



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



September 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Major County

1 W Fairview	13	0045CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G68)
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measured at the Oklahoma Mesonet site

Major County

1 W Fairview	13	0050CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
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measured at Oklahoma Mesonet site

Summary of events of the early morning of September 13, 1997:

Severe thunderstorm winds lasted for over 15 minutes in the Fairview area. Wind gusts reached as high as 88 mph at the Oklahoma Mesonet site one mile west of town. In western portions of Fairview, the severe winds downed numerous limbs, trees, and at least 3 utility poles.

See preceding individual Storm Data entries for further details and additional reports.

Dewey County

3 N Putnam	13	1715CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G59)
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measured at the Oklahoma Mesonet site

Dewey County

2 NW Putnam	13	1740CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G56)
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Winds estimated at 65 mph.

Tillman County

Tipton	22	2300CST			0	0	125K		Flash Flood
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After 9.5 inches of rain fell in less than 24 hours, with most of the rain falling in a 4 hour period from 21:30 CST on the 22nd to 01:30 CST on the 23rd, streets of Tipton looked more like rivers than roads. Water up to five feet deep flowed down Main Street in downtown. At least 19 residences, 4 businesses, a post office, and a church were flooded. Highway 5 near town was also impassable.

Custer County

10 W Butler	22	2330CST			0	1			Flash Flood
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After 7 to 9 inches of rain fell in western Custer County, a normally dry tributary of the Washita River flooded to 12 to 15 feet, washing out the road and tinhorn at a low water crossing. In two separate incidents, a tractor trailer and a car drove into the flood waters. In the first case a car containing four people was washed a few feet downstream, but all occupants escaped without assistance or injury. In the second instance a truck drove into the washed-out road and was overturned by the flooded stream. The driver broke the window and escaped, and was carried 150 yards downstream before grabbing a tree. About two hours later emergency personnel were able to rescue the man from the water. The man suffered from hypothermia and extreme exhaustion and was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Kiowa County

Hobart	23	0000CST			0	0			Flash Flood
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A few county roads near Hobart were covered with up to six inches of water.

Alfalfa County

Cherokee	23	0200CST			0	0			Flash Flood
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State Highway 8 just north of Cherokee was closed due to flash flooding. Up to 2 feet of water flooded the northern parts of Cherokee. Several homes, for a total of 12 people, were evacuated due to rising water.

Major County

Countywide	23	0200CST			0	0			Flash Flood
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State Highway 60 closed between Seiling and Fairview. Numerous streets in Fairview were closed due to flooding.

Summary of events of late evening of September 22, 1997 through early morning of September 23, 1997:

Slow-moving thunderstorms moved repeatedly over portions of northern and western Oklahoma, causing extensive flash flooding in some areas. Tillman, Custer, and Alfalfa Counties were particularly hard-hit, with rainfall amounts around 9 inches at some locations, severe flooding in Tipton (Tillman County), Cherokee (Alfalfa County), and western Custer County.



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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

See preceding individual Storm Data entries for further details and additional reports.

TEXAS, Western North

Wilbarger County

Vernon

23 0100CST

0 0

Flash Flood

Many streets in town were flooded with water up to two feet deep. Numerous autos were stalled and several businesses were flooded. U.S. 287, 183 and 70 were closed in the Vernon area.