

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2012

| Location | Date/Time | Deaths & Injuries | Property & Crop Dmg | Event Type and Details |
|----------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
|----------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|

**TEXAS, South**

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z251) KENEDY, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO, (TX-Z254) WILLACY, (TX-Z255) CAMERON, (TX-Z256) COASTAL WILLACY, (TX-Z257) COASTAL CAMERON

|                    |  |  |   |         |
|--------------------|--|--|---|---------|
| 05/01/12 00:00 CST |  |  | 0 | Drought |
| 05/31/12 23:59 CST |  |  | 0 |         |

Drought conditions held steady the first week of May with little to no rain falling during the week across the region. A five day period of occasional strong to severe thunderstorms (May 8-12) would manifest in one level of drought improvement across locations in the Rio Grande Plains and Lower Rio Grande Valley.

**ZAPATA COUNTY --- 0.8 SE SAN YGNACIO [27.04, -99.44]**

|                    |  |  |   |                              |
|--------------------|--|--|---|------------------------------|
| 05/08/12 11:00 CST |  |  | 0 | Thunderstorm Wind (EG 56 kt) |
| 05/08/12 11:00 CST |  |  | 0 | Source: Emergency Manager    |

Zapata County emergency manager reported thunderstorm wind gusts of 60 to 65 mph occurred in San Ygnacio. Three to four homes were reported to have roof damage and one mobile home was destroyed.

**ZAPATA COUNTY --- 1.4 ENE ZAPATA ARPT [26.89, -99.26]**

|                    |  |  |   |                              |
|--------------------|--|--|---|------------------------------|
| 05/08/12 11:35 CST |  |  | 0 | Thunderstorm Wind (MG 54 kt) |
| 05/08/12 11:35 CST |  |  | 0 | Source: AWOS                 |

AWOS at Zapata reported a 62 mph thunderstorm wind gust.

**ZAPATA COUNTY --- 1.5 NNE ZAPATA ARPT [26.90, -99.27]**

|                    |  |  |   |                |
|--------------------|--|--|---|----------------|
| 05/08/12 14:20 CST |  |  | 0 | Hail (1.00 in) |
| 05/08/12 14:25 CST |  |  | 0 | Source: Public |

Public reported quarter size hail at the intersection of Lincoln and 5th Street.

**ZAPATA COUNTY --- 1.5 NNE ZAPATA ARPT [26.90, -99.27]**

|                    |  |  |   |                              |
|--------------------|--|--|---|------------------------------|
| 05/08/12 14:25 CST |  |  | 0 | Thunderstorm Wind (EG 56 kt) |
| 05/08/12 14:26 CST |  |  | 0 | Source: Public               |

Public reported estimated wind gust of 60 to 65 mph at Lincoln and 5th Street.

**ZAPATA COUNTY --- 1.4 NE ZAPATA ARPT [26.89, -99.26], 1.4 NE ZAPATA ARPT [26.89, -99.26], 1.5 NE ZAPATA ARPT [26.89, -99.26], 1.5 NE ZAPATA ARPT [26.90, -99.26]**

|                    |  |  |   |                                 |
|--------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------|
| 05/08/12 14:30 CST |  |  | 0 | Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain) |
| 05/08/12 14:45 CST |  |  | 0 | Source: Law Enforcement         |

Street flooding with briefly up to 3 feet of moving water near the intersection of Irene and US 83. Photos also showed urban type flooding at a local park in the city of Zapata, with an estimated 1 foot of water depth.

**HIDALGO COUNTY --- 9.6 NNW LINN [26.70, -98.20], 5.2 N SAN MANUEL [26.65, -98.12]**

|                    |  |  |   |                         |
|--------------------|--|--|---|-------------------------|
| 05/08/12 15:55 CST |  |  | 0 | Heavy Rain              |
| 05/08/12 16:25 CST |  |  | 0 | Source: Law Enforcement |

The Hidalgo County Precinct #4 Constable recorded 4 to 4.5 inches of rainfall across his ranch to the northwest of U.S. Highway 281, approximately 6 miles north of Linn. High standing water of unknown depth was reported on unpaved roads and in some of the fields.

