

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2014

| Location | Date/Time | Deaths & Injuries | Property & Crop Dmg | Event Type and Details |
|----------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
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### TEXAS, South Panhandle

|  |                    |  |   |         |
|--|--------------------|--|---|---------|
| <b>(TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z025) HALL, (TX-Z026) CHILDRESS, (TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z032) COTTLE, (TX-Z038) KING</b> | 12/01/14 00:00 CST |  | 0 | Drought |
|  | 12/31/14 23:59 CST |  | 0 |         |

Drought conditions remained nearly unchanged throughout the month of December. Severe (D2) to exceptional (D4) drought categories remained over the Rolling Plains and extreme southeastern Texas Panhandle. Exceptional drought persisted over eastern Cottle County connected to a larger exceptional drought region along the Red River to the east.

December began and ended on an extreme cold note but ended up being above seasonal average for the month due to very warm temperatures mid-month. Temperatures at Childress were 2.4 degrees above seasonal averages. Monthly rain totals generally ranged from one tenth to one quarter inch which were well shy of normal, averaging from three quarters of an inch to one inch. Keetch-Byram Drought Index Values ranged from 400 to 600 which were unchanged. Precipitation over the past year was adequate to generate normal to above normal grass and shrub coverage. Furthermore, less grazing than in past year may have contributed to an abnormally high fuel load for the beginning of the dry season.

### (TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO

|                    |  |   |                       |
|--------------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| 12/14/14 11:45 CST |  | 0 | High Wind (MAX 50 kt) |
| 12/14/14 15:05 CST |  | 0 |                       |

A strong surface low pressure system lifted northeast across the northwest Texas Panhandle early this afternoon and generated strong winds over much of the South Plains with some high winds measured in parts of Parmer and Castro Counties. A gust to 58 mph was measured near Hart by a Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet station. Fortunately, blowing dust was not a significant issue; although numerous tumbleweed piled up to depths of several feet against homes in cities such as Muleshoe and Farwell.

### (TX-Z026) CHILDRESS, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z040) TERRY

|                    |  |   |                |
|--------------------|--|---|----------------|
| 12/26/14 23:00 CST |  | 0 | Winter Weather |
| 12/27/14 10:00 CST |  | 0 |                |

An upper level trough combined with mid level frontogenetical forcing with enough atmospheric moisture to create light snowfall during the early morning hours of the 27th. The highest totals were observed in a swath from Terry to Hockley Counties. An additional swath of light snow developed across Motley and Childress Counties.

Snowfall totals from NWS Cooperative Weather Observers are listed below:

3.3 inches at Levelland (Hockley County), 2.0 inches at Brownfield (Terry County), 1.3 inches at Lubbock (Lubbock County), 1.0 inch at Denver City (Yoakum County), 1.0 inch at Plains (Yoakum County), 1.0 inch at Flomot (Motley County), and 1.0 inch at Kirkland (Childress County).

### (TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z027) BAILEY, (TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z040) TERRY, (TX-Z041) LYNN, (TX-Z042) GARZA

|                    |  |   |                |
|--------------------|--|---|----------------|
| 12/30/14 07:00 CST |  | 0 | Winter Weather |
| 12/31/14 14:00 CST |  | 0 |                |

Following an arctic front the night prior, widespread freezing drizzle developed early on the morning of the 31st throughout much of the region before mixing with and changing to very light snow. East of the Caprock Escarpment, the duration of freezing drizzle was limited to just a couple of hours compared to nearly 30 hours on the Caprock where the worst impacts were felt. With temperatures in the teens and 20s, many roads and streets developed a thin glaze of ice that later became coated with light snow up to one inch. Treacherous road conditions led to hundreds of vehicle accidents across the South Plains with some serious injuries noted northwest of Post (Garza County) and also near Muleshoe (Bailey County). Conditions at Lubbock Preston Smith Airport were so bad that the airport officially shut down at 2300 CST on the 30th before re-opening for limited flights by the afternoon of the 31st. Combined with the closure, dozens of canceled flights earlier in the day stranded some flyers at the airport for nearly 24 hours. The precipitation gradually dissipated in coverage by late afternoon on New Year's Eve, however temperatures remained well below freezing all day prolonging hazardous travel for holiday revelers - many of whom opted against traveling for festivities. Damage and economic losses from this event were not available at the time of this writing. Muleshoe (Bailey County) was the only location to receive greater than one inch of snow totaling 1.1 inches.