

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - October 2020

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

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

10/01/20 00:00 CST	0	Drought
10/31/20 23:59 CST	0	

Areas across the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles saw drought conditions worsening going into the month of October as September was very dry. These conditions continued to degrade across the combined Panhandles going into late October with no new rainfall during the first three weeks of the month. Soil conditions were very poor to poor. Some farmers were waiting for some rain to plant winter wheat while others planted hoping for the moisture to come eventually. The Panhandles needed some soil moisture badly in order for winter crops to emerge and grow. The saving grace for these crops were a late month early winter event that provided moisture in the form of sleet, freezing rain, and snow. This late month event did help some areas see a one category improvement in the US Drought Monitor by the end of the month. Ranchers were still being impacted by very poor to poor pasture and rangeland conditions.

(OK-Z002) TEXAS

10/11/20 18:35 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 35 kt)
10/11/20 19:35 CST	0	

A vigorous low pressure system crossing the plains pushed a vigorous cold front across the area during the evening hours. A very brief period of high winds occurred with the frontal passage. Maximum sustained winds briefly exceeded 40 mph and gusts reached the mid 50s. Blowing dusts caused minor reductions to visibility as well.

(OK-Z002) TEXAS

10/11/20 20:25 CST	0	Wildfire
10/12/20 00:00 CST	0	

Abnormally dry conditions along with critical fire weather conditions resulted in a significant wildfire in Texas County which consumed about three hundred acres. Southwest winds of 25 to 30 mph with gusts to 35 mph and humidities below ten percent led to extreme wildfire behavior.

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

10/26/20 18:00 CST	0	Heavy Snow
10/27/20 10:00 CST	0	

A record cold arctic air mass for late October moved across the high plains on Sunday, October 25th as a major winter storm slowly developed over the Desert Southwest. This combination led to multiple wintry precipitation episodes from Monday night through Tuesday. The initial precipitation event on Monday night included a wintry mix of sleet and freezing rain in the central and eastern Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles with heavy snow across portions of the northern Panhandles. Another swath of significant snowfall occurred Monday night into Tuesday across the Oklahoma Panhandle while a significant ice event unfolded to the south and east. Impacts from this first event were mainly poor travel conditions due to icy roads which led to numerous school and business delays and closures. While additional snow and ice events occurred just south of the area through Wednesday night, heavy precipitation in the eastern Oklahoma Panhandle turned to all rain as temperatures climbed to mid 30s.

TEXAS, North Panhandle

(TX-Z014) GRAY, (TX-Z016) DEAF SMITH, (TX-Z017) RANDALL COUNTY, (TX-Z018) ARMSTRONG, (TX-Z020) COLLINGSWORTH

10/01/20 00:00 CST	0	Drought
10/31/20 23:59 CST	0	

Areas across the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles saw drought conditions worsening going into the month of October as September was very dry. These conditions continued to degrade across the combined Panhandles going into late October with no new rainfall during the first three weeks of the month. Soil conditions were very poor to poor. Some farmers were waiting for some rain to plant winter wheat while others planted hoping for the moisture to come eventually. The Panhandles needed some soil moisture badly in order for winter crops to emerge and grow. The saving grace for these crops was a late month early winter event that provided moisture in the form of rain, sleet, freezing rain, and snow. This late month event did help some areas see a one category improvement in the US Drought Monitor by the end of the month. Ranchers were still being impacted by very poor to poor pasture and rangeland conditions.

