

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2014

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

(TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS

01/01/14 00:00 CST	0	Drought
01/31/14 23:59 CST	0	

While the Rio Grande Valley received plenty of beneficial rain during the month of January, the northern ranchlands missed out on the greatest rainfall. Drought conditions held steady through the month, as small pockets of Severe (D2) drought conditions continued to hold on in Jim Hogg and Brooks counties. By the beginning of February, the benefits from the periodic rainfall would be enough to eliminate the Severe(D2) drought.

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z251) KENEDY, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO

01/03/14 01:00 CST	0	Frost/Freeze
01/03/14 08:30 CST	0	

A cold front pushed across the Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas on the morning of January 2nd. Behind the front, drier and much colder air filtered into the region. The combination of a surface ridge overhead, combined with light winds and clear skies allowed for good radiational cooling to occur, resulting in a light freeze across the northern and western ranchlands early on January 3rd.

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z251) KENEDY

01/06/14 21:00 CST	0	Frost/Freeze
01/07/14 10:00 CST	0	

A cold front surged across the Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas late January 5th and early January 6th, bringing the tail of a frigid air mass nudged into the area. A weakening upper level disturbance approached the region as cold air funneled into the Valley and produced a thick cloud layer that kept daytime temperatures in the 30s and 40s. Temperatures fell to or just below freezing across the ranchlands during the late night and early morning hours of January 7th.

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z252) STARR

01/14/14 05:00 CST	0	Frost/Freeze
01/14/14 08:00 CST	0	

A Pacific cold front pushed across the Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas during the day, January 13th. Behind the front, drier and colder air filtered into the region. Light winds and clear skies allowed for good radiational cooling to occur, resulting in a light freeze across Zapata and Starr counties early on January 14th.

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z251) KENEDY, (TX-Z252) STARR, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO, (TX-Z254) WILLACY

01/22/14 00:00 CST	0	Frost/Freeze
01/22/14 08:00 CST	0	

A cold front pushed across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley during the early morning hours of January 21st. High pressure in the wake of the front, combined with mostly clear skies and light overnight winds to allow for good radiational cooling on the morning of January 22nd. A large portion of the region had temperatures fall to or below freezing for a number of hours.

(TX-Z253) HIDALGO, (TX-Z257) COASTAL CAMERON

01/23/14 18:54 CST	10K	Strong Wind (MAX 43 kt)
01/24/14 05:48 CST	0	

The combination of a sharp surge of cold air and a trough of low pressure across the western Gulf of Mexico brought strong and gusty winds across the Lower and Mid Rio Grande Valley during the evening of January 23rd in Hidalgo County, and during the morning of January 24th close to the Cameron County coast. Up to 17,500 customers were without power across the region, including 8500 in the coastal Cameron County area (Port Isabel, Laguna Vista, Bayview, South Padre Island) area and up to 9000 in the mid Valley (Weslaco, McAllen). Peak wind gusts up to 48 mph were recorded.

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z251) KENEDY, (TX-Z254) WILLACY

01/24/14 00:00 CST	0	Frost/Freeze
01/24/14 15:30 CST	0	

An arctic front sliced across the Deep South Texas ranchlands and the Rio Grande Valley during the evening of January 23rd, sending temperatures plummeting from the upper 70s into the lower 40s in a matter of 3 to 4 hours after sunset. By midnight, temperatures had fallen into the 30s and would result in a light freeze across the ranchlands a few hours later, starting generally around 3 AM on the 24th.

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(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z251) KENEDY				
	01/25/14 00:00 CST		0	Frost/Freeze
	01/25/14 08:30 CST		0	
<p>Surface high pressure behind the front on the 24th settled over the Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas decreasing winds allowing drier air to filter into the area. The cirrus deck in place over the region slowly eroded away during the night from the west to the east and allowing temperatures to fall to or below freezing on the 25th once the skies cleared.</p>				
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(TX-Z251) KENEDY, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO, (TX-Z254) WILLACY, (TX-Z255) CAMERON, (TX-Z257) COASTAL CAMERON				
	01/29/14 00:45 CST		0	Frost/Freeze
	01/29/14 07:00 CST		0	
<p>A frigid airmass filtered into the Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas behind a cold front during the early morning hours of January 29th. The chilly air allowed for widespread freezing temperatures across the lower and mid Valley, as well as across the coastal counties for several hours.</p>				
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(TX-Z253) HIDALGO, (TX-Z255) CAMERON, (TX-Z257) COASTAL CAMERON				
	01/29/14 04:00 CST		0	Ice Storm
	01/29/14 08:00 CST		0	

A combination of cold high pressure near the earth's surface combined with an upper level disturbance that moved across northern Mexico late on the 28th through the early morning of the 29th brought rain that froze on contact with exposed surfaces, resulting in an icy glaze across much of the Rio Grande Valley during the early morning hours. The glaze covered exposed surfaces such as trees and grasses, power lines/poles, fences, vehicles, roofs, and more. The rain also created some icing on elevated highways and bridges. By the time the precipitation ended, generally around 7 AM across the mid Valley and a little after 8 AM on the coast, between 1/8 inch and 1/2 inch of ice accreted. The rain mixed with ice pellets (sleet) at times, particularly between 4 and 6 AM. Across the Valley, generally minor inconveniences were noted, mainly from power outages. News reports indicated 12,000 customers were without electricity during the peak of the storm early on the 29th, in Port Isabel, Bayview, Harlingen, San Benito, and other communities. Most hearty plants quickly sprung back after being weighted down by the ice. There was likely some damage to tender tropical vegetation (such as banana plants, bougainvillea, etc.) but many of these plants should recover.