

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2009

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

### TEXAS, South Panhandle

(TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z042) GARZA

	12/01/09 05:00 CST		0.20M	Winter Weather
	12/02/09 03:00 CST		0	

(TX-Z030) FLOYD

	12/01/09 16:00 CST		0	Heavy Snow
	12/02/09 02:00 CST		0	

A mix of wintry precipitation began to fall over portions of the western South Plains during the pre-dawn hours on the 1st. Periods of mixed precipitation and occasional snow continued to overspread the region during the daytime hours until a band of heavier snowfall developed over the central South Plains during the evening hours and persisted into the early morning of the 2nd as a potent upper air storm system passed over the region. The heaviest snow fell along a narrow swath from near Hale Center (Hale County) to south of Floydada (Floyd County). Observers reported that between six and seven inches fell south of Floydada, but the maximum amount of snow on the ground was four inches. The wintry precipitation resulted in hazardous travel conditions that led to eighteen accidents in Lubbock, but reported incidents elsewhere were minimal.

A list of reported snow accumulations of one inch or greater follows:

Floydada Country Club (Floyd County)....4 inches, Ropesville (Hockley County)....3 inches, Floydada (Floyd County)....2 inches, Plainview (Hale County)....2 inches, Crosbyton (Crosby County)....1 inch, Denver City (Yoakum County)....1 inch, Levelland (Hockley County)....1 inch, Littlefield (Lamb County)....1 inch, Lubbock (Lubbock County)....1 inch, Southland (Garza County)....1 inch, Shallowater (Lubbock County)....1 inch.

(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z027) BAILEY, (TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM

	12/03/09 14:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	12/04/09 01:00 CST		0	

Snow began to fall over the extreme southwestern Panhandle and the northwestern South Plains during the daytime hours of the 3rd and spread southward over the remainder of the western South Plains during the evening hours. Snow subsided during the early morning hours of the 4th, but not before light accumulations had occurred. No inclement impacts were reported. A listing of reported accumulations of one inch or more follows:

Denver City (Yoakum County)....2 inches, Friona (Parmer County)....2 inches, Plains (Yoakum County)....2 inches, Morton (Cochran County)....2 inches, Muleshoe (Bailey County)....2 inches, Dimmitt (Castro County)....1 inch, Levelland (Hockley County)....1 inch.

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2009

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



*Light snow accumulations covered cotton bales near Denver City (Yoakum County) during winter weather on the 4th. Photo courtesy: Kristan Roberts - Denver City Press*

(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z027) BAILEY, (TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z040) TERRY, (TX-Z041) LYNN, (TX-Z042) GARZA	12/07/09 20:00 CST		1.13M	Winter Weather
	12/08/09 11:00 CST		0	

(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z025) HALL, (TX-Z027) BAILEY, (TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z040) TERRY	12/08/09 13:15 CST		0.88M	High Wind (MAX 63 kt)
	12/08/09 16:50 CST		0	

A very dynamic storm system resulted in a variety of weather hazards and significant public impacts on the west Texas South Plains during the late hours of the 7th and through the daytime hours of the 8th. The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal described the day's weather as a plague, saying "the only thing missing Tuesday (December 8th) was locusts".

Fog and drizzle became widespread during the evening of the 7th as warm air advected northward over the South Plains atop a shallow cold layer near the ground. By the late evening hours, freezing drizzle had begun to deposit a light ice glaze on many objects, including area roadways. By the morning of the 8th, travel conditions were hazardous across much of the region. More than 100 automobile accidents were reported in the city of Lubbock, with at least another 25 accidents reported on rural roadways. At least 22 persons were treated for minor injuries. Fortunately, no children were injured when a vehicle slid through the intersection of 42nd Street and Avenue L and collided with a school bus. Hockley County officials additionally reported two weather-related accidents that resulted in injuries. The icy conditions also resulted in the closure of Interstate 27 for a short time, and school sessions were delayed or cancelled in Floyd, Lynn, Crosby, Hockley, Garza, Lamb, Hale, and Terry Counties and at Texas Tech University.

The main lift associated with the upper level storm system approached around midday. This resulted in a narrow band of convective showers that produced sleet over the central parts of the South Plains, including the city of Lubbock, and accumulations were

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2009

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

observed.

By early afternoon, strong subsident air overspread west Texas as the parent upper air storm system translated east of the area, and the onset of intense westerly winds occurred. Tight pressure gradients resulted in wind gusts in excess of 70 mph over portions of the extreme southwestern Texas Panhandle, with gusts over 60 mph common elsewhere on the South Plains. These winds caused widespread damage to utilities and trees across the region. In fact, more than 5,000 area residents were without power during the course of the afternoon. A utility pole reportedly fell onto a car in Muleshoe (Bailey County), and a tree fell and damaged a home in Littlefield (Lamb County). In Yoakum County alone, more than 40 power poles were downed by the winds. An apartment complex was heavily damaged in Levelland (Hockley County) when a large portion of the roof was blown off, and a second apartment complex sustained heavy wind damage in northwest Lubbock (Lubbock County). Elsewhere, structural damage was limited to light weight structures. A greenhouse was destroyed in Friona (Parmer County) and a travel trailer was overturned near Denver City (Yoakum County). The winds additionally resulted in blowing dust which significantly limited visibilities.

