

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - July 2020

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

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(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-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z040) TERRY

|                    |   |         |
|--------------------|---|---------|
| 07/01/20 00:00 CST | 0 | Drought |
| 07/31/20 22:59 CST | 0 |         |

After almost a two year hiatus, drought conditions returned to the South Plains of West Texas in July. Some areas of the South Plains experienced much below normal rainfall in the spring months. The most extreme deficits occurred in both Yoakum and Terry Counties which saw rainfall amounts between four and five inches below normal. Much of the area in these counties were raised to D2 (Severe Drought) or D3 (Extreme Drought) by the end of July. These same drought levels also covered the extreme southwestern and south-central Texas Panhandle southward into the northern South Plains. These additional areas of drought experienced rainfall deficits around 1.5 inches. The lack of rainfall contributed to the extreme heat that was observed in July. At Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport, an all-time July temperature record was set on the 14th of 111 degrees Fahrenheit. The mean temperature for July was 85.5 degrees Fahrenheit. This value was the second warmest July on record only to the year 2011 when the last D4 (Exceptional Drought) occurred.

Dryland crops had mostly failed by June with the lack of significant rainfall in addition to isolated hail storms destroying crops. Some irrigated crops were generally in poor to very poor condition due to deteriorating soil moisture. Despite the very dry conditions across the South Plains and extreme southern Texas Panhandle, there was a lack of significant wildfire activity. No known estimates of crop losses were known at this time.

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#### LUBBOCK COUNTY --- REESE AFB [33.60, -102.05]

|                    |   |                              |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 07/05/20 20:11 CST | 0 | Thunderstorm Wind (MG 59 kt) |
| 07/05/20 20:11 CST | 0 | Source: Mesonet              |

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site at Reese measured a wind gust to 68 mph.

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#### LUBBOCK COUNTY --- (LBB)LUBBOCK INTL AR [33.67, -101.82]

|                    |   |                              |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 07/05/20 21:07 CST | 0 | Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt) |
| 07/05/20 21:07 CST | 0 | Source: ASOS                 |

The automated surface observing system at Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport measured a wind gust to 58 mph.

On the afternoon of the fifth, scattered thunderstorms developed in eastern New Mexico ahead of an upper level shear axis. These storms became outflow dominant by the time they reached West Texas. A cluster of thunderstorms was able to produce a couple of severe wind gusts in Lubbock County.

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#### (TX-Z024) BRISCOE

|                    |   |                |
|--------------------|---|----------------|
| 07/09/20 14:00 CST | 0 | Excessive Heat |
| 07/09/20 17:00 CST | 1 |                |

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#### HALL COUNTY --- 1.0 NE MEMPHIS [34.73, -100.52]

|                    |   |                              |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 07/09/20 17:30 CST | 0 | Thunderstorm Wind (MG 55 kt) |
| 07/09/20 17:35 CST | 0 | Source: Mesonet              |

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near Memphis measured a peak wind gust of 63 mph at 1730 CST. Severe winds were measured between 1730 and 1735 CST.

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#### HALL COUNTY --- ESTELLINE [34.55, -100.43]

|                    |   |                         |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 07/09/20 17:34 CST | 0 | Hail (1.00 in)          |
| 07/09/20 17:34 CST | 0 | Source: Trained Spotter |

A trained spotter in Estelline reported quarter size hail.

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#### HALL COUNTY --- 4.0 ENE PLASKA [34.61, -100.56], 2.1 ENE HULVER [34.53, -100.50]

|                    |   |                              |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 07/09/20 17:45 CST | 0 | Thunderstorm Wind (EG 87 kt) |
| 07/09/20 17:45 CST | 0 | Source: NWS Storm Survey     |

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| <p>A NWS storm survey was conducted in eastern Hall County near Estelline. The survey found considerable damage to homes, metal structures, and other outbuildings and trees at several homesteads. This damage was along Texas State Highway 86 to the west of Estelline and at another homestead roughly seven miles south-southwest of Memphis. The damage was found to be in generally uniform direction from northeast to southwest or southeast to northwest and in a broadly divergent pattern indicative of severe straight line winds associated with microbursts. Also, several power poles were downed and center pivots overturned across eastern Hall County.</p> |           |                      |                        |                        |

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**MOTLEY COUNTY --- NORTHFIELD [34.28, -100.60]**

|                    |   |                       |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 07/09/20 19:13 CST | 0 | Hail (1.25 in)        |
| 07/09/20 19:13 CST | 0 | Source: COOP Observer |

A NWS cooperative weather observer in Northfield estimated half dollar size hail.

