

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - May 2011

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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### GULF OF MEXICO

<b>LAGUNA MADRE FROM 5NM N OF PT MANSFIELD TO BAFFIN BAY TX COUNTY --- 28.1 SSW S BAFFIN BAY [26.80, -97.47]</b>				
	05/12/11 15:38 CST		0	Marine Thunderstorm Wind (MG 42 kt)
	05/12/11 15:43 CST		0	Source: C-MAN Station

The Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network (TCOON) site at Rincon del San Jose (along Laguna Madre in eastern Kenedy County) recorded a wind gust to 42 knots (48 mph) with sustained winds of 35 knots (40 mph) as a line of thunderstorms raced across the area during the mid afternoon of May 12th.

<b>WATERS FROM BAFFIN BAY TO PT MANSFIELD TX EXT FROM 20 TO 60NM COUNTY --- 45.1 ESE S BAFFIN BAY [26.97, -96.69]</b>				
	05/12/11 15:49 CST		0	Marine Thunderstorm Wind (MG 43 kt)
	05/12/11 16:51 CST		0	Source: Buoy

The NOAA Buoy 42020, about 35 nm northeast of Port Mansfield, recorded prolonged wind gusts in excess of 40 knots as the line of strong storms and associated wake low pressure passed through the Lower Texas Gulf waters east of Kenedy County. Peak gusts were 40 knots or higher for a little more than an hour; peak sustained wind reached 34 knots at 520 PM CDT but otherwise remained in the 30 to 33 knots range through most of the gale force gusts. The peak gust of 43 knots (49 mph) occurred at 508 PM CDT.

**A developing squall line accelerated through Kenedy County and into the Lower Texas Gulf waters, producing near storm force wind gusts from the Laguna Madre east into the Gulf waters out to 60 nm out. This was the first significant marine weather event from thunderstorms since March 5th, 2011.**

### TEXAS, South

<b>(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (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</b>				
	05/01/11 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	05/09/11 23:59 CST		0	

A continued lack of rainfall across Deep South Texas during the first week of May resulted in the drought conditions remaining the same as the last week of April. Extreme (D3) Drought conditions continued across the entire Rio Grande Valley except for the immediate coast, with severe drought conditions in a stripe from Brooks County to eastern Cameron and Willacy Counties.

These conditions prevailed through May 9th, as persistent, record heat, Lack of rainfall, and strong south to southeasterly winds maintained conditions with virtually no wetting moisture, including very little morning dew. Dryland crop damage continued to slowly increase.

<b>(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (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</b>				
	05/10/11 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	05/31/11 23:59 CST		0	

A continued lack of rainfall across Deep South Texas during the second week of May resulted in Exceptional (D4) drought conditions developing across the western and central portions of the Rio Grande Valley. These conditions would continue through month's end. Extreme (D3) Drought conditions spread across the Brush Country and King Ranch portions of eastern and central areas of Deep South Texas with severe drought conditions in northern portions of Kenedy County. Dryland crop damage continued to increase, and livestock, particularly cattle herds, were impacted by dwindling feed supplies of hay and corn.

<b>BROOKS COUNTY --- 0.9 SE FALFURRIAS [27.22, -98.14]</b>				
	05/12/11 13:45 CST		0.10K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 39 kt)
	05/12/11 13:45 CST		0	Source: Public

The public reported a wind gusts estimated to be 45 miles per hour occurred during a thunderstorm that moved through Falfurrias during the early afternoon on May 12 2011. Small branches were broken in some trees.

<b>BROOKS COUNTY --- 1.4 NNE FALFURRIAS [27.25, -98.14], 1.2 SSE FALFURRIAS [27.21, -98.14]</b>				
	05/12/11 14:15 CST		0	Heavy Rain
	05/12/11 15:15 CST		0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue

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A developing line of thunderstorms, containing torrential rains, moved through northern Brooks County during the early afternoon producing pockets of poor drainage and nuisance urban-type flooding along Highway 281 in Falfurrias. The Brooks county Sheriff department reported twelve inches of water was on Highway 281 and South FM 1418 by 315 PM CDT; less than an hour later, one and one half feet of water was also reported in several other locations along Highway 281. Most of these locations have become flood prone due to overpass/bypass construction, which has caused clogging of normally well draining areas along the highway.

An upper level disturbance leading a cool front into Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley sparked numerous showers and thunderstorms, some with heavy rainfall and gusty winds, across the South Texas Plains around noon on May 12th. Boundaries from these storms clashed with warm humid air and enough deep moisture to create a slow moving line of torrential rain producing thunderstorms, beginning in eastern Jim Hogg County by intensifying into northern Brooks and the King Ranch of Kenedy by early to mid afternoon. The line accelerated through Brooks County, producing 1.5 to more than 2 inches of rain in about an hour before surging toward the coast by late afternoon.

