

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - March 2015

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

(TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z025) HALL, (TX-Z026) CHILDRESS, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z032) COTTLE, (TX-Z038) KING, (TX-Z044) STONEWALL	03/01/15 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	03/31/15 23:59 CST		0	

Drought conditions worsened from extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) levels across the eastern half of Childress County, but remained unchanged since February over the remainder of the far southeast Texas Panhandle south into portions of the Rolling Plains where D2 (severe) and D3 conditions persisted. Although monthly precipitation was near normal just west of these drought stricken areas, precipitation was below normal for much of the southeast Texas Panhandle with monthly deficits in excess of one inch. Fortunately, agricultural drought impacts were low with area livestock still able to forage on winter wheat stands that benefited from precipitation earlier in the year. However, farmers already preparing fields for spring planting will be in great need of deep soil moisture. Fire weather impacts remained unusually low in spite of above normal fuel loads. Much of this was attributed to a relative lack of windy, dry and warm weather patterns.

(TX-Z021) FARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (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	03/04/15 08:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	03/04/15 21:00 CST		0	

(TX-Z025) HALL	03/04/15 12:00 CST		0	Heavy Snow
	03/04/15 18:00 CST		0	

After a mild start to the day, a strong cold front brought frigid air to the region by mid-morning on the 4th. With a favorably timed upper level trough, widespread precipitation developed late this morning across the South Plains before expanding into the far southern Texas Panhandle and Rolling Plains. The precipitation started as light to moderate rain, but as temperatures cooled, the rain changed to freezing rain through the morning before turning to sleet and snow thereafter. Freezing rain produced a thin coating of ice on trees, grass, cars, and eventually some roads. A particularly intense band of snow spread northeastward over much of the South Plains through the early to mid-afternoon hours. The heaviest sleet and snow gradually shifted eastward across the Rolling Plains during the late afternoon and evening hours before diminishing late in the evening.

Automobile accidents due to slick conditions were most pronounced west of Lubbock along Highway 114 near County Road 1100. Here, a 10-car crash resulted in several people being taken to area hospitals, all for minor injuries.

Total snowfall reports are as follows:
 4.5 inches at Turkey (Hall County),
 3.0 inches at Hart (Castro County), Memphis (Hall County), Paducah (Cottle County), and Tulia (Swisher County),
 2.5 inches at Childress (Childress County), Jayton (Kent County), Olton (Lamb County), and Silverton (Briscoe County)
 2.0 inches at Matador (Motley County) and the Muleshoe Wildlife Refuge (Bailey County),
 1.1 inches at Lubbock International Airport (Lubbock County).

HALE COUNTY --- 0.9 SW HALE CENTER [34.06, -101.84]	03/19/15 22:45 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	03/19/15 22:45 CST		0	Source: Storm Chaser

Estimated by a storm chaser. No damage was noted.

In the wake of a cold front, elevated instability and strong lift led to the development of isolated to scattered thunderstorms from late afternoon through the night. On the heels of a strong storm that covered the ground with pea size hail in Plainview shortly before 2300 CST, a brief severe storm produced hail estimated around quarter size in Hale Center.

(TX-Z036) CROSBY	03/25/15 21:25 CST		0	High Wind (MAX 51 kt)
	03/25/15 22:05 CST		0	

In the wake of a cold front this evening, strong pressure rises produced northerly winds of 30 to 40 mph with gusts to around 50 mph. Three high wind gusts (59 mph at 2125 CST, 58 mph at 2135 CST and again at 2205 CST) were measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet station located six miles northwest of White River Lake.

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HOCKLEY COUNTY --- 3.1 SE SMYER [33.55, -102.13]				
	03/31/15 18:00 CST		10K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 61 kt)
	03/31/15 18:00 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager
COTTLE COUNTY --- 2.0 ESE PADUCAH [34.01, -100.27]				
	03/31/15 19:24 CST		0	Funnel Cloud
	03/31/15 19:26 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

The Hockley County emergency manager forwarded a report of structural damage near the intersection of Nightingale and Deere Road in far eastern Hockley County. The roof to a well-constructed 60x75-foot metal barn was destroyed with debris strewn south for 1/4 mile. The time of the event was estimated.

A member of the Paducah Fire Department observed and documented a tall funnel cloud for approximately 1.5 minutes just east-southeast of the city. The observer insisted he did not see the funnel make contact with the ground.

Isolated to scattered thunderstorms developed over the Rolling Plains and extreme southeastern Texas Panhandle during the afternoon and evening of the 31st. Several of these storms exhibited sub-severe downburst and microburst winds, however one storm in eastern Hockley County did produce wind damage to a well-built metal shed. As these storms moved through the Rolling Plains, a funnel cloud was photographed just east of Paducah in Cottle County.