

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2012

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

TEXAS, South Panhandle

(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (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

01/01/12 00:00 CST	5M	Drought
01/31/12 23:59 CST	20M	

All exceptional (D4) drought was absent from the area at the beginning of January. However, a very dry month lead to the reintroduction of exceptional conditions on the South Plains by the end of the month. Only two light precipitation events occurred during January and these two events did not bring much precipitation. Hall county remained in Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions.

Very warm and dry conditions persisted through the start of 2012. Temperatures averaged around four degrees above normal with only 5% of normal precipitation received. Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport recorded only 0.01" of precipitation while Childress Municipal Airport recorded 0.03". A few isolated areas received up to 0.3" liquid equivalent during the month. Significant weather systems did move across West Texas and brought record precipitation to areas south of the South Plains and Rolling Plains. Keetch-Byram Drought Index values had slightly increased across all areas. Values ranged from 500-600 across the western South Plains to 300-400 across the southern Rolling Plains.

Agricultural and livestock losses remained steady through the first month of the year. Soil moisture as a whole was depleted in January after repeated rounds of warm, dry and windy conditions. A severe wind and blowing dust event on January 22nd heavily damaged or destroyed many winter wheat crops. Most cotton farmers were beginning to prepare fields and reported very poor deep soil moisture below eight inches. Livestock was generally reported to be in fair condition.

Economic losses due to drought through January since the drought began were estimated near \$2.4 billion.

(TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z040) TERRY, (TX-Z042) GARZA

01/09/12 12:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
01/09/12 22:00 CST	0	

(TX-Z039) YOAKUM

01/09/12 12:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
01/09/12 22:00 CST	0	

Widespread snow fell across a large portion of West Texas during the daytime on the ninth as an upper level low pressure system moved from southwest Texas into central Texas. Most snow was south of the South Plains and Rolling Plains but a portion of heavy snow extended into the southwestern South Plains. Precipitation quickly tapered off during the evening hours.

Snowfall totals are as follows from NWS Cooperative Weather Observers:

Denver City (Yoakum County)...7.0 inches, Plains (Yoakum County)...2.2 inches, Lake Alan Henry (Garza County)...1.5 inches, Lubbock (Lubbock County)...1.0 inch and Brownfield (Terry County)...1.0 inch.

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2012

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



Photograph of snow falling at WFO Lubbock as a heavy snow shower moved across the city of Lubbock around 1400 CST on the ninth. Photograph is courtesy of WFO Lubbock.

(TX-Z034) HOCKLEY

01/16/12 11:45 CST	0	Wildfire
01/16/12 15:45 CST	0	

Widespread strong winds developed over the South Plains during the morning and afternoon hours of the 16th. A utility line was blown down around 1145 CST along Texas Highway 114 west of Levelland (Hockley County). The start time of the fire was coincident with a wind gust to 57 mph at the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site near Levelland. The wildfire burned 681 acres of mostly grassland.

(TX-Z021) FARMER, (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-Z038) KING, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z040) TERRY, (TX-Z041) LYNN, (TX-Z042) GARZA

01/22/12 07:05 CST	0.44M	High Wind (MAX 61 kt)
01/22/12 15:25 CST	0.50M	

(TX-Z029) HALE

01/22/12 12:00 CST	0	Dust Storm
01/22/12 14:00 CST	0	

During the morning and afternoon of the 22nd, very strong winds and blowing dust covered much of the region as a powerful upper level storm system raced across the central High Plains. Winds initially increased early in the morning behind a Pacific type cold front. Wind speeds quickly increased behind this front and lifted considerable amounts of dust into the atmosphere. The blowing dust

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2012

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

reduced visibilities to less than one half mile at many locations. Strong winds and low visibilities caused a tractor trailer to blow over on Interstate 27 north of Abernathy. A secondary surge of strong winds entered the southeastern Texas panhandle by the middle of the afternoon. This secondary surge was generated by showers in the eastern Texas panhandle. These intense winds caused much damage across the South Plains, Rolling Plains and extreme southern Texas Panhandle. Damage reports mostly included downed utility poles and broken tree limbs. Some of the most extensive damage occurred in Floyd County where over 2500 acres of winter wheat were sand blasted. Additionally, a large tree was uprooted in Lubbock and fell on a vehicle, motorcycle and roof of a home. Winds quickly diminished during the late afternoon as the storm system moved east of the region.

A list of severe wind gusts measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet and Automated Surface Observing Systems follows:

70 mph at Tulia (Swisher County)...68 mph at Silverton (Briscoe County)...67 mph at Turkey (Hall County)...67 mph at Childress (Childress County)...65 mph at Amherst (Lamb County)...64 mph at Paducah (Cottle County)...62 mph at Quitaque (Briscoe County)...61 mph at Hart (Castro County)...61 mph at Olton (Lamb County)...60 mph at Dimmitt (Castro County)...60 mph at Floydada (Floyd County)...60 mph at Friona (Parmer County)...60 mph at Lubbock (Lubbock County)...60 mph at Muleshoe (Bailey County)...60 mph at Northfield (Motley County)...60 mph at Reese Center (Lubbock County)...59 mph at Abernathy (Hale County)...58 mph at Anton (Hockley County)...58 mph at Morton (Cochran County)...58 mph at Ralls (Crosby County)...58 mph at Roaring Springs (Motley County).

A list of maximum sustained severe winds measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet follows:

43 mph at Brownfield (Terry County)...43 mph at Plains (Yoakum County)...41 mph at Denver City (Yoakum County)...41 mph at O'Donnell (Lynn County)...41 mph at Graham (Garza County)...40 mph at Guthrie (King County).