



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



December 1999

| Location | Date | Time Local/ Standard | Path Length (Miles) | Path Width (Yards) | Number of Persons Killed | Injured | Estimated Damage Property | Crops | Character of Storm |
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|-------|--------------------|
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TEXAS, South Panhandle

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|------------------------------|--|-----------|----------------------------|----------|----------|------------|-------------------|
| TXZ021>024-027-029 | Parmer - Castro - Swisher - Briscoe - Bailey - Hale | 04 | 0500CST 1400CST | 0 | 0 | 60K | Heavy Snow |
|------------------------------|--|-----------|----------------------------|----------|----------|------------|-------------------|

An upper level low pressure system translated from the Pacific Northwest on the 2nd into the four corners region on the 3rd then into the Southern Plains on the 4th. At the same time, cold air associated with high pressure centered over the Northern Rocky Mountains deepened over West Texas. Snow began to fall over West Texas during the early morning hours of the 4th, falling most heavily over the Southwestern Panhandle and the Northwestern South Plains where four to six inches of snow was reported. This included Parmer, Castro, Briscoe, Bailey, and Hale Counties. Elsewhere, one to three inch accumulations occurred in parts of Cochran, Hockley, Lamb, and Swisher Counties. The snow diminished to flurries during the late afternoon as the storm moved northeast into Southwest Oklahoma. A 50-100 mile wide band of heavy snow extended from East-Central New Mexico through the Texas Panhandle and into Northern Missouri in the wake of the storm.

Some specific effects of this storm included: All roads closed in Castro County due to zero visibility and 35 mph winds with blowing and drifting snow; power outages that lasted up to two days in parts of Castro County; five to six foot drifts in Parmer County; power outages that lasted up to four days in parts of Bailey County; and over 150 power poles broken in Bailey County due to the combination of snow and ice on the wires with the whipping action of the wind.

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| TXZ021>023-028>029-034>035 | Parmer - Castro - Swisher - Lamb - Hale - Hockley - Lubbock | 08 09 | 2300CST 1000CST | 0 | 0 | Heavy Snow |
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Another upper level storm developed into the Pacific Northwest on the 7th. This storm translated into the Southern Rocky Mountains on the 8th and into the Southern Plains during the early morning hours of the 9th. Cold air was already in place as the storm approached West Texas as a cold front had moved through the area on the 8th. Snow developed over the counties bordering New Mexico as the system approached from the west during the late evening of the 8th; the snow increased in coverage and intensity on the 9th. The atmosphere was moist and unstable with this system, resulting in a considerable amount of thunderstorm activity, in which snow fell at a rate of up to two inches per hour. Accumulations of four to six inches occurred in Parmer, Castro, Swisher, Lamb, Hale, Hockley, and Lubbock Counties with one to three inches widespread across the remainder of the Southern Panhandle and South Plains. Roads were closed in portions of Castro and Parmer Counties, with drifts reportedly 4 feet high. The snowpack persisted in Castro County for several days after the storm moved out of the area.