

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - April 2013

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

04/01/13 00:00 CST	0	Drought
04/30/13 23:59 CST	5M	

Drought conditions worsened during the month of April due to the lack of significant precipitation. Areas which were below Severe (D2) conditions which included Briscoe, Cottle, Hall, Motley, and Swisher Counties returned to D2 or worse drought conditions. Extreme (D3) and Exceptional (D4) conditions further expanded over the rest of the South Plains, Rolling Plains, and extreme southern Texas panhandle.

Very few systems affected the area throughout the month which was unusually cold.

Temperatures at Lubbock and Childress were -1.6 and -4.4 degrees colder than seasonal averages, respectively. The region experienced a late snowfall on April 10 but very little snow accumulated during this event. Thunderstorms developed on just a few days in April. A tornado occurred on one of these days along with localized heavy rainfall. A second severe weather day brought a landspout tornado with little rainfall. With a continued lack of precipitation, the drought is anticipated to worsen. Keetch-Byram Drought Index Values worsened from the beginning of the month due to the dearth of precipitation. Values between 400 and 600 covered much of the South Plains and Rolling Plains. Values ranged from 200 to 400 over the extreme southern Texas panhandle.

Wildfire activity through the month of April was low despite the fact that April is the peak for wildfire action. This was due in part to below average temperatures. Although fuels were dry to very dry, fuel loads were low due to a lack of vegetation - a direct result of continuing drought conditions. Winter wheat crops sustained losses due to a hard freeze that occurred on the 24th. Additionally, there was damage to irrigation equipment from this freeze. Losses to the wheat crop were estimated to be near 70 percent, and most of the damaged wheat will likely be used as cattle feed rather than grain harvest.

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

SWISHER COUNTY --- 2.9 ESE KAFFIR [34.62, -101.77]

04/01/13 14:20 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 70 kt)
04/01/13 14:20 CST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

The Tulia Police Department reported that four cars were blown off Interstate 27 about six miles north of Tulia. These winds were likely caused by an intense rear flank downdraft to a supercell that would later produce a tornado in Briscoe County. No vehicle damage was reported.

HALE COUNTY --- 0.9 SW HALE CENTER [34.06, -101.84]

04/01/13 14:42 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
04/01/13 14:44 CST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

A trained spotter measured quarter size hail. No damage was observed.

HALL COUNTY --- 0.6 W NEWLIN [34.58, -100.44]

04/01/13 15:00 CST	0.40K	Hail (1.75 in)
04/01/13 15:00 CST	0	Source: Public

The public reported a windshield was damaged by golf ball size hail.

CHILDRESS COUNTY --- 1.4 N CAREY [34.49, -100.32]

04/01/13 15:15 CST	0	Hail (1.75 in)
04/01/13 15:15 CST	0	Source: Storm Chaser

A storm chaser reported golf ball size hail covering Highway 287 about six miles northwest of Childress. The extent of damage to vehicles was unknown.

SWISHER COUNTY --- 6.3 WNW VIGO PARK [34.69, -101.58]

04/01/13 15:18 CST	0	Hail (1.75 in)
04/01/13 15:18 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

An emergency manager estimated golf ball size hail 15 miles northeast of Tulia. Up to 4.5 inches of smaller hail accumulated and damaged area crops. Monetary losses from the hail were unavailable.

