

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2009

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

TEXAS, South Panhandle

(TX-Z038) KING, (TX-Z043) KENT, (TX-Z044) STONEWALL

05/01/09 00:00 CST	0	Drought
05/31/09 23:59 CST	6M	

Despite a wet summer and early fall of 2008, precipitation was scarce over the west Texas South Plains region, especially over the southern Rolling Plains from late October 2008 through May 2009. Severe (D2) drought initially developed over the Rolling Plains during late January 2009. By mid April 2009, several widespread rain events had helped to provide a temporary reprieve of drought conditions over most of the area. The area impacted by Severe (2) drought had lessened over the southern Rolling Plains. However, May 2009 saw a low coverage and intensity of convective rainfalls as compared to climatology. Thus, with long-term rainfall deficits on the increase, drought conditions intensified to Extreme (D3) drought over the southern Rolling Plains of West Texas by the end of May.

Severe (D2) drought was ongoing over Kent, King, and Stonewall Counties at the beginning of May. Rainfall deficits for the previous six month period increased to between four and six inches over the southern Rolling Plains by the end of the month. These deficits represented 40% to 50% of climatological averages.

Following the failure of winter wheat crops in previous months, agricultural impacts in May began to include delays in cotton planting -the area's primary industry. Local cotton experts reported that the lack of wetting rainfall events in May made it difficult for farmers to plant. However, the lack of rainfall would not become critical until early June, when crop insurance deadlines required cotton crops to be in the fields.

State agricultural officials estimate that cattle losses related to the drought will exceed \$1 billion. Only a fraction of those losses occurred in the South Plains region with most of the land usage locally being for cotton production.

The total economic impact across the South Plains region in May was estimated at \$6 million with approximately \$24 million dollars of economic loss occurring locally since the onset of severe (D2) drought conditions in January 2009.

KING COUNTY --- 15.0 ESE GUTHRIE [33.54, -100.09]

05/01/09 15:45 CST	5K	Hail (0.75 in)
05/01/09 15:45 CST	0	Source: Public

Motorists reported that hail was sufficiently large to lightly damage a vehicle along U.S. Highway 82 east-southeast of Guthrie. The exact hail size is unknown, therefore a minimal severe size estimate is assigned here.

Isolated strong to severe thunderstorms impacted the eastern and southern Rolling Plains region of west Texas during the afternoon and evening hours of the 1st. One storm, located near a cold front and dryline triple point, produced large hail over U.S. Highway 82 east-southeast of Guthrie.

(TX-Z027) BAILEY

05/12/09 16:00 CST	20K	Wildfire
05/12/09 19:00 CST	0	

SWISHER COUNTY --- KRESS [34.37, -101.75], 3.0 W VIGO PARK [34.65, -101.53]

05/12/09 16:59 CST	50K	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 51 kt)
05/12/09 17:25 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

Downburst activity was associated with both a hail producing severe storm near Happy and with high-based and weaker convection that extended southward along the Interstate 27 corridor to near Kress. Strong winds and blinding dust reportedly contributed to at least one automobile accident along Interstate 27 near Kress at 16:59 CST. Although two vehicles were involved in the collision, no injuries were reported. The Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site near Tulia recorded a 59 mph thunderstorm wind gust at 17:20 CST. In addition, a delayed report was received from a VORTEX II field research project participant who reported that severe thunderstorm winds had downed utility lines along Farm to Market Road 2698 west of Vigo Park.

SWISHER COUNTY --- HAPPY [34.73, -101.85], 4.0 SSE HAPPY [34.68, -101.82]

05/12/09 17:17 CST	0	Hail (1.25 in)
05/12/09 17:23 CST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

Local law enforcement officials and storm chasers reported quarter to half dollar size hail along Interstate 27 near Happy.

HALL COUNTY --- 1.0 SSE TURKEY [34.39, -100.87], 1.0 ENE TURKEY [34.41, -100.86]

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2009

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
	05/12/09 17:56 CST		0	Hail (1.75 in)
	05/12/09 17:58 CST		0	Source: Storm Chaser

Multiple reports of nickel to golfball size hail were received by storm chasers in the vicinity of Turkey. No damage was reported.

MOTLEY COUNTY --- 10.0 NW MATADOR [34.12, -100.94]

	05/12/09 18:30 CST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
	05/12/09 18:30 CST		0	Source: COOP Observer

A National Weather Service cooperative observer reported penny size hail northwest of Matador.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 2.6 WSW LUBBOCK [33.56, -101.89]

	05/12/09 18:35 CST		2K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 48 kt)
	05/12/09 18:35 CST		0	Source: Public

Minor wind damage was reported in parts of south-central Lubbock as dry microburst wind activity impacted the city. Tree limbs were reportedly blown down by winds estimated near 55 mph by the public at 85th and Indiana. A satellite dish was blown off of a roof and a dog house was overturned. No significant damage or injuries were reported.

