

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - August 2012

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

08/01/12 00:00 CST	0	Drought
08/31/12 23:59 CST	0	

Drought conditions generally worsened over the region through the month of August. All counties in Moderate (D1) conditions through July were upgraded to at least Severe (D2). Some counties previously in Extreme (D3) were upgraded to the highest level, Exceptional (D4).

Temperatures were observed to be slightly above normal for August. The hottest conditions were observed in the first half of the month as an upper level high pressure system became established over West Texas. Daytime temperatures were at or above one hundred degrees for numerous days. Lubbock recorded a maximum temperature of 105 while Childress recorded a 110 degree temperature. Yearly averages place Lubbock and Childress as the second warmest and warmest years respectively. Precipitation continued to be typical for a summertime pattern with only spotty or scattered thunderstorms occurring. Most areas continued to be between three and six inches below average for rainfall. Keetch-Byram Drought Index values remained nearly the same from July's values. Values between 600 and 700 were observed over the western South Plains and Rolling Plains with values of 500 to 600 elsewhere. The lone exception was across the southeastern Texas panhandle where quantities between 400 and 500 were observed.

All crops and pasture were stressed across the region. Many cotton fields were being pushed out to early cutout stage. Irrigation was proving insufficient to provide enough water for crops, and dryland crops were nearly a total loss. Livestock continued to need supplemental feed and some producers were selling off their livestock. Burnable fuel supply was at a relatively low level, although late summer is not the peak time of the year for grassland wildfires. Most wildfires were started from low precipitation thunderstorms, with lightning igniting grasslands.

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

PARMER COUNTY --- 1.3 WNW FRIONA BENDER ARPK [34.66, -102.70]

08/18/12 19:20 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 54 kt)
08/18/12 19:20 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

Measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet.

COCHRAN COUNTY --- 0.6 W MORTON COCHRAN CO AR [33.73, -102.74]

08/18/12 21:00 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 51 kt)
08/18/12 21:00 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

Measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet.

Scattered thunderstorms intensified early this evening in the southwest Texas Panhandle and moved southwestward ahead of a cold front. One storm produced a severe wind gust near Friona while another developed persistent mid-level rotation and strong indications of severe hail in northern Lamb County. Although no ground truth was obtained, this latter storm did produce a severe wind gust as it collapsed near Morton during the evening.

PARMER COUNTY --- 1.3 WNW FRIONA BENDER ARPK [34.66, -102.70], 0.1 W FRIONA [34.63, -102.73]

08/20/12 17:10 CST	20K	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 76 kt)
08/20/12 17:12 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

A collapsing thunderstorm produced destructive downburst winds measured up to 88 mph by a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station northeast of Friona. Two quarter-mile long irrigation pivots located just east of the mesonet were flipped over. In Friona, similar winds caused widespread light to moderate structural damage mostly to fences, roofs and trees. A hangar door at the airport also sustained damage.

CASTRO COUNTY --- 4.1 SE SUMMERFIELD [34.69, -102.45], 8.7 N DIMMITT MUNI ARPT [34.70, -102.34], 4.5 NNW DIMMITT MUNI ARPT [34.63, -102.34], 7.2 SSE SUMMERFIELD [34.64, -102.44]

08/20/12 18:00 CST	0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
08/20/12 21:00 CST	0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

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<p>Torrential rains in excess of four inches fell over the course of one hour in and around the community of Flagg causing extensive flooding of fields and roads. Swift-flowing water was reported to be nearly three feet deep about 3/4 of a mile north of Flagg over FM 1055. An NWS storm survey the following morning noted water was still about 1.5 feet deep over the road. Combined with wind-driven hail, the floodwaters seriously damaged or destroyed many area crops.</p>				

CASTRO COUNTY --- 8.6 SW DIMMITT [34.45, -102.41]

08/20/12 18:29 CST	20K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 78 kt)
08/20/12 18:29 CST	0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

An NWS storm survey in the community of Flagg confirmed significant downburst winds of around 90 mph from the east and northeast. These winds heavily damaged a large empty grain bin, shifted a nearby building that was bolted to concrete a few inches off its foundation, twisted pieces of metal on a grain elevator, knocked down two power poles, and caused various degrees of damage to trees.

CASTRO COUNTY --- 7.5 SW DIMMITT [34.47, -102.41]

08/20/12 18:30 CST	0	Hail (1.25 in)
08/20/12 18:30 CST	0.10M	Source: Public

Hail slightly larger than quarters pummeled the Flagg community for nearly 30 minutes. Combined with ferocious downburst winds, hundreds of acres of mature corn and grain crops were destroyed or severely damaged. Torrential rains piled the hail into drifts nearly 12 inches deep in places. With record high corn prices, total crop losses would likely top \$100,000.

(TX-Z034) HOCKLEY

08/20/12 18:30 CST	0	Wildfire
08/20/12 19:30 CST	0	

HALL COUNTY --- 3.2 WSW TURKEY [34.38, -100.93]

08/20/12 20:20 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
08/20/12 20:20 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

Measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 2.4 SSE (LBB)LUBBOCK INTL AR [33.64, -101.80]

08/20/12 20:26 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
08/20/12 20:26 CST	0	Source: ASOS

The Lubbock ASOS measured a wind gust to 58 mph. No damage was reported.

