

Tropical Storm Hermine Impacts South Central Texas

Tropical Storm Hermine made landfall at 830 pm on Monday September 6 along the northeastern coast of Mexico 40 miles south of Brownsville. Surprisingly, over the next 48 hours, areas of South Central Texas would experience record rainfall, widespread flash flooding, isolated tornadoes, and tropical storm force winds.



Track of Tropical Storm Hermine

Hermine tracked north after she made landfall, bringing 50-60 mph winds along I-37, mainly to the east of the center of circulation. These winds were strong enough to bring down over 300 trees and power lines across Bexar County and the city of San Antonio. In fact, there were over 100,000 Bexar County CPS customers without power on Tuesday afternoon September 7. It was during this time that the San Antonio International Airport experienced its strongest gust of 64 mph. Other strong wind gusts from around South Central Texas included Seaworld...46 mph, Randolph

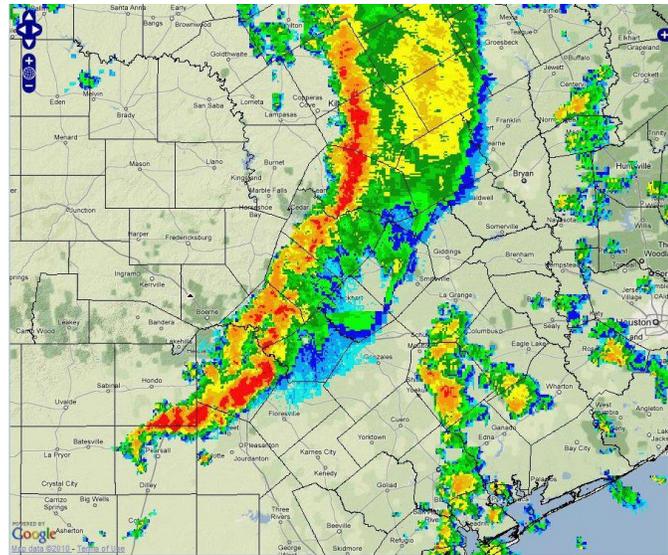
AFB...55 mph, New Braunfels Airport...50 mph and Austin Camp

Mabry at 35 mph. For a complete list of area wind reports, click [HERE](#). Hermine remained a tropical storm nearly 24 hours after making landfall. She was downgraded to a Tropical Depression at 7 pm on Tuesday as the center passed near Brady Texas.

As Tropical Storm Hermine continued to track into the Hill Country northwest of San Antonio, the widespread light to moderate rains began to intensify Tuesday afternoon. As we often see with landfalling tropical systems, a tornado threat began to increase across South Central Texas. National Weather Service Doppler Radar began to indicate small tornadic circulations over western areas of Lavaca County along Highway 95 between Shiner and Moulton. After searching the area, a National Weather Service damage survey concluded that an EF0 tornado touched down near the town of Moulton. Details on the damage survey can be found [HERE](#).

By far the lasting memories of Tropical Storm Hermine will be the record rainfall. On Tuesday afternoon an intense rainband developed primarily along the I-35 stretching several hundred miles from Waco to south of San Antonio. Rain rates of 2-3 inches per hour pounded the Austin-San Antonio I-35 corridor and brought widespread flash flooding by Tuesday evening. Widespread rain totals of 5-6 inches were common along this corridor during the evening hours and the torrential rains continued over the next 8 hours well past midnight early Wednesday morning. Camp Mabry in Austin set a daily rainfall record for September 7, receiving 7.04 inches in that 24 hour period.

During the overnight hours early Wednesday September 8, tropical rains continued to train across portions of Travis and Williamson Counties. The Shoal Creek and Brushy Creek watersheds were hit hardest. Several swift water rescues were performed as creeks overflowed their banks and flooded many low water crossings. The most intense rains of 10-16 inches occurred over the area from central Williamson County down into northern Travis County. A National Weather Service Cooperative Observer near Lake Georgetown recorded a total of 16.37 inches from September 7-9 with 14.57 inches of that total coming in a 24 hour time period. Shelters were set up as homes began to flood and RV parks were evacuated along Brushy Creek. For a time, I-35 in Georgetown was shut down with witnesses saying that water was as high as the center concrete barrier.



Radar imagery showing intense showers and thunderstorms along I-35



*Flood damage in the Shady River RV Park near Georgetown.
Photo courtesy of the Austin American Statesman*

On Wednesday afternoon the deep tropical moisture left over from Hermine triggered another band of showers and thunderstorms that became nearly stationary across portions of the eastern Hill Country. During the afternoon, these storms over southwest Bexar County and southeast Medina County produced flash flooding near Natalia where up to 8-10 inches of rain fell over a few hours time.

This event once again proves the danger of tropical cyclones and reminds us that even a

tropical storm can bring devastating weather to areas well inland from the coast. Several people lost their lives due to the flash flooding. Two deaths occurred as their vehicles were swept off the road at low water crossings. 3 others died while swimming and kayaking in swollen waters well after the event was over. Remember our slogan, Turn Around, Don't Drown. It can save your life.