CHILDRESS COUNTY --- (CDS)CHILDRESS ARPT [34.43, -100.30], 2.0 NNE CHILDRESS [34.45, -100.19]

	05/12/09 18:41 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 56 kt)
	05/12/09 19:04 CST		0	Source: ASOS

Both the Childress Municipal Airport Automated Surface Observation System and the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site northeast of Childress recorded severe wind gusts as thunderstorms impacted the Childress vicinity around 19:00 CST on the 12th.

A thunderstorm wind gust of 60 mph was initially measured at the airport at 18:41 CST. The mesonet site later recorded a gust of 65 mph at 19:04 CST. Storm chasers observed a number of gustnado-type vortices around the parent severe thunderstorm. No damage was reported.

MOTLEY COUNTY --- 3.0 SSW NORTHFIELD [34.24, -100.62]

	05/12/09 18:58 CST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
	05/12/09 18:58 CST		0	Source: Public

The public reported penny size hail along Farm to Market Road 94 just south-southwest of Northfield.

KENT COUNTY --- GIRARD [33.35, -100.67]

	05/12/09 19:15 CST		0	Hail (0.88 in)
	05/12/09 19:15 CST		0	Source: Public

Nickel size hail was reported in Girard.

COTTLE COUNTY --- 2.0 N CEE VEE [34.25, -100.45], 8.0 E CEE VEE [34.22, -100.31]

	05/12/09 19:17 CST		0	Hail (1.75 in)
	05/12/09 19:37 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

Multiple reports of large hail that ranged in size from pennies to golfballs were received from areas near Cee Vee to the east of Cee Vee along U.S. Highway 83. No damage was reported.

CHILDRESS COUNTY --- 1.0 W CHILDRESS [34.42, -100.22]

	05/12/09 19:37 CST		0	Hail (0.88 in)
	05/12/09 19:37 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

Skywarn storm spotters reported nickel size hail near Childress.

KING COUNTY --- 10.0 WSW GUTHRIE [33.56, -100.49]

	05/12/09 19:40 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
	05/12/09 19:40 CST		0	Source: Mesonet

A Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site measured a 58 mph thunderstorm wind gust southwest of Guthrie. No damage was reported.

KING COUNTY --- 10.0 SW GUTHRIE [33.52, -100.45], 20.0 ESE GUTHRIE [33.51, -100.01]

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2009

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
	05/12/09 19:45 CST		0	Hail (0.88 in)
	05/12/09 20:05 CST		0	Source: Public

A National Weather Service cooperative observer reported nickel size hail near Southcamp (10 miles southwest of Guthrie) at 19:45 CST. The public additionally reported penny size hail along Farm to Market Road 222 in extreme eastern King County at 20:05 CST.

Isolated to scattered thunderstorms impacted the South Plains of west Texas during the late afternoon and evening hours of the 12th.

Storms initially developed west of a dryline over the central South Plains after 17:00 CST. This activity resulted in damaging dry microbursts along the Interstate 27 corridor in Swisher and Lubbock Counties. As thunderstorms increased in coverage and moved eastward over the Rolling Plains, numerous reports of large hail up to the size of golfballs were received.

In addition to the impacts from severe convection, dry lightning sparked a 1,250 acre fire south of Muleshoe (Bailey County). The fire remained in open range land and only damaged utility poles and fences.



A gustnado was documented by storm chasers northwest of Childress at 19:00 CST. Wind gusts up to 65 mph were measured as the parent severe thunderstorm impacted the Childress vicinity. Photo courtesy: Andreas Kollmohr - storm chaser.

HOCKLEY COUNTY --- 6.0 NW ROPESVILLE [33.48, -102.22]

05/15/09 15:45 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
05/15/09 15:45 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

A Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet meteorologist estimated that wind gusts reached 60 mph northwest of Ropesville at 15:45 CST. These winds resulted from high-based convection that produced a series of dry downbursts and were accompanied by blowing dust that reduced visibility to near zero. No damage was reported.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- REESE VLG [33.60, -102.02], LUBBOCK INTL ARPT [33.67, -101.82]

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2009

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
	05/15/09 15:45 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 55 kt)
	05/15/09 16:17 CST		0	Source: Mesonet

Severe wind gusts generated by dry microbursts accompanied high-based thunderstorm activity over the Lubbock vicinity around 16:00 CST on the 15th. A 63 mph gust was initially measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site at Reese Center at 15:45 CST and a 60 mph gust was later measured there at 16:00 CST. The parent convection and associated winds spread northeastward over the Lubbock area and a 59 mph gust was measured by the Automated Surface Observing System at Lubbock's Preston Smith International Airport at 16:17 CST. No damage were reported.

BRISCOE COUNTY --- 2.3 E QUITAQUE [34.37, -101.01]

05/15/09 15:55 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
05/15/09 15:55 CST	0	Source: Public

The public reported that severe thunderstorm winds broke a number of large tree limbs along U.S. Highway 83 just east of Quitaque. The event time is estimated.

