

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - September 2008

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

(TX-Z251) KENEDY, (TX-Z256) COASTAL WILLACY, (TX-Z257) COASTAL CAMERON

09/01/08 11:00 CST	0	Storm Surge/Tide
09/01/08 18:00 CST	0	

Swells generated by Hurricane Gustav, which moved northwest from western Cuba toward the southeast Louisiana coast in a little over 30 hours between late evening August 30th and early morning on Labor Day, September 1st, moved onto the Deep South Texas coastline by late morning September 1st, and continued into the evening before quickly receding overnight and during the morning of September 2nd.

The purely swell driven event produced breakers estimated between 8 and 12 along the coast, severe undertow and rip currents, and estimated tidal departures along the Gulf coast of 2 to 3 feet near time of high tide during the late afternoon of the 1st.

Minor overwash of the dune line was the primary impact from the high tides, particularly through beach access points north of the Town of South Padre Island. Generally low astronomical tides at gaging points in the Laguna Madre kept impacts to nil from Port Isabel to Port Mansfield and points north.

(TX-Z251) KENEDY, (TX-Z256) COASTAL WILLACY, (TX-Z257) COASTAL CAMERON

09/12/08 04:00 CST	20K	Storm Surge/Tide
09/15/08 11:00 CST	0	

Hurricane Ike raged ashore near Galveston early on September 13th, producing devastating storm surge for some and power outages for many on the upper Texas coast. While inland portions of the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas felt nothing more than a few breezes from the west and southwest, coastal interests faced quite a different situation. Large swells and high waves radiating well west of Ike's growing core over the southeast and south central Gulf on September 10th reached the coast by the morning of the 11th, grew to maximum intensity on the 12th, and lingered into the morning of the 13th. Very high seas, severe beach erosion, coastal flooding, and big surf prevailed.

Coastal flooding impacts were relatively minor, with damage restricted to vulnerable structures not protected by dunes or a barrier wall beach side on the 12th, and to businesses and residences with minimal elevation bay side. The continuous pounding of the beach by Ike completed the substantial erosion which began with Dolly in July, and continued with Gustav at the start of September.

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Waves reaching the seawall at the Travelodge Hotel on Gulf Boulevard, South Padre Island, TX, 845 AM September 12th, 2008

STARR COUNTY --- 2.0 SE ROMA [26.40, -99.00], 3.0 WNW ROMA [26.44, -99.06], 5.0 NW ROMA [26.47, -99.08], 5.0 NE ROMA [26.47, -98.96], 2.0 E ROSITA [26.40, -98.89]

09/14/08 15:56 CST	1K	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
09/14/08 17:30 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

Emergency Management officials from Starr County reported that six inches of water was covering and flowing across Highway 83 near La Rosita. It is likely that other minor flooding occurred near Roma, where an estimated 6 inches more rain fell on top of prodigious rainfall of more than 15 inches during the last third of August.

ZAPATA COUNTY --- 2.0 NE ZAPATA [26.92, -99.21], 3.0 E SAN YGNACIO [27.05, -99.40]

09/14/08 16:00 CST	0	Heavy Rain
09/14/08 17:30 CST	0	Source: Unknown

Torrential rains from two intense thunderstorms dropped an estimated 4 or more inches in north central Zapata County, generally in rural areas along and north of State Highway 16, bounded by Bustamente and Escobas on the east. As of this writing, no reports of flooding have been received.

HIDALGO COUNTY --- 3.0 S DONNA [26.13, -98.05], 1.0 E MERCEDES [26.15, -97.90]

09/15/08 07:00 CST	0	Heavy Rain
09/15/08 08:00 CST	0	Source: Unknown

A band of torrential rains moved slowly through populated areas of southeastern Hidalgo County during the middle of the Monday morning commute, likely producing high standing water and minor flooding of poor drainage areas along and just south of Federal Highway 83 between Donna and Mercedes. CoCoRaHS and Cooperative observations showed between 1 and 2 inches a bit west of the core of the heaviest rainfall.

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An early season cold front moved unusually far south for mid September, and interacted with abundant tropical moisture, leading to torrential rain producing thunderstorms ahead of the front on September 14th, and another band of showers and a few thunderstorms behind the front on the 15th, aided by interaction with a moderately strong mid level jet streak. The heavy rains favored Starr and Zapata Counties on the 14th, and a bit farther east into Hidalgo and Cameron Counties during the morning of the 15th.