**HIDALGO COUNTY --- 6.5 N LINN [26.66, -98.13], 5.5 NNE SAN MANUEL [26.65, -98.10]**

|                    |  |   |     |                              |
|--------------------|--|---|-----|------------------------------|
| 05/08/12 16:06 CST |  |   | 50K | Thunderstorm Wind (MG 89 kt) |
| 05/08/12 16:12 CST |  | 1 | 0   | Source: Law Enforcement      |

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| Location  | Date/Time | Deaths & Injuries | Property & Crop Dmg | Event Type and Details |
|---|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| <p>A semi trailer was blown over on US 281, 6 miles north of TX HWY 186. Driver of semi was injured. Driver stated that he had pulled onto the shoulder due to blinding rain and pelting hail and soon after, the downburst moved the trailer onto the dirt shoulder and then turned over. The trailer was carrying 5 tons of cargo (vacuum cleaners) and at least 200 gallons of diesel, which had to be removed from the scene.</p> |           |                   |                     |                        |

The Precinct Constable, who lives about a mile southwest of the trailer incident, reported numerous asphalt shingles pulled from the northwest facing roof, and one window was blown out. Numerous mesquite trees were snapped or had large healthy limbs broken and healthy ebony and oak trees were also damaged on the ranch. Heavy cable was torn out of a telephone tower (0.2 miles SE of the ranch house) at an estimated height of 200 feet above the ground.

A peak instantaneous wind gust of 102 mph was recorded at a 10 meter temporary wind platform as the microburst surged through. The same platform recorded 35 minutes of wind gusts to 50 mph or higher; the platform was less than one half mile from the Constable's house.

### WILLACY COUNTY --- RAYMONDVILLE [26.48, -97.78]

|                    |  |   |                              |
|--------------------|--|---|------------------------------|
| 05/08/12 17:05 CST |  | 0 | Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt) |
| 05/08/12 17:05 CST |  | 0 | Source: Emergency Manager    |

Emergency manager reported winds from 50 to 60 mph in Raymondville.

The leading edge of a slow moving upper level disturbance across the southwest U.S. induced thunderstorms across the Sierra Madre Oriental during the early morning hours of May 8th. These storms moved into the Rio Grande Plains toward noon, then linked up with additional lift from an approaching wind shift line drifting south from the South Texas Plains. Feeding on a very unstable atmosphere - cold and dry air well above the earth's surface - initial storms would slam Zapata County during lunchtime with damaging wind, large hail, flooding rain, and frequent lightning. As the afternoon progressed, increasing contrast between cooler air across the South Texas Plains (60s and 70s) with the last of the early May heat in the Rio Grande Valley (90s) set the stage for additional storms with damaging winds and flooding rain in Zapata, and culminated with a "monster" supercell thunderstorm which cruised from southwest Brooks County through Raymondville before weakening.

This impressive supercell storm dominated the episode, and produced a measured instantaneous wind gust over 100 mph in rural Hidalgo County. Fortunately for the populated middle Valley, where more than 700,000 persons are at risk, this cell slid through northern Hidalgo County north of the SR 186 and U.S. 281 interchange, and accelerated through the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge northeast of Linn and San Manuel before reaching Raymondville (Willacy County). The cell quickly weakened by the end of dinner hour (6 to 7 PM CDT) before reaching the Laguna Madre and Gulf of Mexico.

### HIDALGO COUNTY --- 2.5 SSE FAYSVILLE [26.39, -98.12], 3.5 SSE FAYSVILLE [26.37, -98.11]

|                    |  |     |                              |
|--------------------|--|-----|------------------------------|
| 05/09/12 20:25 CST |  | 25K | Thunderstorm Wind (EG 56 kt) |
| 05/09/12 20:30 CST |  | 0   | Source: Emergency Manager    |

Between 9 and 945 PM, winds increased, rain poured down, and hail developed as the storm formed and began moving east. At approximately 930 PM, a microburst and large hail struck a colonia in Doolittle, damaging nearly every home (most were of poor construction) and rolling two unanchored trailers. One resident's ceiling caved in from the combination of hail, estimated to be quarter sized, torrential rains, and driving 60 to 65 mph winds. Another tin roof was completely blown from a mobile home. A man was inside one of the trailers when it rolled; fortunately, he was not injured. Nearby, several large limbs were broken from mesquite trees, and one tree was partially uprooted. Shed damage was also noted at the Diamond B Ranch, just north of the colonia, which occurred moments before the downburst wrecked the colonia.