CHILDRESS COUNTY --- KIRKLAND [34.38, -100.07]

05/15/09 19:00 CST	0	Hail (0.88 in)
05/15/09 19:00 CST	0	Source: COOP Observer

Nickel size hail was reported by a National Weather Service cooperative observer in Kirkland. The report was delayed and the time is estimated.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 2.0 NE SLATON [33.45, -101.63]

05/15/09 19:05 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
05/15/09 19:05 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

Downburst activity in the Lubbock vicinity produced a severe wind gust near Slaton where the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet recorded a 58 mph peak wind at 19:05 CST. No damage was reported.

COTTLE COUNTY --- 12.0 NE PADUCAH [34.14, -100.15]

05/15/09 19:56 CST	0	Hail (0.88 in)
05/15/09 19:56 CST	0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue

The Paducah Fire Department reported nickel size hail along Farm to Market Road 104 northeast of Paducah.

Scattered thunderstorms developed over the central and eastern South Plains during the late afternoon and evening hours of the 15th. Storms that initiated over the central portions of the Texas South Plains developed within a relatively dry environment and produced a series of dry downbursts. However, no significant damage was reported. Relatively higher values of atmospheric moisture content and instability resulted in a low-end severe hail threat for areas off of the Caprock. Hail up the size of nickels was reported in Childress and Cottle Counties.

HALE COUNTY --- 1.5 ENE PETERSBURG [33.88, -101.58], 1.5 ENE PETERSBURG [33.88, -101.57]

05/24/09 13:28 CST	0	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.17 mi , W: 25 yd)
05/24/09 13:32 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

The broadcast media relayed reports and photographs of a non-mesocyclonic tornado near Petersburg around 13:30 CST. Radar observations suggest the tornado was located just east of Petersburg near the Hale and Floyd County line where new convective development was occurring above an outflow boundary. Local officials reported no damage in the area.

FLOYD COUNTY --- 8.5 N DOUGHERTY [34.05, -101.08], 8.5 N DOUGHERTY [34.05, -101.08]

05/24/09 16:58 CST	0	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.25 mi , W: 75 yd)
05/24/09 17:03 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

The broadcast media relayed photographs of a tornado in extreme eastern Floyd County around 17:00 CST on the 24th. Radar observations suggest that the tornado occurred beneath newly developed convection along two colliding outflow boundaries north of U.S. Highway 62/70. The tornado and its parent thunderstorm visually appeared to be more organized than the earlier event in Hale County and may have grown upscale to obtain a weak mesocyclone. Hints of broad shear are evident in Doppler radar analysis. Local officials received no reports of damage in the mostly rural area near the Floyd and Motley County line.

Scattered thunderstorms developed over the South Plains region of west Texas during the afternoon hours of the 24th. Storm evolution was driven by small scale outflow boundaries. At least two storms had sufficient updrafts to stretch low level circulations along these boundaries to result in non-mesocyclonic tornadoes. No damage was reported.

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2009

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



A weak non-mesocyclonic tornado was photographed near Petersburg (Hale County) around 13:30 CST on the 24th. Photo courtesy: Karen Houchin - via KCBD-TV - Lubbock, Texas.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 4.0 E NEW DEAL [33.73, -101.76], IDALOU [33.67, -101.68]

05/26/09 19:30 CST	5K	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 54 kt)
05/26/09 19:43 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

A severe thunderstorm produced a swath of damaging winds from just east of New Deal to Idalou shortly after 19:30 CST on the 26th. Initial reports indicated that the winds broke a utility pole four miles east of New Deal along Farm to Market Road 1729. As the damaging winds spread southeastward, broadcast television automated reporting sites measured intermittent gusts up to 62 mph in the Idalou vicinity where severe wind gusts preceded large hail.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- IDALOU [33.67, -101.68]

05/26/09 19:50 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
05/26/09 19:50 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

Broadcast media relayed reports of large hail up to the size of quarters in Idalou. The hail was preceded by severe thunderstorm wind gusts up to 62 mph.

CROSBY COUNTY --- RALLS [33.68, -101.38]

05/26/09 20:16 CST	0	Hail (0.88 in)
05/26/09 20:16 CST	0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue

The Ralls Fire Department reported nickel size hail in Ralls at 20:16 CST.

High-based and disorganized convection developed over the western South Plains during the afternoon hours of the 26th. These

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2009

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

storms intensified as they moved eastward over the central South Plains during the evening hours and eventually resulted in a swath of damaging winds and large hail over parts of Lubbock and Crosby Counties. The most significant wind and hail was reported in northeastern Lubbock County where at least one utility pole was blown down east of New Deal. Gusts up to 62 mph and quarter size hail were measured at Idalou.



A severe thunderstorm produced large hail and damaging winds over northern Lubbock County between 19:30 and 20:00 CST on the 26th. Photo courtesy: Todd Lindley - National Weather Service - Lubbock, Texas.