May was a relatively quiet month with very few wind storms (as the season normally is winding down), though with few, if any storms, the month ended up being quite dry. With the exception of the Black Range and the central Rio Grande Valley from Las Cruces to the lakes, the area received below normal precipitation. This prompted much of the area to go into the abnormally dry rating for the season, with much of the area west of the Continental Divide moving into the moderate drought category. Hopefully the summer monsoon will alleviate the beginnings of this drought.

Temperatures for the most part were a shade below normal for May. This interrupted a string of months going back to last September of above normal temperatures. El Paso airport’s monthly average temperature was still a bit above normal but most other places reported a below normal May for temperatures.

The first wind storm of the month struck on the 16th as a strong Pacific upper trough moved across the area. Widespread blowing dust did not materialize, but a few areas of west Texas did experience the dust. Toward the end of the month, the area finally got a push of moist air in. Strong east winds beginning on the 29th, brought Gulf of Mexico moisture into the Borderland. This began a stretch of several days of thunderstorms. The storms were especially strong on the 30th, with several areas receiving moderate to large hail.
One last look at the 2016-2017 winter; A look at the graphs for El Paso and Cloudcroft (see below), show that this past winter was very mild, with above average temperatures and below normal snow fall. This correlates well with the La Niña weather pattern we experienced this winter.
Accumulated Winter Season Severity Index (AWSSI) shows very mild winter in El Paso
Accumulated Winter Season Severity Index (AWSSI) shows very mild winter in Cloudcroft.
No Advisory in effect

**ENSO Alert System**

- **El Niño or La Niña Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño or La Niña conditions in the next six months.

- **El Niño or La Niña Advisory:** Issued when El Niño or La Niña conditions are observed and expected to continue.
ENSO Forecast from May into early winter of 2017

ENSO IS NOW IN A NEUTRAL PERIOD. FAVORING GOING TO EL NINO BY SUMMER
• Abnormally Dry – D0
• Moderate Drought – D1
• Severe Drought – D2
• Extreme Drought – D3
• Exceptional – D4

May 23, 2017

February 28, 2017
Current drought conditions for Texas as of May 23, 2017

Intensity:
- D0 - Abnormally Dry
- D1 - Moderate Drought
- D2 - Severe Drought
- D3 - Extreme Drought
- D4 - Exceptional Drought

Build your own custom slider maps here at: http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/MapsandData/ComparisonSlider.aspx
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for May 18 - August 31, 2017
Released May 18, 2017

Author:
R. Tinker
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short-lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73
Temperature and precipitation data for May 2017 in El Paso

Daily Temperature Data – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)


Accumulated Precipitation – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values.
2017 year-to-date temperature and precipitation data El Paso
Temperature Outlook Through Aug 2018

- Jun 2017
- Jun-Jul-Aug 2017
- Jul-Aug-Sep 2017
- Aug-Sep-Oct 2017
- Sep-Oct-Nov 2017
- Oct-Nov-Dec 2017
- Nov-Dec-Jan 2017/18
- Dec-Jan-Feb 2017/18
- Jan-Feb-Mar 2018
- Feb-Mar-Apr 2018
- Mar-Apr-May 2018
- Apr-May-Jun 2018
- May-Jun-Jul 2018
- Jun-Jul-Aug 2018
May 2017 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports
May 2017 radar rainfall estimate percent of normal
### Special Features

http://www.srh.noaa.gov/epz/?n=elpwindrosedata

- **Month:** MAY
- **Calm:** 6.44%
- **Variable:** 2.66%

WindRose - KELP - EL PASO INTL

% Frequency of Wind Speed from a Direction

POR: 19/30/101 - 20/14/06/02

- 1 – 5 mph
- 6 – 10 mph
- 11–16 mph
- 17 – 22 mph
- 23 – 28 mph
- 29 – 33 mph
- 34 – 39 mph
- 40 – 45 mph
- 46 – 51 mph
- 52 – 56 mph
- 57 mph or more
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Location (County)</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05/06/2017 616 PM</td>
<td>JORNADA RANGE-DONA ANA</td>
<td>68 MPH PEAK TSTM WIND GUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/16/2017 335 PM</td>
<td>SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA</td>
<td>75 MPH PEAK WIND GUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/16/2017 105 PM</td>
<td>TULAROSA 19 NW-OTERO</td>
<td>65 MPH PEAK WIND GUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/16/2017 737 PM</td>
<td>OROGRANDE 28 NE-OTERO</td>
<td>59 MPH PEAK WIND GUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/16/2017 613 PM</td>
<td>EL PASO 5 NE-EL PASO</td>
<td>59 MPH PEAK WIND GUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/16/2017 609 PM</td>
<td>SUNSPOT-OTERO</td>
<td>58 MPH PEAK WIND GUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/16/2017 745 PM</td>
<td>EL PASO AIRPORT-EL PASO</td>
<td>58 MPH PEAK WIND GUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/16/2017 335 PM</td>
<td>SPACEPORT-SIERRA</td>
<td>57 MPH PEAK WIND GUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/16/2017 305 PM</td>
<td>SANTA TERESA 5 NW-DONA ANA</td>
<td>56 MPH PEAK WIND GUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/16/2017 605 PM</td>
<td>LAS CRUCES 4 NE-DONA ANA</td>
<td>53 MPH PEAK WIND GUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/16/2017 232 PM</td>
<td>DEMING AIRPORT-DONA ANA</td>
<td>53 MPH PEAK WIND GUST</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/16/2017 242 PM</td>
<td>RODEO-HIDALGO</td>
<td>51 MPH PEAK WIND GUST</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/16/2017 655 PM</td>
<td>DELL CITY-HUDSPETH</td>
<td>49 MPH PEAK WIND GUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/16/2017 1135 AM</td>
<td>FAYWOOD-GRANT</td>
<td>48 MPH PEAK WIND GUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/16/2017 526 PM</td>
<td>DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA</td>
<td>48 MPH PEAK WIND GUST</td>
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</table>
### Selected weather reports April 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Location (County)</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05/30/2017 738 PM</td>
<td>WESTWAY 9 SE-EL PASO</td>
<td>1.00 INCH HAIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/30/2017 844 PM</td>
<td>MESILLA 2 E-DONA ANA</td>
<td>0.50 INCH HAIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/30/2017 922 PM</td>
<td>LAS CRUCES-DONA ANA</td>
<td>1.42 INCHES HEAVY RAINFALL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Photo Credit: John Fausett
Just click on “Local Programs>Weather Digest”, then choose which month’s Digest to view. Also, though discontinued, don’t forget to check out our back issues of Southwest Weather Bulletin.