

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - April 2011

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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TEXAS, South

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z251) KENEDY, (TX-Z252) STARR, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO, (TX-Z254) WILLACY, (TX-Z255) CAMERON, (TX-Z256) COASTAL WILLACY, (TX-Z257) COASTAL CAMERON

04/01/11 00:00 CST			0	Drought
04/30/11 23:59 CST			0	

A lack of rainfall across Deep South Texas resulted in Severe (D2) Drought conditions continuing across much of Deep South Texas and spreading toward the Lower Rio Grande Valley coastal areas the first few days of April.

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA

04/03/11 12:00 CST			0	Wildfire
04/03/11 18:00 CST			0	

Triple digit temperatures, briefly gusting southeast winds above 20 mph, and humidity falling below 30 percent combined with highly cured fuels to spark a rapidly growing wildfire in Zapata County during the afternoon of April 3rd.

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z251) KENEDY, (TX-Z252) STARR, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO, (TX-Z254) WILLACY, (TX-Z255) CAMERON

04/05/11 00:00 CST			0	Drought
04/30/11 23:59 CST			0	

A lack of rainfall across Deep South Texas resulted in the drought conditions spreading and intensifying across the region soon after the beginning of April. Extreme (D3) Drought conditions developed across the entire Rio Grande Valley except for the immediate coast, with severe conditions in a stripe from Brooks County to eastern Cameron and Willacy Counties.

These conditions would prevail through month's end, as persistent, record heat, zero rainfall, and strong southerly winds worsened conditions with virtually no wetting moisture, including very little morning dew. Dryland crop damage began to appear at month's end; dollar damage estimated will be available with the May Storm Data report.

(TX-Z253) HIDALGO

04/07/11 12:00 CST			0	Wildfire
04/07/11 17:00 CST		1	0	

Temperatures soaring to the upper 90s and humidity dropping to the mid to upper 30s combined with parched grass and brush, and sustained 20 foot winds near 20 mph with gusts between 25 and 30 mph to rapidly spread a small wildfire in Hidalgo County during the afternoon of April 7th.

(TX-Z253) HIDALGO

04/11/11 10:45 CST			50K	Wildfire
04/11/11 18:00 CST		2	0	

A volatile combination of strong winds, extremely low humidity, illegal trash burning, and a stash of old tires produced a 10 acre fire in Alton, along Mile 8 1/2 North Road and Moorefield Road. The fire forced the evacuation of nearly 200 homes, damaged two structures, and produced acrid, pitch black smoke and fumes for several hours starting around noon on April 11th.

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Billowing black smoke from burning tires in Alton. Photograph courtesy of The McAllen Monitor, Delcia Lopez.

(TX-Z250) BROOKS

04/19/11 00:00 CST	0		Drought
04/30/11 23:59 CST	0		

Severe Drought expanded across Brooks County during the last two weeks of April.

(TX-Z255) CAMERON

04/27/11 17:00 CST	3	0	Rip Current
04/27/11 17:30 CST	0		

Direct Fatalities: M12IW, M18IW, M22IW

A marginally dangerous easterly swell, invitingly warm water temperatures, and focus around jetties on South Padre Island proved a dangerous mix during the evening of April 27th, when three young males with limited swimming experience ventured into the Gulf and were swept away from the coast by rip currents. One body was found later that evening, another found two days later, and the search was called off for the third after nearly a week.