

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2017

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

(TX-Z035) LUBBOCK

	02/23/17 13:55 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 52 kt)
	02/23/17 13:55 CST	0	

Strong westerly winds sustained from 25 to 35 mph developed over much of the South Plains late this morning and continued through sunset. One high wind gust to 60 mph was measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station southwest of Wolfforth. Blowing dust also accompanied these winds, but visibilities at Lubbock International Airport remained at or above six miles.

(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

	02/28/17 07:50 CST	15K	High Wind (MAX 53 kt)
	02/28/17 18:35 CST	0	

(TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z040) TERRY

	02/28/17 15:00 CST	0.26M	Wildfire
	02/28/17 23:00 CST	0	

In the wake of thick high clouds this morning and one rogue high wind gust from virga near Vigo Park (Swisher County), intense southwest winds expanded east across all of the South Plains and far southwest Texas Panhandle under clearing skies. High winds sustained at 40 mph or greater were commonplace, along with several peak wind gusts of 58 to 60 mph. Widespread blowing dust was prevalent, with visibilities as low as three miles at Lubbock International Airport during the height of the wind late in the afternoon. An Emergency Manager confirmed that part of a roof was blown off a small business in Brownfield (Terry County) during the height of the windstorm.

The high winds along with single digit relative humidity and dormant fuels bred an extremely critical wildfire situation. This was realized southwest of Sundown (Hockley County) and also in Tulia (Swisher County) where wildfires grew to 8600 and 2200 acres, respectively. The Tulia wildfire spread so rapidly that fire crews were unable to save four homes and 20 outbuildings from the flames. Fortunately, no injuries or fatalities occurred.

The Texas Forest Service reported that a wildfire began south of the Tulia Prison and rapidly grew east to Interstate 27, before crossing the highway and threatening up to 1100 homes at one point. Following a mandatory evacuation of residents in the Mackenzie Hills housing area in southwest Tulia, four homes and eight outbuildings were consumed by the intense wildfire. Fortunately, officials with the help of two fire suppression planes saved 20 other homes from burning. The wildfire consumed about 2200 acres in total.

Another massive wildfire began in Yoakum County and spread to Hockley and Terry Counties. It burned about 5100 acres in southwest Hockley County and for a while threatened the city of Sundown. Although no evacuation order was issued, some residents just south of Sundown were directly threatened until fire personnel dug fire lines to stop the fire's rapid progress to the northeast. Damages consisted of two small outbuildings that were completely burned along with several utility poles in oil fields that would require replacing from fire damage. This wildfire burned about 1500 acres in far northwest Terry County and caused no known damage to structures. Yoakum county saw about 2000 acres burned from this wildfire.

The following wind gusts were measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet:

Dimmitt (Castro County) 67 mph, Plains (Yoakum County) 65 mph, Friona (Parmer County) 64 mph, Muleshoe (Bailey County) 64 mph, Levelland (Hockley County) 63 mph, Vigo Park (Swisher County) 61 mph, Morton (Cochran County) 61 mph, Amherst (Lamb County) 60 mph, Reese Center (Lubbock County) 60 mph, Abernathy (Hale County) 59 mph, and Silverton (Briscoe County) 58 mph.

Strong sustained winds were also measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet and are as follows:

New Home (Lynn County) 46 mph, Floydada (Floyd County) 41 mph, and Ralls (Crosby County) 41 mph.