

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - March 2012

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
<b>TEXAS, South</b>				
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(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				
	03/01/12 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	03/06/12 23:59 CST		0	
Isolated showers during the first week of March 2012, did little to improve drought conditions to continue across much of the region with little change occurring. The bright spot for the week was the slight improvement in conditions in Jim Hogg County.				
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	03/07/12 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	03/13/12 23:59 CST		0	
Isolated showers moved across the Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas during the week, but dropped little in terms of rainfall. Lack of rainfall allowed drought conditions to remain steady in most areas and worsen in some of the hardest hit areas.				
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	03/14/12 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	03/19/12 23:59 CST		0	
Shower activity occurred across the Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas, but primarily in the northern and eastern portions of the CWA. Rainfall accumulations were minimal.				
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	03/20/12 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	03/26/12 23:59 CST		0	
Drought conditions remain unchanged across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley as a lack of rainfall continues.				
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	03/27/12 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	03/31/12 23:59 CST		0	
Torrential rains from strong to severe thunderstorms finally put a dent in drought conditions across the Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas. An estimated 4 to 6 inches of rain fell on the night of March 29th in Hidalgo County, with McAllen International Airport receiving 4.37 inches of rainfall, and setting a daily rainfall record. Initial storms developed across the King Ranch of Kenedy County during the mid-afternoon hours of March 29th and spread west into northern Hidalgo and Starr counties by early evening.				
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<b>KENEDY COUNTY --- 10.0 SSE SARITA [27.09, -97.74]</b>				
	03/29/12 15:35 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
	03/29/12 15:35 CST		0	Source: NWS Employee
The Meteorologist-in-Charge of the NWS office in Brownsville witnessed a downburst/microburst about one mile east of U.S. Highway 77 approximately 10 miles south of Sarita. The microburst produced a tremendous amount of dust; winds were estimated the winds to be near 60 mph.				
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<b>KENEDY COUNTY --- 2.1 S MIFFLIN [27.07, -97.80]</b>				
	03/29/12 16:00 CST		0	Hail (0.88 in)
	03/29/12 16:05 CST		0	Source: Other Federal Agency
Dime to nickel sized hail on Highway 77 was reported by the Border Patrol.				
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<b>WILLACY COUNTY --- 4.8 ENE YTURRIA [26.59, -97.70], 4.9 ENE YTURRIA [26.59, -97.69]</b>				
	03/29/12 17:18 CST		0	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.18 mi , W: 25 yd)
	03/29/12 17:19 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager

