



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



April 2006

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

TXZ021>044

Parmer - Castro - Swisher - Briscoe - Hall - Childress - Bailey - Lamb - Hale - Floyd - Motley - Cottle - Cochran - Hockley - Lubbock - Crosby - Dickens - King - Yoakum - Terry - Lynn - Garza - Kent - Stonewall

01	0000CST								
30	2359CST				0	0	0	0	Drought

The drought that commenced over the south-central U.S. during the autumn of 2005 persisted over much of west Texas in April, but many locations across the west Texas South Plains region did experience some relief. During the first week of the month, D2 (severe) drought conditions, per the U.S. Drought Monitor, encompassed all of the South Plains region. By the end of April, conditions had improved notably with drought conditions downgraded to moderate (D1) over the higher terrain of the Caprock and the Llano Estacado. Severe drought (D2), however, continued over the rolling plains and the extreme southern Texas Panhandle. The gradual improvement in conditions resulted from the onset of spring-time convection and a few stratiform rain events that impacted the area during the second half of April.

The potential for wildfires remained of utmost concern through mid-month. Weather conditions during the first fifteen days of April brought two widespread outbreaks of dangerous wind-driven wildland fires, similar to those experienced over the Southern High Plains in January and March. Critical fire weather conditions, however, were dampened somewhat over west Texas by the end of the month as seasonal rains increased in frequency and as a modest green-up of vegetation commenced.

Most crops across the region were harvested before the onset of the drought in the autumn of 2005. Thus far, the duration of the intense short-term drought has been restricted to the cool non-growing season. With evidence of lessening drought conditions, it is possible that the drought's impact on agricultural interest may be relatively small. No significant agricultural losses have yet been directly attributed to the 2005 and 2006 winter drought.

Floyd County

Dougherty

01	1538CST								
	1544CST				0	0	0	0	Hail(1.75)

Large hail ranging in size from quarters to golfballs was reported in Dougherty. No damage was reported

Motley County

7 NNW Matador to 5 S Northfield

01	1602CST								
	1625CST				0	0	0	0	Hail(1.75)

A severe thunderstorm produced large hail up to the size of golfballs as it tracked over northern Motley County. Initial reports from the Matador Fire Department indicated nickel to golfball size hail along Texas Highway 70 north of Matador at 16:02 CST. A National Weather Service cooperative observer additionally reported quarter size hail as the storm tracked northeast over rural areas south of Northfield shortly before 16:30 CST.

Motley County

Matador

01	1640CST								
					0	0	0	0	Hail(0.88)

A second severe storm affected the southern and central sections of Motley County during the afternoon of the 1st. The Matador Fire Department reported nickle size hail in the city.

Cottle County

10 N Paducah to 13 N Paducah

01	1645CST								
	1655CST				0	0	0	0	Hail(1.75)

Multiple reports of hail up to the size of golfballs were received along U.S. Highway 62/83 north of Paducah. The hail reportedly covered the ground. No damage was reported.

Childress County

(Cds)Childress Arprt

01	1708CST								
	1715CST				0	0	0	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG63)

A severe thunderstorm produced wind gusts up to 72 MPH at the Childress Airport. The Texas Department of Public Safety reported



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TEXAS, South Panhandle

that the winds were accompanied by large hail. No reports of significant damage were received.

Childress County

Childress	01	1715CST 1725CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(1.75)
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Several reports of large hail were received from the Childress area. The Texas Department of Public Safety reported nickel size hail accompanied by severe winds in the city. Storm spotters additionally reported hail to the size of golfballs. No damage was reported.

Cottle County

16 N Paducah	01	1720CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(2.00)
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The Paducah Fire Department reported lime size hail along U.S. Highway 62/83 in northern Cottle County. No damage was reported.

Cottle County

Swearingen	01	1745CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.88)
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The public reported nickel size hail in Swearingen as a second severe storm impacted the eastern portions of Cottle County.

Childress County

3 WNW Kirkland	01	1750CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(1.75)
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The Childress County Sheriff's Office reported golfball size hail along U.S. Highway 287 just west of Kirkland.

Childress County

1 W Kirkland	01	1750CST 1755CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(2.50)
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A National Weather Service cooperative observer reported very large hail up to the size of tennis balls just west of Kirkland.

