

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - August 2011

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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**TEXAS, South Panhandle**

(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z025) HALL, (TX-Z026) CHILDRESS, (TX-Z027) BAILEY, (TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z032) COTTLE, (TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z037) DICKENS, (TX-Z038) KING, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z040) TERRY, (TX-Z041) LYNN, (TX-Z042) GARZA, (TX-Z043) KENT, (TX-Z044) STONEWALL

08/01/11 00:00 CST	95M	Drought
08/31/11 23:59 CST	5M	

Severe (D3) drought conditions seen in Childress, Hall, Briscoe, Floyd, and Motley counties at the beginning of the month had returned to Exceptional (D4) drought conditions by the end of August. The exceptional drought was expected to continue well into the fall season with little to no relief.

Most areas saw little to no rain through the month. However, portions of the central and southern South Plains saw beneficial rainfall on August 11 with one to four inches recorded associated with slow moving thunderstorms. Much of the region had precipitation values between 10 and 25 percent of normal for the year. The southwest South Plains had annual precipitation totals of less than ten percent of normal. Some annual rainfall totals include 2.37 at Morton (Cochran County), 2.24 at Silverton (Briscoe County), 1.78 at Friona (Parmer County), 1.49 at Lubbock (Lubbock County), and 0.94 inches at Brownfield (Terry County). Keetch-Byram Drought Index values continued to range from 700 to 800 across the entire area.

The summer heat wave continued through the entire month of August. Record breaking temperatures persisted across the region. The average temperature of 86.0 degrees at Lubbock tied the all time record for the warmest month from just a month earlier in July. Lubbock also saw a record 48 days of temperatures above 100 degrees surpassing the previous record of 29. For Childress, the average temperature of 90.9 degrees broke the record for the warmest month. Childress saw 50 consecutive days of 100 degrees or higher through August 11th. These temperatures were representative of the entire region throughout the month of August.

Agricultural and livestock losses had an unceasing adverse impact on the local economy. Irrigated fields had become stressed and cotton crops had moved into cut-out stage. Farmers expected to harvest in September with a low crop yield. Livestock sell off continued through August due to the lack of forage and low supply of water and feed. Additionally, preparations for the winter wheat crop, which typically occurs between the months of August and September, have been delayed.

Economic losses due to drought through August since the drought began were estimated near \$2.1 billion.

**HALL COUNTY --- 1.2 WNW NEWLIN [34.59, -100.45], 1.2 NW NEWLIN [34.59, -100.45]**

08/06/11 14:30 CST	0	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.11 mi , W: 10 yd)
08/06/11 14:31 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

Broadcast media relayed a report of a landspout tornado along US Highway 287 between Memphis and Estelline. No damage was reported.

Scattered thunderstorms developed over the southeastern Texas panhandle during the afternoon hours on the 6th. A low level circulation was stretched into a non-mesocyclonic tornado in Hall county between Estelline and Memphis along US Highway 287. No damage was reported.

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*Photograph taken by T. Roberson and relayed by KFDA-TV in Amarillo.*

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**HALL COUNTY --- MEMPHIS [34.72, -100.53], 1.0 NE MEMPHIS [34.73, -100.52]**

08/09/11 20:15 CST	10K	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
08/09/11 20:15 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near Memphis recorded a wind gust to 58 mph. Also, Memphis police reported some trees were blown down in the town.

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**LAMB COUNTY --- SPADE [33.92, -102.15]**

08/09/11 20:40 CST	0	Hail (0.75 in)
08/09/11 20:40 CST	0.10M	Source: Public

Local broadcast media relayed a public report of penny size hail that covered the ground in Spade. Additionally, there were winds estimated to 50 mph as well as one inch of rainfall. The hail extensively damaged crops in the area.

**Isolated thunderstorms developed during the evening hours on the 9th along a stalled frontal boundary that stretched across the area. One storm produced severe wind gusts in Memphis (Hall County). Other storms failed to produce severe weather, however one storm near Spade (Lamb County) caused crop damage due to small hail.**

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**LAMB COUNTY --- OLTON [34.18, -102.13], 1.6 N OLTON [34.20, -102.13]**

08/11/11 16:18 CST	0.15M	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 60 kt)
08/11/11 16:26 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

A broadcast media automated weather station at Del-Tex Airport in Olton measured a wind gust to 69 mph. Significant wind damage was reported in Olton by the emergency manager. Several power lines and trees were downed along with roof damage.

