

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2009

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

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

02/01/09 00:00 CST	0	Drought
02/11/09 10:00 CST	5M	

Despite a wet summer and early fall of 2008, precipitation was scarce over the west Texas South Plains region from late October 2008 through February 2009. Severe (D2) drought developed over the Rolling Plains during late January and persisted through February. The only meaningful precipitation to occur since October fell over the South Plains region on 9 February, when most locations totaled between one half inch to one inch of rain. Yet most communities across the South Plains remained at 10% to 20% of their long term precipitation averages during the November-December-January-February timeframe, and the state of Texas as a whole experienced its driest December-February period on record.

Soils and grasses across the Rolling Plains were very dry during February, and conditions precluded the planting of some cool season crops including winter wheat. Local agricultural officials report that many South Plains cotton farmers planted wheat following last spring's cotton losses which were brought on by persistent blowing dust and hail. Most, if not all, of those wheat crops were lost during the recent drought.

State agricultural officials estimate that cattle losses related to the drought will exceed \$1 billion. Only a fraction of those losses occurred on the South Plains with most of the land usage locally being for cotton production. Local cotton experts remain optimistic that soil moisture profiles remain favorable following the September-early October rains, but suggest that normal springtime rainfalls will be critical to the success of the upcoming season's cotton crops.

The drought situation presented a high fire danger, but no major wildfire activity was observed during the month of February. Nineteen South Plains region counties had declared burn bans by the end of February.

The total economic impact across the South Plains region is estimated at \$5 million.

#### YOAKUM COUNTY --- 2.2 NNW ALLRED [33.01, -102.93]

02/08/09 19:15 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 60 kt)
02/08/09 19:25 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

The Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site west of Denver City recorded severe thunderstorm gusts up to 69 mph between 17:15 and 17:25 CST. No damage was reported.

#### COCHRAN COUNTY --- BLEDSOE [33.62, -103.02]

02/08/09 19:24 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 56 kt)
02/08/09 19:24 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

The broadcast media relayed a report of thunderstorm wind gusts estimated up to 65 mph at Bledsoe. No damage was reported.

#### PARMER COUNTY --- FRIONA [34.63, -102.73]

02/08/09 19:39 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 61 kt)
02/08/09 19:39 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

The KVII-TV Schoolnet measured a severe thunderstorm wind gust of 70 mph at 19:35 CST in Friona. No damage was reported.

#### HOCKLEY COUNTY --- 6.0 SSW ANTON [33.74, -102.21]

02/08/09 20:25 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
02/08/09 20:25 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

The Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site southwest of Anton recorded a severe thunderstorm wind gust of 58 mph at 20:35 CST. No damage was reported.

#### LAMB COUNTY --- OLTON [34.18, -102.13]

02/08/09 20:25 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 59 kt)
02/08/09 20:25 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

A KAMC-TV weather station in Olton recorded a severe thunderstorm wind gust of 68 mph at 20:25 CST. No damage was reported.

**Severe thunderstorms erupted near a dryline over eastern New Mexico during the afternoon hours of the 8th. These storms quickly**

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evolved into a squall line and raced eastward across the west Texas South Plains. Occasional severe wind gusts up to 70 mph accompanied the line of storms as it impacted the western portions of the South Plains. No significant damage was reported.



*Lightning illuminated the skies over Lubbock as a squall line moved eastward from Hockley County during the evening hours of the 8th. Photo courtesy: Todd Lindley - National Weather Service - Lubbock, Texas.*

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**(TX-Z039) YOAKUM**

	02/10/09 15:35 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 36 kt)
	02/10/09 18:15 CST	0	

A potent upper air storm system ejected over the southern Rockies late on the 10th, and resulted in blowing dust and strong westerly winds over the South Plains of west Texas. Winds reached sustained speeds of up to 41 mph as measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site at Denver City (Yoakum County). No damage was reported.

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**(TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z025) HALL, (TX-Z026) CHILDRESS, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY**

	02/21/09 01:00 CST	1M	High Wind (MAX 57 kt)
	02/21/09 02:15 CST	0	

A strong Canadian cold front swept southward over the west Texas region during the very early morning hours of the 21st. Winds associated with the front were generally sustained in the 30 mph range, however, a few severe gusts were measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet and the KVII-TV Schoolnet.

The winds, which peaked as high as 66 mph at Memphis (Hall County), caused significant damage on the Memphis High School campus. The roof was partially peeled off of the gymnasium. Damages to the facility were estimated at \$1 million. The winds additionally caused blowing dust which reduced visibilities to as low as two miles. No injuries were reported.

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*High winds in the wake of a frontal passage tore a large section off of the Memphis High School gymnasium in Hall County during the very early morning hours of the 21st. Photo forwarded by: Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet.*

(TX-Z021) PARMER

02/27/09 21:05 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 59 kt)
02/27/09 22:00 CST	0	

A strong cold frontal passage resulted in severe northerly winds over portions of the extreme southwestern Texas Panhandle during the evening hours of the 27th. The Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet station near Friona recorded a peak gust of 68 mph at 21:10 CST, and measured intermittent sustained wind speeds of 40 mph or greater between 21:05 CST and 22:00 CST. No damages were reported.