

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - June 2011

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

(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-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z037) DICKENS, (TX-Z038) KING, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z040) TERRY, (TX-Z041) LYNN, (TX-Z042) GARZA, (TX-Z043) KENT, (TX-Z044) STONEWALL

06/01/11 00:00 CST	0.20B	Drought
06/30/11 23:59 CST	1.05B	

Exceptional (D4) drought conditions continued to persist across the entire South Plains, Rolling Plains, and southern Texas Panhandle regions. June, on average, is among the wettest periods of the year for the Southern Plains. However, June 2011 saw deepening rainfall deficits with a spring thunderstorm season failing to develop. Zero percent of normal rainfall was observed over a large part of the region. Only a few stations have recorded over two inches of rainfall on the year with Paducah the only site recording over three inches of rainfall. No measurable rainfall fell at Lubbock International Airport which is only the second time in 100 years of record that has occurred. Most of the area measured between 10 and 25 percent of normal annual rainfall.

The historic drought was made worse by a June heat wave. A very strong upper level high settled over the region in early June resulting in record heat. Many cities around the region recorded the warmest month on record. Temperatures throughout the month of June averaged between 8 to 11 degrees above normal. The city of Paducah had a maximum temperature of 118 degrees on June 26th tying its all time record high. This was two degrees behind the all-time record high for the state of Texas. Childress also tied their all time record high temperature of 117 degrees on June 26th. Keetch-Byram Drought Index values ranged between 600 and 800 across the region by the end of June. Strong winds with afternoon relative humidities often below 10 percent lead to many days with extreme fire weather concerns.

The drought's impact on wildfire activity continued into June with several wildfires initiated by dry high-based thunderstorms. This wildfire activity extended beyond the region's climatological wildfire season which typically subsides with seasonal green-up in April and May. Nearly 60,000 acres of land were burned by wildfires within the Lubbock CWA (County Warning Area) during the month of June. Agricultural impacts accelerated across the region as farmers struggled to irrigate dry fields. All crops were becoming a major loss by the end of June and were severely impacting the local economy. Local farmers were able to begin the insurance claims process for failed crops during the month, and livestock losses continued to grow with growing shortages of water and feed.

Economic losses for the year due to drought through June, 2011 were estimated near \$1.5 billion.

(TX-Z032) COTTLE

06/09/11 13:00 CST	0	Wildfire
06/11/11 13:00 CST	0	

The Burdett Wildfire burned for two days in Cottle County and burned 6600 acres. No structures were threatened.

TERRY COUNTY --- 2.0 S BROWNFIELD [33.15, -102.28]

06/10/11 15:40 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 53 kt)
06/10/11 15:40 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

The Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near Brownfield recorded a gust to 61 mph. No damage was reported.

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

06/10/11 15:50 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
06/10/11 15:50 CST	0	Source: County Official

A city official from the city of Idalou reported an estimated wind gust of 60 mph. No damage was reported.

CROSBY COUNTY --- 2.0 S LORENZO [33.64, -101.53], RALLS [33.68, -101.38]

06/10/11 16:40 CST	0.10M	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 61 kt)
06/10/11 16:45 CST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

Law enforcement personnel estimated wind gusts to 70 mph in Ralls. There was a report of one dozen power poles downed south of Lorenzo as well as a center pivot irrigation system destroyed.

KING COUNTY --- DUMONT [33.82, -100.52]

06/10/11 17:47 CST	25K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 61 kt)
06/10/11 17:55 CST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

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A trained spotter reported estimated wind gusts to 70 mph as well as wind damage in Dumont. The spotter reported damage to trees and roof damage to a mobile home. There was also substantial damage to a barn. Small hail also accompanied the severe winds.

COTTLE COUNTY --- 10.0 SW PADUCAH [33.92, -100.42], PADUCAH [34.02, -100.30]

	06/10/11 17:55 CST		0.10M	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 70 kt)
	06/10/11 18:10 CST		0	Source: Mesonet

A storm severely impacted the area near and south of Paducah. The Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site 10 miles southwest of Paducah measured a wind gust to 80 mph. A schoolnet site in Paducah measured a wind gust to 64 mph 11 minutes later. There were also multiple reports of thunderstorm wind damage especially at Paducah High School. The Paducah fire department reported utility poles downed 10 miles south of Paducah. Minor structural damage was reported at Paducah High School including severe damage to the press box at the football field. Additionally, the garage door was blown in at the High School agricultural building with accompanying tree damage in the area.

(TX-Z042) GARZA

	06/10/11 19:00 CST		0	High Wind (MAX 52 kt)
	06/10/11 19:05 CST		0	

CHILDRESS COUNTY --- (CDS)CHILDRESS ARPT [34.43, -100.30]

	06/10/11 19:01 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 55 kt)
	06/10/11 19:09 CST		0	Source: ASOS

The ASOS at Childress Municipal Airport (KCDS) reported severe wind gusts for several minutes. No damage was reported.

Evening severe thunderstorms on the 10th brought much needed rain to the South Plains and Rolling Plains but also produced damaging straight-line winds. Storms developed along a cold front stretched across the region with storms initially forming in the Permian Basin. As the storms moved into the South Plains they intensified. A strong gust front from the initial storms created a haboob that moved across several counties. There was no damage or injuries reported with the haboob. Lightning from these storms also started a wildfire in Motley county. The most significant damage was in King and Cottle Counties as a new complex of thunderstorms developed in Crosby and Dickens Counties and moved northeastward. Strong outflow winds caused damage from Dumont (King County) to Paducah (Cottle County). Paducah High School sustained significant damage from these straight-line winds. A wake low over Garza county created high wind gusts locally enhanced by the Caprock escarpment. These winds were measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet.

