

Preliminary Damage Report and Local Storm Reports from Early May 9th , 2023 Lower Valley Microburst

[Public Information Statement](#)...UPDATED

National Weather Service Brownsville TX

611 PM CDT Wed May 10 2023

...[NWS](#) Damage Survey for May 9, 2023 [Thunderstorm](#) Wind Event -
Update #1...

Overview: A [severe thunderstorm](#) developed after midnight in southwestern Cameron County and proceeded east along and just north of the Rio Grande before reaching the Lower Texas Coast. The highest wind speeds, 79 to 90 mph, occurred within a [microburst](#) of west-to- east winds along Laguna Madre Bay in the City of South Padre Island. The period of strongest winds 58 mph or higher occurred between 148 and 206 AM. Lower wind speeds between 65 and 70 mph were estimated closer to the ground in Port Isabel.

[Thunderstorm](#) Wind 1...Port Isabel to South Padre Island, Texas

Peak Wind /E/M/: 70 to 90 mph
Path Length /statute/: 7.83 miles
Path Width /maximum/: 5 miles
Fatalities: 0
Injuries: 0

Start Date: May 9 2023
Start Time: 144 AM CDT
Start Location: Laguna Heights / Cameron County
Start [Lat](#)/Lon: 26.08 /-97.26

End Date: May 9 2023
End Time: 148 AM CDT
End Location: South Padre Island / Cameron County
End [Lat](#)/Lon: 26.14 / -97.17

Summary: The most significant damage was noted at the El Castile Condominium at the intersection of Polaris and Laguna Boulevard on the north side of the City of South Padre Island. Here, the entire roof decking, covering several thousand square feet, was lifted and thrown into the courtyard, as well as across Laguna Boulevard. At least three vehicles adjacent to the three-story complex had their windows blown out. Dozen of individual units on the third floor had water damage, with total roof removal at individual units that faced west. The estimated roof [height](#) at this building was 40 feet above ground.

About two miles north, most of the roof decking that covered the exposition hall of the South Padre Island Convention Center was blown off. The estimated roof [height](#) of the building was between

50 and 70 feet above ground. At the Isla Blanca RV Park, two poorly anchored recreational vehicles were flipped upside down, with considerable damage.

Other damage included uplift of older roof decking and shingles, as well as several fences blown down and several dozen trees with fallen large limbs and snapped trunks, mostly across the Laguna Heights neighborhood in Port Isabel on the other side of the bay.

Observation platforms in the area recorded peak wind gusts between 60 and 89 mph. All peak gusts listed below occurred between 148 and 154 AM Central Time. Preliminary data are as follows:

The Port Isabel [platform](#) (38 feet above ground level) recorded a 60 mph [gust](#).

The U.S. Coast Guard [platform](#) on the Laguna side of South Padre, (29 feet above ground level) recorded a 79 mph [gust](#).

The Brazos Santiago [platform](#), at the edge of the beachfront and the Brownsville Ship [Channel](#) entrance along Isla Blanca Park (48 feet above ground level), recorded an 84 mph [gust](#).

A [platform](#) near the U.S. Coast Guard site (22 feet above ground level) recorded a 1-second instantaneous [gust](#) of 89 mph at 149 AM.

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NOTE:

The information in this statement is preliminary and subject to change pending final review of the event and publication in [NWS Storm Data](#).

To view photos and individual damage locations on South Padre Island and Port Isabel found by the NWS Damage Assessment Team, click on <https://apps.dat.noaa.gov/StormDamage/DamageViewer/> and zoom into the southern tip of Texas region. In the upper right corner of the page, select dates as 5/8/2023 to 5/9/2023. Click on each point to view the damage report as well as several photos taken at the scene.

PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM [REPORT](#)...SUMMARY
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BROWNSVILLE TX
618 PM CDT TUE MAY 9 2023

..TIME...	...EVENT...	...CITY LOCATION...	... LAT .LON...
..DATE...	...MAG....	..COUNTY LOCATION..ST..	...SOURCE....
	..REMARKS..		
0115 AM	TSTM WND DMG	1 S RANCHO VIEJO	26.02N 97.56W

05/09/2023 CAMERON TX [NWS](#) EMPLOYEE

18 INCH DIAMETER TREE TRUNK SPLIT IN HALF.
ESTIMATED [WIND SPEED](#) 60 MPH.

0115 AM [TSTM](#) [WND](#) DMG 1 S RANCHO VIEJO 26.02N 97.56W
05/09/2023 CAMERON TX [NWS](#) EMPLOYEE

18 INCH DIAMETER TREE TRUNK SPLIT IN HALF.
ESTIMATED [WIND SPEED](#) 60 MPH.

0119 AM [TSTM](#) [WND](#) [GST](#) 4 E BROWNSVILLE 25.92N 97.42W
05/09/2023 M63 MPH CAMERON TX [ASOS](#)

[ASOS](#) STATION KBRO BROWNSVILLE.

0119 AM [TSTM](#) [WND](#) [GST](#) 4 ESE BROWNSVILLE 25.91N 97.43W
05/09/2023 M64 MPH CAMERON TX [ASOS](#)

THE [ASOS](#) STATION AT BROWNSVILLE-SOUTH PADRE
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GUSTED TO 64 MPH AT
1:19AM CDT.

