



South Texas Weather Journal

Spring Edition 2005

Serving the Coastal Bend, Rio Grande Plains, and Victoria Crossroads

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Spring Outlook
- 2 2004 Co-Op Rainfall Reports
- 3 Tornado Climatology
- 3 **WEATHER NUTZ**
- 4 2005 SKYWARN Training Schedule

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.srh.noaa.gov/crp

Spotters begin training for the spring severe weather season

For more than 60 years, storm spotters have been the Nation's first line of defense against deadly storms. Working with their local communities and with the local National Weather Service (NWS) office, spotters provide invaluable assistance and critical information to decision makers when hazardous weather threatens. Countless lives have been saved because of this unique partnership between volunteer storm spotters, emergency management and the National Weather Service. Spotter information, coupled with Doppler radar, satellite, and other data has enabled the NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods. Your local NWS in Corpus Christi will be conducting dozens of Skywarn spotter training classes this spring giving citizens in every county an opportunity to attend a class. See the calendar on the last page for a class near you.



Above: Supercell thunderstorm with tornado.

Texas tornado drill is set for March 8

The National Weather Service in Corpus Christi and the Texas Department of Emergency Management will conduct a Tornado Drill on Tuesday, March 8, 2005 at approximately 10am. The purpose of the drill is to give you an opportunity to test your tornado procedures. What will you do when a severe weather watch is issued? What actions will you take to protect yourself in a severe weather warning situation. Take this time to replace the batteries in your NOAA Weather Radio, familiarize yourself with your county location on a map, exercise your plans, and correct any problems before it's too late. Spring is just around the corner. Advanced planning could save your life during a real tornado emergency! Everyone should participate in this drill.

2004 Rainfall totals across south Texas

Corpus Christi	
Actual Rainfall	34.86 inches
Normal Rainfall	32.25 inches
Departure	+2.61 inches
Victoria	
Actual Rainfall	73.70 inches *
Normal Rainfall	40.10 inches
Departure	+33.60 inches
Laredo	
Actual Rainfall	29.14 inches
Normal Rainfall	21.53 inches
Departure	+7.61 inches

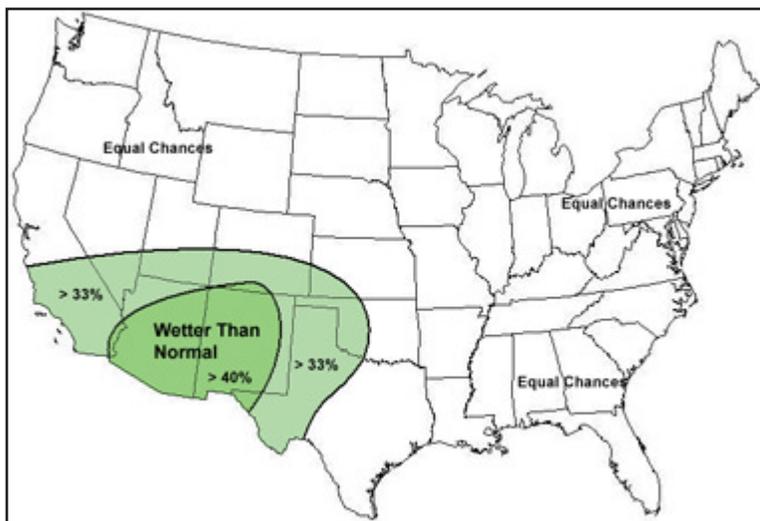
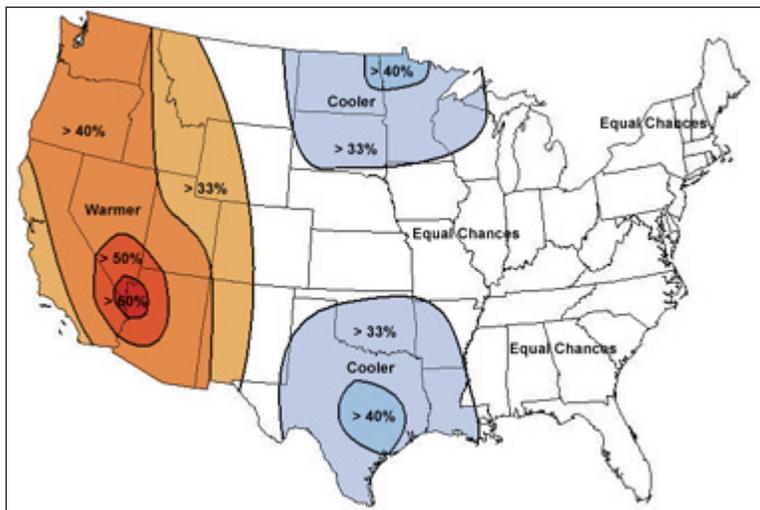
* All time record rainfall. Additional cooperative observer locations can be found on page 2.