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Gust front and haboob that moved across White River Lake (Crosby County). Photograph taken by Mark Conder.

(TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z032) COTTLE

06/11/11 13:30 CST	0	Wildfire
06/15/11 00:00 CST	0	

A wildfire began 15 miles east-northeast of Matador (Motley County) late on the 10th and flared up during the daytime hours on the 11th. The fire rapidly spread across Motley County and into Cottle County on the 12th. The wildfire was contained late on the 14th after 30000 acres were burned.

TERRY COUNTY --- 9.0 E WELLMAN [33.05, -102.27]

06/12/11 18:50 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
06/12/11 18:50 CST	0	Source: Public

The public reported an estimated wind gust to 60 mph with near zero visibility within blowing dust. No damage was reported.

(TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z040) TERRY, (TX-Z041) LYNN

06/12/11 18:50 CST	0	Dust Storm
06/12/11 19:50 CST	0	

TERRY COUNTY --- GOMEZ [33.18, -102.38]

06/12/11 18:55 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 61 kt)
06/12/11 18:55 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

An emergency manager estimated wind gusts to 70 mph in Gomez. No damage was reported.

On the evening of the 12th, isolated storms developed in the southwestern South Plains and tracked east-northeast. These storms produced severe wind gusts in Terry County. Additionally, a haboob was generated by the strong surface winds from the

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thunderstorms. A widespread area across Terry, Hockley, Lynn and Lubbock counties reported visibilities near zero at times due to blowing dust with the passage of the haboob.

(TX-Z044) STONEWALL

	06/13/11 18:00 CST		0	Wildfire
	06/15/11 12:00 CST		0	

The Springer Wildfire began in Stonewall County on the 13th and was contained on the 15th after burning 2000 acres.

(TX-Z041) LYNN

	06/16/11 18:35 CST		0	High Wind (MAX 52 kt)
	06/16/11 18:35 CST		0	

High based weak showers developed over the South Plains during the evening hours on the 16th. These showers produced an isolated severe wind gust near Tahoka (Lynn County). The Texas Tech University mesonet site near Tahoka measured a wind gust to 60 mph. No damage was reported.

(TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z044) STONEWALL

	06/18/11 14:40 CST		0	Wildfire
	06/20/11 18:00 CST		0	

(TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM

	06/18/11 18:02 CST		0.25M	High Wind (MAX 54 kt)
	06/19/11 12:40 CST		0	

High based weak showers developed over the western South Plains during the evening hours of the 18th. These showers produced isolated severe wind gusts in Hockley and Floyd Counties. These high winds also sparked numerous wildfires across the region.

The first wildfire began on the 18th two miles southwest of Whiteface (Cochran County). Nearly 100 homes were threatened and evacuated in Whiteface and 2200 acres burned before being contained early on the 19th. A second wildfire on the 18th was started by downburst winds near Floydada (Floyd County). Strong winds downed a power line in a residential neighborhood causing two homes to be totally destroyed by a fire.

Lightning started two fires in Stonewall County early on the 19th which combined to burn 2000 acres. A wildfire in Lamb County started in the median along U.S. Highway 84 which prompted a closure of the highway near FM 1072 for two hours on the 19th. The wildfire burned a total of 350 acres.

(TX-Z042) GARZA

	06/24/11 14:15 CST		0	Wildfire
	06/25/11 04:00 CST		0	

A wildfire began during the afternoon of the 24th along U.S. Highway 84, 13 miles northwest of Post. The wildfire threatened 11 homes, destroyed 1000 railroad ties and burned 7000 acres. The wildfire became contained early in the morning on the 25th.

PARMER COUNTY --- 2.0 SE FARWELL [34.36, -103.01]

	06/27/11 21:00 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
	06/27/11 21:00 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

The Parmer County Sheriff estimated a wind gust to 60 mph a couple miles southeast of Farwell on U.S. Highway 84. No damage was reported.

PARMER COUNTY --- 9.9 NW PARMERTON [34.67, -102.94]

	06/27/11 21:45 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	06/27/11 21:45 CST		10K	Source: Fire Department/Rescue

A fire department official in Rhea reported quarter size hail and damage to corn fields.

PARMER COUNTY --- 9.9 NW PARMERTON [34.67, -102.95]

	06/27/11 21:45 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 61 kt)
	06/27/11 21:45 CST		0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue

A fire department official in Rhea reported an estimated wind gust to 70 mph along with quarter size hail.

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Severe thunderstorms developed during the evening hours of the 27th along the western edge of a quasi-stationary front. These storms mainly impacted the extreme southwestern Texas panhandle. Lightning from these storms also sparked several wildfires which flared up during the daytime on the 28th.

(TX-Z027) BAILEY, (TX-Z028) LAMB

06/28/11 13:40 CST	0	Wildfire
06/28/11 19:40 CST	0	

Lightning strikes from severe storms on the evening of the 27th started several wildfires. Three of these wildfires flared up during the afternoon hours of the 28th. One wildfire started in Lamb county and was known as the Tolk Plant Fire. An energy power plant was threatened but no damage was reported. This fire burned a total of 750 acres. Two additional wildfires flared up in Bailey County near the Lamb/Bailey County line near and north of U.S. Highway 84. These two fires prompted the closure of U.S. Highway 84 between Muleshoe (Bailey County) and Sudan (Lamb County). Visibility was near zero on U.S. Highway 84 due to the smoke from the wildfire. These two fires burned a total of 5,900 acres.