire began around 1409CST about four miles west southwest of Lelia Lake Texas in Donley county. The wildfire started just north of County Road V or just west of the intersection of County Road V and Farm to Market Road 1260. The wildfire consumed approximately four hundred and fifty acres and was caused by arson using an incendiary device. There were four homes and seven other structures that were threatened by the wildfire, but all were saved. There were also no homes or other structures damaged or destroyed. There were no reports of any injuries or fatalities. The wildfire was contained between 0000CST and 0100CST on Saturday December 17, 2016. There were approximately six fire departments or other fire agencies that responded to the wildfire including one engine and two dozers from the Texas A&M Forest Service, two units from the Memphis Volunteer Fire Department, three units from

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the Hedley Volunteer Fire Department, one unit from the Howardwick Volunteer Fire Department, Donley County Precinct number one, number three and number four motor graders, a dozer, front end loader, a water truck and a motor grader from a landowner.

(TX-Z011) OLDDHAM

	12/16/16 14:43 CST		26K	Wildfire
	12/17/16 01:00 CST		0	

The Baca Ranch wildfire began around 1443CST about seven miles north northeast of Vega Texas in Oldham county and started just north and east of the intersection of U.S. Highway 385 and Everett Road. The wildfire consumed six thousand four hundred and ninety-three acres and was caused by downed power lines. There were three homes and three other structures that were threatened by the wildfire but they were saved. However, one home and two other structures were destroyed. There were no injuries or fatalities reported, however there were four near misses. The wildfire was contained around 0100CST on Saturday December 17, 2016. There were a total of seven fire departments or other fire agencies that responded to the wildfire including the Texas A&M Forest Service.

(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-Z013) CARSON, (TX-Z014) GRAY

	12/17/16 13:07 CST		0	Extreme Cold/Wind Chill
	12/17/16 17:07 CST		0	

An strong surface arctic cold front worked south across the Panhandles starting around 00Z on the 17th across the OK Panhandle moving slowly south until exiting the TX Panhandle around 12Z on the 17th. Behind the passing cold front, 850-700 hPa temperature gradient was quite steep and as a result, temperatures dropped throughout the day on the 17th with gusty northerly winds as the steep gradient worked south of the region with a strong 1030+ hPa High pressure system working south from the high Plains and was over portions of NW Oklahoma by the morning of the 18th. This allowed winds to subside and air temperatures to drop below zero across most of the Panhandles with many areas experiencing wind chills at -15F or below during the morning of the 18th.

(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-Z011) OLDDHAM, (TX-Z012) POTTER, (TX-Z016) DEAF SMITH, (TX-Z017) RANDALL

	12/25/16 12:48 CST		0	High Wind (MAX 55 kt)
	12/25/16 15:48 CST		0	

Out ahead of the Pacific cold front, the entire Panhandles were in the warm sector with southerly moist flow. Elevated CAPE of around 500 J/Kg with 50 kts winds just above the surface as shown in the VAD profiles was enough to develop a small line of convection which reached peak intensity across the far northeastern Panhandles. Wind damage was reported in Beaver County, OK with damage to farm equipment. Once the cold front worked through the Panhandles in the late morning hours, dewpoint values dropped as an upper level trough worked northeast across the region. With an established steep 850-500 hPa height gradient under mostly clear skies, strong mixing developed and brought high wind warning criteria conditions throughout the daylight hours on Christmas Day.

(TX-Z013) CARSON

	12/25/16 15:49 CST		0	Wildfire
	12/25/16 20:00 CST		0	

The Rudolph wildfire began 1549CST about seven miles northwest of White Deer Texas in Carson county. The wildfire started just west of County Road U and north of County Road 20. The wildfire consumed approximately five hundred acres and was caused by faulty oil field equipment. There were no reports of homes or other structures which were threatened or destroyed by the wildfire and there were also no reports of injuries or fatalities. The wildfire was contained around 2000CST and there were a total of four fire departments or other fire agencies that responded to the wildfire.

(TX-Z012) POTTER

	12/30/16 13:30 CST		0	Wildfire
	12/30/16 20:30 CST		0	

The 136 Complex wildfire began around 1330CST about nine miles south southwest of Fritch Texas in Potter county and started just east of State Highway 136. The wildfire consumed approximately seven thousand acres and was caused by a tire blowout. There were two homes that were threatened by the wildfire but were saved. There were no homes or other structures that were damaged or lost by the wildfire. There were also no reports of any injuries or fatalities. The wildfire was contained around 2030CST and there were a total of ten fire departments or other fire agencies that responded to the wildfire including the Texas A&M Forest Service.