### HIDALGO COUNTY --- 3.4 SSE FAYSVILLE [26.37, -98.11]

|                    |  |   |                |
|--------------------|--|---|----------------|
| 05/09/12 20:25 CST |  | 0 | Hail (1.00 in) |
| 05/09/12 20:30 CST |  | 0 | Source: Public |

Several residents of a colonia in Doolittle reported at least five minutes of hail, up to the size of quarters, with a severe thunderstorm that also produced a damaging microburst in the area.

### HIDALGO COUNTY --- 4.8 NNE LA BLANCA [26.37, -98.05]

|                    |  |   |                |
|--------------------|--|---|----------------|
| 05/09/12 20:55 CST |  | 0 | Hail (0.75 in) |
| 05/09/12 20:57 CST |  | 0 | Source: Public |

Public reported penny size hail 10 mile NE of Edinburg near Elsa at the intersection of FM2812 and Val Verde Road.

### WILLACY COUNTY --- 0.4 SSE SEBASTIAN [26.34, -97.80], 0.8 SE SEBASTIAN [26.34, -97.79]

|                    |  |   |                          |
|--------------------|--|---|--------------------------|
| 05/09/12 21:25 CST |  | 0 | Hail (0.75 in)           |
| 05/09/12 21:35 CST |  | 0 | Source: NWS Storm Survey |

After an initial report of baseball to softball sized hail in Sebastian, visual evidence from an NWS storm survey indicated no discernible hail impact in Sebastian. Estimated size was penny sized based on conversations with affected residents. the hail lasted up to 10 minutes.

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|---|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>KENEDY COUNTY --- 2.2 E TURCOTTE [27.02, -97.79]</b> |                    |                   |                     |                              |
|   | 05/09/12 21:30 CST |                   | 0                   | Hail (1.00 in)               |
|   | 05/09/12 21:33 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: Other Federal Agency |

Border patrol checkpoint 15 miles south of Sarita reported predominantly nickel size hail with embedded quarter size hail.

|  |                    |  |   |                           |
|--|--------------------|--|---|---------------------------|
| <b>WILLACY COUNTY --- 1.5 N LYFORD [26.44, -97.78]</b> |                    |  |   |                           |
|  | 05/09/12 21:40 CST |  | 0 | Hail (1.75 in)            |
|  | 05/09/12 21:45 CST |  | 0 | Source: Emergency Manager |

Willacy County emergency manager reported golfball size hail 2 miles south of Raymondville.

A thunderstorm, forming along boundaries from earlier activity during the afternoon on May 9th and aided by proximity to a stationary surface front and another wave of energy ahead of an upper level disturbance, quickly became severe northeast of Edinburg. Between 9 and 945 PM, winds increased, rain poured down, and hail developed as the storm formed and began moving east.

At approximately 930 PM, a microburst and large hail struck a colonia in Doolittle, damaging nearly every home (most were of poor construction) and rolling two unanchored trailers. The storm would continue east-southeast through eastern Hidalgo county and on into western Willacy County, generally along and north of state highway 107 in Hidalgo County, and along and north of the Cameron/Willacy County line. Additional small to medium sized hail fell from Edcouch/Elsa (Hidalgo County) eastward through Sebastian to just south of Raymondville (Willacy County) before the storm weakened just before 11 PM CDT.

Additional cells forming along boundaries from the initial storm north of Edinburg pushed northeast into the King Ranch, eventually dropping large hail along U.S. Highway 77.