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**CASTRO COUNTY --- 8.3 SW DIMMITT [34.46, -102.41], 2.0 NE DIMMITT [34.57, -102.30]**

08/11/11 17:15 CST	0.20M	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 83 kt)
08/11/11 17:30 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

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<p>A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station near Dimmitt measured a wind gust to 95 mph. The mesonet station sustained significant damage during the thunderstorm. The mesonet station's radiation shields were damaged, and a pole and guy wires were pulled out of the ground. Additionally, three-quarter inch hail dents were observed on the mesonet equipment. A center pivot irrigation system was also damaged in vicinity of the mesonet station. Southwest of Dimmitt, seven power poles were downed around the intersection of FM 1055 and County Road 621. In Dimmitt, a feed lot office was heavily damaged.</p>				

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**LAMB COUNTY --- OLTON [34.18, -102.13]**

08/11/11 17:26 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
08/11/11 17:26 CST	0	Source: Public

The public reported hail to the size of quarters in Olton. No damage was reported.

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**CASTRO COUNTY --- 2.0 NE DIMMITT [34.57, -102.30]**

08/11/11 17:30 CST	0	Hail (0.75 in)
08/11/11 17:30 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

Three-quarter inch hail dents were observed on the equipment associated with the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near Dimmitt.

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**SWISHER COUNTY --- 8.1 W TULIA ARPT [34.53, -101.92]**

08/11/11 17:30 CST	25K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
08/11/11 17:30 CST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

The Tulia police department reported power lines blown down near the intersection of TX Highway 86 and FM 1424 west of Tulia.

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**LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 4.0 ESE REESE AFB [33.58, -101.99]**

08/11/11 20:00 CST	50K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
08/11/11 20:00 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

Local broadcast and print media reported power lines down within the city of Lubbock.

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**LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 5.2 WSW LUBBOCK [33.55, -101.93]**

08/11/11 20:00 CST	0.25M	Lightning
08/11/11 20:00 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

Local broadcast and print media reported numerous lightning started structure fires around the city of Lubbock. One of these fires destroyed the Hunter's Way apartment complex near the intersection of 56th Street and West Loop 289. One firefighter was taken to the hospital with minor injuries sustained while fighting the fire. One five minute plot of cloud to ground lightning data displayed around 1200 strikes over Lubbock County.

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**LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 1.0 N LUBBOCK [33.59, -101.85], 6.0 S LUBBOCK [33.49, -101.85], 8.5 SW LUBBOCK [33.49, -101.95], 1.0 NNW WEST CARLISLE [33.59, -101.95]**

08/11/11 20:30 CST	0.50M	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
08/11/11 22:00 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

There was flash flooding over portions of the city of Lubbock due to rainfall between one and four inches over a period of about one hour. Several high water rescues were performed and many motorists became stuck in water over the roadways. Several roads were also closed due to high water. A parking lot of a restaurant flooded out several vehicles.

Scattered severe thunderstorms developed across areas on the Caprock and southwestern Texas Panhandle during the early evening hours. Many of the initial storms developed on an outflow boundary that moved into the area from an early morning MCS in the central Texas Panhandle. Storms began near the Texas/New Mexico state line and moved slowly to the east-northeast. The most damaging severe storm of the evening occurred in Castro County. This storm produced a wind gust to 95 mph. These winds caused significant damage in the town of Dimmitt and to the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near Dimmitt. The initial storms produced additional outflow boundaries which acted as a focus for new thunderstorm development. One of these storms adversely impacted the city of Lubbock. A slow moving storm deluged portions of the city of Lubbock with one to four inches of rainfall over a period of about one hour. Many city roads became flooded, with several high water rescues performed by emergency personnel. Several thousand cloud to ground lightning strikes also affected the city. Numerous structure fires were reported around the city including one affecting an apartment complex. The apartment structures were completely destroyed.

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*Photograph of storm damage in Olton. Photograph courtesy of KCBD-TV.*

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**SWISHER COUNTY --- 2.0 ENE TULIA [34.54, -101.74]**

08/24/11 22:55 CST	0		Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
08/24/11 22:55 CST	0		Source: Mesonet

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near Tulia measured a severe wind gust. No damage was reported.

**Isolated storms moved southward across the southern Texas panhandle during the late evening hours on the 24th. One of these storms produced a severe wind gust to 58 mph at Tulia (Swisher County).**

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**LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 3.8 E WOLFFORTH [33.50, -101.95], 3.8 E WOLFFORTH [33.50, -101.95]**

08/25/11 15:30 CST	0		Tornado (EF0, L: 0.15 mi , W: 15 yd)
08/25/11 15:34 CST	0		Source: NWS Employee

A NWS employee reported a weak landspout tornado southwest of Lubbock during the afternoon of the 25th. No damage was reported.

**Scattered thunderstorms developed over the South Plains and Rolling Plains on the afternoon of the 25th. Around 1530 CST, a NWS employee reported a weak non-mesocyclonic tornado southwest of the city of Lubbock. No damages were reported.**