More than a dozen grass fires started across portions of Hale, Hockley, and Yoakum counties as power lines were damaged by the high winds, but due to relatively moist vegetative fuels, none of the fires grew to significant or damaging levels.

Total economic damages associated with the South Plains storm system of the 7th and 8th were estimated near \$2 million.

A list of severe wind gusts measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet and the KVII-TV Schoolnet follows:

73 mph at Friona (Parmer County), 71 mph at Hart (Castro County), 69 mph at Denver City (Yoakum County), 66 mph at Anton (Hockley County), 65 mph at Northfield (Motley County), 63 mph at Olton (Lamb County), 63 mph at Reese Center (Lubbock County), 63 mph at Silverton (Briscoe County), 60 mph at Memphis (Hall County), 60 mph at Tulia (Swisher County), 59 mph at Sundown (Cochran County), 58 mph at Brownfield (Terry County), 58 mph at Floydada (Floyd County), and 58 mph at Muleshoe (Bailey County).

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2009

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

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2009

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

*High winds caused significant damage to an apartment complex in northwest Lubbock during the afternoon hours of the 8th. Image courtesy: Jody James - National Weather Service - Lubbock, Texas.*

<b>(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z026) CHILDRESS, (TX-Z037) DICKENS, (TX-Z043) KENT</b>	12/23/09 23:00 CST		20K	Winter Weather
	12/24/09 15:00 CST		0	

<b>(TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z025) HALL, (TX-Z027) BAILEY, (TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z032) COTTLE, (TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z038) KING, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z040) TERRY, (TX-Z041) LYNN, (TX-Z042) GARZA, (TX-Z044) STONEWALL</b>	12/23/09 23:00 CST		0.39M	Winter Storm
	12/24/09 15:00 CST		0	

<b>(TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z025) HALL, (TX-Z026) CHILDRESS, (TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z032) COTTLE</b>	12/24/09 06:00 CST		0.52M	Blizzard
	12/24/09 14:00 CST		0	

A major winter storm brought blizzard conditions and widespread significant snow accumulations to the South Plains region of west Texas on Christmas Eve. The remnant snow pack resulted in a subsequent and rare White Christmas for much of west Texas.

Widespread light rain developed over much of west Texas on the 23rd. By late afternoon, the rain intermittently changed to or mixed with snow over portions of the extreme southwestern Texas Panhandle. The full transition toward snow, however, occurred rapidly over the entire region late in the evening and heavy snow then fell over a large part of west Texas during the overnight hours and persisted into the afternoon of the 24th.

As the parent upper air storm system ejected eastward along the Interstate 20 corridor (just south of the South Plains region) during the morning hours of the 24th, severe gradient winds with gusts between 60 and 70 mph began to accompany the snowfall over the extreme southeastern Panhandle and the northeastern South Plains. More widespread gusts around 50 mph were observed elsewhere across the South Plains. The winds and snow combined to result in white-out conditions, snow drifts as high as eight feet, and dangerous travel on area roadways.

Numerous road closures and automobile accidents were reported across the region. A man died near Dimmitt (Castro County) when his pickup truck became stalled in a large snow drift. The vehicle subsequently ran over him during efforts to free the truck from the drift. At least five persons were injured in accidents on Lubbock (Lubbock County) city streets, and another motorist was reportedly injured in a multi-vehicle accident along U.S. Highway 84 near Post (Garza County). A nine vehicle pile-up was reported on U.S. Highway 380 east of Tahoka (Lynn County). Local officials in Childress County additionally reported more than 50 accidents along U.S. Highway 287 in blizzard white-out conditions. A number of stalled vehicles also were reported in Castro, Cottle, Hockley, and Parmer Counties. Total damages were estimated to approach \$1 million.

Localized reports of power outages were received, but no prolonged or widespread blackouts were experienced.