Climate Prediction Center expecting a cooler Spring across South Texas

The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center produces long term forecasts of temperature and rainfall for the continental United States. The Spring Outlook (Mar-May) for South Texas calls for below normal temperatures and near normal rainfall. The cooler conditions reflect a weak El Nino continuing across the central equatorial Pacific through the May. Normal high temperatures in April range from near 80 in Victoria to near 90 in Laredo. Lows average from near 60 in Victoria to the lower 60s in Laredo. Normal precipitation amounts from January through May in Victoria, Corpus Christi, and Laredo are 10.72", 14.82", and 6.90" respectively.

Right Top: Spring Temperature Outlook. Below normal temperatures are expected over Texas.
Right: Spring Precipitation Outlook. Above normal precipitation is expected over the southwest.



QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

If you have any questions regarding the South Texas Weather Journal or would like to suggest ways to improve this newsletter, please send them to Jason Dunn via e-mail at:

jason.dunn@noaa.gov

SPECIAL THANKS

2004 Rainfall totals from cooperative observers

The staff at the NWS in Corpus Christi would like to thank the San Patricio County Emergency Management Agency for printing the Fall/Winter 2004 edition and the City of Corpus Christi for printing the Spring 2005 Edition.

Alice	29.75 inches
Aransas Wildlife Refuge	51.40 inches
Beeville 5NE	46.58 inches
Benavides	26.82 inches
Bishop	42.88 inches
Corpus Christi	50.90 inches
George West 2SSW	33.07 inches
Goliad	47.94 inches
Kingsville	35.05 inches
Point Comfort	66.60 inches
Port Aransas	49.13 inches
Refugio 3SW	44.59 inches
Rockport	52.81 inches
Tilden 9S	38.21 inches
Victoria	62.71 inches

DID YOU KNOW?

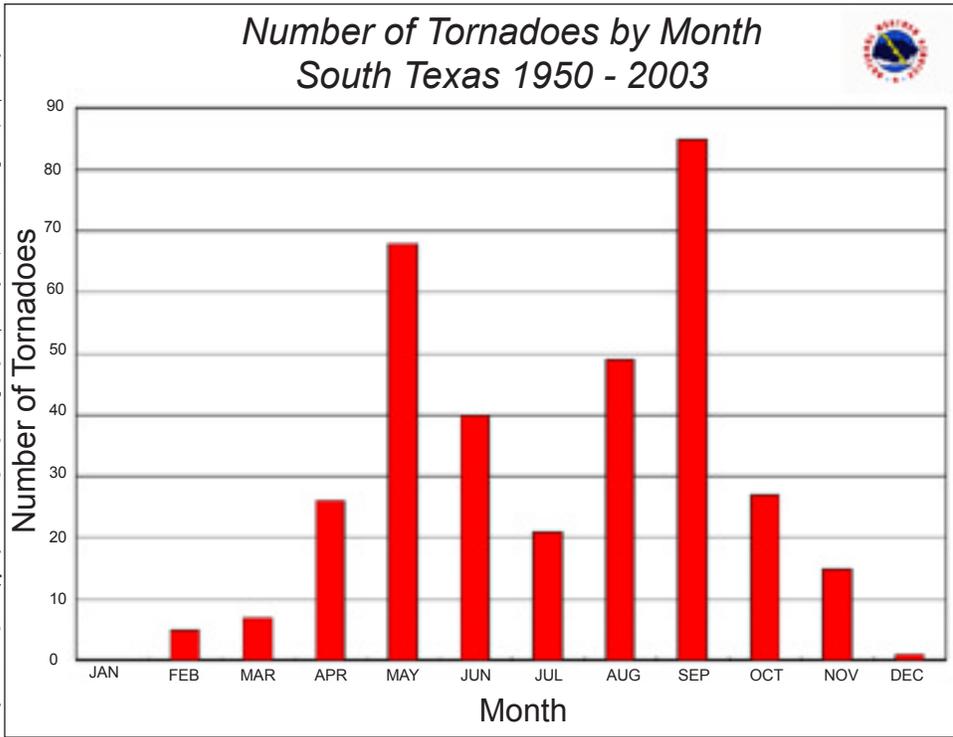
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE PRODUCTS ISSUED BY YOUR NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN CORPUS CHRISTI...