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|---|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Rolled, unanchored trailer home at a colonia (makeshift neighborhood of migrant workers along the U.S./Mexico border) after an estimated 60 to 65 mph microburst passed through, near Doolittle, TX.</i>   |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
| <b>ZAPATA COUNTY --- 1.9 NNE ZAPATA ARPT [26.91, -99.27], 1.5 WSW ZAPATA [26.89, -99.25]</b>  |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
|   | 05/10/12 22:10 CST |                   | 5K                  | Lightning                            |
|   | 05/10/12 22:20 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: Law Enforcement              |
| Frequent to excessive lightning knocked out power to the south half of the City of Zapata during a severe thunderstorm during the late evening of May 10th.   |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
| <b>ZAPATA COUNTY --- 1.4 NNE ZAPATA ARPT [26.90, -99.27], 1.4 ENE ZAPATA ARPT [26.89, -99.26]</b>   |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
|   | 05/10/12 22:15 CST |                   | 0                   | Hail (1.00 in)                       |
|   | 05/10/12 22:25 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: County Official              |
| Penny to quarter sized hail was reported at two locations in the City of Zapata between 1115 and 1125 PM local daylight time as severe thunderstorms marched across the area. The first report was an unknown location; the second was at the intersection of 5th Avenue and Lincoln Street.  |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
| <b>ZAPATA COUNTY --- 2.3 NW ZAPATA [26.92, -99.26], 2.1 WNW ZAPATA [26.91, -99.26]</b>  |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
|   | 05/10/12 22:15 CST |                   | 0                   | Heavy Rain                           |
|   | 05/10/12 22:45 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: Law Enforcement              |
| Heavy rainfall of unknown amount caused minor flooding in the Medina Addition section of the City of Zapata.  |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
| <b>ZAPATA COUNTY --- 1.5 NNE ZAPATA ARPT [26.90, -99.27]</b>  |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
|   | 05/10/12 22:17 CST |                   | 0                   | Thunderstorm Wind (EG 61 kt)         |
|   | 05/10/12 22:25 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: Trained Spotter              |
| Trained spotter estimated wind gusts of 65 to 70 mph in downtown Zapata at the intersection of 5th and Lincoln Street. Initial report time was 1122 PM CDT; final time range estimated by radar.  |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
| <b>JIM HOGG COUNTY --- 0.3 WSW RANDADO [27.08, -98.88]</b>  |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
|   | 05/10/12 22:25 CST |                   | 0                   | Hail (1.00 in)                       |
|   | 05/10/12 22:28 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: Law Enforcement              |
| Jim Hogg County Sheriff's Office reported quarter size hail in Randado.   |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
| <b>ZAPATA COUNTY --- 2.3 NE FALCON RES NORTH [26.85, -99.23], 4.0 E FALCON RES NORTH [26.82, -99.18], 5.7 SE ZAPATA [26.85, -99.16], 3.0 SSE ZAPATA [26.86, -99.21]</b>   |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
|   | 05/10/12 22:40 CST |                   | 0                   | Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)      |
|   | 05/11/12 00:30 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: Law Enforcement              |
| The Zapata County Sheriff's Office reported 3 feet of flowing water along U.S. Highway 83 in the vicinity of El Clareno Ranch, about 7 miles south-southeast of the City of Zapata. The highway was closed from 1140 PM on the 10th until 130 AM on the 11th. No damage, injuries, or deaths were reported.   |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
| <b>JIM HOGG COUNTY --- 0.3 WSW RANDADO [27.08, -98.88], 0.2 SW RANDADO [27.08, -98.88]</b>  |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
|   | 05/10/12 22:59 CST |                   | 0                   | Tornado (EF0, L: 0.10 mi , W: 10 yd) |
|   | 05/10/12 23:59 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: Law Enforcement              |
| Jim Hogg County Sheriff's Office reported tornado briefly touched down at the intersection of Highway 16 and FM 649 in the vicinity of Randado.   |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
| <b>CAMERON COUNTY --- 0.5 NNE SAN BENITO MUNI ARPT [26.14, -97.62]</b>  |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
|   | 05/11/12 02:15 CST |                   | 15K                 | Tornado (EF0, L: 0.10 mi , W: 50 yd) |
|   | 05/11/12 02:16 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: NWS Storm Survey             |
| A mini-supercell thunderstorms dropped a very brief tornado, containing estimated 80 mph winds (high end EF0 on the Fujita Scale) on top of a single family home, causing considerable damage to property at the well built structure. Damage included: four sections of cyclone fence bent in different directions around the home; a boat and trailer flipped over, numerous snapped tree limbs in different directions, and other limbs that came from an undetermined tree, barrel-tile roof shingles lifted off, one broken window, and a damaged carport. Unusual was the singular nature of the damage - striking only this property - with one of the shortest track lengths (a tenth of a mile) one would see on survey. |                    |                   |                     |                                      |
| <b>HIDALGO COUNTY --- 0.5 NW MC ALLEN [26.20, -98.24], 0.9 SSW PHARR [26.19, -98.18]</b>  |                    |                   |                     |                                      |



## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2012

| Location | Date/Time          | Deaths & Injuries | Property & Crop Dmg | Event Type and Details  |
|----------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
|          | 05/11/12 03:05 CST |                   | 15K                 | Lightning               |
|          | 05/11/12 03:20 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: Law Enforcement |

Frequent to excessive lightning struck McAllen and Pharr as an individual strong thunderstorm followed the initial line of activity. The City of McAllen reported 4,200 customers without power during the peak of the storm. Lightning caused a structure fire just east in Pharr and knocked out power to some residents of the city.