April 1 Event Summary: A complex of severe thunderstorms developed along a dryline over the northeastern South Plains and the northern rolling plains of west Texas during the late afternoon and early evening of the 1st. The storms generally produced hail up to the size of golfballs and severe winds. Two reports of giant hail also were received from rural locations in Cottle and Childress Counties. No reports of significant damage were received.

TXZ039-039

Yoakum

	05	1805CST 2200CST			0	0	0	0	High Wind (MG56)
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Mid level convection developed west of a dryline over the plains of southeastern New Mexico, and propagated northeast over the southwestern portions of the South Plains during the evening of the 5th. The weakly convective clouds produced no cloud-to-ground lightning, and all precipitation evaporated as it fell into a deeply mixed boundary layer with dewpoint depressions on the order of 50 degrees. Severe wind gusts, possibly associated with dry microburst activity, were recorded by the West Texas Mesonet site in rural areas of southwestern Yoakum County. No damage was reported.

TXZ021>030-032-035-041>042

Parmer - Castro - Swisher - Briscoe - Hall - Childress - Bailey - Lamb - Hale - Floyd - Cottle - Lubbock - Lynn - Garza

	06	0850CST 1515CST			0	0	100K	0	High Wind (MG57)
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Strong to severe westerly winds brought blowing dust and minor damage to the South Plains region of west Texas. The winds additionally fanned raging wildfires. Winds over the South Plains region of west Texas gusted as high as 66 MPH. This downed power lines and caused light roof damage. Around 14:00 CST, severe wind gusts caused a tractor-trailer to roll over while traveling along Interstate 27 near Abernathy (Hale County). The driver walked away with no injuries. Numerous homes across the region lost shingles from roofs, particularly in Lubbock. Neither significant structural damage nor injuries were reported. A list of severe wind gusts recorded by the Texas Tech West Texas Mesonet and area observing stations follows:

- Abernathy (Hale County).....58 MPH
- Amherst (Lamb County).....59 MPH
- Childress (Childress County)...58 MPH



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TEXAS, South Panhandle

Dimmitt (Castro County).....62 MPH
 Floydada (Floyd County).....58 MPH
 Friona (Parmer County).....65 MPH
 Graham (Garza County).....66 MPH
 Hart (Castro County).....61 MPH
 Memphis (Hall County).....60 MPH
 Muleshoe (Bailey County).....61 MPH
 Olton (Lamb County).....60 MPH
 Paducah (Cottle County).....58 MPH
 Plainview (Hale County).....58 MPH
 Post (Garza County).....62 MPH
 Tahoka (Lynn County).....58 MPH
 Tulia (Swisher County).....60 MPH
 Silverton (Briscoe County).....64 MPH
 Wolfforth (Lubbock County)....59 MPH

TXZ028

Lamb

06 1330CST 0 0 100K 0 Wildfire
1700CST

Damaging winds downed lines at a utility company sub-station west of Earth in northwestern Lamb County during the early afternoon hours. By 13:30 CST, the downed lines had sparked a dangerous wind driven wildfire that raged through several hundred acres of grasslands. Local authorities were forced to close a portion of Farm to Market Road 303 near Earth due to the fire and reduced visibilities from smoke. One home was destroyed in the blaze. No injuries were reported.

April 6 High Wind and Wilfire Event Summary: A vigorous storm system ejected eastward from the Rocky Mountains and resulted in widespread strong to severe winds and blowing dust over much of west Texas. The winds additionally contributed to yet another regional outbreak of destructive wildfires over portions of the drought-stricken states of New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma. Severe winds were common over the South Plains region with minor damage reported. At least six wildfires ignited in the winds across the South Plains and the extreme southern Texas Panhandle. One fire became a significant wind-driven wildfire that destroyed a single family home in Lamb County. Total damages from wind and fire were estimated near \$200,000. No injuries were reported.

Castro County
2 NE Dimmitt

11 0555CST 0 0 0 0 Thunderstorm Wind (MG53)
0600CST

A complex of early morning convection resulted in severe thunderstorm wind gusts at the West Texas Mesonet site near Dimmitt

TXZ034

Hockley

15 0930CST 0 3 100K 0 Wildfire
1300CST



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TEXAS, South Panhandle



A dangerous 1,300 acre wildfire injured three persons near Levelland on the 15th. The fire, ignited when high winds downed a power line, destroyed a trailer home before fire crews could contain it more than four hours later. Photo courtesy: Joe Garza - The Levelland News-Press.

