

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - April 2012

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

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z251) KENEDY, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO, (TX-Z254) WILLACY, (TX-Z255) CAMERON, (TX-Z256) COASTAL WILLACY, (TX-Z257) COASTAL CAMERON

04/01/12 00:00 CST	0	Drought
04/09/12 23:59 CST	0	

Strong thunderstorms that moved across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley at the end of March provided plenty of beneficial rain to the region. This rainfall allowed for drought conditions to begin to improve across much of the region.

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z251) KENEDY, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO, (TX-Z254) WILLACY, (TX-Z255) CAMERON, (TX-Z256) COASTAL WILLACY, (TX-Z257) COASTAL CAMERON

04/10/12 00:00 CST	0	Drought
04/16/12 23:59 CST	0	

Thunderstorms on April 15th and April 16th provided plenty of beneficial rainfall to the region. Thunderstorms on the evening of April 15th had rainfall rates in excess of 3 inches an hour over portions of Zapata and Jim Hogg counties, while thunderstorms on April 16th provided rain for much of the eastern half of the region. McAllen received 1.76 inches of rain, Harlingen received 1.04 inches of rain, and Rio Hondo received as much as 3.7 inches of rain.

ZAPATA COUNTY --- 2.8 S ZAPATA [26.86, -99.23]

04/15/12 19:40 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
04/15/12 19:45 CST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

Quarter sized hail reported by trained storm spotter in Zapata.

ZAPATA COUNTY --- 3.7 NNW LOPENO [26.77, -99.12]

04/15/12 20:05 CST	0	Hail (1.75 in)
04/15/12 20:10 CST	0	Source: Public

Golf ball size hail reported by the public in Morales-Sanchez community.

STARR COUNTY --- ROMA ARPT [26.58, -99.13]

04/15/12 21:00 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
04/15/12 21:05 CST	0	Source: Public

Public reported 50 to 60 mph winds between Falcon and Lopeno.

STARR COUNTY --- ROMA ARPT [26.58, -99.13]

04/15/12 21:04 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
04/15/12 21:04 CST	0	Source: Public

Quarter size hail reported between Falcon and Lopeno.

A line of slow moving thunderstorms moved southeast across the Rio Grande Plains/Upper Rio Grande Valley of Deep South Texas late in the evening on April 15th, bringing periods of heavy rain, large hail, and strong gusty winds. Torrential rain of 3 inches per hour was estimated to have fallen from these storms as they moved across central Jim Hogg County and southeastern Zapata County.

KENEDY COUNTY --- 2.5 NNE SARITA [27.25, -97.78], 3.0 NNE SARITA [27.26, -97.78]

04/16/12 07:37 CST	0	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.76 mi , W: 25 yd)
04/16/12 07:40 CST	0	Source: Public

A tornado was reported on the Kenedy Ranch, approximately 3 miles south of Rivera (Kleberg County). This storm would later produce a damaging tornado near Kingsville. The National Weather Service Office in Corpus Christi relayed the report to from the general public.

HIDALGO COUNTY --- 1.5 SW SAN JUAN [26.17, -98.19]

04/16/12 14:53 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
04/16/12 14:55 CST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

Trained Skywarn spotter reported quarter size hail in Pharr at the intersection of Hall Acres Road and Cage Boulevard.

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Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
CAMERON COUNTY --- 0.7 S BAYVIEW [26.12, -97.40]				
	04/16/12 16:50 CST		0	Heavy Rain
	04/16/12 16:57 CST		0	Source: NWS Employee

An off-duty NWS employee reported an estimated 3 to 4 inches of rain along FM 510 near Bayview, with several inches of water flooding nearby roads.

CAMERON COUNTY --- 4.2 NNE PORT ISABEL [26.12, -97.17], 2.1 ENE PORT ISABEL [26.08, -97.17]				
	04/16/12 17:22 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 74 kt)
	04/16/12 17:28 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

As the storm raced east onto South Padre Island, a downburst developed which produced winds up to 57 mph at the Port Isabel Coast Guard Station (along Laguna Vista Bay) and a 1/2 mile swath of estimated 70 to 75 mph winds across the central portion of the resort area of South Padre Island, all occurring roughly between 622 and 628 pm CDT. Reports from residents indicated two small boats sunk at a bayside dock, two winds blown out of shuttle buses, a restaurant awning blown down, a utility pole knocked down at a service station, and lawn furniture strewn around one resident's yard. Reports came from trained spotters and law enforcement.

