

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - November 2015

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

SWISHER COUNTY --- 7.4 NNW VIGO PARK [34.74, -101.55]

	11/16/15 16:57 CST	0	Hail (2.00 in)
	11/16/15 16:57 CST	0	Source: NWS Employee

A few hailstones as large as hen eggs were observed along FM Road 2301 northwest of Vigo Park. No damage was noted.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 1.7 W LUBBOCK [33.58, -101.88], 0.4 SSW (LBB)LUBBOCK INTL AR [33.67, -101.82]

	11/16/15 19:07 CST	0.10M	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 70 kt)
	11/16/15 19:20 CST	0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

A severe downburst traveled from near 63rd Street and Elgin Avenue in northwest Lubbock to the Lubbock International Airport. A NWS storm survey team estimated winds of 80 mph in northwest Lubbock where some trees were uprooted and multiple power lines and/or poles were downed. One of the fallen trees caused some damage to a house. At the Lubbock International Airport, a wind gust of 71 mph was measured at 1918 CST which destroyed some windows in an empty hangar and pushed a luggage cart into a King Air 99 aircraft, but the plane was not damaged. Also, a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station northwest of the campus measured a gust to 59 mph at 1915 CST.

HALE COUNTY --- 0.7 N ABERNATHY [33.84, -101.85]

	11/16/15 19:22 CST	50K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 61 kt)
	11/16/15 19:22 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

A horse barn east of Abernathy was blown and rolled a few hundred feet.

HALE COUNTY --- 8.8 SE SETH WARD [34.13, -101.57]

	11/16/15 19:44 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 51 kt)
	11/16/15 19:44 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

Measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station.

SWISHER COUNTY --- 1.8 ENE TULIA [34.54, -101.74]

	11/16/15 20:15 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 54 kt)
	11/16/15 20:15 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

Measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet station.

In advance of a strong upper level low in the four corners region and a Pacific cold front, rich moisture from the Gulf of Mexico aided in the development of scattered thunderstorms early this afternoon over the western South Plains. Strong wind shear allowed for one of these storms to become a long-lived supercell that raced northeast at nearly 50 mph from near Morton to west of Vigo Park. This storm reached severe levels in Swisher County before producing significant tornadoes early in the evening in NWS Amarillo's forecast area. Farther south and just after sunset, the Pacific cold front ignited a few lines of strong and severe thunderstorms over the South Plains - some of which produced localized flooding and damaging downburst winds particularly in the city of Lubbock.

(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z025) HALL, (TX-Z026) CHILDRESS, (TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z032) COTTLE, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z037) DICKENS, (TX-Z038) KING, (TX-Z041) LYNN, (TX-Z042) GARZA

	11/26/15 21:00 CST	2.39M	Ice Storm
	11/28/15 22:00 CST	0	

Following a sharp cold front which ignited a few strong thunderstorms during the late afternoon hours on Thanksgiving Day, brisk northerly winds and freezing temperatures overspread the region and remained in place for nearly 48 hours. Atop this shallow layer of cold air, anomalously moist air from the Gulf of Mexico combined with a strong subtropical upper jet to produce periodic rounds of mostly freezing rain from Thanksgiving night through the morning hours on the 28th. A few periods of sleet and even very light snow accompanied this multi-day storm; however, all significant impacts were the direct result of icing from freezing rain. As the brunt of the freezing rain fell on the 27th, many dubbed this as the Black Friday ice storm. With the exception of the western South Plains and parts of the southern Rolling Plains, most locations received ice amounts of around 0.25". A pronounced swath of 0.50" to nearly 1" fell from just east of Crosbyton, northeast to Matador, Paducah, and Childress. The core of this heavy icing was the result of elevated thunderstorms during the evening on the 27th that trained across the northern Rolling Plains for nearly two hours. Thousands of people in Motley, Dickens, Cottle, and Childress Counties were without power for up to three days as power lines suffered extensive damage spanning long distances. Additionally, vehicle accidents peaked by Friday night as road temperatures finally cooled to the freezing point. In Lubbock, some overpasses were closed periodically through the night due to recurring accidents. From about 1920 CST until 2300 CST, Lubbock DPS was unable to keep pace with the rate of vehicle accidents, some of which involved minor injuries.

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Fortunately, Lubbock International Airport reported very few delays and no cancellations that were directly attributable to the storm. This multi-day storm dealt a heavy economic blow to the city of Lubbock in the form of lost business revenue (estimated as high as \$5M) as thousands of holiday shoppers wisely chose to stay home on Friday and Saturday instead of travel in such hazardous weather conditions. Dozens of weekend school athletic games and functions were either rescheduled or cancelled. Regional utility providers reported a combined loss of just over 90 utility poles with around 100 miles worth of damaged power lines - much of which occurred in Motley, Cottle, Childress, and Dickens Counties. Combined with property damage from fallen limbs and trees (many that still had leaves) and scores of vehicle accidents, total damages throughout the region could approach several million USD.



Icestorm in Childress, TX. Photo by Sean Schofer.