

West Texas/Southeastern New Mexico August 2017 Climate Summary



Midland/Odessa
Texas



U.S. National Weather
Service Midland, TX



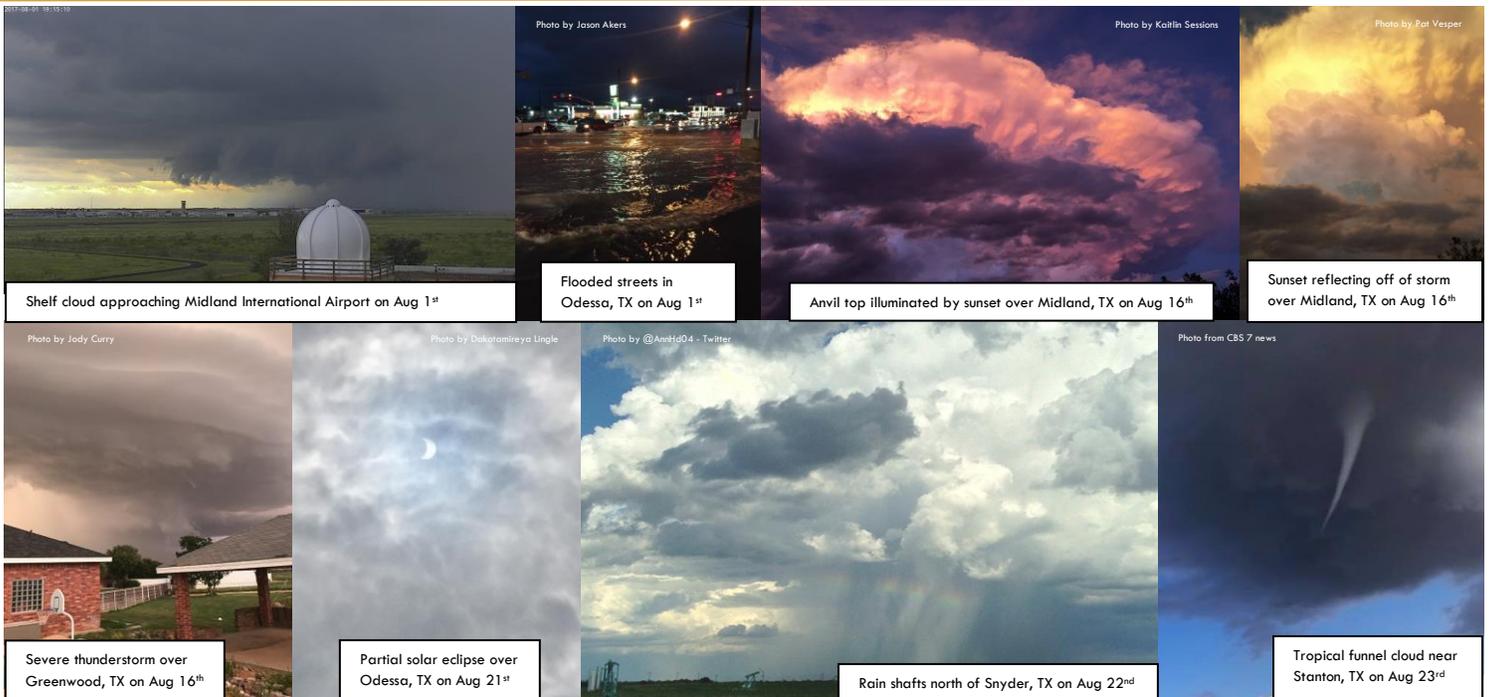
@NWSMidland

August 2017 Summary

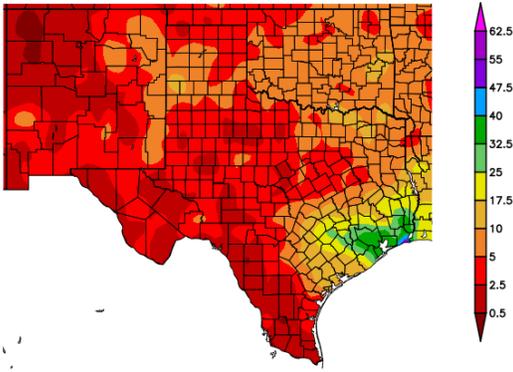
August got off to a wet start with numerous showers and thunderstorms across the Permian Basin and southeastern New Mexico. By early morning on August 2nd, parts of Ector, Culberson, and Lea Counties totaled over 5.00" of rainfall while other counties received between 1.00" and 4.00" with lower amounts recorded south of I-10. Flash flooding was reported in the evening by the public and the Odessa Fire Department engaged in two high water rescues. The next few days were quieter with highs below normal as rain chances continued south of I-10. Temperatures increased from the 3rd-6th as storm chances remained across parts of west Texas and southeastern New Mexico. The afternoon of August 5th brought thunderstorm activity with the potential for small hail and strong winds along and south of I-10 as well as across Eddy and Lea Counties. The next day, more thunderstorms developed as a cold front pushed through the area. One severe storm occurred near Lovington, NM, which led to minor flooding in northern Lea County. Precipitation chances continued through mid-August with temperatures near or above normal.

