

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - September 2013

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-Z026) CHILDRESS, (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

09/01/13 00:00 CST	0	Drought
09/30/13 23:59 CST	0	

Drought levels generally improved one drought category level through the month of September. Several non-severe thunderstorm events contributed to rainfall across a wide portion of the most severe drought areas. Parmer County returned to severe (D2) drought while Bailey and Hall Counties remained in moderate (D1) drought conditions.

September saw a mix of localized heavy rainfall events along with very warm temperatures. An upper level ridge remained in control of the weather pattern for much of the month leading to temperatures 3.4 degrees and 3.1 degrees above normal at Lubbock and Childress, respectively. By the end of the month, the ridge was beginning to loosen its grip on the West Texas region allowing for several localized heavy rainfall events. The area that saw the most precipitation was the southeastern Texas Panhandle. On the 13th of September, Caprock Canyons State Park measured 3.88 inches. Keetch-Byram Drought Index values generally remained the same or worsened throughout the month. Levels were as high as 600-700 over the southwestern South Plains with readings as low as 200-300 over the southeastern Texas Panhandle.

Rain through the summer was enough to make area grasses grow and irrigated crops fill many fields. White River Lake was at an all time low, reporting zero percent of conservation capacity. Fuel moisture values remained near normal across the area. Some drying of fuels was beginning to occur on the South Plains. The warm conditions contributed to crop maturation after beneficial rains in August.

Economic losses due to drought through September since the drought began were estimated near \$2.8 billion.

HALL COUNTY --- 0.9 NW MEMPHIS MUNI ARPT [34.74, -100.53]

09/15/13 22:20 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 52 kt)
09/15/13 22:20 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

Measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet station near Memphis.

Scattered thunderstorms blossomed late this evening throughout the far southeast Texas Panhandle. In addition to producing over one inch of rain, one of these storms produced a severe wind gust near Memphis.

SWISHER COUNTY --- 7.0 NNW TULIA [34.62, -101.82], 6.0 S HAPPY [34.64, -101.85]

09/27/13 16:09 CST	5K	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 60 kt)
09/27/13 16:20 CST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

Law enforcement officials reported numerous downed power poles along and near Interstate 27, while storm chasers measured a 69 mph wind gust northwest of Tulia.

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

09/27/13 17:10 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 60 kt)
09/27/13 17:10 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

The Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet station near Tulia recorded a 69 mph wind gust.

A strong upper level system moving across the Rocky Mountains along with a surface trough into eastern New Mexico aided in producing numerous thunderstorms across the South Plains and extreme southern Panhandle. A couple of these storms became severe in Swisher County, producing wind gusts near 70 mph which were strong enough to knock numerous power poles down.