

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2009

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
----------	-----------	-------------------	---------------------	------------------------

TEXAS, South Panhandle

(TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z032) COTTLE, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z037) DICKENS, (TX-Z040) TERRY, (TX-Z041) LYNN, (TX-Z042) GARZA

01/05/09 02:00 CST	0.15M	Winter Weather
01/05/09 10:00 CST	0	

The month of January began with unseasonably warm temperatures across west Texas, as daytime highs topped out in the 70s during the first three days of the month. Temperatures, however, plunged on the 4th as a shallow cold Canadian airmass invaded the South Plains. Southerly winds above the low-level cold dome intensified in advance of an approaching storm system during the pre-dawn hours of the 5th, and the weak "upglide" atop the cold air was sufficient to produce a band of light freezing rain and sleet across the southeastern South Plains and the Rolling Plains.

Although the wintry precipitation was very light, with measurable amounts between a trace and 0.05 inches, ambient air temperatures in the lower to mid 20s allowed the dampness to freeze upon roadways and elevated surfaces. The icy Monday morning commute contributed to more than 100 automobile accidents in Lubbock (Lubbock County). No injuries were reported.

(TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z025) HALL, (TX-Z026) CHILDRRESS, (TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z037) DICKENS, (TX-Z040) TERRY, (TX-Z041) LYNN, (TX-Z042) GARZA

01/26/09 10:00 CST	3.26M	Winter Weather
01/27/09 15:00 CST	0	

A cold Canadian airmass pushed southward over the west Texas South Plains on the 25th and dropped temperatures into the 20s across the region. Widespread clouds and freezing fog transitioned to a light wintry mix of snow, sleet, freezing rain, and freezing drizzle by midday on the 26th. Intermittent precipitation fell over the area through the 27th, with total accumulations that ranged between one and two tenths of an inch.

Automobile accidents were reported in Childress, Hale, Hall, Hockley, Garza, Lubbock, and Terry Counties. One man was injured in a single vehicle roll over near Brownfield (Terry County). Weather was attributed to nearly a dozen accidents in Garza County, but no injuries were reported.

An ATR-42 twin turboprop cargo aircraft landed short of the runway in the adverse weather conditions at 04:37 CST on the 27th at Lubbock's Preston Smith International Airport. A fire developed onboard the airplane after impact and the aircraft and its cargo were destroyed. The pilot and co-pilot were transferred to a local hospital with injuries.

In all, the light wintry precipitation resulted in nearly \$3.25 million dollars in damages and three injuries.

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2009

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
----------	-----------	-------------------	---------------------	------------------------



A ATR-42 turboprop aircraft landed short of the runway in icy conditions at Lubbock's Preston Smith International Airport early on the 27th. Photo courtesy: Jody James - National Weather Service - Lubbock, Texas.

(TX-Z026) CHILDRESS, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z032) COTTLE, (TX-Z037) DICKENS, (TX-Z038) KING, (TX-Z042) GARZA, (TX-Z043) KENT, (TX-Z044) STONEWALL

01/27/09 00:00 CST	0	Drought
01/31/09 23:59 CST	0	

Despite a wet summer and early fall of 2008, precipitation was scarce over the west Texas South Plains region from late October 2008 through January 2009. Severe (D2) drought developed over the Rolling Plains during late January, where measurable precipitation had totalled less than three-tenths of an inch on average during the previous three months. This represents only a tenth of climatological average precipitation for the Rolling Plains for the November-December-January timeframe.

Soils and grasses across the Rolling Plains became very dry by the last week of January, and planting of some cool season crops was delayed. The increasing drought situation presented a high fire danger, but no major wildfire activity was observed during the month of January. Local agricultural experts believe that heavy rainfall last fall has resulted in sufficient soil moisture to benefit the upcoming warm season growing season, but only if precipitation increases in the coming months.