On the evening of August 12th, storms producing heavy rainfall developed over Mitchell, Scurry, Midland, Reagan, and Upton Counties resulting in street flooding. In Colorado City, TX, 1.00" diameter hail was reported. More heat and afternoon storms, a few severe, produced heavy rainfall, small hail, and gusty winds across the higher terrain leading up to the solar eclipse on the 21st. Early morning storms caused heavy rainfall for Eddy and Lea Counties south through Presidio County, but parted just in time to see 66% of the total solar eclipse. A cold front swept through the region on the 24th and strong to severe storms developed over the Permian Basin. Both Midland and Odessa, TX experienced heavy rainfall with localized flooding. A severe wind gust of 60 mph was reported at Midland International Air & Spaceport. While Hurricane Harvey was making landfall in east Texas on the 25th, more afternoon showers and thunderstorms produced heavy rainfall, warranting Flash Flood Warnings across southeastern New Mexico, Ector, and Midland Counties. August ended with near-to-above normal high temperatures and dry weather with a record-breaking low of 59°F on the morning of August 30th.

Here are some great pictures sent in from the public and some of our staff! If you've been sharing pictures, awesome! Thanks! If you haven't, consider sharing with us! We love to see weather pictures, and who knows, you may see your picture here or on our Skywarn presentations! Enjoy!



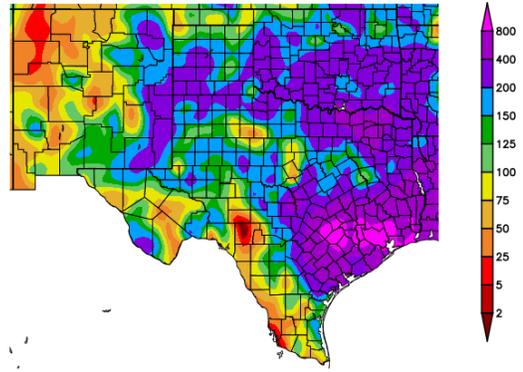
Precipitation (in)
8/1/2017 – 8/31/2017



Generated 9/2/2017 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/1/2017 – 8/31/2017

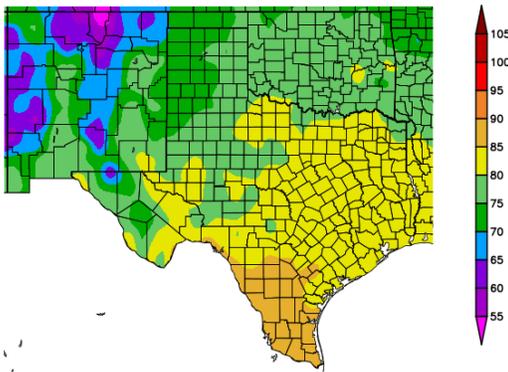


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NOAA Regional Climate Centers

August precipitation in west Texas and southeastern New Mexico ranged from 0.48” at Castolon, TX to 6.81” at Tatum, NM. The wettest areas included Eddy, Lea, Presidio, and Terrell Counties, also parts of the central Permian Basin. The driest regions were most of Brewster County including Big Bend National Park, and portions of Pecos, Reeves, and Jeff Davis Counties.

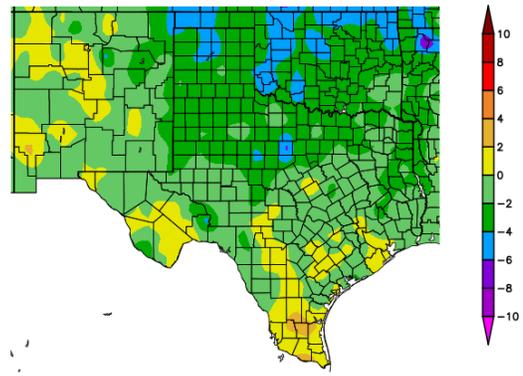
Temperature (F)
8/1/2017 – 8/31/2017



Generated 9/2/2017 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/1/2017 – 8/31/2017