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Willacy County emergency manager relayed a report of a tornado on the Yturria Ranch, just east of Highway 77 in the northern portion of the county. There was a brief touch down and debris seen, but no damage reported.				
<b>STARR COUNTY --- 7.6 S EL CENTRO [26.57, -98.44]</b>				
	03/29/12 18:20 CST		0	Hail (1.50 in)
	03/29/12 18:25 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement
Hidalgo S.O. relayed report from the general republic of 1.5 inch hail west of San Isidro.				
<b>HIDALGO COUNTY --- 1.4 SW SHAYLAND [26.21, -98.29], 2.2 NE SHAYLAND [26.24, -98.26], 2.8 N MC ALLEN [26.24, -98.23], 1.0 WNW MC ALLEN [26.21, -98.25]</b>				
	03/29/12 19:30 CST		5M	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	03/29/12 21:30 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
Torrential rain accompanied the hail; 4 to more than 6 inches fell in less than two hours, creating ice and water "rivers" with the height of the water as high as 4 to 6 feet in poor drainage locations. More than 100 vehicles were submerged and numerous others were abandoned during the peak of the storm. At one point, most of the city roads were under water and the city's interconnected system of pipes, sewers, and drainage pools reached more than 90 percent of capacity.				
<b>HIDALGO COUNTY --- 3.3 WSW EDINBURG MUNI ARPT [26.28, -98.25], 1.6 NW PHARR [26.21, -98.20]</b>				
	03/29/12 19:30 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 61 kt)
	03/29/12 20:45 CST		0	Source: Public
Frequent wind gusts, estimated at 70 to 75 mph, drove hail, some up to the size of baseballs, for more than an hour across portions of North McAllen, Mission, and Edinburg in Hidalgo County. Wind combined with hail resulted in numerous tree limbs blown down, defoliated trees, homes with roof damage and broken windows, knocked down fences and damage to vehicles. See Hail event for damage estimates.				
<b>HIDALGO COUNTY --- 3.1 WSW EDINBURG MUNI ARPT [26.28, -98.24], 2.3 NE MC ALLEN [26.23, -98.21]</b>				
	03/29/12 19:45 CST		0.20B	Hail (2.75 in)
	03/29/12 20:45 CST		1M	Source: Public
Up to an hour of continuous hail, driven by frequent winds estimated at 70 to 75 mph, knocked at least one window out of every north-facing home, defoliated nearly every tree, left up to a half foot of accumulated hail on the ground, and produced hail drifts up to 4 feet high. Numerous tree limbs were blown down, many homes had roof damage, and broken glass and water littered the north facing rooms and apartments. Hundreds of vehicles left outdoors were severely damaged by golf ball to baseball size hail dents, including many shattered windows.				
Preliminary data estimate that 1100 homes and more than 60s businesses were affected by the wind and hail in McAllen, according to preliminary numbers released by the city commission. Included in these damage estimates are 26 city facilities, including McAllen's new public library and civic center. The City of McAllen's early estimates of cost to the city include: \$187,000 to remove debris from neighborhood streets; \$90,000 on repairing dozens of traffic signals; \$13,000 on McAllen police overtime; \$24,000 on McAllen Civic Center Auditorium's roof – due to roof damage that allowed water to pour into the theater. During the first week after the storm, more than 40,000 cubic yards of debris was removed. That is 4 times the normal monthly amount for the city. The Urban Forestry Department of McAllen was forced to saw through more than 130 trees that line the city streets. McAllen Fire Department had two fire engines, two ladder trucks and one command vehicle damaged by hail. Strong winds peeled the roof off of part of a Hidalgo Police Department building, leading to minor flooding inside. Many school districts in the area were forced to close the following day/s due to flooding, these included: McAllen ISD, Sharyland ISD, and Mission ISD.				
Insured and uninsured damages may tally \$200 million – or more; thousands of auto and home insurance claims had been made by the 1st of April. At Bert Ogden BMW dealership in McAllen, nearly 100% of the dealerships inventory was destroyed (77 cars), with the average vehicle cost of \$50,000. The dealership building also suffered nearly \$200,000 in damage. An estimated 2000 to 3000 acres of watermelons were wiped out.				
<b>HIDALGO COUNTY --- (MFE)MILLER INTL ARP [26.17, -98.23]</b>				
	03/29/12 20:04 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 64 kt)
	03/29/12 20:04 CST		0	Source: ASOS
McAllen Miller Airport (KMFE) ASOS reported peak wind gusts at minimal hurricane force, 74 mph.				
<b>WILLACY COUNTY --- 7.0 SSW PORT MANSFIELD [26.46, -97.48], 7.2 SSW PORT MANSFIELD [26.46, -97.48], 7.1 SSW PORT MANSFIELD [26.46, -97.48], 6.9 SSW PORT MANSFIELD [26.46, -97.48]</b>				
	03/30/12 00:00 CST		2M	Flash Flood (due to Dam / Levee Break)
	03/30/12 02:00 CST		0	Source: Broadcast Media
Runoff from storms in Hidalgo County was moving so swiftly that it caused the collapse of a weir in Willacy County. Estimates for repair of the structure are around \$2 million.				

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Intense thunderstorms raked the highly populated McAllen/Edinburg/Mission area of Hidalgo County during the mid-evening of March 29th. The storms dumped hail up to the size of baseballs for more than half an hour, drove that hail with 70 to 75 mph winds, added 4 to 6 inches of torrential rains, and produced frequent cloud to ground lightning. Initial storms developed across the King Ranch during the mid afternoon of March 29th, and spread west into northern Hidalgo and Starr County by early evening. The storms, fed by warm, humid air near the surface, colder air aloft, and boundaries (providing lift) from earlier storms which moved across the Coastal Bend, appeared to have intensified further as they approached the highly populated Edinburg/McAllen/Mission area. One possibility why the storms intensified is the interaction with an upper level disturbance moving across northeast Mexico. This disturbance spawned dangerous storms in Nuevo León and Tamaulipas, and boundaries from these cells may have been the ultimate trigger to a night hundreds of thousands will not forget.

Damage totals have reached an estimated \$200 million in property and crop damage. Updated tallies will be provided as information is received.



*Building damage due to wind and hail in McAllen.*