

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - August 2014

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

08/01/14 00:00 CST	0	Drought
08/31/14 23:59 CST	0	

A mix of improved and worsened drought conditions occurred across the area throughout August. Scattered thunderstorm activity brought bouts of heavy rain for some areas, but others unfortunately missed out. Minor improvement took place in the far southwest Panhandle and northern South Plains, going from moderate (D1) drought to abnormally dry (D0) conditions. Portions of the South Plains, south and west of Lubbock, saw deterioration back into extreme (D3) conditions. Severe (D2) drought encompassed the remainder of the South Plains with mainly extreme (D3) conditions remaining in the Rolling Plains. A portion of Cottle into extreme Northeast King County continued to experience exceptional (D4) drought conditions.

Warmer and drier than average weather plagued the region through much of August, with only scattered thunderstorm activity occurring on select days. Lubbock and Childress experienced monthly average temperatures of 1.9 and 1.3 degrees above average, respectively. The most significant rainfall event took place on the 28th as a complex of thunderstorms developed, but this was mainly confined to areas east of the Caprock Escarpment where 1 to 2 inches of rainfall fell thus contributing to much if not all of the monthly rainfall total for many locations. Widespread Keetch-Byram Drought Index Values of 400-500 were in place by month's end with portions of the Southern South Plains and Rolling Plains approaching the 500-600 range. An area of 300-400 was in place in the Northern South Plains with locales in the Far Southwestern Panhandle near the 200-300 category.

Green fuels and normal to slightly above normal moisture values kept fire concerns low for the most part, although a few locations that missed out on any rainfall saw modest curing of grasses. The increased heat units this month helped cotton farmers and peanut producers, but dryland farmers relied heavily on irrigation with the lack of rainfall. An increase in lightning-induced wildfires occurred as well with the deteriorating rangeland. Area reservoirs saw further drops throughout the month.

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

MOTLEY COUNTY --- 1.1 S MATADOR [34.00, -100.82]

08/08/14 16:25 CST	1K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 56 kt)
08/08/14 16:25 CST	0	Source: COOP Observer

The COOP observer in Matador reported a damaged Fischer Porter precipitation gauge. The damage was caused from a blow by a pig shelter that became airborne in severe winds.

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

08/08/14 17:20 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 64 kt)
08/08/14 17:20 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

The Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site near Paducah measured a 74 mph wind gust as a thunderstorm passed overhead.

Warm and moist conditions created enough instability to generate scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms during the afternoon and evening. This was supported by a plume of mid to upper level moisture streaming across the region on the backside of an upper level ridge. Relatively weak deep layer winds caused these storms to be of the pulse variety, quickly dissipating after peaking in intensity. With drier low level air in place, downburst winds occurred with some of these storms near Matador and Paducah.

FLOYD COUNTY --- 0.6 W LOCKNEY [34.12, -101.44]

08/28/14 14:35 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
08/28/14 14:35 CST	0	Source: Post Office

The Lockney Post Office stated winds of 50 to 60 mph blew the building doors open. Hail around one half inch also accompanied the wind. No damage was reported.

CROSBY COUNTY --- 0.9 SE RALLS [33.67, -101.37]

08/28/14 15:35 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 55 kt)
08/28/14 15:35 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

Measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet station near Ralls.

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - August 2014

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
MOTLEY COUNTY --- 0.7 S NORTHFIELD [34.27, -100.60]				
	08/28/14 15:50 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 54 kt)
	08/28/14 15:55 CST		0	Source: Mesonet

Measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet station near Northfield. A gust to 58 mph occurred at 1550 CST.

CHILDRESS COUNTY --- 2.9 W CHILDRESS [34.42, -100.25]				
	08/28/14 15:53 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
	08/28/14 16:03 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

Law enforcement personnel in Childress estimated winds around 60 mph for 10 minutes.

MOTLEY COUNTY --- MATADOR [34.02, -100.82]				
	08/28/14 15:55 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 56 kt)
	08/28/14 15:55 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

Law enforcement personnel reported multiple trees were downed in Matador.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 2.8 S DOUD [33.53, -101.92], 2.2 W BURRIS [33.53, -101.82]				
	08/28/14 16:18 CST		2M	Hail (1.25 in)
	08/28/14 16:30 CST		0	Source: NWS Employee

A narrow swath of hail up to 1.25 inches in diameter traveled east from the South Plains Mall to near the U.S. Highway 84 exit on South Loop 289. This hailstorm was observed firsthand by NWS employees who stated the hail was very dense and fell for about 10 minutes without much wind. Countless vehicles in south Lubbock received numerous dents from this barrage of hail and some buildings (such as the Pyramid Plaza) suffered broken skylights. Insurance adjusters estimated several hundred homes with shingle roofs would need replacement due to damaged shingles. Combined property damage estimates could exceed \$2 million.

CROSBY COUNTY --- 6.5 SSE CROSBYTON MUNI ARPT [33.54, -101.17]				
	08/28/14 17:20 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 53 kt)
	08/28/14 17:20 CST		0	Source: Mesonet

Measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet station near White River Lake.

A well-developed upper trough combined with a surface trough and moderate instability to generate scattered severe thunderstorms this afternoon and early evening. The first storms developed in Hall County early in the afternoon and gradually expanded southwest to the Lubbock area, before moving east into the Rolling Plains by late afternoon. Downburst winds around 60 mph were the most common occurrence with these severe storms; however, a narrow swath of half-dollar size hail in south Lubbock created considerable damage to vehicles, some roofs and skylights. At times, torrential rains in the Rolling Plains were measured in excess of one inch in 15 minutes, although no reports of flooding were received.