

Top 10 Weather Events of 2023

In 2023, our area endured a large number of impactful weather phenomena, ranging from an ice storm to tornadoes to record-breaking and prolonged excessive heat. Included below is a recap of the top 10 weather events of 2023.

(1) June 21st Widespread Wind Damage in the Big Country:

A small complex of severe thunderstorms moved quickly southeast across the Big Country. The highest recorded wind gust was 95 mph in Fisher County (5 miles west of Rotan). Wind damage occurred in several communities including Abilene, Sweetwater, Rotan, Roby, McCaulley, Hawley and Hamby. The main supercell within this storm complex was the same storm which produced the EF-3 tornado to the northwest of our county warning area, in Matador.

(2) May 23rd Funston Tornado:

A tornado occurred 2 to 3 miles east-northeast of Funston, in east-central Jones County. This tornado, rated an EF2 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale, caused significant damage to some homes at the intersection of CR376 and CR364.

(3) San Angelo all time Record-Breaking Heat in mid-to-late-June:

At the San Angelo Regional Airport, a new all-time record high temperature of 114° was set on June 20th, and then tied the following day. Climate records for San Angelo date back to 1907. The previous record high of 111° for San Angelo was tied just the previous day (June 19th). This record had also been set on 4 separate dates in the past (1960, 1944, 1943, and 1933). In the month of June alone, daily high temperatures in San Angelo were at or above 111 degrees for 5 days.

(4) Prolonged Record Heat from mid-June into late September:

West-central Texas experienced prolonged record heat from mid-June into late September.

The **average daily high temperature for the month of June** at San Angelo Regional Airport (101°) was the **2nd highest on record**. This is in addition to the all-time high temperature records which were set in San Angelo in the middle of the month.

The month of July was the 3rd warmest on record at San Angelo, and 5th warmest on record at Abilene. In July, the number of days with lows 80° or higher was 4 at San Angelo, tying with the year of 1912 for the second highest number of days in July with lows 80° or above.

The **average temperature for the month of August at Abilene was the warmest of any month on record** (90.8°). Abilene tied the all-time record high temperature (and month of August record high) of 111° on Aug. 17th. **The average high temperature for August was the warmest of any month on record, at San Angelo (104.4°) and Abilene (104.5°)**. San Angelo tied the record high for the month of August with 111° on Aug. 10th. In addition, there was a **new record for the highest number of days in August with low temperatures 80° or above, at San Angelo (10 days) and Abilene (13 days)**.

A new record high temperature for the month of September was set at Abilene (108° on Sep. 8th). Also, a **new record for highest number of days in September with highs 100° or more was set at both San Angelo (12 days) and Abilene (11 days)**. Abilene tied its warmest September on record, with a monthly average temperature of 84.0°

(5) May 6th Very Large Hail in Brown County:

Clusters of severe thunderstorms moved across the northern half of the region, affecting the Big Country, northern Concho Valley, and northern Heartland areas. Very large hail accompanied some of these storms. Near Brownwood, Lake Brownwood, Early, Owens and Brooksmith, golf ball (1.75 inches) to teacup (near 3.00 inches) size hail and 70 to 75 mph winds occurred with these storms.

(6) June 17th Hamlin Tornado:

A tornado occurred near Hamlin on June 17th. A video from storm chasers of this tornado indicated that it traveled across mostly farmland, just outside of the Hamlin community.

(7) Ice Storm Event January 30th to February 2nd:

With temperatures below freezing and generally in the 20s, periods of freezing drizzle and light freezing rain occurred, as a series of upper level disturbances moved over the region in the southwest flow aloft. At times, sleet was mixed with the light freezing rain. This precipitation caused a glaze of ice to form on area roads, bridges and overpasses, along with tree branches and elevated objects. Travel conditions were very hazardous across the area. Ice accumulation was worse on roads in rural areas, and more spotty on roadways in San Angelo and Abilene.

(8) June 19th Microburst in Christoval:

A thunderstorm microburst caused extensive tree damage, and damage to some structures around Christoval. An NWS storm damage survey indicated an estimated wind gust of 95 mph.

(9) March 2nd High Wind and Severe Weather Event:

With the approach of a strong upper level storm system, an extensive band of thunderstorms developed along a cold front as it moved quickly east across the area. Strong and damaging winds accompanied the band of thunderstorms, mainly across central and eastern parts of the county warning area. Behind the cold front, strong west winds transported dust over western and central parts of the county warning area. Wind gusts of 50-60 mph were reported at Mesonet observation sites across the Concho Valley, and a 59 mph wind gust was recorded at the San Angelo Regional Airport.

(10) June 9th Microburst in San Angelo:

A small line of thunderstorms moved across the San Angelo area with damaging winds (recorded wind gusts of 58 and 66 mph, with radar estimated winds up to 75 to 85 mph). Tree damage was reported throughout the city of San Angelo, along with some property damage.