

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - April 2008

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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TEXAS, South Panhandle

(TX-Z037) DICKENS, (TX-Z042) GARZA

04/16/08 13:30 CST			0.10M	Wildfire
04/17/08 07:00 CST			0	

HOCKLEY COUNTY --- 4.0 S LEVELLAND [33.52, -102.37]

04/16/08 16:15 CST			0	Dust Devil
04/16/08 16:15 CST			0	Source: Mesonet

An anomalous severe wind gust was measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet station south of Levelland at 16:15 CST on the 16th. Texas Tech meteorologists interviewed witnesses in the area who described observing a well-developed dust devil at the site. The peak wind gust was measured at 58 mph.

Very windy conditions combined with an extremely dry airmass to promote weather favorable for wildfire development over much of the west Texas South Plains during the late afternoon hours on the 16th.

Southwesterly winds were sustained at speeds between 25 and 35 mph over the region. An anomalous severe wind gust, however, was recorded by the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station in Hockley County. Witnesses attributed the gust to a well-developed dust devil that was sighted south of Levelland.

At least three grassland fires were sparked in an airmass characterized by relative humidities around five percent in Dickens and Garza County. With the exceptionally dry air and strong winds, these fires quickly grew to consume an estimated 4,000 acres. No structures were damaged in the fires.

The Garza County wildfire was ignited by a welder on a ranch south of Post during the afternoon hours of the 16th. By mid evening the fire had consumed more than 1,500 acres. The fire crossed Farm to Market Road 669, which was closed by local officials between Gail and Post for more than two hours. Oil lines were destroyed east of Farm to Market Road 669. Eight volunteer fire departments from surrounding communities along with air assets from the Texas Forest Service assisted in firefighting efforts. No injuries were reported.

In addition, two large wildfires burned nearly 2,500 acres in Dickens County. These fires required firefighting operations from multiple agencies. A fire near McAdoo burned an estimated 1,800 acres. No significant damage or injuries were reported.

All wildfires on the South Plains were contained around sunrise on the 17th, when increasing moisture levels overspread the area in the wake of a passing cold front.

(TX-Z036) CROSBY

04/15/08 15:20 CST			0	Wildfire
04/16/08 06:00 CST			0	

A wildfire burned an estimated 2,000 acres in northeastern Crosby County near the intersection of Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, and Motley Counties. The fire remained in rough canyon terrain, where it burned through the nighttime hours. No damage or injuries were reported.

(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z025) HALL, (TX-Z026) CHILDRESS, (TX-Z027) BAILEY, (TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM

04/01/08 08:55 CST			0.14M	High Wind (MAX 63 kt)
04/01/08 15:30 CST		3	0	

A potent storm system propagated eastward over the Southern Plains of the U.S. on the 10th and resulted in a widespread high wind and blowing dust event over much of the west Texas South Plains. Sustained wind speeds of 40 mph were common with gusts up to 72 mph recorded per the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet and the KVII-TV Schoolnet. These winds caused widespread tree and utility line damage. Structures sustained roof damage in Muleshoe (Bailey County), three semi-trucks were blown off of Interstate 27 near Abernathy (Hale County), and another truck was blown over on Texas Highway 214 just south of Friona (Parmer County). Both the driver of the damaged truck in Parmer County and one truck driver in Hale County were transported to local hospitals for treatment of minor injuries.

Measured severe wind gusts observed across the South Plains included: 72 mph at Lazbuddie (Parmer County), 71 mph at Friona (Parmer County), 68 mph at Hart (Castro County), 67 mph at Tulia (Swisher County), 65 mph at Anton (Hockley County), 65 mph at Dimmitt (Castro County), 65 mph at Silverton (Briscoe County), 64 mph Amherst (Lamb County), 64 mph at Muleshoe (Bailey County), 63 mph at

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Plainview (Hale County), 62 mph at Turkey (Hall County), 60 mph at Abernathy (Hale County), 60 mph at Childress (Childress County), 60 mph at Floydada (Floyd County), and 58 mph at Olton (Lamb County).

(TX-Z038) KING, (TX-Z042) GARZA

04/03/08 14:00 CST	0	Wildfire
04/06/08 12:00 CST	0	

Extremely dry and breezy weather conditions during the first week of April led to active wildfire activity across the South Plains of west Texas, with at least a half dozen relatively small wildfires reportedly ignited across the region.

A large wildfire that started during the afternoon hours of the 3rd east of Post (Garza County) scorched more than 4,000 before it was contained after midday on the 4th. Although the fire forced a number of road closures, no damage or injuries were reported.

Another complex of wildfires grew to destroy more than 33,000 acres of rangeland in King County during the late afternoon hours of the 5th. The massive fire also resulted in several roadway closures, but no damage or injuries were reported. Local volunteer fire departments and the Texas Forest Service contained the fire on the 6th.

(TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z040) TERRY

04/15/08 00:00 CST	0	Drought
04/30/08 23:59 CST	0	

Dry weather conditions began to overspread much of southwestern Texas and southern New Mexico during late 2007, and persisted into the spring season of 2008. By mid April, severe (D2) drought was observed over the southwestern South Plains of west Texas. These severe drought conditions were relatively short-lived, with the onset of meaningful wetting rains occurring by the first week of May.

Since the short duration severe drought occurred before the beginning of the region's agricultural growing season, no economic losses were reported. Local agricultural officials reported that sub-surface moisture remained favorable for cotton production despite the drought conditions.

SWISHER COUNTY --- TULIA [34.53, -101.77]

04/09/08 05:15 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
04/09/08 05:15 CST	0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue

Multiple reports from local officials and the public indicated that large hail fell in Tulia around 05:15 CST. The hail stones reportedly ranged in size from nickels to quarters.

COTTLE COUNTY --- SWEARINGEN [34.15, -100.15]

04/09/08 08:14 CST	10K	Hail (1.75 in)
04/09/08 08:14 CST	0	Source: Public

The public reported golfball size hail in Swearingen. At least one home received minor roof damage.

DICKENS COUNTY --- DICKENS [33.62, -100.83]

04/09/08 08:32 CST	0	Hail (1.25 in)
04/09/08 08:32 CST	0	Source: Public

Half dollar size hail was reported by the public in Dickens shortly after 08:30 CST.

KING COUNTY --- DUMONT [33.82, -100.52]

04/09/08 09:05 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
04/09/08 09:05 CST	0	Source: Public

Quarter size hail was reported in Dumont.

Scattered thunderstorms developed as warm and moist air moved north over the South Plains of west Texas in advance of a strong upper air storm system during the morning hours of the 9th. Some of these thunderstorms became strong enough to produce large hail up to the size of golfballs. The largest hail stones caused minor roof damage to at least one home in Swearingen (Cottle County).

COTTLE COUNTY --- 10.0 SW PADUCAH [33.92, -100.42], 10.0 N PADUCAH [34.16, -100.30]

04/09/08 19:23 CST	0	Hail (0.75 in)
04/09/08 19:43 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

Penny size hail fell along a swath from just north of Delwin to north of Paducah along U.S. Highway 62/83.

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CHILDRESS COUNTY --- 4.0 SE CHILDRESS [34.38, -100.15]				
	04/09/08 20:08 CST		0	Hail (1.75 in)
	04/09/08 20:08 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement
Law enforcement officials reported quarter to golfball size hail between Childress and Kirkland on U.S. Highway 287. No damage was reported.				
CROSBY COUNTY --- CROSBYTON [33.67, -101.25], 5.0 S LORENZO [33.60, -101.53]				
	04/09/08 20:25 CST		0	Hail (1.75 in)
	04/09/08 21:03 CST		0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue
A cluster of severe thunderstorms produced large hail that ranged in size from pennies to golfballs over western and central Crosby County. Quarter size hail was initially reported in Crosbyton at 20:25 CST. At 20:45, golfball size hail was reported both in Lorenzo and south of the city. By 20:41 CST, penny to quarter size hail was reported in Ralls. Hail fall persisted in Ralls until 21:03 CST. No damage was reported.				
LUBBOCK COUNTY --- SLATON [33.43, -101.65]				
	04/09/08 20:32 CST		0	Hail (1.50 in)
	04/09/08 20:34 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
Large hail that ranged in size between quarters and ping pong balls was reported in Slaton. No damage was reported.				
COTTLE COUNTY --- 1.0 N PADUCAH [34.03, -100.30]				
	04/09/08 21:00 CST		0	Hail (1.75 in)
	04/09/08 21:00 CST		0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue
Local fire department officials reported golfball size hail just north of Paducah along U.S. Highway 62/83 at 21:00 CST. No damage was reported.				
KENT COUNTY --- 2.0 W JAYTON [33.25, -100.61], JAYTON [33.25, -100.58]				
	04/09/08 21:20 CST		0	Hail (0.88 in)
	04/09/08 21:35 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement
Local officials reported nickel size hail in and around Jayton.				
MOTLEY COUNTY --- ROARING SPGS [33.90, -100.85]				
	04/09/08 21:20 CST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
	04/09/08 21:20 CST		0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue
The Matador Fire Department reported hail up to three-quarter inch diameter in Roaring Springs.				
Scattered convection again developed over the South Plains of west Texas during the evening hours of the 9th. Some thunderstorms became severe and produced large hail up to the size of golfballs. No significant damage was reported.				
LAMB COUNTY --- LITTLEFIELD [33.92, -102.32]				
	04/23/08 10:00 CST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
	04/23/08 10:00 CST		0	Source: Public
Penny size hail was reported in Littlefield at 10:00 CST.				
HOCKLEY COUNTY --- 6.0 SSW ANTON [33.74, -102.21], ANTON [33.82, -102.17]				
	04/23/08 10:30 CST		0	Heavy Rain
	04/23/08 11:15 CST		0	Source: NWS Storm Survey
Very heavy rainfall rates accompanied a wet downburst just south of Anton around 11:00 CST. The Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site south of the city recorded a short duration burst of rainfall and damaging thunderstorm winds. The site recorded 1.24 inches of precipitation, however, local news reports suggest that portions of Anton proper picked up between 2.70 and 3.00 inches of rainfall. Storm surveys conducted by National Weather Service meteorologists the following day concluded that water spilled from a swollen playa lake and covered portions of Farm to Market Road 168 south of Anton.				
HOCKLEY COUNTY --- 6.0 SSW ANTON [33.74, -102.21], 4.4 SSW ANTON [33.76, -102.20]				
	04/23/08 10:44 CST		15K	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 58 kt)
	04/23/08 10:46 CST		0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