A slow moving front, prior boundaries from evening storms on the 15th, and a warm humid air mass in place across the Rio Grande Valley activated numerous afternoon and early evening thunderstorms on April 16th. Early morning showers produced a funnel cloud in Donna; the tail of stronger storms which produced flooding, tornadoes, and hail across the Coastal Bend from mid-morning through mid-afternoon produced a small tornado on the Kenedy Ranch along the Kenedy/Kleberg County line. By afternoon, temperatures warming into the mid and upper 80s were sufficient to trigger rapid development of thunderstorms in eastern Starr County; these would slide into Hidalgo County during the afternoon and produce a combination of torrential rains, frequent lightning, and hail mainly between pea and dime size with a few nickel and quarter size reports in the Edinburg/Pharr/McAllen area. More than 2 inches of welcome rain fell in Edinburg. By late afternoon, inflow of deep moisture along the Highway 77 corridor filled in thunderstorms between the Cameron/Willacy county line and the south end of the King Ranch. One storm grew very robust and slowly drifted in between Rio Hondo, Harlingen, San Benito, and Los Fresnos. An assumed large hail core centered over rural locations; others observed wind gusts to 55 mph and rainfall as much as 3.7 inches in Rio Hondo.

The outflow associated with the large storm in north central Cameron County outran its updraft support, and much of the action calmed by the time the remnants reached Brownsville between 5 and 545pm. The outflow combined with other boundaries from storms sliding along the Rio Grande River into southwest Cameron County to flare up a small but potent storm just west of Port Isabel just before 6 pm. As the storm raced east onto South Padre Island, a downburst developed which produced winds up to 57 mph at the Port Isabel Coast Guard station (along Laguna Vista Bay) and a half mile swath of estimated 70 to 75 mph winds across the central portion of the resort area of South Padre Island, all occurring roughly between 622 and 628 pm CDT. Reports from residents indicated two small boats sank at a bayside dock, two windows blown out of shuttle buses, a restaurant awning blown down, a utility pole knocked down at service station, and lawn furniture strewn around one resident's yard.

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z251) KENEDY, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO, (TX-Z254) WILLACY, (TX-Z255) CAMERON, (TX-Z256) COASTAL WILLACY, (TX-Z257) COASTAL CAMERON				
	04/17/12 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	04/30/12 23:59 CST		0	

Severe thunderstorms impacted the Rio Grande Valley once again on March 20th, bringing well needed rain across the region. These thunderstorms were fast moving, but still dropped .35 inches of rain in McAllen, .2 inches in Brownsville and 1 inch in Harlingen.

STARR COUNTY --- 1.4 N LA GLORIA [26.74, -98.52], 0.4 SW SAN ISIDRO [26.72, -98.45]				
	04/20/12 15:20 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	04/20/12 15:40 CST		0	Source: Other Federal Agency

Quarter sized hail fell across northeast portions of Starr County. United States Postal Office and a coop observer reported hail between 4:20 pm and 4:40 pm between San Ysidro and La Gloria.

BROOKS COUNTY --- 0.5 NW ENCINO [26.94, -98.14]				
	04/20/12 15:25 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	04/20/12 15:30 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

Brooks County Sheriff's Office reported that quarter sized hail fell in Encino.

STARR COUNTY --- 0.4 SW SAN ISIDRO [26.72, -98.45]				
	04/20/12 15:36 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
	04/20/12 15:36 CST		0	Source: COOP Observer

Wind gust up to 60 mph was reported by a Co-op observer near San Isidro.

