

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2010

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

(TX-Z026) CHILDRESS

	01/06/10 20:30 CST		50K	Strong Wind (MAX 43 kt)
	01/06/10 23:00 CST		0	

An arctic front swept southward across the west Texas region during the evening hours of the 6th. The frontal passage was accompanied by northerly winds sustained above 30 mph with a few gusts near 50 mph. The winds damaged transmission lines south of Childress, and resulted in a short-lived power outage.

(TX-Z039) YOAKUM

	01/08/10 02:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	01/08/10 07:00 CST		0	

A band of moderate snowfall moved over portions of eastern New Mexico, the northwestern Permian Basin, and the southwestern South Plains during the early morning hours of the 8th. The snowfall resulted in light accumulations in Denver City (Yoakum County), where a National Weather Service cooperative observer reported 1 inch of snow on the ground.

(TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK

	01/20/10 13:20 CST		0	High Wind (MAX 52 kt)
	01/20/10 17:15 CST		0	

(TX-Z039) YOAKUM

	01/20/10 14:30 CST		25K	Wildfire
	01/20/10 17:00 CST		0	

A passing storm system resulted in windy conditions across the South Plains during the afternoon of the 20th. Two localized severe gusts were measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet stations at Slaton (Lubbock County) and Silverton (Briscoe County) at 58 mph and 60 mph respectively. No damage was reported, but the winds were also accompanied by areas of blowing dust.

The strong westerly winds combined with dry and warm air to result in conditions favorable for the development of wildfires. A 3,200 acre fire burned grassland and several utility poles near Denver City. Texas Highway 214 was closed for more than an hour due to the fire.



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A 3,200 acre wildfire destroyed utilities and forced officials to close Texas Highway 214 near Denver City (Yoakum County) during the afternoon of the 20th. Photo courtesy: Stephen Bitolas - Denver City Press.

(TX-Z028) LAMB

	01/22/10 19:15 CST		0	Wildfire
	01/22/10 21:00 CST		0	

(TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY

	01/22/10 20:15 CST		0	High Wind (MAX 53 kt)
	01/22/10 21:45 CST		0	

Strong westerly winds swept across the west Texas South Plains in the wake of a Pacific cold front during the afternoon and evening hours of the 22nd. Surface pressure gradients supported sustained winds in the 25 mph to 35 mph range over most of the South Plains region through much of the day. These winds supported a 1,000 acre wind-driven wildfire near Olton (Lamb County) during the afternoon. Fortunately, the fire resulted in no damage. By evening, 60 knot winds just above the surface were easily transported to the surface by weak convective showers that developed behind the front. This resulted in localized and brief severe wind gusts up to 61 mph. No wind damages were reported.

Severe gusts measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet included: 61 mph at Olton (Lamb County), 59 mph at Levelland (Hockley County), and 58 mph at Plainview (Hale County).

(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-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z032) COTTLE, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z040) TERRY, (TX-Z041) LYNN

	01/28/10 09:00 CST	1	3.94M	Winter Storm
	01/28/10 18:00 CST		0	

(TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z036) CROSBY

	01/28/10 09:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	01/28/10 18:00 CST		0	

A deadly winter storm produced widespread snow and ice accumulations and resulted in significant damage across the west Texas South Plains during the daytime hours of the 28th.

Wintry precipitation began to overspread the region in the hours after sunrise. Although heavy snowfall (including thunder-snow) was common over the western South Plains and the extreme southwestern Panhandle, the precipitation began to fall as freezing rain over much of the central South Plains, the extreme southeastern Panhandle, and the northern Rolling Plains. A layer of ice, that in some cases became topped by accumulating snow, downed trees and utilities. This led to widespread damages from fallen trees and power lines. More than 200 power poles were snapped by the weight of ice and snow in Floyd County, and another 40 poles were downed in Hale County. A downed power pole and line in Olton (Lamb County) fell onto four parked vehicles in the high school parking lot, and the live utility wire caused a fire that destroyed one of the cars. Approximately 20,000 South Plains homes and businesses were without power at the height of the storm, and at least two homes were heavily damaged in Lubbock (Lubbock County) by falling trees.

Authorities reported 175 weather-related auto accidents in Lubbock County. Multiple accidents were additionally reported in Childress, Hale, Hall, Hockley, Motley, and Terry Counties. One Hale County motorist was injured.

In rural Bailey County, an elderly woman slipped on the ice and broke her hip. Injured from the fall and unable to summon help, the woman died of exposure before being found.

The entire city of Childress (Childress County) was rendered without power and communications for an extended period of time. Ice-related damage was widespread there, and included the collapse of a radio tower. In addition, power outages at nearby Greenbelt Lake (Donley County) caused pumps to fail and resulted in an outage of drinking water for the Childress area.

Total economic damages from the storm were estimated at nearly \$4 million.

A list of reported snow accumulations follows: 9 inches in Rhea (Parmer County), 8 inches in Olton (Lamb County), 6 inches in Happy (Swisher County), 6 inches in Hart (Castro County), 6 inches in Muleshoe (Bailey County), 6 inches in Sudan (Lamb County), 5 inches in Denver City (Yoakum County), 5 inches in Friona (Parmer County), 4 inches in Dimmitt (Castro County), 4 inches in Littlefield (Lamb County), 4 inches in Shallowater (Lubbock County), 4 inches in Tulia (Swisher County), 4 inches in Wolfforth (Lubbock County), 3 inches in Abernathy (Hale County), 3 inches in Lubbock (Lubbock County), 3 inches in Morton (Cochran County), 3 inches in Plainview (Hale County), 3 inches in Silverton (Briscoe County), 2 inches in Brownfield (Terry County), 2 inches in Turkey (Hall County), 1 inch in Crosbyton (Crosby County), 1 inch in Floydada (Floyd County), 1 inch in Plains (Cochran County), and 1 inch in Vigo Park (Swisher County).

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County).

A list of reported ice accumulations follows: 1 inch in Childress (Childress County), 1 inch in Dimmitt (Castro County), 1 inch in Memphis (Hall County), 0.75 inch in Paducah (Cottle County), 0.50 inch in Brownfield, 0.50 inch in Floydada (Floyd County), 0.50 inch in Happy (Swisher County), 0.50 inch in Tahoka (Lynn County), 0.25 inch in Levelland (Hockely County), 0.25 inch in Lubbock (Lubbock County), 0.25 inch in Matador (Motley County), 0.25 inch in Muleshoe (Bailey County), and 0.25 inch in Plainview (Hale County).



A radio tower collapsed under the weight of significant ice accumulations near Childress (Childress County) during a winter storm on the 28th. Photo courtesy: Ryan Mills - Childress Index - Childress, Texas.