

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - April 2014

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

04/01/14 00:00 CST	5M	Drought
04/30/14 23:59 CST	5M	

Drought conditions continued to worsen during the month of April with very limited rainfall. Exceptional drought (D4) conditions have greatly expanded over a majority of the South Plains, Rolling Plains, and the extreme southern Texas Panhandle. Elsewhere, extreme drought (D3) conditions were present with only a few slivers of severe drought (D2) conditions remaining over the southern South Plains.

Rainfall events in April were few and far between for nearly the entire region. One of these few events occurred on the 20th and did bring significant rainfall to a few fortunate areas. On the 20th, parts of Childress County received as much as 3.25" of rainfall from thunderstorms. Through the end of April, Lubbock had received only 0.90" of rainfall on the year. Most areas have received only about 25% of normal rainfall to date. Temperatures went through wild swings again in April. By the end of the month, average temperatures were near normal. Keetch-Byram Drought Index values were also indicative of a worsening drought. Values between 500 and 600 were observed area wide with a few small areas observing values between 600 and 700.

Despite an exceptional drought with little rainfall and several high wind events, there were no large wildfires. Although these conditions usually result in large wildfires, the low fuel load has prevented many wildfires from initiating. Agricultural activities were pronounced with drought conditions further worsening farming and ranching. Not only did the lack of rainfall harm crops but high winds also damaged crops.

Economic losses due to drought through April since the drought began were estimated near \$3 billion.

(TX-Z042) GARZA

04/03/14 15:15 CST	5K	High Wind (MAX 50 kt)
04/03/14 15:15 CST	0	

Strong westerly winds of 30 to 40 mph developed late on the afternoon of the third across the far southern South Plains accompanied by widespread blowing dust. Wind gusts as high as 53 mph were measured near Post around the time a tree fell on a house in the city. A Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet station located one mile northeast of Post measured a wind gust to 53 mph at 1515 CST. The time and magnitude of the wind in Post was estimated.

CHILDRESS COUNTY --- 5.7 W LOCO [34.72, -100.25]

04/20/14 15:25 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
04/20/14 15:25 CST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

Damage, if any, was unknown.

BRISCOE COUNTY --- 3.9 NNE WHITELEY [34.40, -101.30]

04/20/14 15:34 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
04/20/14 15:34 CST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

Damage, if any, was unknown.

CHILDRESS COUNTY --- 2.7 WSW GARDEN VLY [34.51, -100.07]

04/20/14 16:30 CST	0	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.20 mi , W: 50 yd)
04/20/14 16:30 CST	0	Source: Storm Chaser

Storm chasers observed a brief tornado over open land.

CHILDRESS COUNTY --- 3.0 SSW LONNIE [34.54, -100.19]

04/20/14 16:34 CST	0	Hail (2.00 in)
04/20/14 16:34 CST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

Hail up to two inches in diameter was observed. Damage to vehicles or property was unknown.

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CHILDRESS COUNTY --- 2.9 W CHILDRESS [34.42, -100.25]				
	04/20/14 18:46 CST		50K	Hail (1.75 in)
	04/20/14 18:46 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

The first of two supercell thunderstorms in Childress this evening produced large hail up to golf ball size. Many vehicles sustained dents and some cracked windows; however, just 24 minutes later a second supercell would inflict even greater damage.

CHILDRESS COUNTY --- 2.9 W CHILDRESS [34.42, -100.25]				
	04/20/14 19:10 CST		1M	Hail (2.75 in)
	04/20/14 19:10 CST		0	Source: Public

On the heels of a supercell that produced golf ball size hail and damage in Childress, a second supercell impacted Childress less than 30 minutes later. This latter storm was more intense and dropped very large hail up to baseball size in the city. Preliminary evidence indicates widespread damage was dealt to vehicles, windows and roofing throughout much of the city.

HALL COUNTY --- 3.0 S ESTELLINE [34.51, -100.43]				
	04/20/14 20:00 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	04/20/14 20:00 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

No damage accompanied the hail.

Scattered thunderstorms ignited early on the afternoon of the 20th across the southern Texas Panhandle as a slow-moving upper trough encountered moderate instability east of a weak dryline. The most intense thunderstorms, including a few supercells, developed in Hall and Childress Counties. These supercells produced several reports of large hail, some up to baseball size in the city of Childress where numerous vehicles and buildings suffered various degrees of damage. One of these supercells produced a very brief and small tornado east of Childress over open land. Additionally, these slow-moving storms dropped torrential rain that at one point was measured as great as 6 inches per hour by a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station. Minor flooding was common in and around Childress where up to 3.25 inches of rain fell. By early evening, additional supercells developed south into the Rolling Plains near Paducah and Guthrie, but reports of severe weather were unavailable in these remote areas.

MOTLEY COUNTY --- 4.8 ESE FLOMOT [34.20, -100.90]				
	04/23/14 15:30 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	04/23/14 15:30 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

A SKYWARN Spotter observed quarter size hail east southeast of Flomot.

HALL COUNTY --- 0.9 NW MEMPHIS [34.73, -100.54]				
	04/23/14 16:00 CST		0	Hail (1.25 in)
	04/23/14 16:00 CST		0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue

Fire department officials reported half dollar size hail in Memphis.

STONEWALL COUNTY --- 0.9 SE ASPERMONT [33.14, -100.22]				
	04/23/14 17:00 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	04/23/14 17:02 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

A trained spotter and cooperative observer reported quarter size hail in Aspermont, which accumulated in a manner representing snow.