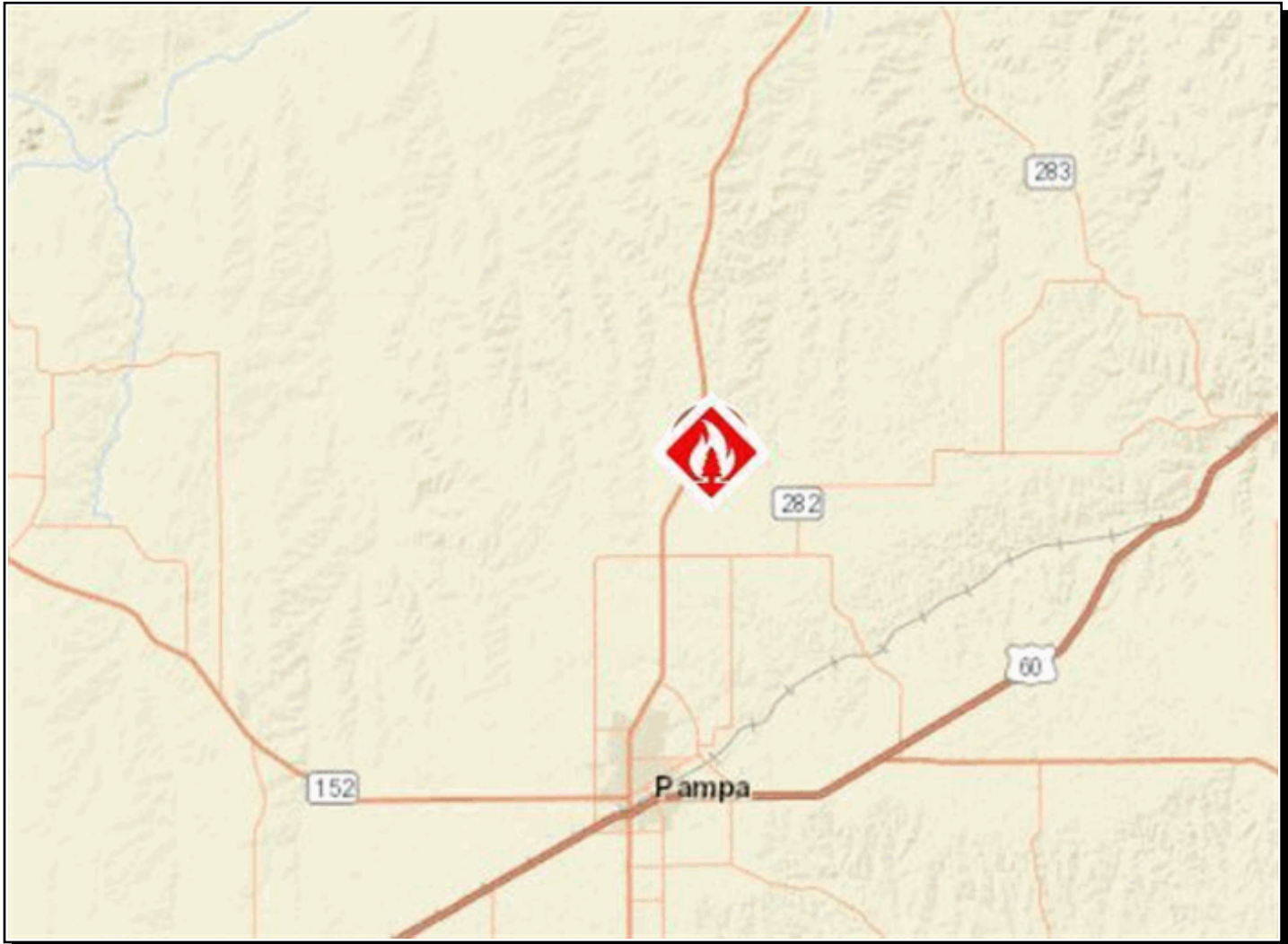
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(TX-Z015) WHEELER				
	10/06/20 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	10/31/20 23:59 CST		0	

Areas across the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles saw drought conditions worsening going into the month of October as September was very dry. These conditions continued to degrade across the combined Panhandles going into late October with no new rainfall during the first three weeks of the month. Soil conditions were very poor to poor. Some farmers were waiting for some rain to plant winter wheat while others planted hoping for the moisture to come eventually. The Panhandles needed some soil moisture badly in order for winter crops to emerge and grow. The saving grace for these crops were a late month early winter event that provided moisture in the form of sleet, freezing rain, and snow. This late month event did help some areas see a one category improvement in the US Drought Monitor by the end of the month. Ranchers were still being impacted by very poor to poor pasture and rangeland conditions.

(TX-Z009) ROBERTS				
	10/11/20 00:00 CST		0	Wildfire
	10/14/20 16:00 CST		0	

Moderate to severe drought conditions along with critical fire weather conditions resulted in a rather large wildfire in Roberts County. West southwest winds of 25 to 30 mph with gusts to 40 mph and humidities below ten percent led to extreme wildfire behavior with one wildfire consuming in excess of eleven thousand acres.



