Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2024

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
OKLAHOMA, Panhandle				
(OK-Z001) CIMARRON				
	02/10/24 07:00 CST		0	Winter Storm
	02/11/24 12:00 CST		0	
(OK-Z002) TEXAS, (OK-Z003) BI	EAVER			
	02/10/24 07:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
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A good growing season through spring/summer 2023 led to decent fuel loading, compared to the previous couple of years, before vegetation went into winter dormancy. Dormant fuels and two weeks without precipitation leading into February 26th provided a very combustible environment when combined with abnormally warm temperatures (record breaking) and high winds on Monday, February 26th. An upper level system first brought strong winds on Monday with sustained winds peaking between 25 and 39 mph out of the west. Wind gusts peaked around 55 mph with some locations briefly gusting up to 58 to 62 mph. Not only were the winds strong but the RH values also dropped to 12 to 18 percent. These conditions with the dormant and dry state of vegetation contributed to some large wildfires on the 26th. Especially when these fires occurred in rough terrain leading to efforts to contain the fires being of little to no gain. These fires continued through the night with little recovery in relative humidity and short lived reduced winds.

Going into the morning of the 27th west to southwest winds quickly picked back up into the 25 to 35 mph range with gusts quickly exceeding 58 mph in the late morning hours before noon. Frequent gusts of 58 to 64 mph soon picked up into the 65 to 70 mph range during the afternoon of the 27th. Some areas saw sustained winds top out in the 40 to 45 mph range for a few hours as well. With temperatures starting out in the 50s on the morning of the 27th, afternoon temperatures were back in the 70s in no time. Despite afternoon temperatures a few degrees cooler than the day before on the 26th, relative humidity values fell into the 12 to 15 percent range. This did not help with ongoing fires and also contributed to a few new fires across the combined Panhandles, some of which merged with one another turning into megafires. The same system contributing to the high winds also pushed a cold front into the area from the north. Fires that once were moving from west to east soon started to move from north to south behind the front. Winds behind the front continued to blow in the 25 to 35 mph range and gusting 40 to 50 mph. Communities that were initially on the right flank of the fire, out of harm's way, soon found themselves on the forward flank.

There were roughly 9 named wildfires with some of these merging into one, such as the 687 Reamer Fire which started on the 27th, the day after the Smokehouse Creek Fire started but eventually burned into and merged with the Smokehouse Creek Fire. By mid March the Smokehouse Creek Fire and the Windy Deuce Fire were still not quite 100% contained yet. It is estimated that 2,075 homes were directly impacted by the fire and within the fire perimeter. How many of these housing units are a complete loss is unknown at this time. The fires also left residents without electricity or gas for several days after the 27th of February. Many cattle and livestock were also lost. It is estimated that just over 4,000 lives will forever be changed by these fires. Not to mention there were two souls lost in the fires on the 27th as well.

Page 1 of 3 Printed on: 05/02/2024

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2024

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details	
EXAS, North Panhandle					
(TX-Z007) MOORE	02/07/24 16:16 CST		0	High Wind (MAX 53 kt)	
	02/07/24 16:35 CST		0	night Willia (MAX 55 kt)	
	02/01/24 10.33 C31		O		
Breezy conditions were present across t mph. However, a mesonet and AWOS sta			=	day stopped short of 45	
(TX-Z001) DALLAM, (TX-Z011) OLDHAM,		SON, (TX-Z014) G	RAY, (TX-Z016) D	EAF SMITH, (TX-Z017) RANDALL	
COUNTY, (TX-Z018) ARMSTRONG, (TX-Z	019) DONLEY 02/10/24 07:00 CST		0	Winter Storm	
	02/11/24 20:30 CST		0	Willer Stoffi	
	02/11/24 20:00 001		U		
(TX-Z002) SHERMAN, (TX-Z003) HANSFO WHEELER, (TX-Z020) COLLINGSWORTH) MOORE, (TX-Z0	08) HUTCHINSON	I, (TX-Z009) ROBERTS, (TX-Z015)	
,	02/10/24 07:00 CST		0	Winter Weather	
	02/11/24 20:30 CST		0		
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Page 2 of 3 Printed on: 05/02/2024

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Location Date/Time Deaths & Property & Event Type and Details Injuries Crop Dmg

range. This did not help with ongoing fires and also contributed to a few new fires across the combined Panhandles, some of which merged with one another turning into megafires. The same system contributing to the high winds also pushed a cold front into the area from the north. Fires that once were moving from west to east soon started to move from north to south behind the front. Winds behind the front continued to blow in the 25 to 35 mph range and gusting 40 to 50 mph. Communities that were initially on the right flank

of the fire, out of harm's way, soon found themselves on the forward flank.

There were roughly 9 named wildfires with some of these merging into one, such as the 687 Reamer Fire which started on the 27th, the day after the Smokehouse Creek Fire started but eventually burned into and merged with the Smokehouse Creek Fire. By mid March the Smokehouse Creek Fire and the Windy Deuce Fire were still not quite 100% contained yet. It is estimated that 2,075 homes were directly impacted by the fire and within the fire perimeter. How many of these housing units are a complete loss is unknown at this time. The fires also left residents without electricity or gas for several days after the 27th of February. Many cattle and livestock were also lost. It is estimated that just over 4,000 lives will forever be changed by these fires. Not to mention there were two souls lost in the fires on the 27th as well.

Page 3 of 3 Printed on: 05/02/2024