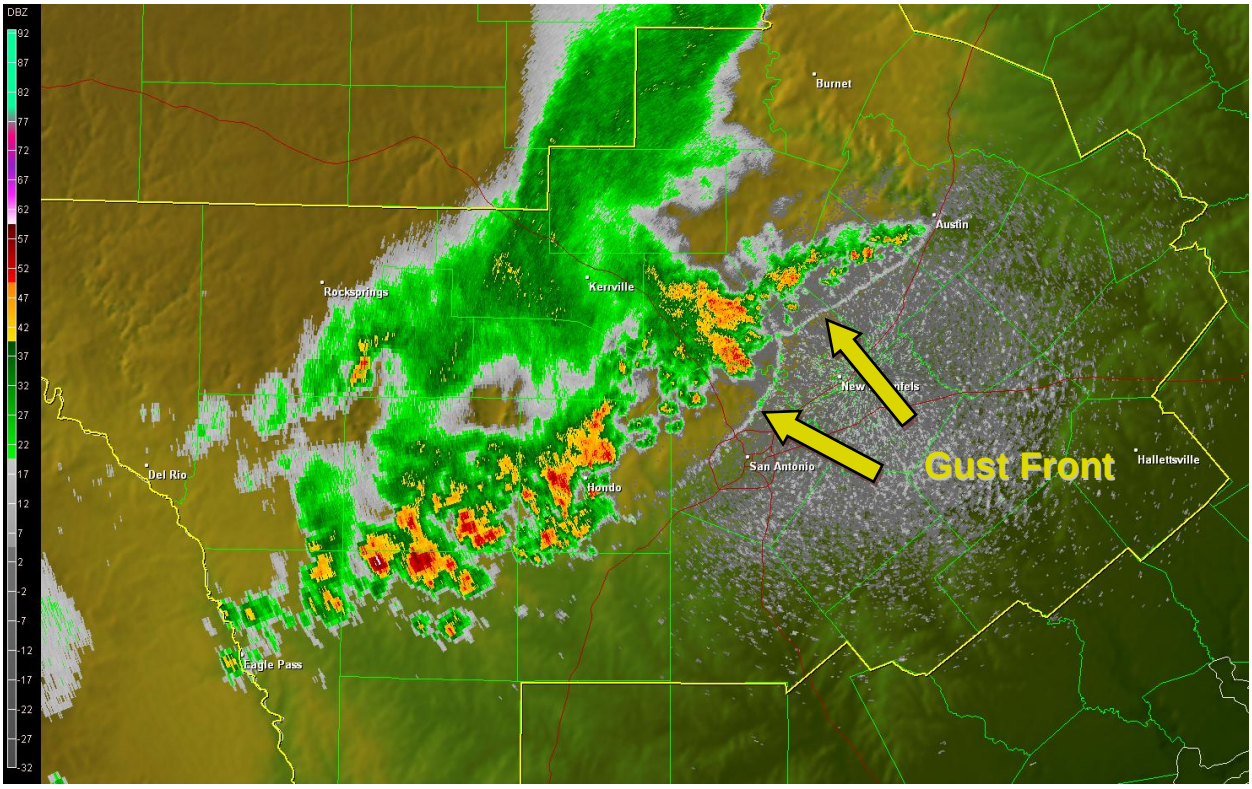
High Wind Event on July 30th 2009

Showers and thunderstorms brought rain to parts of South Central Texas on July 30th 2009, but the more noticeable weather was the high wind gusts. Across the high wind gusts picked up dust, tossed trash cans around, and broke tree limbs. The wind gusts were what are known as an outflow boundary or "gust front". The gust front is a body of rain cooled air that moves outward in all directions from a thunderstorm. It is similar to a cold front because a wind shift and temperature drop is common after its passage. New storms can also form along the gust front and at intersections with other boundaries. The winds associated with the gust front that moved through the area on the 30th were between 30 to 50 mph with the strongest gust of 52 mph recorded at the New Braunfels Airport.



Click the link below to see a radar loop of the gust front as it moved through south central Texas. The loop demonstrates that gust fronts can be long lived weather phenomenon. The gust front is visible in the hill country and continues southeastward into the coastal plain in 3 ½ hours.

http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/ewx/wxevent/reflect1.gif

Below is a map of the stronger wind gusts associated with the gust front. The strongest gust was reported at the New Braunfels Airport where the original gust front received additional intensification from a collapsing storm.