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**LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 1.1 NNW LUBBOCK [33.60, -101.86], 1.3 NE LUBBOCK [33.59, -101.83]**

|                    |   |                              |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 07/09/20 19:42 CST | 0 | Thunderstorm Wind (EG 70 kt) |
| 07/09/20 19:46 CST | 2 | Source: Emergency Manager    |

A thunderstorm formed to the southwest of Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport and moved east bringing damaging winds gusts to the north part of the city of Lubbock. The winds toppled a brick wall of an old roofless structure, downed power poles, and caused considerable property damage at Joyland Amusement Park. In addition, a few people were injured by falling tree limbs at Joyland.

**Intense heat fueled severe thunderstorms on the afternoon and evening of the ninth. Afternoon temperatures peaked between 105 and 110 degrees which combined with enough moisture to create isolated thunderstorms late in the afternoon. Two storms in particular both produced wind damage as they tracked to the south.**

The first storm was in the southeastern Texas Panhandle which produced a series of microbursts in Hall County. An initial severe wind gust was observed near Memphis by the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet at 1730 CST. Approximately ten minutes later, a homestead was heavily damaged about seven miles south-southwest of Memphis. At 1810 CST, a metal building, several more homesteads, and trees were damaged along Texas State Highway 86 west of Estelline. Microburst winds were estimated between 80 and 100 mph based on the damage indicators gathered during a NWS storm survey.

A second severe storm formed south-southwest of Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport around 1930 CST. This storm then tracked to the east-southeast developing severe wind gusts within the city of Lubbock. The winds toppled a brick wall of an old roofless structure, downed power poles, and caused considerable property damage at Joyland Amusement Park. In addition, a few people were injured by falling tree limbs at Joyland.

Additionally, the intense heat required a helicopter rescue of an individual from Caprock Canyons State Park in Briscoe County. The Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet at Caprock Canyons State Park measured temperatures at high as 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

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*Photo of a heavily damaged home northwest of Estelline from a microburst. Photograph from a NWS storm survey.*

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**HALL COUNTY --- 2.0 WSW TURKEY [34.39, -100.91]**

|                    |   |  |                              |
|--------------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| 07/12/20 04:45 CST | 0 |  | Thunderstorm Wind (MG 56 kt) |
| 07/12/20 04:45 CST | 0 |  | Source: Mesonet              |

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet near Turkey measured a wind gust to 64 mph.

Late on the 11th, deep convection in the central Texas Panhandle sent an outflow boundary to the south. Elevated showers and thunderstorms, rooted above a deeply mixed boundary layer, developed along this boundary in the extreme southern Texas Panhandle. One of these storms became severe as it moved near Turkey (Hall County) producing a wind gust to 64 mph.

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**FLOYD COUNTY --- 2.0 NNE FLOYDADA [34.01, -101.32]**

|                    |   |  |                              |
|--------------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| 07/14/20 19:30 CST | 0 |  | Thunderstorm Wind (MG 58 kt) |
| 07/14/20 19:35 CST | 0 |  | Source: Mesonet              |

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet near Floydada measured a peak wind gust of 67 mph at 1935 CST. Severe wind gusts were observed from 1930 through 1935 CST.

Another day of record heat allowed isolated thunderstorms to develop late in the afternoon of the 14th. One of these storms produced a severe wind gust to 67 mph near Floydada (Floyd County).

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**HALL COUNTY --- 2.0 WSW TURKEY [34.39, -100.91]**

|                    |   |  |                              |
|--------------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| 07/20/20 13:15 CST | 0 |  | Thunderstorm Wind (MG 54 kt) |
| 07/20/20 13:15 CST | 0 |  | Source: Mesonet              |

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|---|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near Turkey measured a wind gust to 62 mph.   |                    |                      |                        |                                      |
| <b>Scattered thunderstorms developed early in the afternoon in the northern Rolling Plains to extreme southeastern Texas Panhandle and moved to the northeast. One of these storms produced a severe wind gust to 62 mph at Turkey (Hall County).</b> |                    |                      |                        |                                      |
| <hr/>   |                    |                      |                        |                                      |
| <b>CROSBY COUNTY --- 5.1 SSE CROSBYTON MUNI ARPT [33.55, -101.20]</b>   |                    |                      |                        |                                      |
|   | 07/22/20 13:42 CST | 0                    |                        | Tornado (EFU, L: 0.01 mi , W: 10 yd) |
|   | 07/22/20 13:42 CST | 0                    |                        | Source: Broadcast Media              |

Local broadcast media relayed a picture of a landspout tornado approximately seven miles south of Crosbyton.