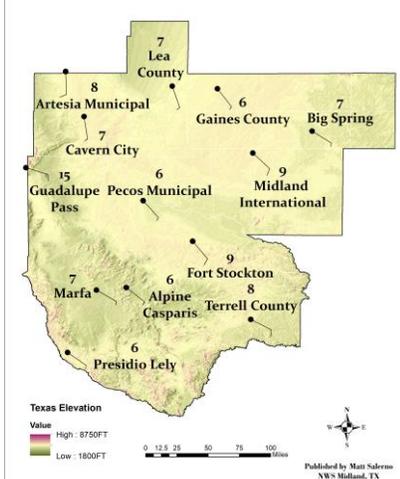


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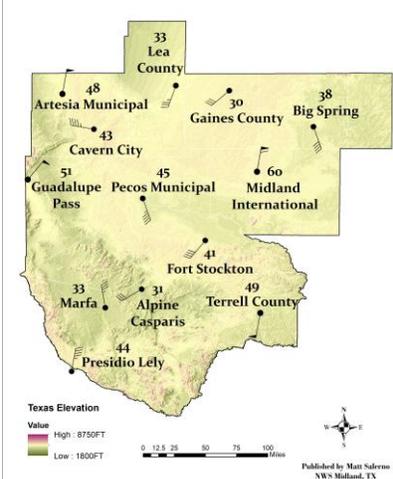
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Average August temperatures ranged from near 63°F at Guadalupe Peak to just over 88°F at Big Bend National Park. Temperatures were cooler than normal across most of the region. The majority of the northern Permian Basin ranged between 2°F and 4°F below normal. Warmer than normal areas included the lower Trans-Pecos and Big Bend National Park.

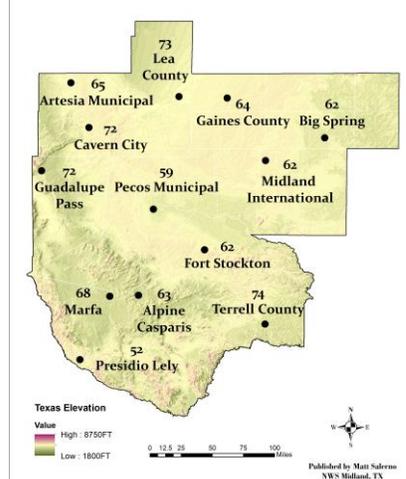
August 2017 Avg Wind Speed (mph)