TORNADO WATCH: is issued when weather conditions are favorable for tornado development within the next several hours. Persons included in the watch should remain informed as weather conditions can change rapidly.

TORNADO WARNING: is issued when a tornado has been reported by the public or doppler radar indicates that tornado development is very likely within a few minutes. If a tornado warning is issued for your area, seek immediate shelter!!

Tornado Climatology

South Texas tornadoes have been observed in every month of the year except January. Statistics gathered from 1950-2004 indicate there has been over 350 Tornadoes during this 54 year period. This equates to an average of 6.5 Tornadoes per year. To put this in perspective, the state of Texas averages 173 Tornadoes per year. Most of our tornadoes occur during the spring when warm moist air returns from the Gulf of Mexico and collides with cold air moving south from the plains.

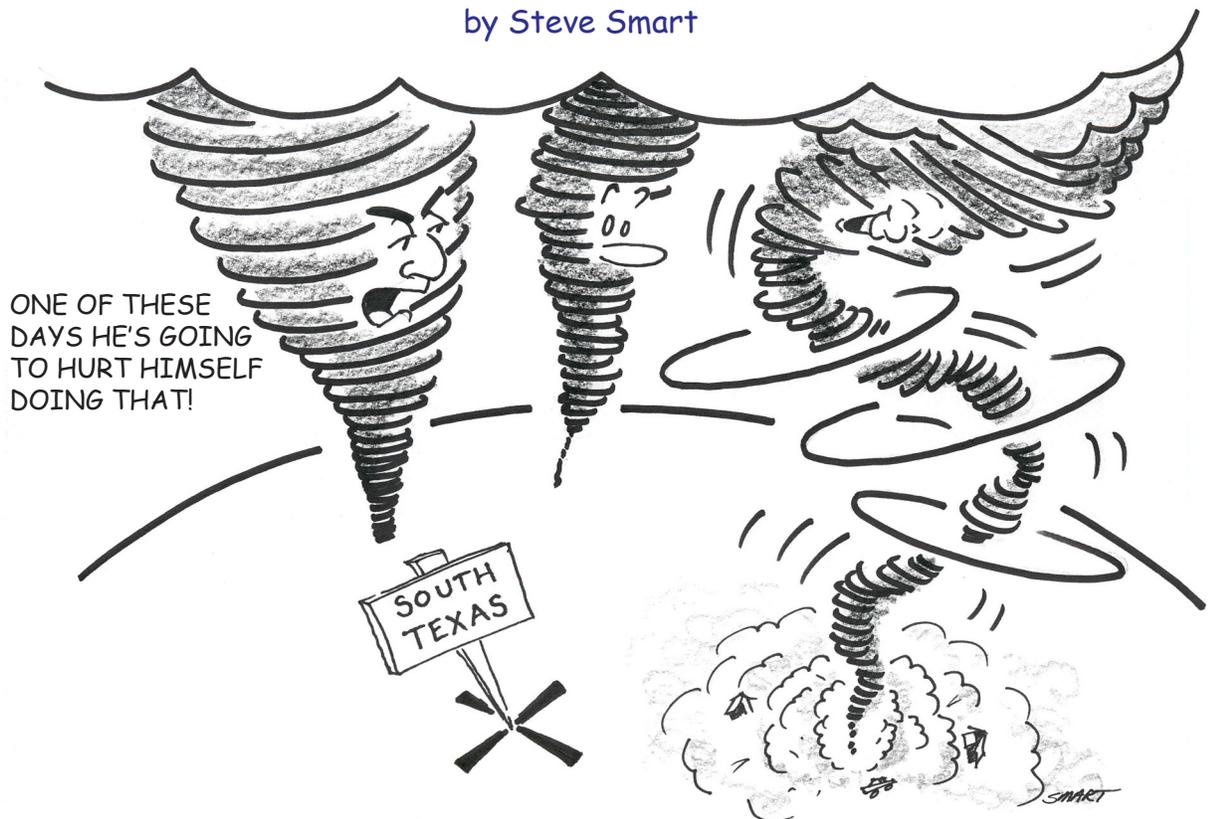


Above: Graph of tornado distribution by month. Note the peak during the spring months and again during hurricane season.

