



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



August 2006

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

TEXAS, South Panhandle

TXZ023>026-029>032-034>044 Swisher - Briscoe - Hall - Childress - Hale - Floyd - Motley - Cottle - Hockley - Lubbock - Crosby - Dickens - King - Yoakum - Terry - Lynn - Garza - Kent - Stonewall

01	0000CST				0	0	0	26M	Drought
31	2359CST								

The long-term drought conditions that began in late 2005 over much of the Southern Plains of the U.S. were alleviated by late August over the west Texas South Plains region. Extreme (D3) drought conditions were observed during the first few weeks of August over the extreme southeastern Texas Panhandle and the northern Rolling Plains. Severe (D2) drought conditions encompassed areas along and east of the Interstate 27 corridor north of Lubbock, then westward toward the southwestern South Plains during early August. Rainfall over the extreme southwestern panhandle and the northwestern South Plains in late July helped to reduce the impact of drought there by early August.

A series of widespread rainfall events commenced during the second half of the month, with localized instances of flash flooding observed. These events quickly brought year-to-date rainfall totals up to approximately 85% of climatological averages. By the end of August, severe (D2) drought conditions were restricted to the eastern and southern Rolling Plains.

Local farmers and agricultural officials, however, continued to report losses through mid August. Estimates indicated that an additional 200,000 acres of cotton were lost, or deemed to have low yield potential, as a result of the drought. This after 98% of the dryland cotton crops area-wide failed to emerge in previous months.

In addition, many area ranchers continued to sell cattle pre-maturely due to drought-related hardships. The lack of rain during the growing season resulted in poor hay crops. This caused the price of hay to exceed \$130 per ton; up from only \$80 per ton one year ago. Ranchers have had difficulty affording hay to feed the cattle, thus many head of cattle have been sold at very early ages resulting in lower selling prices.

The impact of the ongoing long-term drought on the local economy in 2006 through the month of August was an estimated \$221 million.

Garza County

	01	1840CST			0	0	0	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG51)
5 SSW Graham Chapel									

The Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site near Graham recorded a gust to 59 mph as an isolated severe thunderstorm affected the area.

Lynn County

	07	1425CST	0.5	75	0	0	0	0	Tornado (F0)
6 WSW Wilson to 5.5 WSW Wilson		1427CST							

A Sheriff's deputy observed a landspout tornado in open farm land just west of U.S. Highway 87 in northern Lynn County. The tornado developed beneath a linear complex of multi-cell storms, and was described as a funnel extending from the cloud base with large amounts of dust lofted at the surface. No damage was reported.

TXZ038

	King				0	0	0	0	Wildfire
	09	1200CST							
		2100CST							

Lightning associated with thunderstorms over the Rolling Plains of west Texas during the evening hours of the 7th ignited a small brush fire in northeastern King County. This fire smoldered in native grasses and mesquite trees until critical fire weather conditions developed during the afternoon hours of the 9th, when southerly winds increased to around 20 mph and relative humidity values dropped to near 20 percent. These weather conditions combined with triple digit temperatures and the effects of the ongoing drought on fuel moistures to promote extreme fire behavior. Texas Forest Service officials reported that the fire quickly grew to more than 3,500 acres, and could only be attacked with the use of aircraft due to dangerous fire fighting conditions on the ground. No property or agricultural damages were reported.



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TEXAS, South Panhandle

Castro County

16 NE Dimmitt **10** **1746CST** **0** **0** **0** **0** **Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)**
 The public reported severe thunderstorm wind gusts estimated to exceed 60 mph in rural areas of northeastern Castro County. The winds were accompanied by wind-blown rain and dust that reduced visibilities to near zero. No damage was reported.

Castro County

12 NE Dimmitt **10** **1910CST**
1915CST **0** **0** **0** **0** **Hail(0.75)**
 Rural residents in northeastern Castro County reported large hail at least three-quarters of an inch in diameter around 19:15 CST. One person noted that the hail "sounded big, but wasn't big enough to break windows". No significant damage was reported.

August 10 Severe Thunderstorm Event Summary: Scattered thunderstorms affected the northern South Plains of west Texas and the extreme southern Texas Panhandle during the late afternoon and evening hours of the 10th. A pair of severe storms impacted northeastern Castro County and resulted in large hail and wind gusts up to 60 mph

Garza County

5 SSW Graham Chapel **12** **1530CST** **0** **0** **0** **0** **Thunderstorm Wind (MG51)**
 Strong thunderstorms developed over parts of the west Texas South Plains and Rolling Plains during the afternoon and evening hours of the 12th. An isolated storm became severe, and resulted in a 59 mph wind gust as recorded by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site near Graham.

Lynn County

2 E Odonnell **12** **2300CST**
13 **0030CST** **0** **0** **0** **0** **Flash Flood**
 The Texas Department of Transportation reported that locally heavy rainfall and runoff resulted in flash flooding near O' Donnell. High water of an unknown depth flowed over Farm to Market Road 2053 two miles east of the city. This forced road crews to close the highway around 23:00 CST. The flood waters subsided shortly after midnight, and no damage was reported

Garza County

5 SSW Graham Chapel **16** **1520CST** **0** **0** **0** **0** **Thunderstorm Wind (MG54)**
 Thunderstorms were widespread over the west Texas South Plains region during the afternoon and evening hours of the 16th. An isolated storm produced severe winds near Graham in central Garza County. No damage was reported

Swisher County

1.5 SW Happy to **20** **1719CST** **0.3** **25** **0** **0** **0** **0** **Tornado (F0)**
1.2 SSW Happy **1721CST**



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TEXAS, South Panhandle



A landspout tornado was photographed by the public just southwest of Happy, Texas, at 17:20 CST on the 20th. The torando remained over open country, and resulted in no damage. Photo courtesy: Joey Garcia - provided by KAMR-TV.