0125 AM [TSTM](#) [WND](#) DMG 2 NNE LOS FRESNOS 26.10N 97.47W
05/09/2023 CAMERON TX [NWS](#) EMPLOYEE

METAL CARPORT BLOWN OVER AND ACROSS STREET.
TIME ESTIMATED FROM [RADAR](#).

0141 AM [TSTM](#) [WND](#) DMG PORT ISABEL 26.07N 97.21W
05/09/2023 CAMERON TX LAW ENFORCEMENT

PORT ISABEL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTED
SEVERAL POWERLINES DOWN AROUND TOWN. TIMING
BASED ON [RADAR](#).

0141 AM [TSTM](#) [WND](#) DMG PORT ISABEL 26.07N 97.23W
05/09/2023 CAMERON TX LAW ENFORCEMENT

THE PORT ISABEL POLICE DEPARTMENT SHARED
PICTURES ON SOCIAL MEDIA SHOWING DAMAGE TO
THE SUNOCO GAS STATION AWNING AT THE CORNER
OF HWY48 AND HWY100 AND AN ICE CHEST THAT
HAD MOVED SEVERAL FEET FROM THE [FRONT](#) OF THE
BUILDING TO THE GAS PUMPS. TIMING ESTIMATED
BY [RADAR](#).

0145 AM [TSTM](#) [WND](#) DMG SOUTH PADRE ISLAND 26.07N 97.16W
05/09/2023 CAMERON TX PUBLIC

MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC FROM ISLA BLANCA
REPORTED [POWER](#) BEING OUT, TWO TRAILERS
FLIPPED ONTO THEIR CEILINGS, AWNINGS RIPPED
OFF, TRAILER JACKS BENT, ROAD SIGNS BENT AND
FLATTENED. TIME BASED ON [RADAR](#).

0145 AM [TSTM](#) [WND](#) DMG 1 NNW SOUTH PADRE ISLAN 26.09N 97.16W

05/09/2023 CAMERON TX LAW ENFORCEMENT

SOUTH PADRE POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS
MULTIPLE POWERLINES DOWN ACROSS THE ISLAND.
TIMING BASED ON [RADAR](#).

0149 AM [TSTM WND GST](#) SOUTH PADRE ISLAND 26.08N 97.16W
05/09/2023 M89 MPH CAMERON TX OTHER FEDERAL

AEROSTAT SITE [ANEMOMETER](#) AT THE SPI COAST
GUARD STATION REPORTED A PEAK WIND GUSTS OF
77.3 [KTS](#).

0153 AM [TSTM WND GST](#) 6 S SOUTH PADRE ISLAND 26.00N 97.15W
05/09/2023 M73 MPH CAMERON TX TRAINED SPOTTER

CORRECTS PREVIOUS [TSTM WND GST REPORT](#) FROM 6
S SOUTH PADRE ISLAND FOR TIME AND MAGNITUDE.
[WIND GUST](#) OF 73MPH RECORDED AT 100 [FT](#).
ELEVATION NEAR BOCA CHICA BEACH.

0154 AM [TSTM WND GST](#) 1 SSE PORT ISABEL 26.06N 97.22W
05/09/2023 M60 MPH CAMERON TX BUOY

BUOY STATION PTIT2 PORT ISABEL, TX.

0154 AM MARINE [TSTM](#) WIND 1 SSE PORT ISABEL 26.06N 97.22W
05/09/2023 M60 MPH CAMERON TX [C](#)-MAN STATION

CORRECTS PREVIOUS MARINE [TSTM](#) WIND [REPORT](#)
FROM 1 SSE PORT ISABEL. THE [NOAA](#) NATIONAL
OCEAN SERVICE STATION AT PORT ISABEL
RECORDED A [WIND GUST](#) OF 52 KNOTS, OR 60 MPH,
AT 1:54AM CDT.

0154 AM MARINE [TSTM](#) WIND 1 W SOUTH PADRE ISLAND 26.08N 97.18W
05/09/2023 M79 MPH GMZ130 TX BUOY

BUOY STATION PCGT2 SOUTH PADRE ISLAND [C](#).G.
STATION, TX.

0200 AM MARINE [TSTM](#) WIND 6 NNW SOUTH PADRE ISLAN 26.16N 97.18W
05/09/2023 M72 MPH CAMERON TX BUOY

[MESONET](#) STATION XSPP SPIW PARK.

0200 AM MARINE [TSTM](#) WIND 6 NNW SOUTH PADRE ISLAN 26.16N 97.18W
05/09/2023 M72 MPH GMZ130 TX BUOY

[MESONET](#) STATION XSPP SPIW PARK.

0215 AM NON-[TSTM WND GST](#) 2 NE WESLACO 26.18N 97.97W
05/09/2023 M58 MPH HIDALGO TX [AWOS](#)

[AWOS](#) STATION KTXW WESLACO MID-VALLEY AIRPORT.

0224 AM MARINE [TSTM](#) WIND 1 SSE PORT ISABEL 26.06N 97.22W

05/09/2023 M55 MPH CAMERON TX C-MAN STATION

THE NOAA NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE STATION AT
PORT ISABEL RECORDED A WIND GUST OF AT LEAST
48 KNOTS, OR 55 MPH, AT 1:48AM CDT.

0340 AM MARINE TSTM WIND 54 ENE PORT MANSFIELD 26.97N 96.69W
05/09/2023 M40 MPH GMZ175 TX BUOY

MESONET STATION 42020 54 ENE PORT MANSFIELD.