**ZAPATA COUNTY --- 2.1 N ZAPATA ARPT [26.91, -99.28], 1.7 WNW ZAPATA [26.91, -99.26]**

05/15/11 09:44 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
05/15/11 09:51 CST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

The Zapata County Sheriff department reported hail up to one inch but predominately dime to nickel size fell during a thunderstorm which moved across the City of Zapata between 10:44 and 10:51 AM CDT. The Fire Department (EOC) reported penny size hail during the same period, as did a trained storm spotter.

**WILLACY COUNTY --- 0.7 NNW RAYMONDVILLE [26.49, -97.79], 0.1 SE RAYMONDVILLE [26.48, -97.78]**

05/15/11 14:35 CST	5K	Hail (1.75 in)
05/15/11 14:40 CST	0	Source: Public

A friend of an NWS employee reported Golfball size hail in Raymondville, some which caused dents and "dings" to several vehicles parked outside, as the first of two hailstorms scooted through Willacy County during the mid afternoon of May 15th, 2011.

**WILLACY COUNTY --- 2.5 E SAN PERLITA [26.50, -97.61]**

05/15/11 16:33 CST	0	Hail (0.75 in)
05/15/11 16:36 CST	0	Source: Public

A spotter reported penny size hail fell for approximately 3 or 4 minutes east of San Perlita near the intersection of FM 3142 and Highway 186.

The combination of a northward moving warm front with a series of weak upper level disturbances along it produced scattered thunderstorms which moved from Zapata County through southern Jim Hogg/northern Starr, northern Hidalgo, and into central Willacy County before dissipating as they reached the coast of Cameron and Willacy County. The stronger cells, particularly in Zapata and later in Willacy, produced penny to golfball sized hail stones.

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*Photo of falling hail at the Zapata County Sheriff's Office on 7th Avenue, Zapata, TX, May 15th, 2011. Sizes range from dime to quarter in diameter.*

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**(TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z255) CAMERON, (TX-Z257) COASTAL CAMERON**

05/17/11 00:00 CST	0	Drought
05/31/11 23:59 CST	0	

A cool front and upper level disturbance crossing the Deep South Texas Brush Country on May 12th brought significant local rainfall to Brooks, Jim Hogg, and Kenedy County, temporarily relieving the extreme to exceptional drought. Additional very localized rains on May 15th, and again on May 20th, helped on several ranches. Across the Lower Rio Grande Valley, where the heavy rains faded to sprinkles or light showers, conditions intensified to exceptional, which would continue into June.

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**BROOKS COUNTY --- 2.9 W TACUBAYA [26.92, -98.33], 3.1 WSW ENCINO [26.91, -98.18]**

05/20/11 17:45 CST	0	Heavy Rain
05/20/11 19:15 CST	0	Source: Unknown

A re-forming strong to severe storm dropped several inches of rain in less than two hours in rural southern Brooks County, west of Federal Highway 281 and north of Farm to Market 755, west of Encino. Excluding hail contamination, Doppler Radar estimated 2 to 4 inches of rain likely fell in this area, which includes a portion of the Encinitos Ranch.

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**BROOKS COUNTY --- 3.9 SSW LONGORIA [26.83, -98.25]**

05/20/11 17:45 CST	0	Hail (0.75 in)
05/20/11 17:55 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

Penny size hail was reported by Law enforcement west of Encino (Brooks County) during the early evening of May 20th.

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<b>BROOKS COUNTY --- 0.9 SE FALFURRIAS [27.22, -98.14]</b>				
	05/20/11 18:12 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	05/20/11 18:15 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

Law enforcement in Falfurrias reported hail up to one inch fell across some areas as a thunderstorm moved through the area.

<b>BROOKS COUNTY --- 3.9 SSW LONGORIA [26.83, -98.25]</b>				
	05/20/11 18:30 CST		1K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	05/20/11 18:30 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

Power lines were knocked down by estimated winds near 60 mph from a severe thunderstorm in southwest Brooks County, along Farm to Market 755.

Developing low pressure in the southern Plains helped import very unstable air into Texas, including the Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas where afternoon temperatures soared above 100 toward the coast, and heat index values exceeded 110 by late afternoon. Weak low level convergence and a possible afternoon sea breeze enhancement lifted the air mass into large thunderstorms, which developed initially just south of Hidalgo (northern Mexico) then re-formed in northern Hidalgo County. These storms intensified over the Encinitos Ranch (extreme northern Hidalgo into extreme southern Brooks) and continued forming from Encino to Falfurrias, ultimately producing locally heavy rainfall, large hail, and some wind damage across the Brush Country of Brooks County.

<b>(TX-Z250) BROOKS</b>				
	05/25/11 12:00 CST		0	Wildfire
	05/25/11 21:00 CST		0	

The continuation of severe to extreme drought, despite locally heavy rainfall, helped rapidly spread a wildfire across some of the Deep South Texas Brush Country on May 25th. This fire would foreshadow a much larger event that covered much of northwest Brooks County in mid June.