Residents of Happy observed a landspout tornado just southwest of the city around 17:20 CST on the afternoon of the 20th. The tornado was associated with otherwise non-severe convection over the extreme southern Texas Panhandle. No damage occurred as the tornado remained over open farm land.

Childress County

**2 SSW Childress to
6 N Childress**

21	2200CST	0	0	0	0	Flash Flood
22	0400CST					

The Childress County Sheriff's Office and local newspapers reported that up to 2.60 inches of rainfall resulted in flash flooding in Childress County during the late evening of the 21st and the very early morning hours of the 22nd. U.S. Highway 62/83 was closed due to high water that flowed over the driving surface at several locations in and near Childress. One underpass was reportedly inundated with more than three feet of flood waters. No damage was reported.

Castro County

**6 S Dimmitt to
10 S Dimmitt**

22	0915CST	0	0	0	0	Flash Flood
	1100CST					

Texas Department of Transportation and local law enforcement officials reported flash flooding along U.S. Highway 385 in southern Castro County during the late morning hours of the 22nd. Reports indicated that nearly one foot of rapidly flowing water inundated the highway at several locations.

Swisher County

**4 E Tulia to
6 ESE Tulia**

22	0945CST	0	0	0	0	Flash Flood
	1130CST					

Local officials closed portions of Texas Highway 86 east of Tulia due to flowing flood waters. More than six inches of running water inundated the driving surface. Other secondary roadways in the area were impacted by flash flooding, including Farm to Market Roads 2141 and 1318.

August 22 Flash Flood Event Summary: Scattered thunderstorms produced very heavy rainfall over the northern South Plains and the extreme southern Texas Panhandle during the morning hours of the 22nd. Localized flash flooding presented a threat to motorists over portions of Castro and Swisher Counties. Local officials closed a number of roads in the area due to flowing flood waters.



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TEXAS, South Panhandle

The line of previously severe storms over western Cottle County weakened as they approached Paducah. However, another severe storm quickly developed over southeastern Cottle County and propagated northwestward. This resulted in a cell merger just south of Paducah. A series of damaging downbursts followed the merger, and resulted in approximately \$220,000 worth of damage in the Paducah vicinity.

Damaging winds estimated to exceed 80 mph initially impacted the Paducah Country Club just southeast of the city at 16:47 CST. These winds peeled tin roofs off of several light-weight structures, and snapped eleven medium voltage utility poles. Tree and utility damage continued northwestward along Farm to Market Road 1038 into the city, where numerous poorly constructed homes and businesses sustained damage. Residents of Paducah and surrounding areas were without power through the night. No injuries were reported.

Bailey County **3 W Muleshoe**

26	1805CST	0	0	0	0	0	0	Hail(0.75)
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The Bailey County Sheriff's Office reported three-quarter inch size hail just west of Muleshoe along Farm to Market Road 1731.

Bailey County **Maple**

26	1940CST 1945CST	0	0	0	0	0	0	Hail(1.00)
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Cochran County **Morton**

26	2020CST	0	0	0	0	0	0	Hail(0.75)
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August 26 Severe Thunderstorm Event Summary: Scattered thunderstorms initially developed over the central South Plains region of west Texas during the afternoon hours of the 26th. These storms produced locally intense downpours and damaging thunderstorm winds as they propagated eastward over the eastern South Plains and the northern Rolling Plains. The most significant impacts were in Paducah, where destructive winds estimated to exceed 80 mph caused widespread damage to light weight structures and extended power outages.

At least two isolated miniature supercell thunderstorms developed over the extreme southwestern Texas Panhandle and the northwestern South Plains during the evening hours. These storms produced large hail up to the size of quarters over parts of Bailey and Cochran Counties.

Hale County **5 N Petersburg**

27	1735CST	0	0	0	100K	0	0	Hail(0.88)
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A farmer reported nickel size hail north of Petersburg. The hail caused minor damage to area cotton crops

Hale County **6 W Petersburg**

27	1755CST	0	0	3K	0	0	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
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A farmer reported that severe thunderstorm winds damaged an eight-inch diameter aluminum irrigation pipe when it was blown out of a cotton field and across Farm to Market Road 54 west of Petersburg.

Floyd County **South Plains**

27	1815CST	0	0	0	150K	0	0	Hail(0.88)
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Local agricultural officials reported that large hail up to the size of nickels resulted in damage to cotton crops near South Plains

Parmer County **2 NE Friona to Friona**

27	2320CST 2350CST	0	0	30K	0	0	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG56)
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A complex of severe thunderstorms propagated southeastward over the extreme southwestern Texas Panhandle during the late evening hours of the 27th. This activity resulted in damaging winds near Friona. A 64 mph wind gust was measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site just northeast of the city at 23:20 CST. The Parmer County Sheriff's Office reported estimated winds between 60 and 70 mph between 23:30 and 23:50 CST. These winds damaged multiple light weight structures and downed utility lines across the city. At least two large carpools were destroyed by the winds. Three additional structures suffered moderate roof damage, including a large grain elevator. Electrical services were finally restored to the city around 03:00 CST on the 28th. No injuries were reported.



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TEXAS, South Panhandle

August 27 Severe Thunderstorm Event Summary: Isolated severe thunderstorms affected the central South Plains of west Texas during the late afternoon and early evening hours of the 27th. These storms resulted in large hail and severe winds that damaged cotton crops and light weight farm equipment.

A complex of strong to severe thunderstorms propagated southeastward over the extreme southwestern Texas Panhandle during the late evening hours. This activity resulted in minor structural damage in Friona. Total damages for the August 27 event were estimated to be more than \$280,000.