Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2013

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

	01/01/13 00:00 CST	10M	Drought
	01/31/13 23:59 CST	10M	

Drought conditions during the month of January slightly improved across much of the South Plains, Rolling Plains, and extreme southern Texas panhandle. By the end of the month, Motley County was completely in moderate (D1) drought conditions. The rest of the area remained in severe (D2) or worse conditions but was improved from December.

January saw both warm and dry conditions as well as a few days of beneficial rainfall. The first half of the month saw continued cool conditions that dominated the last half of December. However, a general pattern change occurred and cold, arctic air stayed well north of Texas during the second half of the month. By the end of the month, Lubbock and Childress were only slightly above seasonal averages on temperatures with values of +0.7 and +0.3, respectively. The cooler air in the beginning of the month also helped limit evaporation. A single rainfall event which occurred on the 9th and 10th brought values which ranged from 0.5 inches in the southwestern South Plains with up to two inches over the Rolling Plains. It was mainly for this reason that drought levels were improved. By the end of the month, Keetch-Byram Drought Index values had improved. Values between 300 and 500 were observed over the extreme southeastern Texas panhandle and Rolling Plains. Much of the South Plains saw KBDI levels between 500 to 600. The highest values were reported across the extreme southwestern Texas panhandle where values between 600 and 700 were observed.

January saw no critical fire weather days which is highly unusual for the month as peak wildfire season nears. This was due to cooler than normal temperatures and a lack of high winds. Soil moisture at shallow levels improved from beneficial rainfall but remained dry at deeper levels. This rainfall also benefited the winter wheat crop and soil moisture for grasses on dormant rangelands. A significant casualty of the drought was the closing of a large cattle processing plant in Plainview (Hale County). The main reason for the closure was a diminished cattle supply because of drought.

Economic losses due to drought through January since the drought began were estimated near $2.6 billion.

(TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z040) TERRY

	01/04/13 03:00 CST	75K	Winter Weather
	01/04/13 10:00 CST	0	

From the third to the fourth, an upper level storm system moved out of northern Mexico into the Big Bend and across central Texas. Although most snowfall fell south of the South Plains region, a few light accumulations did occur. Snow accumulations were generally under one inch but did cause a few traffic accidents in Lubbock and Hale counties. Only minor injuries were reported with these accidents.