A secondary surge in tornado activity occurs during the peak of the hurricane season in Aug-Sept-Oct. Although tornadoes are not as frequent in South Texas as North Texas and Oklahoma, statistics show they can and do occur.

WEATHER NUTZ

by Steve Smart



Since 1950, there have been more than 6,700 tornadoes in the state of Texas.

That is approximately 128 tornadoes per year. The average path length of these tornadoes was 2.5 miles.

Since 1995, there have been more than 1,250 tornadoes reported.

This is an average of 173 tornadoes per year. The average path length of these tornadoes is 1.8 miles.

TEXAS TORNADO STATISTICS





Simple rules to help you survive a tornado

Homes or small buildings: Go to a small interior room such as a closet or bathroom on the lowest level. An interior hallway is also suitable. If available, get under something sturdy and protect yourself from flying debris.

Schools, nursing homes, hospitals, factories, and shopping centers: Go to a pre-

designated shelter area. Basements are the best, but interior hallways on the lowest floor usually offer protection. Close all doors to the hallway for greater protection.

Mobile homes or vehicles: Leave them and go to a strong building. If there is no shelter nearby, get into the nearest ditch or depression and lie flat with your hands shielding your head.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

Spring Weather Review and Rainfall Totals

A Glimpse at the 2005 Hurricane Season

Reader Comments and Interviews



2005 SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING SCHEDULE

Date	County	City	Location	Time	Contact	Phone #
Feb 9	Webb	Laredo	Fire Station #6	2 PM	Training Coordinator	956-795-2526
Feb 9	Webb	Laredo	TBD	6 PM	Bob Roszkowski	956-286-5150
Feb 10	LaSalle	Cotulla	County Courthouse	10 AM	Gary Stiles	210-336-5748
Feb 10	LaSalle	Cotulla	County Courthouse	7 AM	Gary Stiles	210-336-5748
Feb 16	Duval	San Diego	County Courthouse	130 PM	Jose Barrera	361-279-6214
Feb 17	McMullen	Tilden	County Courthouse	2 PM	Judge Henry	361-274-3341
Feb 17	McMullen	Tilden	County Courthouse	6 PM	Judge Henry	361-274-3341
Feb 23	Jim Wells	Alice	County Fairgrounds	9 AM	Israel Lopez	361-668-1018
Feb 23	Jim Wells	Alice	County Fairgrounds	7 PM	Israel Lopez	361-668-1018
Feb 24	Live Oak	George West	County Courthouse	6 PM	Richard Pointer	361-547-8104
Mar 2	Kleberg	Kingsville	County Courthouse	1 PM	Tom Sanchez, Jr.	361-595-8527
Mar 2	Kleberg	Kingsville	County Courthouse	7 PM	Tom Sanchez, Jr.	361-595-8527
Mar 3	Nueces	Corpus Christi	County Courthouse	10 AM	Bill Roberts	361-888-0513
Mar 3	Nueces	Corpus Christi	Ortiz Center	7 PM	Steve Hampton	361-815-7461
Mar 9	Bee	Beeville	Police Training Center	1 PM	Ed Brundrett	361-362-3271
Mar 9	Bee	Beeville	Police Training Center	7 PM	Ed Brundrett	361-362-3271
Mar 10	San Patricio	Sinton	TBD	2 PM	Ski Zagorski Sr.	361-364-6144
Mar 16	Refugio	Refugio	County Courthouse	6 PM	Jerry Turner	361-526-2820
Mar 17	Aransas	Rockport	TBD	TBD	Rick Mclester	361-729-2222
Mar 30	Goliad	Goliad	Depot	2 PM	Harold Martin	361-645-1729
Mar 30	Goliad	Goliad	Depot	6 PM	Harold Martin	361-645-1729
Apr 6	Victoria	Victoria	700 Main St	2 PM	David Martyn	361-485-3362
Apr 6	Victoria	Victoria	700 Main St	6 PM	David Martyn	361-485-3362
Apr 13	Calhoun	Port Lavaca	Courthouse	2 PM	Melvin Strong	361-553-4400
Apr 13	Calhoun	Port Lavaca	Courthouse	6 PM	Melvin Strong	361-553-4400



The South Texas Weather Journal is produced by the staff at the Corpus Christi NWS Office and will be published three times a year: spring, summer, and fall/winter seasons

CONTACT US:
(361) 289-0959

300 Pinson Drive
Corpus Christi, TX
78406