Vigorous energy cycling around a seasonally strong upper level disturbance crashing into Texas brought a final round of potent thunderstorms through much of the Rio Grande Valley during the late night hours of May 10th into daybreak on May 11th. Initial severe thunderstorms and isolated tornadoes pummeled the Coastal Bend and South Texas Plains from Corpus Christi to near Laredo during the evening of the 10th. As night progressed, pockets of colder air behind the initial line pushed its west end southward; just before midnight, this end would link up with individual cells moving off the Sierra Madre west of Zapata County and form a separate, smaller line from Jim Hogg to Zapata County. This line quickly intensified and dumped heavy rain, high winds some large hail, and one confirmed tornado. As the line marched from the Ranchlands into the Rio Grande Valley, it weakened a bit; as the remnants neared the coast before daybreak, individual small rotating storms developed and redeveloped in Cameron County, with several reports of funnel clouds and at least one confirmed tornado in San Benito (just after 3 AM) from a few hours prior to until just after daybreak on the 11th.

While minor flooding was reported across some of the hilly terrain of the Rio Grande Plains, rainfall was more welcome in the Lower and Mid Valley, with many locations between San Benito, Harlingen, and McAllen receiving 1 to 2 inches of soaking. Frequent to excessive lightning strikes knocked out power to portions of the Rio Grande Valley as the intense storms passed; the lightning caused one structure fire in Pharr.



*Damage to property and roof at a well built single family home in San Benito, TX from small tornado which contained estimated 80 mph winds. The large mesquite limbs were lifted from trees that could not be found on or near the property.*

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2012

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|---|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>WILLACY COUNTY --- 2.7 E RAYMONDVILLE [26.48, -97.74]</b>  |                    |                   |                     |                           |
|   | 05/12/12 15:06 CST |                   | 0                   | Hail (0.88 in)            |
|   | 05/12/12 15:08 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: Public            |
| Public reported nickel size hail near Raymondville, about 2 miles east of Highway 77.   |                    |                   |                     |                           |
| <b>CAMERON COUNTY --- 1.7 NE STUART PLACE [26.20, -97.75]</b>   |                    |                   |                     |                           |
|   | 05/12/12 15:10 CST |                   | 5K                  | Lightning                 |
|   | 05/12/12 15:10 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: Public            |
| Palm Valley resident reported 5 palm trees set on fire by a lightning strike.   |                    |                   |                     |                           |
| <b>WILLACY COUNTY --- 0.1 SSW YTURRIA [26.57, -97.77], 0.8 N RAYMONDVILLE [26.49, -97.78]</b>   |                    |                   |                     |                           |
|   | 05/12/12 15:25 CST |                   | 0                   | Hail (1.00 in)            |
|   | 05/12/12 15:30 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: Emergency Manager |
| The Willacy County Emergency Manager reported quarter size hail near Yturria. The public reported quarter size hail on the north side of Raymondville. Each report was from the same hail core, which moved quickly northeast of town and may have dropped larger hail over rural locations north of the City.  |                    |                   |                     |                           |
| <b>WILLACY COUNTY --- 1.0 NW RAYMONDVILLE [26.49, -97.79]</b>   |                    |                   |                     |                           |
|   | 05/12/12 15:34 CST |                   | 0                   | Hail (0.88 in)            |
|   | 05/12/12 15:35 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: Public            |
| Nickel sized hail was reported at the intersection of 1st St. and Tampico Ave., also on the north side of town, at 434 PM CDT, by the public. Report was relayed to the NWS by a local weather broadcaster.   |                    |                   |                     |                           |
| <b>CAMERON COUNTY --- 0.7 NNE LA FERIA [26.16, -97.82]</b>  |                    |                   |                     |                           |
|   | 05/12/12 16:10 CST |                   | 0                   | Hail (1.00 in)            |
|   | 05/12/12 16:15 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: Public            |
| Public reported quarter size hail near La Feria.  |                    |                   |                     |                           |
| <b>CAMERON COUNTY --- 1.2 NW HARLINGEN [26.19, -97.72], 2.0 WNW HARLINGEN [26.19, -97.73]</b>   |                    |                   |                     |                           |
|   | 05/12/12 16:15 CST |                   | 0                   | Hail (0.88 in)            |
|   | 05/12/12 16:25 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: Public            |
| Nickel sized hail was reported by the public on the west side of Harlingen along the Highway 77 and 83 interchange at 515 PM; penny sized hail was reported at the intersection of Harrison and U.S. Highway 77 at 520 PM, with another report of penny sized hail at the same time relayed by amateur radio from the general public in the same area. Continuation of the hail for another five minutes was estimated by radar.  |                    |                   |                     |                           |
| <b>CAMERON COUNTY --- 0.5 NNW STUART PLACE [26.19, -97.77], 0.3 NNW HARLINGEN [26.18, -97.70]</b>   |                    |                   |                     |                           |
|   | 05/12/12 16:20 CST |                   | 0.50K               | Hail (1.25 in)            |
|   | 05/12/12 16:25 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: Public            |
| Nickel to quarter size hail reported at Altas Palmas and Highway 83 and quarter size hail along Highway 83 on the west side of Harlingen. Report from spouse of NWS employee that car windshield was broken from the hail.  |                    |                   |                     |                           |
| <b>CAMERON COUNTY --- 3.0 NNE RANGERVILLE [26.12, -97.73]</b>   |                    |                   |                     |                           |
|   | 05/12/12 16:25 CST |                   | 0                   | Hail (1.00 in)            |
|   | 05/12/12 16:30 CST |                   | 0                   | Source: Emergency Manager |
| Cameron County Emergency Manager reported quarter size hail at the intersection of County Road 800 and Rangerville Road.  |                    |                   |                     |                           |
| <p><b>A little more than a day after a thunderstorm system brought more severe weather to the Rio Grande Valley, the last vestige of very unstable air held forth mainly along and east of Highway 77. Despite unfavorable upper level conditions, the combination of the unstable air with a trigger in the form of a wind shift/dry line which moved within striking distance of Highway 77 allowed a small but potent cluster of thunderstorms to explosively grow initially in northern Willacy County just before 4 PM CDT. These storms would produce south-moving outflows, which added to the dryline trigger. Additional storms would fire in only a half hour, working on the very unstable atmosphere (above right) to increase updraft speed and develop quarter to half dollar sized hail – at least – between west Harlingen and La Feria and points south between 515 and 545 PM. Once again, there was some damage to vehicles caught in the hail, much containing jagged edges. Many residents caught by surprise by the rapid development moved their vehicles under gas station canopies, car washes, and highway underpasses.</b></p> |                    |                   |                     |                           |