Moderate instability behind a warm front and cool northwest flow aloft yielded multiple strong and severe thunderstorms late this afternoon and evening. The first storm was a small supercell that moved slowly south across far northwest Castro County toward Easter; however, the only severe weather with this storm was observed farther north in Deaf Smith County (NWS Amarillo's County Warning Area). By early evening, a storm farther west collapsed over Friona accompanied by destructive downburst winds that damaged many trees, fences and caused minor damage to some buildings. A mesonet station northeast of Friona measured a wind gust of 88 mph. A third storm then erupted southwest of Dimmitt and moved very little over the course of 45 minutes resulting in torrential rains possibly in excess of four inches. These rains turned area fields into lakes and caused flooding of low-lying sections of FM 1055 near Flagg. This storm also produced intense downburst winds in Flagg that severely damaged a large grain bin, toppled two power poles and damaged area trees. Wind-driven hail up to 1.25 inches in diameter also caused significant crop damage in the Flagg area. Frequent lightning from separate storms farther south near Pep caused at least three wildfires; one of which grew to at least 100 acres in size and forced the evacuation of three homes. Fortunately, no one was injured and no homes were damaged. Storms then grew into a large complex which moved east-southeast across the South Plains and into the Rolling Plains. Although a few marginally severe wind gusts accompanied this complex, the storms brought much-needed soaking rains to the region with additional showers continuing through the night.

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Downburst winds estimated around 90 mph severely damaged this large grain storage bin in Flagg. Photo courtesy of Matt Ziebell.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 2.1 SSW DOUD [33.54, -101.94], 2.9 SW HECKVILLE [33.72, -101.71]

08/24/12 22:00 CST	0.35M	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 61 kt)
08/24/12 22:23 CST	0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

A downburst with winds estimated as high as 70 mph at times traveled northeast from near Frankford Avenue and Spur 327 in southwest Lubbock to the Lubbock International Airport and to just north of Idalou. Peak winds on the periphery of this downburst were officially measured at 63 mph at 2200 CST at a Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet located 3WNW of the University, 59 mph at 2203 CST at the Lubbock ASOS, and 65 mph at 2223 CST at a KAMC weather station in Idalou. The downburst caused moderate damage to a greenhouse located at Lowe's Home Improvement store. At a nearby Home Depot store, the canopy to a greenhouse was partially damaged and several steel fence posts embedded in concrete were bent. At an apartment complex located near 50th Street and Slide Road, the roof of one unit was blown off. Damage to homes was generally light and consisted of some downed fences, broken rain gutters and torn roofing shingles. Many trees lost limbs of various sizes and in a few cases entire trees were toppled. Power outages were confined mostly to small grids in and around the path of the downburst. Total monetary damage from this downburst is estimated around \$350,000; much of which was incurred at the home improvement stores.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 4.5 WNW LUBBOCK AIRPARK [33.50, -101.90]

08/24/12 22:00 CST	30K	Lightning
08/24/12 22:00 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

Lightning struck a home in the 3900 block of 110th Street in Lubbock late this night causing a corrugated steel natural gas line in the roof to ignite. The subsequent explosion was directed into the garage of the house which at the time was occupied by two men. One man, 31 year-old Brennan Chase Teel of Rockwall, Texas, was directly in the path of the explosion and was fatally injured. The second man was behind a truck at the time which acted to shield the explosion around him; although he required temporary hospitalization for smoke inhalation. The garage door was severely damaged upon buckling outward from the explosion. A fire also developed in the attic where the lightning channel struck, but was promptly extinguished by local firefighters who witnessed the close lightning strike and smoke plume. The remainder of the house suffered light to moderate smoke damage. Monetary losses were estimated as damage figures were not available.

FLOYD COUNTY --- 1.8 NE LAKEVIEW [33.89, -101.23]

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	08/24/12 23:15 CST		6K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 56 kt)
	08/24/12 23:15 CST		0	Source: COOP Observer

A COOP observer reported three power poles down on the west end of his farm.

Rare for late summer, a tightly-wound upper low tracked east this day from the Four Corners into western Kansas. Dry westerly winds from New Mexico created a dryline that moved into the western South Plains. Combined with an axis of upper lift extending south of the upper low, isolated strong storms quickly developed in a moderately unstable environment late this afternoon. By early evening, a storm with a mesoanticyclone developed near Brownfield and tracked northeast (left of the mean storm motion) before collapsing in rural southwest Lubbock County. Although NWS radar indicated the likelihood of severe hail and damaging winds, no ground truth was available throughout the life of this storm. By late evening, lingering outflow boundaries collided in southwest Lubbock County and gave rise to intense multicell storms; one of which produced a destructive downburst that traveled from just northwest of the Lubbock South Plains Mall northeast to the Lubbock Airport and into rural northeast Lubbock County. A swath of straight-line winds estimated as high as 70 mph at times caused light to moderate structural damage at two large home improvement stores and removed the roof from an apartment building. Isolated power outages resulted from downed trees, tree limbs and frequent cloud-to-ground lightning. Tragically, one man died after lightning struck a house and ignited a corrugated stainless steel natural gas line in the roof. The destructive storm later decayed in northeast Lubbock County before reintensifying southeast of Floydada where downburst winds downed several power poles late in the night.



A roof blown off an apartment complex in west Lubbock after a downburst struck with winds between 60 and 75 mph. Photo courtesy of Steve Cobb.

KING COUNTY --- 8.6 WSW GUTHRIE 6666 ARPT [33.57, -100.48]				
	08/25/12 17:30 CST	0		Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
	08/25/12 17:30 CST	0		Source: Mesonet

Measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station.

Moderate instability developed this afternoon ahead of a weak cold front moving south from the Texas Panhandle. Numerous strong storms erupted in the far southeast Texas Panhandle, particularly in and around Briscoe County by mid-afternoon. The only severe weather however was relegated to a pulse storm in King County that produced a measured wind gust to 58 mph.

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