CHILDRESS COUNTY --- 4.1 N CHILDRESS [34.48, -100.21]				
	04/23/14 17:14 CST		0	Hail (1.50 in)
	04/23/14 17:14 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

A SKYWARN Spotter observed ping pong ball size hail north of Childress along Highway 83.

Scattered severe thunderstorms developed across the Rolling Plains and the southeastern Texas Panhandle during the late afternoon and early evening of the 23rd, ahead of an upper level trough and diffuse dryline. The majority of these storms produced at least quarter size hail, with one near Childress producing ping pong ball size hail.

COTTLE COUNTY --- 2.0 W PADUCAH [34.02, -100.33]				
	04/26/14 18:52 CST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
	04/26/14 18:52 CST		0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue

Penny size hail was reported west of Paducah with pea size hail in town.

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DICKENS COUNTY --- 4.0 S SPUR [33.42, -100.85]

04/26/14 19:15 CST	0	Hail (1.50 in)
04/26/14 19:15 CST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

Law enforcement observed ping pong ball size hail near Spur.

DICKENS COUNTY --- 2.0 S DICKENS [33.59, -100.83]

04/26/14 19:35 CST	0	Hail (1.50 in)
04/26/14 19:35 CST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

The Texas Department of Public Safety and local law enforcement personnel reported ping pong ball size hail as well as an estimated wind gust of 60 mph near Dickens.

COTTLE COUNTY --- 12.0 S PADUCAH [33.85, -100.30]

04/26/14 20:15 CST	0	Hail (1.50 in)
04/26/14 20:15 CST	0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue

The Paducah Assistant Fire Chief observed ping pong ball size hail south of town on US Highway 83.

COTTLE COUNTY --- 9.0 N PADUCAH [34.15, -100.30]

04/26/14 20:35 CST	0	Hail (1.50 in)
04/26/14 20:35 CST	0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue

Fire rescue reported ping pong ball size hail north of Paducah.

A vigorous upper level low pressure system plowed through northern Arizona and New Mexico, developing an intense surface low pressure system from the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains into the Great Plains. A retreating dryline into the Rolling Plains by early evening served as the focus for thunderstorm initiation as dewpoint temperatures surged into the mid 50s to lower 60s. While scattered storms developed across the Rolling Plains and far southeastern Texas Panhandle, the strongest storm was a supercell which developed near Fluvanna and tracked northeast, from west of Lake Alan Henry through Spur and north of Paducah. Ping pong ball size hail was reported throughout much of the life of this storm along with an isolated severe wind gust.

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04/27/14 10:05 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 55 kt)
04/27/14 18:38 CST	0	

South of an intensifying cyclone in the central Great Plains, very strong westerly winds overspread the entire South Plains region late this morning before tapering off at sunset. The most intense wind gusts of 63 mph were measured near Sundown and Floydada. Widespread blowing dust was common on and off of the Caprock; however, a true dust storm fortunately spared the region as the lowest visibilities at many locations remained at or above one mile for the duration of the event.

High wind gusts measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet and Automated Surface Observation System are listed below:

63 mph at Floydada (Floyd County), 63 mph at Sundown (Cochran County), 62 mph at Amherst (Lamb County), 62 mph at Dimmitt (Castro County), 60 mph at Hart (Castro County), 59 mph at Friona (Parmer County), 59 mph at Muleshoe (Bailey County), 58 mph at Morton (Cochran County), 58 mph at Abernathy (Hale County), and 58 mph at Lubbock International Airport (Lubbock County).

High sustained winds measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet are listed below:

50 mph at Aiken (Hale County), 43 mph at Tulia (Swisher County), 42 mph at Silverton (Briscoe County), 42 mph at Levelland (Hockley County), and 40 mph at Turkey (Hall County).

(TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z041) LYNN

04/28/14 11:00 CST	60K	High Wind (MAX 57 kt)
04/28/14 18:05 CST	1	0

Following widespread high winds the previous day, strong west-northwest winds developed over much of the South Plains on the afternoon of the 28th. Fortunately, the coverage of sustained winds of 40 mph or greater, with some gusts measured as high as 66 mph, was concentrated in a swath across portions of Lamb, Hockley, Lubbock, and Lynn Counties. Minor property and utility pole damage was noted in and around Lubbock, including a partially collapsed barn roof. In northern Lynn County, a man was injured after his tractor trailer was blown over in strong crosswinds. Widespread blowing dust was again commonplace, but similar to the 27th much of

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the region saw visibilities at or above one mile.

As early as 1100 CST, very strong westerly winds began producing sporadic damage throughout Lubbock. This damage included a downed utility pole near North University and Clovis Highway, a failed power line one mile northeast of the NWS office, a partially collapsed roof of a barn near the Lubbock Airport, and several broken tree limbs along with some property fence damage in and around the city of Lubbock. The Lubbock ASOS measured a peak wind gust of 58 mph at 1644 CST and a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet at Reese Center measured sustained winds of 40 mph or greater from 1545 CST until 1900 CST. A semi-trailer was blown over while traveling on Highway 87 at Farm-to-Market Road 211. The driver was transported to Lynn County Hospital with minor injuries.

High wind gusts from the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet and Automated Surface Observation System are listed below:

66 mph at Amherst (Lamb County) and 58 mph at Lubbock International Airport (Lubbock County).

Sustained high winds from the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet are listed below:

42 mph at Anton (Hockley County) and 41 mph at Reese Center (Lubbock County).