**On the afternoon of the 22nd, scattered thunderstorms developed along several remnant outflow boundaries from earlier convection. Broadcast media relayed a picture of a short lived landspout tornado about seven miles south of Crosbyton (Crosby County).**

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| <b>SWISHER COUNTY --- 1.7 WNW TULIA ARPT [34.56, -101.81], 3.6 ENE TULIA [34.55, -101.71], 2.8 NE EUNICE [34.51, -101.72], 2.8 W TULIA [34.52, -101.82]</b> |                    |   |  |                                 |
|   | 07/27/20 16:30 CST | 0 |  | Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain) |
|   | 07/27/20 18:30 CST | 0 |  | Source: Law Enforcement         |

Intense rainfall from training thunderstorms produced flash flooding in and around Tulia. Law enforcement reported that a vehicle had become stalled due to flooding along Interstate 27/US Highway 87 underneath the Texas Highway 86 overpass.

**On the afternoon of the 27th, scattered thunderstorms developed along a weak cold frontal boundary across the extreme southern Texas Panhandle. These storms brought intense rainfall but were relatively quick moving. However, training of storms occurred in and around Tulia (Swisher County) which resulted in flash flooding. One vehicle stalled out along Interstate 27 near Tulia.**

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| <b>FLOYD COUNTY --- LOCKNEY [34.12, -101.43]</b> |                    |   |  |                              |
|  | 07/28/20 18:25 CST | 0 |  | Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt) |
|  | 07/28/20 18:25 CST | 0 |  | Source: Law Enforcement      |

Law enforcement reported widespread wind damage in Lockney from a thunderstorm. Large tree limbs were downed and numerous fences were damaged.

**Scattered thunderstorms developed in the central South Plains on the afternoon of the 28th and quickly raced east. One of these storms became severe as it moved over Lockney (Floyd County) causing widespread wind damage within the town.**

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| <hr/>   |                    |   |  |                              |
| <b>LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 1.1 WSW DOUD [33.56, -101.95]</b> |                    |   |  |                              |
|   | 07/30/20 17:21 CST | 0 |  | Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt) |
|   | 07/30/20 17:21 CST | 0 |  | Source: Broadcast Media      |

Local broadcast media relayed a picture of a power pole blown over near the intersection of 34th Street and South Loop 289.

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| <hr/>  |                    |   |  |                              |
| <b>GARZA COUNTY --- 5.4 SSW GRAHAM CHAPEL [33.08, -101.52]</b> |                    |   |  |                              |
|  | 07/30/20 18:25 CST | 0 |  | Thunderstorm Wind (MG 60 kt) |
|  | 07/30/20 18:25 CST | 0 |  | Source: Mesonet              |

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near Graham measured a wind gust to 69 mph.

|   |                    |   |  |                              |
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| <b>YOAKUM COUNTY --- 7.0 WNW DENVER CITY [33.01, -102.96]</b> |                    |   |  |                              |
|   | 07/31/20 02:05 CST | 0 |  | Thunderstorm Wind (MG 53 kt) |
|   | 07/31/20 02:10 CST | 0 |  | Source: Mesonet              |

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near Denver City measured a peak wind gust of 61 mph at 0210 CST. Severe wind gusts were measured from 0205 through 0210 CST.

**Scattered thunderstorms developed across the South Plains ahead of a cold frontal boundary in the extreme southern Texas Panhandle. A very deeply mixed atmosphere allowed for a dry sub cloud layer. This resulted in a couple of severe wind gusts and thunderstorm wind damage. The first round of thunderstorms occurred late in the afternoon with a severe wind gust reported near Graham and a power pole blown over within the city of Lubbock (Lubbock County). An additional round of thunderstorms occurred during the early morning hours of the 31st as a short wave moved overhead. These thunderstorms mostly affected the southwestern South Plains and a severe wind gust was measured at a Texas Tech University mesonet site near Denver City (Yoakum County).**