



Above: Light coating of glaze from misty freezing drizzle across northern Jim Hogg County near Hebronville, February 6, 2014.
Credit: Texas Department of Transportation.

Sh-Sh-Shivering...Again?

RGV/South Texas Brush Country Blitzed by Cold, Icy Drizzle Feb. 6-7 2014

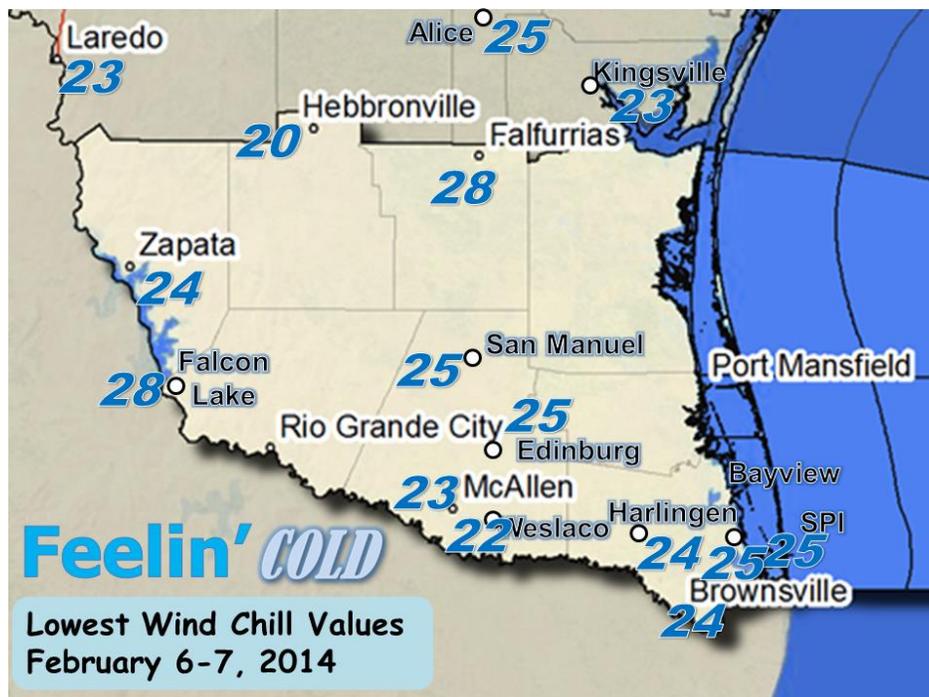
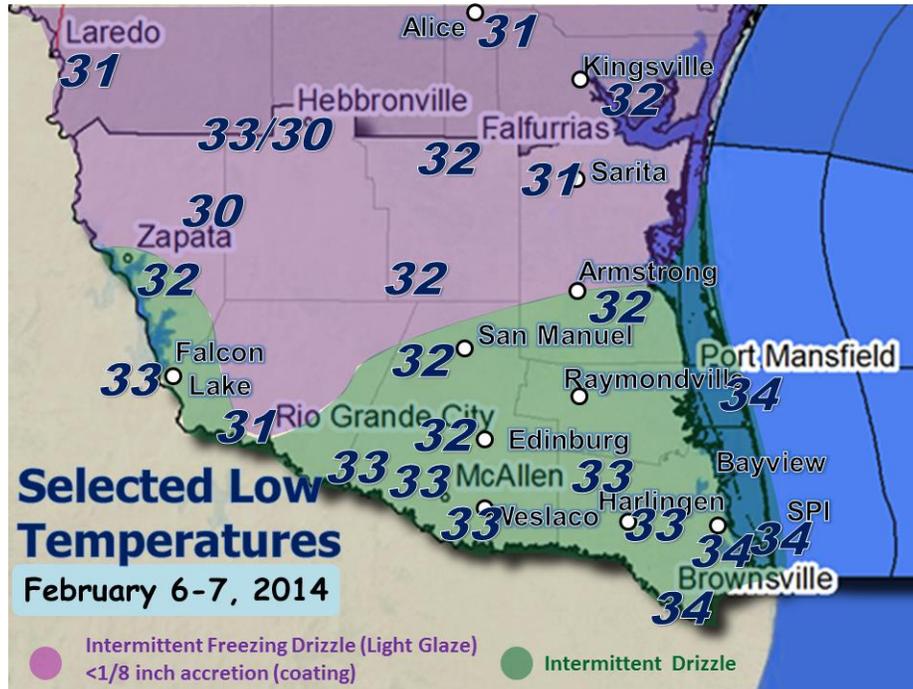
In Brief

A series of Canadian-sourced cold fronts sliced through Deep South Texas from Super Bowl Sunday through February 6th, culminating in the lowest prolonged cold temperatures in three years. Punxutawney Phil indeed saw his shadow on the 2nd; for Valley residents, the “six weeks of winter” all seemed to come on queue. Within hours of the groundhog ceremony, balmy temperatures in the mid to upper 70s were erased by gusty north winds; by midnight, values were down into the 40s in most areas. A brisk February 3rd was followed by two more chilly days.

The bottom dropped out just before daybreak on the 6th with the arrival of a reinforcing arctic front, which combined with southerly flow above the surface and a developing low pressure trough in the western Gulf to turn winds from the northwest. These northwest winds brought persistent frigid (by RGV standards) temperatures and even colder “feels like” temperatures, which would hold firm through daybreak on the 8th. The following are preliminary stats for the event:

- Temperatures fell into the 30s across most of the Valley between 6 and 8 AM on the 6th, and would remain through early on the 8th, more than 40 hours (or more) in most locations.
- This was the longest such cold “snap” across the Valley and the South Texas Brush Country since February 2-4, 2011.
- Surf and Laguna Madre sea surface temperatures fell into the mid and upper 40s, the coldest and most prolonged values since early February 2011.

- In most areas, temperatures flirted with freezing (32°F) but only fell below freezing for several hours each morning and early afternoon across the northern ranchlands, mainly between San Ygnacio (Zapata), Hebbronville (Jim Hogg), and Falfurrias (Brooks).
- A light coating of ice was seen during the mornings of February 6 and 7 across the northern ranchlands. Accretion was well below 1/8 an inch as liquid equivalent was just enough to wet the ground.
- “Feels like” temperatures held at or below 30 for 24 hours or more, and at least 36 hours along and east of Highway 77 (Harlingen/Brownsville/Port Isabel/SPI) from the 6th through the 8th.
- AEP Texas planned for statewide “brownouts” to conserve energy with the entire state requiring home and business heating continuity.



Preliminary low temperatures and minimum wind chill values from the February 6-7 cold snap. The majority of the low wind chill values occurred on the 6th; the majority of the low temperatures occurred on the 7th.