Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - September 2012

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

TEXAS, South

(TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z251) KENEDY, (TX-Z252) STARR, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO, (TX-Z254) WILLACY, (TX-Z255) CAMERON, (TX-Z256) COASTAL WILLACY, (TX-Z257) COASTAL CAMERON

	09/01/12 00:00 CST	0	Drought
	09/30/12 23:59 CST	0	

For most of September, it seemed like the very hot summer was never going to end. Triple digit daytime heat, rain-free weather and frequent breezes continued to allow drought conditions to deteriorate across the Rio Grande Valley. A persistent upper level ridge of high pressure continued to spread from the SW U.S. into the eastern half of the nation through the first half of the month.

Occasional showers developed along the sea breeze and showers and thunderstorms developed along a weak cold front that pushed through the early in the month. By the middle of the month, a piece of a diving trough finally displaced the upper ridge, also referred to as "La Canicula" (from the occurrence of mid July through late August hot weather with the location of Sirius in the night sky). The ridge began to retrograde west towards Baja California. Despite the necessary ingredients being in place (lifting of warm and humid low and mid level air, a favorable upper level jet pattern, and an area of surface low pressure) widespread rain did not occur.

Only splotchy heavy rainfall fell, with the heaviest rain falling on Friday September 14th across the Valley. Another weak frontal boundary and more seabreeze activity on the 18th and 19th provided spotty, but much needed, rainfall across the Lower and Mid Valley. Tropical cyclones were non existent for the Texas coast through September, held off by very dry air associated with the ridge and its frequent extension into the southern and central Plains states. The only help - though slight - from the tropics occurred from the Eastern Pacific. Remnant moisture from Hurricane Miriam and offspring Tropical Storm Norman (near Baja) provided pockets of heavy rainfall on the 28th and 29th, which would briefly improve conditions across the Rio Grande Plains to begin October.

BROOKS COUNTY --- 1.0 ESE FALFURRIAS [27.23, -98.14]

	09/08/12 17:03 CST	0.50K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	09/08/12 17:03 CST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

At 612 pm CDT, local law enforcement reported trees down at 210 and Eucalyptus in Falfurrias due to thunderstorm winds.

A slow moving weak cold front moved south across the South Texas brush country and Rio Grande Plains during the late afternoon and early evening hours of September 8th. Isolated showers and thunderstorms associated with the front developed over these areas by 4 pm CDT. The combination of lift along the front, some low level gulf moisture aided by northeast flow off the gulf and deeper moisture along the front, low level instability, allowed the energy "cap" to be broken, and strong to severe storms developed and moved into Jim Hogg and Brooks County. Damaging winds were noted with one of the storms.

(TX-Z250) BROOKS

	09/11/12 00:00 CST	0	Drought
	09/30/12 23:59 CST	0	

Limited rainfall (generally two inches or less), along with continued hot and breezy conditions in a month that typically sees the highest average rains (3 to 5 inches) across the western King Ranch and hunting grounds in Brooks County, deteriorated drought conditions to Exceptional (D4) for most of the county from the second week of September through month's end. Parts of western and southeastern Brooks County received less than one inch of rain, 3 to 4 inches below average.

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA

	09/18/12 00:00 CST	0	Drought
	09/24/12 23:59 CST	0	

Lack of rainfall across the northern two thirds of Zapata County - as much as 1 to 2 inches below an already dry monthly average compared with the Lower and Middle Texas Rio Grande Valley (3 to 4 inches is average), slid the area back into Severe (D2) Drought after a late summer recovery to Moderate/Abnormally Dry conditions (D0/D1).

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO

	09/25/12 00:00 CST	0	Drought
	09/30/12 23:59 CST	0	

With the exception of September 27th through 29th, when the remnants of former Pacific Hurricane Miriam and former Tropical Storm Norman spread notable tropical moisture across central and south Texas, the final week of September manifest drought deterioration from prior weeks of limited rainfall to push Extreme (D3) to Exceptional (D4) Drought into Hidalgo, Starr, and Zapata County. Severe (D2) Drought re-formed in Zapata County by the 18th, then quickly worsened to Extreme (D3) with the hot and dry weather combined with low afternoon humidity.

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September, is typically the wettest month of the year, when rainfall averages from just under 4 inches across the Rio Grande Plains to just over 6 inches along the southeast Cameron County coast, however, the month would end with rainfall totals well below average. Most of the Rio Grande Valley fell 2 to more than 4 inches short of these averages.