



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



September 1998

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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OKLAHOMA, Eastern

Cherokee County

Tahlequah	14	0030CST 0500CST			0	0			Flash Flood
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Several low-water bridges were flooded and there was other street flooding in and near Tahlequah.

Ottawa County

4 W Miami	14	0230CST 0600CST			0	0			Flash Flood
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State Highway 10 west of Miami overflowed with water. Some cars were stranded by the high water. Some low-water bridges and county roads were flooded throughout the county.

Sequoyah County

3 N Marble City	14	0300CST 0500CST			0	0			Flash Flood
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Little Sallisaw Creek north of Marble City overflowed a low-water crossing.

Delaware County

Kansas	14	0415CST 0600CST			0	0			Flash Flood
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Several county roads were flooded near the town of Kansas.

Muskogee County

Muskogee	14	0430CST 0630CST			0	0			Flash Flood
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Several low-water bridges were flooded and impassable, while other county roads were flooded near Muskogee.

Summary of flooding events for September 13-14 1998:

Tropical Storm "Frances" moved onshore the Texas coast on September 11 and moved northward through eastern Texas, bringing much-needed rainfall to eastern Oklahoma by September 12. As is typical with inland tropical systems, the heaviest rainfall took place during the overnight hours, specifically on the early morning of the 13th and again on the 14th.

Rains on the 12th mostly affected southeast Oklahoma and soaked into the soil readily because of the drought that plagued central and southern Oklahoma through July and August. On the 13th, the circulation associated with Frances had nearly dissipated over northeast Texas, but a fetch of deep tropical moisture was established from the Gulf of Mexico right into eastern Oklahoma, bringing widespread 1-3 inch rains to all of eastern Oklahoma early on the 13th. Again, most of this rain soaked into the soil because of the dry preceding conditions. By late on the evening of the 13th, most soils were finally near saturation.

Early on the morning of the 14th, an approaching upper level disturbance combined with the fetch of rich moisture to enhance rainfall in an area roughly following US Hwy 69 from Eufaula to Miami. Overnight rainfall totals of 4 to 5 inches were common in this area with local amounts in excess of 7 inches, causing flash flooding to commence. Most of the flooding involved the inundation of low-water crossings and even some main highways. In addition to the flash flooding described above, the Neosho River at Commerce rose above flood stage on the 15th and 16th.

Some two-day rainfall totals include (in inches): Muskogee Davis Field (MKO)...8.08, Spavinaw Dam...8.07, Oktaha_2NE...7.42, Webbers Falls_3S...7.33, Miami_2NE...7.00, Vinita_2N...6.72, Checotah...6.70, Wagoner...6.66, Wilburton_9ENE...6.42, Pryor_6N...6.24, Jay_4N...6.13, Sallisaw_2SSW...6.11, and Delaware_3SE (Nowata mesonet)...5.52.

OKZ058

Ottawa

14	1700CST			0	0			Flood
17	0200CST							

The Neosho River at Commerce rose above the flood stage of 15 feet and then crested at a level of 18.2 feet at 11 AM CDT on September 16.

Osage County

7 SW Burbank	21	1945CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
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Measured at Oklahoma mesonet site

Osage County

Burbank	21	1956CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
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Osage County

Burbank	21	1956CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
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Osage County

Fairfax	21	2010CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
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Osage County

2 E Fairfax	21	2012CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
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OKLAHOMA, Eastern

Creek County Shamrock	21	2030CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G61)
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Creek County Sapulpa	21	2055CST			0	0	1.5K		Thunderstorm Wind
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Trees and power lines were blown down near Sapulpa.

Summary of events for Monday, September 21, 1998:

A broken line of severe thunderstorms developed over central Oklahoma on the evening of Sept. 21 as a cold front approached from the northwest. Some of these severe thunderstorms moved into eastern Oklahoma after 830 PM CDT. One thunderstorm moved southeast through Osage County from Burbank to Fairfax and points southeast along the Arkansas River. This thunderstorm showed signs of strong rotation, but there were no tornadoes reported with this storm. The other storm of concern moved eastward into Creek County around 930 PM CDT, producing severe reports in the form of strong winds from Shamrock to Sapulpa.

By 1000 PM CDT, all of the thunderstorms had weakened below severe limits, but a solid line of thunderstorms continued southeast, moving across the rest of eastern Oklahoma and into western Arkansas by 200 AM. This line produced widespread wind gusts of 30 to 45 mph along the way.

OKZ060									
			Tulsa						
	26	0000CST			0	0			Excessive Heat
		2359CST							

The Tulsa International Airport recorded a low temperature for the day of 73 degrees, tying for the warmest low temperature on record for this date.

Creek County Slick	30	1610CST			0	0			Hail (2.00)
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2-inch hail accompanied by 50 to 60 mph winds.

Creek County 2 E Slick	30	1623CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G61)
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Creek County Edna	30	1626CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
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Okmulgee County Okmulgee	30	1654CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
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Cherokee County Cookson	30	1817CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
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Location: Blue Top Cafe

Summary of events for September 30 1998:

A strong cold front moving south across eastern Oklahoma and an active upper level pattern caused widespread thunderstorm activity across northeast Oklahoma on the evening of Sept. 30. One thunderstorm became severe as it moved across Creek and Okmulgee Counties between 500 and 630 PM CDT. The storm weakened as it moved across Muskogee County but restrengthened briefly over southern Cherokee County. This storm had a history of 60 to 70 mph winds, and hail as large as hen eggs over southeast Creek County.