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BRISCOE COUNTY --- 2.0 SSW SILVERTON [34.44, -101.31], 6.7 ESE SILVERTON [34.42, -101.20]				
	04/01/13 15:40 CST		12K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 65 kt)
	04/01/13 15:45 CST		0	Source: NWS Storm Survey
Destructive rear flank downdraft winds accompanying a tornado were found to have snapped or damaged as many as 10 power poles and removed the roof of a barn. Video provided by a storm chaser revealed high winds damaging the roof of the barn located about 300 yards south of the dissipating tornado.				
BRISCOE COUNTY --- 5.0 ESE SILVERTON [34.43, -101.22], 7.2 ESE SILVERTON [34.42, -101.19]				
	04/01/13 15:40 CST		5K	Tornado (EF1, L: 1.84 mi , W: 100 yd)
	04/01/13 15:45 CST		0	Source: Storm Chaser
A supercell thunderstorm produced an EF1 tornado in rural areas about 4.5 miles southeast of Silverton. This tornado damaged several power poles and one center pivot irrigation system. An NWS storm survey the following day discovered damage consistent with EF1 wind speeds. Video evidence from a storm chaser showed that very strong rear flank downdraft winds well outside the periphery of the tornado damaged the roof of a barn south of the tornado during its rope-out stage.				
BRISCOE COUNTY --- SILVERTON [34.47, -101.30]				
	04/01/13 15:41 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 57 kt)
	04/01/13 15:41 CST		0	Source: Broadcast Media
A KVII-TV schoolnet measured a wind gust of 66 mph in Silverton.				
CHILDRESS COUNTY --- 4.5 SW CHILDRESS [34.37, -100.25]				
	04/01/13 15:48 CST		0.40K	Hail (2.00 in)
	04/01/13 15:48 CST		0	Source: Broadcast Media
Broadcast media reported a windshield was damaged by 2-inch diameter hail.				
HALL COUNTY --- 1.3 WSW TURKEY [34.39, -100.90]				
	04/01/13 15:50 CST		0	Hail (1.75 in)
	04/01/13 15:50 CST		0	Source: COOP Observer
A cooperative observer estimated golf ball size hail in Turkey. No damage was reported.				
BRISCOE COUNTY --- 6.2 NNW QUITAQUE [34.45, -101.10]				
	04/01/13 16:10 CST		0	Hail (2.00 in)
	04/01/13 16:10 CST		0	Source: Storm Chaser
A storm chaser observed hen egg size hail between Silverton and Quitaque. No damage was reported.				
BRISCOE COUNTY --- 3.0 NNW QUITAQUE [34.41, -101.07]				
	04/01/13 16:13 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 51 kt)
	04/01/13 16:13 CST		0	Source: Mesonet
A 59 mph gust was measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet station located at Caprock Canyons State Park.				
MOTLEY COUNTY --- 0.7 S NORTHFIELD [34.27, -100.60]				
	04/01/13 16:25 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 58 kt)
	04/01/13 16:25 CST		0	Source: Mesonet
A Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet station about one mile south of Northfield observed a 67 mph severe thunderstorm wind gust.				
COTTLE COUNTY --- 0.7 S PADUCAH [34.01, -100.30]				
	04/01/13 17:15 CST		0	Hail (1.50 in)
	04/01/13 17:17 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager
Emergency management reported quarter to ping pong ball size hail in the city of Paducah. No damage was observed.				
MOTLEY COUNTY --- 3.0 N ROARING SPGS [33.94, -100.85]				

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	04/01/13 17:15 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
	04/01/13 17:15 CST		0	Source: Mesonet

A Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet station north of Roaring Springs observed a 58 mph severe thunderstorm wind gust.

MOTLEY COUNTY --- NORTHFIELD [34.28, -100.60]

04/01/13 17:25 CST	0	Hail (1.25 in)
04/01/13 17:28 CST	0	Source: COOP Observer

A cooperative observer in Northfield reported hail as large as walnuts along with high winds of unknown intensity for about 3 minutes. No damage was reported.

COTTLE COUNTY --- 6.6 SSE NARCISSO [33.91, -100.43]

04/01/13 17:50 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 52 kt)
04/01/13 17:50 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

A Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet station located 10 miles southwest of Paducah measured a 60 mph severe thunderstorm wind gust.

KING COUNTY --- 1.4 S DUMONT [33.80, -100.52]

04/01/13 17:55 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
04/01/13 17:55 CST	0	Source: COOP Observer

A cooperative observer near Dumont observed widespread pea size hail with occasional quarter size stones. No damage was reported.

COTTLE COUNTY --- 3.5 S HACKBERRY [33.88, -100.14]

04/01/13 18:00 CST	0.50K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
04/01/13 18:00 CST	0	Source: COOP Observer

A cooperative observer reported a tin roof and doors blown off of a barn southeast of Paducah as a severe thunderstorm moved by.

In advance of an unseasonably cold airmass, scattered thunderstorms erupted early this afternoon in the far south-central Texas Panhandle near the intersection of a dryline and cold front. More than adequate wind shear and instability allowed for many of these storms to become severe while spreading southeast into the Rolling Plains through the early evening hours. In addition to producing locally heavy rains, damaging downbursts, and hail as large as two inches in diameter, one of these supercell storms produced a five-minute EF1 tornado in rural areas southeast of Silverton. This tornado damaged a metal shed, one center pivot irrigator, and toppled four power poles.



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Photograph of the tornado from approximately one mile east of the intersection of Farm-to-Market 145 and State Highway 86 looking west. The tornado is just north of Farm-to-Market 145. Photograph taken by David Drummond.

(TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z042) GARZA

04/07/13 16:00 CST	0	Wildfire
04/07/13 18:00 CST	0	

A wildfire burned approximately 1500 acres after being fanned by breezy southwest winds of 15 to 25 mph and relative humidity values in the upper single digits. Fire departments from Crosbyton and Post responded to the wildfire which was believed to have initiated near Farm-to-Market Road 651 just south of the Crosby County line. Fortunately, the wildfire remained over undeveloped rangeland.

(TX-Z035) LUBBOCK

04/10/13 06:00 CST	0.50M	Winter Weather
04/10/13 09:00 CST	0	

After temperatures in the 80s the previous day, an unseasonably strong cold front swept over the South Plains during the overnight hours accompanied by elevated showers and thunderstorms and eventually wintry precipitation. Some of these storms produced small hail up to 1/2 inch in diameter in Childress. Thereafter, an upper trough exited New Mexico during the pre-dawn hours and drove a north-south oriented band of snow over the South Plains. Initially, periods of sleet accompanied the leading edge of this precipitation. With temperatures falling into the upper 20s, this steady band of snow created havoc for many morning motorists, particularly in Lubbock where bridges and overpasses became slick. Lubbock police responded to 191 accidents including some rollovers, although no major injuries were reported. Although snow accumulations in the region were less than one inch, this was the second latest measurable spring snow ever to be recorded in Lubbock.



One of nearly 200 vehicle accidents in Lubbock after light snow created hazardous road conditions. Photo courtesy of KCBD.

(TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY

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	04/22/13 22:35 CST		0	High Wind (MAX 53 kt)
	04/22/13 22:40 CST		0	

A strong early spring season cold front brought widespread strong winds to the South Plains and Rolling Plains of West Texas on the evening of the 22nd. The Texas Tech University mesonet network measured two severe wind gusts. The first severe wind gust was reported at 2235 CST near Abernathy (Hale County). The second and final wind gust was observed near Roaring Springs (Motley County) at 2240 CST. No damage was known.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 2.8 SSE LUBBOCK [33.54, -101.84]

04/30/13 16:13 CST	0.10M	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
04/30/13 16:13 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

A 58 mph severe thunderstorm wind gust was measured at a local television studio. Several reports of damage to buildings and vehicles were reported around the same time.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 2.2 W WOODROW [33.45, -101.86], 2.1 W WOODROW [33.45, -101.86]

04/30/13 16:18 CST	0	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.12 mi , W: 10 yd)
04/30/13 16:19 CST	0	Source: Public

A landspout tornado formed along an outflow boundary from a microburst near Lubbock-Cooper High School in southern Lubbock County. The landspout remained in an open field for the duration of the event.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 2.3 E DOUD [33.57, -101.89]

04/30/13 16:38 CST	0.25K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 56 kt)
04/30/13 16:38 CST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

A SKYWARN spotter observed an approximate 65 mph wind gust as a three and a half inch diameter tree limb was snapped west southwest of Lubbock.

LYNN COUNTY --- 8.4 S PETTY [33.16, -102.00]

04/30/13 16:45 CST	1K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
04/30/13 16:45 CST	0	Source: Utility Company

A utility company official reported multiple power poles snapped east of West Point.

(TX-Z035) LUBBOCK

04/30/13 17:15 CST	0	Wildfire
04/30/13 19:15 CST	0	


FLOYD COUNTY --- 1.0 SW FLOYDADA [33.97, -101.34]

04/30/13 18:15 CST	0.25K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 56 kt)
04/30/13 18:15 CST	0	Source: COOP Observer

A COOP observer reported a three to four inch diameter tree limb down in southwest Floydada as an estimated 65 mph wind gust occurred.

Late this afternoon, isolated very high-based showers and thunderstorms developed over the southern and central South Plains. One of these storms intensified across southwest Lubbock County and western Lynn County before collapsing a short while later near downtown Lubbock. A second storm developed across western Floyd County. A series of microbursts produced winds estimated as high as 65 mph at times. These winds inflicted sporadic damage to trees, windows, power poles, and caused a few incidents of minor structural damage mainly in central and eastern sections of Lubbock as well as western portions of Lynn County and central Floyd County. Scattered power outages were common. In the wake of this storm, lightning triggered a grass fire near the KCBT-TV news station prompting an evacuation of the building during a live newscast. The fire was estimated to be five acres and caused no known damage or injuries. Additionally, a landspout tornado formed along one of the outflow boundaries in Lubbock County. This EF-0 landspout remained in an open field and caused no damage.

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Picture of a power pole that was snapped by severe thunderstorm winds in Lynn County. Photograph taken by Ross Aten.