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*A "plate" of hail. Quarter size or larger hailstones are shown, many with jagged edges, from a local television station viewer. Photograph courtesy of the NWS Brownsville/RGV Facebook Wall via Alan Shoemaker of KRGV-TV-5.*

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(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z251) KENEDY, (TX-Z254) WILLACY, (TX-Z255) CAMERON, (TX-Z256) COASTAL WILLACY, (TX-Z257) COASTAL CAMERON

|                    |   |         |
|--------------------|---|---------|
| 05/15/12 00:00 CST | 0 | Drought |
| 05/31/12 23:59 CST | 0 |         |

A combination of showers, squall lines, thunderstorm clusters, and individual super cells dropped rain across the entire Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas between May 8th and 12th, which ultimately improved drought conditions in most areas beginning on the 15th.

Specific rainfall totals from across the region included: 3.43 inches in Zapata County, 1.56 inches in Falfurrias, 4.68 inches in Raymondville, 2.36 inches at McAllen/Miller International Airport, 3.21 inches at Valley International Airport in Harlingen, and 1.26 at the Brownsville/South Padre Island Airport in Brownsville. This rainfall greatly improved drought conditions across the region, with only a sliver of extreme (D3) drought across the northern tip of Jim Hogg County (including Hebbronville) for much of the period.

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CAMERON COUNTY --- 1.7 NW SAN BENITO [26.15, -97.65]

|                    |    |                              |
|--------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 05/15/12 20:49 CST | 3K | Thunderstorm Wind (EG 48 kt) |
| 05/15/12 20:49 CST | 0  | Source: Public               |

A strong thunderstorm raced through central and eastern Cameron County, and briefly intensified. Winds estimated at 55 mph blew a poorly anchored roof from one mobile home at the Tropical Trail MHP along U.S. 77 (business) near Oscar Williams Road. A few mesquite limbs were also torn from one or two trees near the home; other structures were unharmed.

A fast moving thunderstorm, aided by a pool of cool air aloft associated with an upper level disturbance, moved rapidly from southern Willacy County through central and eastern Cameron County during the mid evening of May 15th, causing local damage to a mobile home

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| park.    |           |                   |                     |                        |