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HIDALGO COUNTY --- 0.6 ENE MC COOK [26.48, -98.39]				
	04/20/12 16:15 CST		0	Hail (1.75 in)
	04/20/12 16:20 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement
Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office reported quarter to golfball size hail fell in the vicinity of McCook.				
HIDALGO COUNTY --- 0.6 NE LINDSAY GARDENS [26.29, -98.31], 0.7 E (MFE)MILLER INTL ARP [26.17, -98.22]				
	04/20/12 16:20 CST		10M	Hail (2.75 in)
	04/20/12 16:45 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
Golf ball to baseball size hail was reported over a swath of the heavily populated urban center of Mission and McAllen.				
HIDALGO COUNTY --- 3.2 ENE CHIHUAHUA [26.23, -98.37], 0.4 SW PHARR [26.19, -98.18]				
	04/20/12 16:20 CST		0	Hail (1.75 in)
	04/20/12 16:50 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
Reports of quarter to golf ball size hail were reported over a swath of heavily populated urban Mission and McAllen.				
HIDALGO COUNTY --- 0.5 NNW MISSION [26.23, -98.32]				
	04/20/12 16:30 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
	04/20/12 16:30 CST		0	Source: Public
Public reported 60 mph wind gusts at Stewart and 21st in Mission. No damage was reported with the gusts.				
WILLACY COUNTY --- 0.9 SW LYFORD [26.41, -97.79]				
	04/20/12 16:45 CST		0	Hail (1.75 in)
	04/20/12 16:50 CST		0	Source: Public
Public reported golf ball size hail on Highway 77 near Lyford.				
WILLACY COUNTY --- 1.6 S RAYMONDVILLE [26.46, -97.78], 1.7 S RAYMONDVILLE [26.46, -97.78]				
	04/20/12 16:45 CST		0	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.19 mi , W: 10 yd)
	04/20/12 16:46 CST		0	Source: Public
Tornado reported near Wal-Mart in Raymondville. Tornado touched down briefly. No damage reported.				
WILLACY COUNTY --- RAYMONDVILLE [26.48, -97.78], 0.7 S RAYMONDVILLE [26.47, -97.78]				
	04/20/12 16:45 CST		0	Hail (1.75 in)
	04/20/12 16:50 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager
Willacy County emergency manager reported penny to golf ball size hail across Raymondville.				
HIDALGO COUNTY --- 1.6 NE MC ALLEN [26.22, -98.21]				
	04/20/12 16:48 CST		0	Hail (4.50 in)
	04/20/12 16:50 CST		0	Source: Public
Public reported softball size hail at McAllen High School. These hailstones, as well as golfball to baseball sized stones which fell for more than twenty minutes while traversing the McAllen/Mission/Pharr area, caused unknown damage to vehicles but little damage to other structures as of this writing. Dollar damage estimates are available in the baseball size hail entry for this area between 17:20 and 17:50 (520 and 550 PM CDT).				
CAMERON COUNTY --- 3.0 NNE RANGERVILLE [26.12, -97.73], 3.0 NNE RANGERVILLE [26.12, -97.73]				
	04/20/12 17:30 CST		0	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.05 mi , W: 10 yd)
	04/20/12 17:31 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager
Cameron County emergency manager reported a funnel and touchdown southwest of Highway 77 in Harlingen. Resident at the intersection of Rangerville Road and CR 800 reported split tree blown across road and debris in backyard.				
CAMERON COUNTY --- 1.8 SSW PRIMERA [26.21, -97.69], 1.2 E PALMETAL [26.18, -97.66]				
	04/20/12 17:35 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	04/20/12 17:40 CST		0	Source: Public
Public reported nickel to quarter size hail across portions of Harlingen, from near Harlingen High School to the Treasure Hills area.				

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CAMERON COUNTY --- 0.7 NNE LAURELES [26.11, -97.49]				
	04/20/12 17:40 CST		0	Hail (0.88 in)
	04/20/12 17:45 CST		0	Source: Public

Public reported nickel size hail near Laureles.

CAMERON COUNTY --- 0.9 W LOS FRESNOS [26.07, -97.49], 0.3 ENE LOS FRESNOS [26.07, -97.48]				
	04/20/12 17:45 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	04/20/12 17:50 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

Trained spotter reported nickel to quarter size hail falling across Los Fresnos.

CAMERON COUNTY --- 0.7 SSW PORTWAY ACRES [25.91, -97.47]				
	04/20/12 17:55 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	04/20/12 18:00 CST		0	Source: Public

Public reported nickel to quarter size hail at the intersection of Southmost and International Blvd in Brownsville.

A rapidly developing disturbance racing through southeast Texas triggered the "loaded gun" of an unstable atmosphere during the late afternoon of April 20th, and thunderstorms exploded into the atmosphere well above the freezing layer. Just three weeks after McAllen/Edinburg/Pharr/Mission was slammed by buckets of golf ball to baseball size hail and 70 to 75 mph wind gusts, fast moving intense storms dropped significantly lesser amounts of hail and rain, but large hailstones just the same, ranging from golf ball to as large as grapefruits! Isolated small tornadoes touched down briefly in Raymondville and Rangerville (southwest of Harlingen), with minor damage to trees on one property. Automobiles took the brunt of the damage with these storms. Preliminary damage estimates put the dollar amount around \$10 million.