The Jackalope Fire courtesy of the Texas A&M Forest Service

(TX-Z005) LIPSCOMB, (TX-Z010) HEMPHILL, (TX-Z011) OLDDHAM

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	10/13/20 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	10/31/20 23:59 CST		0	

Areas across the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles saw drought conditions worsening going into the month of October as September was very dry. These conditions continued to degrade across the combined Panhandles going into late October with no new rainfall during the first three weeks of the month. Soil conditions were very poor to poor. Some farmers were waiting for some rain to plant winter wheat while others planted hoping for the moisture to come eventually. The Panhandles needed some soil moisture badly in order for winter crops to emerge and grow. The saving grace for these crops were a late month early winter event that provided moisture in the form of sleet, freezing rain, and snow. This late month event did help some areas see a one category improvement in the US Drought Monitor by the end of the month. Ranchers were still being impacted by very poor to poor pasture and rangeland conditions.

(TX-Z008) HUTCHINSON, (TX-Z009) ROBERTS, (TX-Z012) POTTER, (TX-Z013) CARSON, (TX-Z019) DONLEY

	10/20/20 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	10/31/20 23:59 CST		0	

Areas across the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles saw drought conditioned worsening going into the month of October as September was very dry. These conditions continued to degrade across the combined Panhandles going into late October with no new rainfall during the first three weeks of the month. Soil conditions were very poor to poor. Some farmers were waiting for some rain to plant winter wheat while others planted hoping for the moisture to come eventually. The Panhandles needed some soil moisture badly in order for winter crops to emerge and grow. The saving grace for these crops were a late month early winter event that provided moisture in the form of sleet, freezing rain, and snow. This late month event did help some areas see a one category improvement in the US Drought Monitor by the end of the month. Ranchers were still being impacted by very poor to poor pasture and rangeland conditions.

(TX-Z001) DALLAM, (TX-Z002) SHERMAN, (TX-Z003) HANSFORD, (TX-Z006) HARTLEY, (TX-Z007) MOORE, (TX-Z011) OLDHAM

	10/26/20 00:00 CST		0	Heavy Snow
	10/29/20 02:00 CST		0	

(TX-Z004) OCHILTREE, (TX-Z005) LIPSCOMB, (TX-Z008) HUTCHINSON, (TX-Z009) ROBERTS, (TX-Z010) HEMPHILL, (TX-Z012) POTTER, (TX-Z014) GRAY, (TX-Z015) WHEELER, (TX-Z016) DEAF SMITH, (TX-Z017) RANDALL COUNTY, (TX-Z018) ARMSTRONG, (TX-Z020) COLLINGSWORTH, (TX-Z317) PALO DORO CANYON

	10/26/20 00:00 CST		0	Winter Storm
	10/29/20 03:00 CST		0	

(TX-Z013) CARSON, (TX-Z019) DONLEY

	10/26/20 00:00 CST		0	Ice Storm
	10/29/20 02:30 CST		0	

A record cold arctic air mass for late October moved across the high plains on Sunday, October 25th as a major winter storm slowly developed over the Desert Southwest. This combination led to a light wintry precipitation episode early Monday morning and then two to three additional significant wintry precipitation episodes from Monday night through early Thursday morning. The initial heavier precipitation event on Monday night included a wintry mix of sleet and freezing rain in the central and eastern Panhandles with heavy snow across portions of the northern Panhandles. Impacts from this first event were mainly poor travel conditions due to icy roads which led to numerous school and business delays and closures. Most of the freezing rain came from the second precipitation episode Tuesday night into early Wednesday across the southeast Texas Panhandle when ¼ to ¾" ice accumulations occurred. Additional sleet and snow accumulations occurred further west where deeper cold air existed. This again led to significant travel issues, but also caused numerous power outages and tree damage in areas hardest hit by ice, with the majority of several counties left without power for multiple days. One final precipitation episode occurred as the main storm system crossed Texas just south of the Texas Panhandle Wednesday night into early Thursday morning. This precipitation fell in the form of rain across the northern Panhandles and the southeast Texas Panhandle where temperatures had managed to increase into the mid 30s, but heavy snow occurred in the central and southwest Texas Panhandle where temperatures remained in the low 30s. The combination of windy conditions and heavy snow, with rates of over 2 inches per hour at times, led to treacherous travel due to poor visibility and rapid snow accumulations on roadways. With trees and powerlines still heavy due to ice from previous freezing rain events, strong winds and heavy wet snow led to additional power outages. Snow and ice melted rapidly off roadways on Thursday and travel greatly improved by midday.