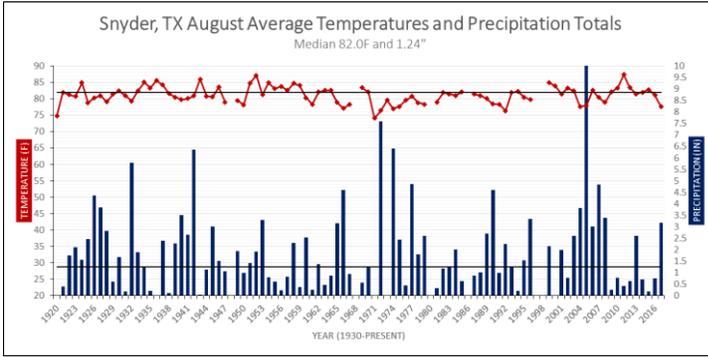
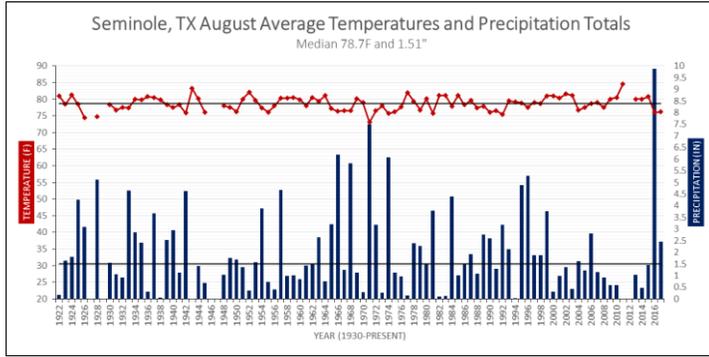
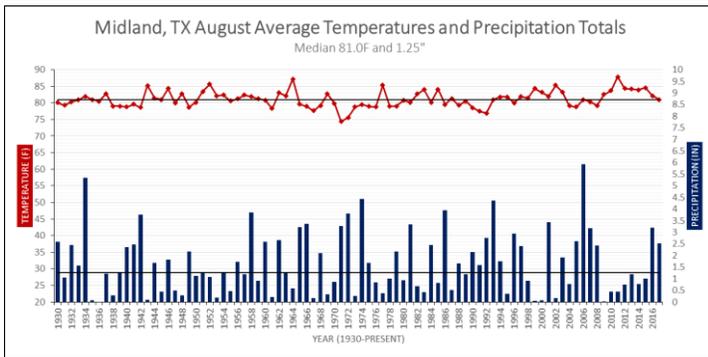
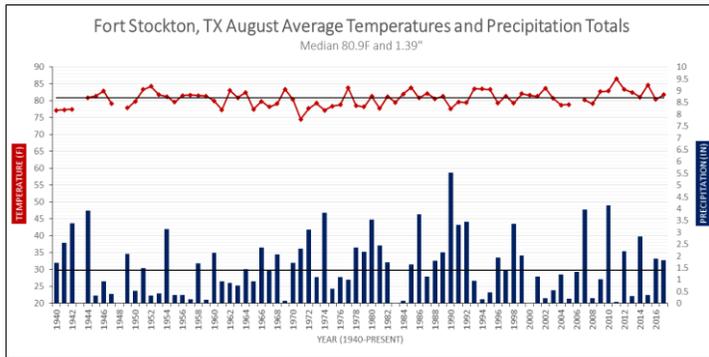
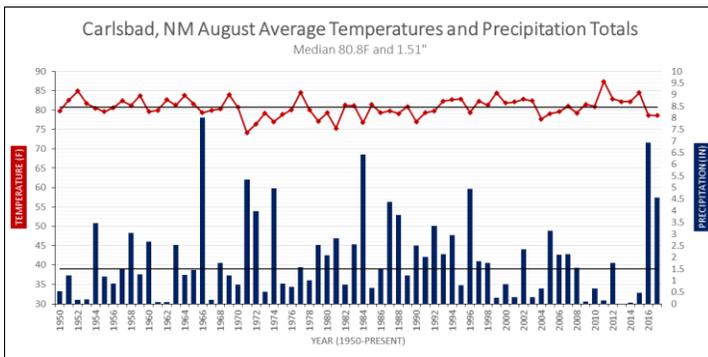
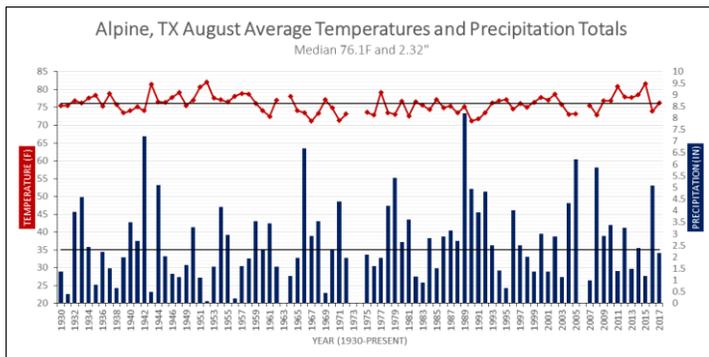
August 2017 Max Wind Gust (mph)



August 2017 Avg Relative Humidity (%)



Average August wind speeds ranged from 6 mph at Alpine, Pecos, Presidio, and Seminole, TX to 15 mph at Guadalupe Pass, TX. The highest wind gust recorded was 60 mph at Midland, TX. Average relative humidity values ranged from 52% to 74%.



Note: Each location has a slightly different period of record. Data gaps within each graph indicate missing data for those years.

August Temperature and Precipitation	Avg Temp (°F)	Departure from Avg (°F)	Temp Ranking (Period of Record)	Precip (In.)	Departure from Avg (In.)	Precip Ranking (Period of Record)
Alpine COOP	76.2	+0.3	T-39 th Warmest	2.17	-0.45	44 th Driest
Carlsbad Airport	78.6	-1.9	11 th Coolest	4.57	+4.58	7 th Wettest
Fort Stockton COOP	81.8	+1.2	T-22 nd Warmest	1.83	+0.24	29 th Wettest
Midland International	81.0	-0.1	T-44 th Coolest	2.52	+0.87	22 nd Wettest
Seminole COOP	76.2	-2.5	T-12 th Coolest	2.50	+0.44	29 th Wettest
Snyder COOP	77.7	-3.4	T-9 th Coolest	3.18	+0.94	21 st Wettest

The graphs above provide August temperature and precipitation data for six individual weather stations at select cities. Four out of the six locations were cooler than normal. Carlsbad, NM, Seminole, TX, and Snyder, TX, recorded an average August temperature that was within the top 12 coolest on record. Snyder, TX was the coolest city compared to normal with a temperature departure of 3.4°F. Alpine and Fort Stockton, TX were both slightly warmer than normal, but did not experience a ranking inside the top 20 for warmth. Five out of six locations had above normal precipitation. The greatest rainfall total of 4.57" occurred at Carlsbad, NM which resulted in the 7th wettest August on record. Carlsbad, NM was also the wettest city compared to normal with a precipitation surplus of 4.58". Alpine, TX was drier than normal with a rainfall deficit of 0.45". In summary, August was mainly cool and wet across the region with the exception of a few locations that were warmer and drier than normal.