

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2016

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
TEXAS, South Panhandle				
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(TX-Z039) YOAKUM	12/17/16 11:25 CST		0.50M	High Wind (MAX 69 kt)
	12/17/16 13:20 CST		0	
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(TX-Z039) YOAKUM	12/17/16 12:00 CST		0	Dust Storm
	12/17/16 13:20 CST		0	

In advance of a significant Arctic front plunging south across the South Plains early this morning, strong southwest winds led to temperatures soaring into the low 70s before noon CST over the far southwest South Plains. Shortly after noon, these already strong winds ratcheted up into destructive territory as the cold front drew closer. Numerous wind gusts between 60 and 75 mph were measured for just over one hour near Plains, with a peak wind gust of 79 mph measured near Denver City accompanying the front's passage. These winds created several thick plumes of blowing dust which led to dust storm conditions and zero visibility at times.

Beside the dust storm and temperatures plummeting into the teens and 20s behind the Arctic front, the worst impacts were dealt to property in the form of widespread minor structural damage to roofs, buildings, downed trees and snapped utility lines. A few structures in Denver City lost windows and even had roofs completely removed from the fierce winds. Multiple fast moving wildfires were also reported in Yoakum County from fallen utility lines, but no damage was reported with the fires.

To underscore the magnitude of the cold air, very light sleet was reported in Plains just 55 minutes after a temperature of 70° F. Below are some notable wind speeds as measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet stations.

3 N Plains: 75 mph peak wind gust at 1255 CST...sustained 40 mph or higher from 1125 CST through 1305 CST with several gusts in excess of 60 mph. 7 WNW Denver City: 79 mph peak wind gust at 1315 CST...sustained 40 mph or greater from 1150 CST through 1320 CST with several gusts exceeding 60 mph.