Damaging winds downed power lines near Levelland during the morning hours of the 15th. The downed lines sparked a dangerous wind-driven wildfire that scorched a path one half mile wide and five miles in length through the landscape south of the city. The 1,300 acre fire destroyed a trailer home. One resident was evacuated from the area and suffered smoke inhalation related injuries. Two firefighters additionally received minor injuries while battling the blaze.

TXZ034>035-040

Hockley - Lubbock - Terry

15	0930CST 1355CST	0	0	150K	0	High Wind (MG52)
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Strong to severe westerly winds and blowing dust again affected the South Plains region of west Texas on the 15th. The winds combined with ongoing drought conditions and a period of record heat to result in an extremely high fire danger and at least two large fires. Winds on the 15th were generally sustained in the 25 to 35 MPH range, but two severe wind gusts up to 60 MPH were measured by the West Texas Mesonet. Damaging winds downed power lines in Hockley County. A Buffalo Springs home and a nearby vehicle were destroyed by a raging wind blown fire when an outdoor cooker was damaged by the winds in Lubbock County. No injuries were reported. Measured severe wind gusts follow:

Brownfield (Terry County).....60 MPH
 Slaton (Lubbock County).....59 MPH

April 15 High Wind and Wildfire Event Summary: Another potent spring-time storm system moved over the Southern Plains of the U.S. on the 15th and resulted in strong to occasionally severe westerly winds over much of the region. The winds followed several consecutive days of record high temperatures. This combined with ongoing drought conditions to create an extremely critical fire weather situation over a large part of the Southern High Plains. A large wildfire was ignited by downed power lines in Hockley County. The fire destroyed one residence and injured three people. Two of the injured were fire fighters engaged in battling the blaze. The winds were indirectly responsible for another fire that destroyed a residence in Lubbock County where a large outdoor cooker was blown over. Damage estimates for the event total \$250,000.



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TEXAS, South Panhandle

Hockley County

5 NW Ropesville to 6 NNW Ropesville	20	0650CST 0655CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.75)
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Strong thunderstorms moved over parts of the west Texas South Plains during the morning hours of the 20th. A West Texas Mesonet meteorologist reported three-quarter inch diameter hail near Ropesville.

King County

10 SW Guthrie to Guthrie	28	1220CST 1230CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(1.00)
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Multiple reports of large hail ranging in size from pennies to quarters were received as a severe storm moved from rural portions of southwestern King County to Guthrie.

Swisher County

10 E Happy	28	1300CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(1.25)
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Half dollar size hail was reported in rural areas east of Happy.

Stonewall County

1 SE Peacock	28	1625CST 1626CST	0.1	50	0	0	0	0	Tornado (F0)
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Local law enforcement officials reported that a tornado developed beneath a rapidly intensifying severe thunderstorm over west-central Stonewall County. A deputy observed a high-based but well-developed funnel cloud. Dust was observed beneath the funnel, and the debris cloud was seen briefly connecting to the cloud base. The tornado quickly dissipated while remaining in open rangeland, and no damage resulted.

Briscoe County

21 NE Silverton	28	1701CST 1704CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.75)
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A local rancher reported that hail up to the size of pennies covered the ground near Antelope Flat in northeastern Briscoe County

Hall County

6 W Estelline	28	1702CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.88)
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Dime to nickel size hail was reported along Texas Farm to Market Road 86 west of Estelline

Cottle County

Swearingen	28	1808CST			0	0	15K	0	Hail(1.25)
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Hail up to the size of half dollars was reported in Swearingen. The hail, accompanied by very heavy rainfall, damaged the interior of an exposed ranch home that was undergoing roof repair.

April 28 Severe Thunderstorm Event Summary: Scattered thunderstorms developed over the extreme southern Texas Panhandle and the rolling plains during the afternoon hours of the 28th. These storms produced damaging hail up to the size of half dollars and a brief tornado. Several organized multicell and supercell storms were observed. A weak and short-lived tornado formed under an explosively developing and severe updraft in Stonewall County. The only damage to be reported as a result of the severe weather event occurred in Cottle County. There heavy rainfall and large hail damaged the interior of a home that was exposed due to ongoing roof repairs.

Lubbock County

Lubbock Intl Arpt	29	1729CST			0	0	0	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG50)
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Scattered high based convection developed over the South Plains during the afternoon of the 29th. This activity erupted as lapse rates increased beneath a passing mid and upper level trough. This trough was the same upper air feature that contributed to a severe weather episode over the South Plains region of west Texas on the 28th.