

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2018

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

01/01/18 00:00 CST	0	Drought
01/31/18 23:59 CST	0	

Aided in part by a moderate La Nina that developed in October 2017, a dry and seasonably mild string of months led to the emergence of D2 (severe) and D3 (extreme) drought conditions for the start of 2018. The D2 drought encompassed all of the South Plains, Rolling Plains and the far southern TX Panhandle, with D3 drought focused in Cottle County. Beginning January 12th, rainfall over the previous 110 days across the region was generally 10 to 30 percent of normal. By January 22nd, Lubbock was already in its fourth longest stretch without measurable rainfall. Areas south and east of Lubbock did receive measurable rainfall on January 7th and again on the 25th, however each episode was too minuscule to offset the prolonged dryness. Monetary impacts to agriculture and grazing were minimal at this time, with little stress dealt to area reservoirs.

(TX-Z025) HALL

01/11/18 03:11 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 53 kt)
01/11/18 03:30 CST	0	

Two separate wind gusts to 61 mph were measured in the far southeast Texas Panhandle early this morning following a strong cold front. No damage was reported.

(TX-Z041) LYNN

01/21/18 12:20 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 51 kt)
01/21/18 12:20 CST	0	

A strong upper level storm system moved across the Texas Panhandle during the afternoon hours of the 21st. A very strong height gradient from this system spread over the South Plains region. As a result, widespread strong winds of 30 to 40 mph were reported area wide, with some gusts over 50 mph at times. A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near O'Donnell (Lynn County) measured a wind gust to 59 mph.

(TX-Z031) MOTLEY

01/25/18 14:20 CST	0	Wildfire
01/31/18 18:00 CST	0	

During the afternoon of January 25th, a grass fire developed in rural southeast Motley County near the Pease River and Highway 62. Over the course of the next six days, the fire spread northeast and consumed approximately 5942 acres before 100% containment was achieved. Fortunately, no structures were lost.