

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - September 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-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

09/01/12 00:00 CST	0	Drought
09/30/12 23:59 CST	5M	

Drought conditions slightly improved through the month of September largely due to beneficial rainfall toward the end of the month. However, much of this rainfall only brought short term drought relief. Severe drought (D2) replaced a large portion of the extreme drought (D3) over the Rolling Plains and eastern South Plains. Elsewhere, extreme and exceptional (D4) drought persisted.

The first and last part of the month brought above average temperatures but the middle of the month saw a wet and cool period. Scattered to widespread rainfall encompassed much of the Rolling Plains mid-month and brought generally one to two inches of rainfall. A larger more widespread area of rain came toward the end of the month as tropical moisture streamed into the area via the Pacific Ocean from tropical storm Miriam. Although most rainfall from this system was south of the South Plains, rainfall amounts ranged from one half inch in the southwestern Texas panhandle to a maximum of four to five inches over the Rolling Plains. Rainfall amounts were not enough to ease long term drought conditions as 18 to 24 month rainfall remained in a high deficit. Keetch-Byram Drought Index values greatly improved by the end of September because of the abundant rainfall. Highest values were observed across the southwestern Texas panhandle between 500-600. The South Plains saw values between 400-500 while the Rolling Plains generally were observed at 300-400. A small pocket of values less than 200 existed across the southeastern Texas panhandle.

Agricultural yields slightly improved due in large part to the recent rainfall as cotton harvesting was beginning toward the end of September. Despite this, a low dryland cotton yield is expected. Irrigated cotton was performing better but still not considered well. Late planted cotton was in fair to good condition but early planted cotton was starting to be disastered-out for insurance. Winter wheat was planted after the rainfall in hopes that it would quickly grow. Wildfire activity was very low with the region still in a climatological minimum for wildfires.

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

MOTLEY COUNTY --- 4.0 NE FLOMOT [34.26, -100.93]

09/05/12 14:20 CST	0	Hail (0.75 in)
09/05/12 14:20 CST	0	Source: COOP Observer

Wind-driven hail damaged crops four miles northeast of Flomot. An unknown amount of damage to the crops occurred.

HALL COUNTY --- 2.0 WSW TURKEY [34.39, -100.91]

09/05/12 14:50 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 60 kt)
09/05/12 14:50 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station near Turkey measured a wind gust of 69 mph.

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

09/05/12 21:30 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
09/05/12 21:30 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station near Paducah measured a wind gust to 58 mph.

Scattered storms developed across the entire West Texas region during the afternoon and evening hours of the 5th in response to an upper level short wave approaching from the west. The strongest storms were observed across the extreme southern Texas panhandle due to a remnant outflow boundary. Although most storms were not severe a few storms did produce severe wind gusts. In one instance, small hail became wind-driven and destroyed crops in Motley County.

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

09/25/12 19:40 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 57 kt)
09/25/12 19:45 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station near Paducah measured a wind gust to 58 mph at 1940 CST and 66 mph at 1945 CST.

COTTLE COUNTY --- 4.6 W CHALK [33.87, -100.30]

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - September 2012

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
	09/25/12 20:05 CST		0	Hail (0.88 in)
	09/25/12 20:30 CST		0	Source: COOP Observer
A NWS COOP Observer in southern Cottle County reported hail between pea and nickel size for about 25 minutes. No damage was reported.				
During the afternoon hours on the 25th, a dryline formed and moved east to the Rolling Plains. Scattered thunderstorms developed along this dryline early in the evening. One of these storms became severe as it entered Cottle County producing severe wind gusts.				
<hr/>				
HOCKLEY COUNTY --- 6.4 WSW ROUNDUP [33.73, -102.20]				
	09/26/12 15:43 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 57 kt)
	09/26/12 15:43 CST		0	Source: Mesonet
A 66 mph wind gust was measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station near Anton.				
<hr/>				
LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 0.9 SW REESE VLG [33.59, -102.03]				
	09/26/12 16:00 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
	09/26/12 16:00 CST		0	Source: Mesonet
A 58 mph wind gust was measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station at Reese Center.				
<hr/>				
BRISCOE COUNTY --- 6.8 ESE SILVERTON [34.43, -101.19]				
	09/26/12 16:10 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 51 kt)
	09/26/12 16:10 CST		0	Source: Mesonet
A 59 mph wind gust was measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station near Silverton.				
<hr/>				
HALE COUNTY --- 0.9 NE ABERNATHY MUNI ARPT [33.86, -101.76]				
	09/26/12 16:30 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 59 kt)
	09/26/12 16:35 CST		0	Source: Mesonet
A 68 mph wind gust was measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station near Abernathy at 1630 CST followed by a 67 mph gust at 1635 CST.				
<hr/>				
LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 0.2 WNW DOUD [33.57, -101.93], 1.0 ENE IDALOU [33.68, -101.66]				
	09/26/12 16:50 CST		50K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 65 kt)
	09/26/12 17:40 CST		0	Source: Broadcast Media
A small bow echo with winds determined to be as high as 75 mph at times caused scattered damage from the western portions of Lubbock northeast to just north of Idalou. At Hays Field (located at Lubbock Christian University), the strongest winds toppled portions of a 15-foot tall center field brick wall. A short while later, approximately 20 vehicles at Texas Tech University lost their side windows from wind-blown gravel and small debris. Also, a nearby bus stop booth had five windows shattered from lofted debris. These winds also downed a light pole on Texas Tech's campus. As this storm continued moving east-northeast, high winds toppled a few vendor tents at the South Plains Fair. Fortunately, prompt warnings allowed attendees to seek appropriate shelter. Several instances of downed trees and power lines also accompanied this storm from the western sections of Lubbock to just north of Idalou where the storm decayed. Additionally, a house located southeast of Lubbock International Airport was struck by lightning; however, the extent of damage, if any, was not reported.				
<hr/>				
GARZA COUNTY --- 0.7 N SOUTHLAND [33.36, -101.55]				
	09/26/12 17:02 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 56 kt)
	09/26/12 17:02 CST		0	Source: COOP Observer
A NWS COOP observer estimated 65 mph winds associated with a nearly stationary rotating thunderstorm ahead of a squall line. As the squall line's outflow interacted with the rotating updraft, tight low-level rotation ensued for a short period of time before the outflow undercut the storm.				
<hr/>				
LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 2.1 SSW HECKVILLE [33.72, -101.68]				
	09/26/12 17:12 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 63 kt)
	09/26/12 17:12 CST		0	Source: Broadcast Media
A KAMC weather station near Idalou measured a 73 mph wind gust.				
<hr/>				
BRISCOE COUNTY --- 5.1 N QUITAQUE [34.44, -101.06], 5.0 N QUITAQUE [34.44, -101.06], 4.9 N QUITAQUE [34.44, -101.06], 4.9 N QUITAQUE [34.44, -101.06]				
	09/26/12 17:19 CST		2K	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	09/26/12 19:00 CST		0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - September 2012