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<p>A Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site southwest of Anton recorded a severe thunderstorm wind gust of 67 mph at 10:45 CST. Meteorologists from Texas Tech and the National Weather Service later surveyed the area, and discovered minor wind damage to the mesonet station and its instrumentation. Additionally, two wooden utility poles were blown down and snapped near their base approximately one mile north of the damaged mesonet station near Texas Highway 168. A center pivot irrigation system also sustained minor damage.</p>				
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PARMER COUNTY --- FARWELL [34.38, -103.03]				
	04/23/08 12:30 CST	0		Hail (1.75 in)
	04/23/08 12:30 CST	0		Source: County Official
<p>County officials reported that golfball size hail fell at the Parmer County Courthouse in Farwell. No damage was reported.</p>				
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PARMER COUNTY --- 4.0 W BOVINA [34.52, -102.97], 7.0 S BLACK [34.58, -102.62]				
	04/23/08 15:15 CST	0		Hail (1.75 in)
	04/23/08 15:52 CST	0		Source: Broadcast Media
<p>Local broadcast media storm chasers and law enforcement officials relayed multiple reports of large hail along a swath from west of Bovina to south of Black. Storm chasers initially encountered nickel size hail along Farm to Market Road 2290 west of Bovina at 15:15 CST. As the chasers drove eastward out of Bovina on Texas Highway 86, hail stones increased in size to between quarters and golfballs. Local authorities additionally reported penny size hail near Friona. By 15:52, quarter size hail reportedly covered Farm to Market Road 1172 south of Black. No damage was reported.</p>				
<p>Severe thunderstorms impacted a large portion of west Texas on the 23rd. The west Texas South Plains was impacted by storms that developed just north of a stationary frontal boundary. Storms south of this boundary over the west Texas Permian Basin produced a number of tornadoes. Severe weather modes, however, favored large hail and an isolated damaging downburst in the more stable low-level air north of the boundary over the South Plains.</p>				
<p>Thunderstorms developed before midday, and quickly produced large hail up to the size of golfballs. A downburst near Anton in northeastern Hockley County resulted in minor flooding of low lying areas and damage to an automated weather station and two utility poles. Winds associated with the downburst were measured up to 67 mph per the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet.</p>				
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CROSBY COUNTY --- 6.2 NNE KALGARY [33.48, -101.10]				
	04/26/08 18:00 CST	0		Hail (1.75 in)
	04/26/08 18:04 CST	0		Source: Park/Forest Service
<p>Park rangers reported golfball size hail at White River Lake. No damage was reported.</p>				
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GARZA COUNTY --- 11.0 NW POST [33.29, -101.51]				
	04/26/08 18:20 CST	0		Hail (1.25 in)
	04/26/08 18:30 CST	0		Source: Trained Spotter
<p>Storm spotters reported penny to half dollar size hail along U.S. Highway 84 between Southland and Post.</p>				
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(TX-Z022) CASTRO				
	04/26/08 18:59 CST	0		High Wind (MAX 50 kt)
	04/26/08 18:59 CST	0		
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KENT COUNTY --- JAYTON [33.25, -100.58]				
	04/26/08 19:02 CST	0		Hail (0.75 in)
	04/26/08 19:02 CST	0		Source: Law Enforcement
<p>Local law enforcement officials reported penny size hail in Jayton.</p>				
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GARZA COUNTY --- POST [33.18, -101.38]				
	04/26/08 19:13 CST	0		Hail (0.75 in)
	04/26/08 19:13 CST	0		Source: Law Enforcement
<p>The Garza County Sheriff's Office reported penny size hail in Post.</p>				
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KENT COUNTY --- 4.0 NW POLAR [33.06, -101.05]				
	04/26/08 19:53 CST	0		Hail (1.25 in)
	04/26/08 19:53 CST	0		Source: Law Enforcement

The Garza County Constable and a Texas Park Ranger reported half dollar size hail at Lake Alan Henry.

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Isolated to scattered thunderstorms developed along and east of a dryline over the eastern South Plains and Rolling Plains of west Texas during the evening hours of the 26th. Some of these storms exhibited low precipitation supercell characteristics and produced large hail up to the size of golfballs. No significant damage was reported.

In addition, a cold front swept southward over the Texas Panhandle during the evening hours. The Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site near Dimmitt recorded a severe wind gust in association with the frontal passage at 18:59 CST. No wind damage was reported.