Reported snow accumulations follow: 9 inches at Post (Garza County), 8 inches at Amherst (Lamb County), 7 inches at Littlefield (Lamb County), 7 inches at Shallowater (Lubbock County), 6 inches at Kress (Swisher County), 6 inches at Smyer (Hockley County), 5 inches at Cedar Hill (Floyd County), 5 inches at Flomot (Floyd County), 5 inches at Lake Alan Henry (Garza County), 5 inches at Levelland (Hockley County), 5 inches at Lorenzo (Crosby County), 5 inches at Lubbock (Lubbock County), 5 inches at Memphis (Hall County), 5 inches at Plainview (Hale County), 5 inches at Slaton (Lubbock County), 5 inches at Sudan (Lamb County), 5 inches at Tahoka (Lynn County), 5 inches at Whiteface (Cochran County), 4 inches at Abernathy (Hale County), 4 inches at Brownfield (Terry County), 4 inches at Crosbyton (Crosby County), 4 inches at Dimmitt (Castro County), 4 inches at Estelline (Childress County), 4 inches at Flomot (Motley County), 4 inches at Floydada (Floyd County), 4 inches at Guthrie (King County), 4 inches at Hale Center (Hale County), 4 inches at Hart (Castro County), 4 inches at Muleshoe (Bailey County), 4 inches at Paducah (Cottle County), 4 inches at Petersburg (Hale County), 4 inches at Plains (Yoakum County), 4 inches at Quitaque (Briscoe County), 4 inches at Ropesville (Hockley County), 4 inches at Southland (Garza County), 3 inches at Friona (Parmer County), 3 inches at Spur (Dickens County), 3 inches at Jayton (Kent County), 2 inches at Childress (Childress County).

Severe wind gusts measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet and the KVII-TV Schoolnet included:

68 mph at Memphis (Hall County), 64 mph at Silverton (Briscoe County), 59 mph at Paducah (Cottle County), 59 mph at Turkey (Hall County), 58 mph at Childress (Childress County).

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2009

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



*Blizzard conditions in Childress (Childress County) on the 24th resulted in snow drifts greater than eight feet. Photo courtesy: Terri Cobb via KFDA-TV - Amarillo, Texas.*

---

(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z026) CHILDRESS, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z037) DICKENS, (TX-Z038) KING, (TX-Z040) TERRY, (TX-Z041) LYNN, (TX-Z044) STONEWALL

12/29/09 08:00 CST	40K	Winter Weather
12/30/09 10:00 CST	0	

---

(TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM

12/29/09 08:00 CST	20K	Winter Storm
12/29/09 15:00 CST	0	

The second winter storm to impact the South Plains in a week began to produce snow over the southwestern South Plains around 08:00 CST on the morning of the 29th. Moderate to occasionally heavy snowfall then spread northeastward over portions of the South Plains through the afternoon hours. Hazardous road conditions contributed to several accidents in Yoakum County, and evacuations resulted in a Lubbock neighborhood when a car slid into a gas meter. A list of reported snow accumulations of one inch or greater follows:

Denver City (Yoakum County)....4 inches, Morton (Cochran County)....4 inches, Olton (Lamb County)....4 inches, Abernathy (Hale County)....3 inches, Levelland (Hockley County)....3 inches, Dimmitt (Casto County)....2 inches, Hart (Castro County)....2 inches, Plains (Yoakum County)....2 inches, Aspermont (Stonewall County)....1 inch, Brownfield (Terry County)....1 inch, Childress (Childress County)....1 inch, Crosbyton (Crosby County)....1 inch, Friona (Parmer County)....1 inch, Guthrie (King County)....1 inch, Lake Alan Henry (Garza County)....1 inch, Lubbock (Lubbock County)....1 inch, Muleshoe (Bailey County)....1 inch, Post (Garza County)....1 inch, Spur (Dickens County)....1 inch, Tahoka (Lynn County)....1 inch, White River Lake (Crosby County)....1 inch.

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2009

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

Periods of light snow persisted through the nighttime hours, and travel conditions were hazardous with snowpacked and icy roadways. At least two serious auto accidents resulted in injuries and a fatality in Hale and Lubbock Counties during the morning hours of the 30th, as motorists encountered icy conditions. Local officials reported that a women died when her vehicle rolled and hit oncoming traffic after losing control on ice near Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport (Lubbock County) just before 09:00 CST. Another women was seriously injured in an accident near Petersburg (Hale County).

---

(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z025) HALL, (TX-Z027) BAILEY, (TX-Z028) LAMB	12/31/09 09:00 CST		50K	Winter Weather
	12/31/09 15:00 CST		0	

A fast moving winter weather system impacted the Texas Panhandle and the west Texas South Plains during the daytime hours of the 31st. The New Year's Eve system resulted in new light snow accumulations over portions of the extreme southern Panhandle and the northwestern South Plains. Several weather-related automobile accidents were reported in Bailey and Swisher Counties. One motorist sustained minor injuries in Tulia (Swisher County). A list of reported snow accumulations of one inch or greater follows:

Dimmitt (Castro County)....2 inches, Happy (Swisher County)....2 inches, Rhea (Parmer County)....2 inches, Silvertown (Briscoe County)....2 inches, Tulia (Swisher County)....2 inches, Friona (Parmer County)....1 inch, Memphis (Hall County)....1 inch, Muleshoe (Bailey County)....1 inch, Olton (Lamb County)....1 inch.