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

A NWS storm survey confirmed road damage from flash flooding along a bridge in Caprock Canyons State Park. The damage occurred about 2.5 miles north of the park's main entrance where a normally dry creek bed to Lake Theo swelled with several feet of water and inundated a bridge. Although small portions of the asphalt road along the bridge were washed out, the integrity of the bridge was not compromised. A substantial amount of debris (including large tree limbs and branches) accompanied the fast-moving floodwaters after nearly 1.5 inches of rain fell in 30 minutes.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 0.9 NE SLATON [33.44, -101.64]

09/26/12 17:35 CST			0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 61 kt)
09/26/12 17:35 CST		1	0	Source: Department of Highways

Downburst winds estimated around 70 mph overturned a tractor trailer and injured its driver while traveling southeast on U.S. Highway 84.

COTTLE COUNTY --- 6.6 SSE NARCISSO [33.91, -100.43], 8.6 W CHALK [33.88, -100.37]

09/26/12 18:30 CST			0.20K	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 83 kt)
09/26/12 18:35 CST			0	Source: Mesonet

Decaying thunderstorms located just south of a mesoscale convective vortex produced an intense downburst in extreme southwest Cottle County. A Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site located ten miles west-southwest of Paducah measured severe winds from 1725 CST to 1735 CST with a peak gust of 96 mph recorded at 1730 CST. Despite the ferocious winds, only one power pole was downed in the area. Although NWS Lubbock radar indicated only marginal storm intensities during this time, the high winds were deemed legitimate based on the fact that cable ties to the mesonet tower were snapped. Farther southeast, a NWS COOP observer about ten miles south of Paducah reported a couple large tree limbs had snapped and damaged a fence.

KING COUNTY --- 8.6 WSW GUTHRIE 6666 ARPT [33.57, -100.48]

09/26/12 18:45 CST			0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 53 kt)
09/26/12 18:45 CST			0	Source: Mesonet

A 61 mph wind gust was measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station near Guthrie.

Moist southerly surface winds this afternoon combined with an extension of upper level moisture originating from Tropical Depression Miriam in the Eastern Pacific. A surface trough along the Texas-New Mexico border and a jet streak aloft provided the lift necessary for scattered thunderstorm development by 1400 CST. As these storms moved east across the South Plains through the late afternoon and evening, they coalesced into a squall line that developed occasional bowing structures. One of these bows struck western and northern portions of the city of Lubbock toppling a brick wall at the Lubbock Christian University's baseball field. These winds also lofted small gravel and stones that shattered the windows of approximately 20 cars at Texas Tech University and also broke the windows of a nearby bus stop booth. As these storms swept off the Caprock, their overall intensity diminished. An exception to this occurred in southwest Cottle County where a narrow corridor of fierce winds developed just south of a decaying mesoscale convective vortex. Winds at a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station located ten miles west-southwest of Paducah were clocked as high as 96 mph within this downburst. Farther north, a slow-moving supercell developed in western Briscoe County and drifted southeast directly over Caprock Canyons State Park accompanied by torrential rain rates of three inches per hour. These rains deluged the park and produced flash flooding along a normally dry creek that drains into Lake Theo. The creek became swollen with several feet of water and proceeded to inundate a bridge causing damage to the asphalt road. Frequent lightning from this day's storms also caused several small grassfires throughout the region, but none of these resulted in any known damage.

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - September 2012

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



Photo collage of flash flooding at Caprock Canyons State Park. The floodwaters eroded outer sections of an asphalt road along a bridge. Photo credits: Caprock Canyons State Park.

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

09/30/12 16:40 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
09/30/12 16:40 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

A 58 mph wind gust was measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station near Friona.

HOCKLEY COUNTY --- 6.4 WSW ROUNDUP [33.73, -102.20]

09/30/12 18:20 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 52 kt)
09/30/12 18:20 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

A 60 mph wind gust was measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station south of Anton.

A line of thunderstorms raced south-southeast out of the western Panhandle late this afternoon ahead of a compact shortwave trough embedded in northerly upper flow. Two localized instances of severe winds accompanied this line of storms late in the afternoon; however, the majority of peak wind gusts were between 30 and 45 mph as these storms continued moving south all the way into the Permian Basin after sunset. These strong winds lofted large amounts of dirt particularly from Littlefield south to Levelland and Brownfield where a distinct haboob was visible by staff at the NWS office in Lubbock. Rainfall proved generally sparse with these fast-moving storms. By late in the night, a second round of storms affected portions of the southeast Texas Panhandle around Memphis with strong winds and light but welcome rainfall.