

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2012

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

02/01/12 00:00 CST	0	Drought
02/20/12 23:59 CST	0	

Extreme (D3) to Exceptional (D4) Drought to begin February was relieved across the Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas by Valentine's Day, courtesy of a period of cool and damp weather which began with a "bang" on February 4th, when more than an inch of rain fell across much of the coastal plain. Additional rainfall between the 5th and 13th, combined with frequent cool temperatures and cloud cover, brought a total of 2 to 4 inches for most of the Rio Grande Valley, with 1 to 3 inches for much of the Ranchland east of Zapata County.

CAMERON COUNTY --- 1.5 NNE PALMETAL [26.20, -97.67], 2.1 S MAUDLIN ARPT [25.94, -97.54]

02/04/12 15:15 CST	0	Heavy Rain
02/04/12 16:30 CST	0	Source: CoCoRaHS

Thunderstorms dumped measured and estimated 1 1/2 inches of rainfall in central Cameron County during the late afternoon of February 4th, resulting in pockets of poor drainage flooding from near Harlingen through San Benito to Brownsville. Cameron County Emergency Management reported 4 inches of standing water on US 281 (Military Highway) in West Brownsville, temporarily closing two lanes of the highway.

CAMERON COUNTY --- 0.7 SSW FERNANDO [26.26, -97.57]

02/04/12 15:25 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
02/04/12 15:30 CST	0	Source: Public

The public reported quarter sized hail about 1.75 miles north of the center of Rio Hondo in extreme northern Cameron County.

A weak upper level disturbance and cold front moving through south Texas acted on a very warm and unstable air mass to produce clusters of thunderstorms during the afternoon of February 4th, which began across the King Ranch of Kenedy and eastern Brooks County, then intensified across Willacy and Cameron County during the mid to late afternoon.

The storms brought much needed rainfall, in excess of 1 1/2 inches in less than an hour, to the Lower Rio Grande Valley, along with frequent cloud to ground lightning and gusty winds. The torrential rains produced nuisance poor drainage flooding in portions of Cameron County, and there were unconfirmed reports of funnel clouds and a possible "gustnado" as the cluster evolved into a small squall line.

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02/14/12 00:00 CST	0	Drought
02/29/12 23:59 CST	0	

Rainfall Ranging from 2 to 4 inches across the Rio Grande Valley northward through the King Ranch, and 1 to 3 inches across the south Texas Brush Country of Jim Hogg County brought improvement to the drought by the middle of February 2012. Nearly every county saw drought improve one category on the 14th, with additional improvement across most areas by the 21st as welcome rains soaked into the parched soil.

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02/21/12 00:00 CST	0	Drought
02/29/12 23:59 CST	0	

Another round of rainfall on February 24th and 25th combined with previously high humidity and one last shot of chilly temperatures allowed additional top soil permeation to close the month. By the 21st, previously Extreme (D3) to Exceptional (D4) conditions had improved to Severe (D2) to Extreme (D4) for most of the region, with a small pocket of Starr County dipping to Moderate (D1) for the first time in nearly a year.

After more than a year of well below average precipitation (save for June and December 2011), February's copious rainfall of a general 3 to 5 inches Valley-wide ranked in the top ten wettest all time, and provided much needed drought relief. Despite the rain, most areas remained in critical drought (D2 or greater) at month's end.