Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2008

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

GULF OF MEXICO

LAGUNA MADRE FROM ARROYO COLORADO TO 5NM N OF PT MANSFIELD TX COUNTY --- 2.0 E PORT MANSFIELD [26.55, -97.40]

	02/12/08 16:50 CST		0	Marine Thunderstorm Wind (MG 36 kt)
	02/12/08 16:55 CST		0	Source: COOP Observer

Reported in Port Mansfield of Laguna Madre. One half inch diameter hail was also reported at the Harbormaster's office in town.

A broken line of strong thunderstorms developed near the coast of Deep South Texas during the mid afternoon of February 12th, then progressed into the Laguna Madre and the adjacent Gulf coastal waters from north to south during the late afternoon and early evening. Some storms contained gusty winds and possibly some large hail across the open waters east of Kenedy and Willacy Counties.

TEXAS, South

KENEDY COUNTY --- 6.1 SE RUDOLPH [26.61, -97.74]

	02/12/08 16:30 CST		0	Hail (1.25 in)
	02/12/08 17:30 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

A trained spotter reported an isolated thunderstorm produced hail up to 1.25 inches in diameter in an area approximately 9 miles North Northeast of Raymondville.

WILLACY COUNTY --- PORT MANSFIELD [26.55, -97.43]

	02/12/08 16:45 CST		0	Hail (1.75 in)
	02/12/08 17:30 CST		0	Source: COOP Observer

The husband of a CO-OP observer reported hail fell at their residence near the center of town on Copano Road in Port Mansfield. The hail occurred when an isolated thunderstorm moved through the area. The thunderstorm was triggered by a cold front moving through Deep South Texas.

CAMERON COUNTY --- 6.5 NE MONTE GRANDE [26.33, -97.44]

	02/12/08 17:45 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	02/12/08 18:30 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

A trained spotter reported nickel to quarter size hail fell in Arroyo City with some of the hail measuring up to 1 inch in diameter. The hail was produced by an isolated thunderstorm which occurred along a cold front moving through Deep South Texas.

A cold front moved through the Rio Grande Valley on the 12th triggering a broken line of thunderstorms over portions of the coastal counties of Deep South Texas, forming in Kenedy and eastern Brooks County and propagating south to Cameron County before exiting the coast at South Padre Island. A few thunderstorms produced large hail up to the size of golf balls, and gusty winds.

(TX-Z253) HIDALGO, (TX-Z255) CAMERON

	02/16/08 12:00 CST		3K	High Wind (MAX 38 kt)
	02/16/08 16:00 CST		0	

As a strong cold front and upper level cyclone moved toward Deep South Texas and the Lower Rio Grande Valley, gusty southerly winds developed in the enhanced pressure gradient between the surface trough and departing high pressure over the Gulf. Sustained winds increased briefly to 40 mph and higher during the early to mid afternoon over the eastern Lower Rio Grande Valley, resulting in power outages and minor wind damage at a few locations.

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA

	02/26/08 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	02/29/08 23:59 CST		0	

Moderate to severe drought conditions developed across Deep South Texas during February. The U.S. Drought Monitor indicated that Zapata County was in a severe drought at the end of the month, with the remainder of Deep South Texas and the Lower Rio Grande Valley having deteriorated to moderate drought. Numerous grass, scrub, and brush fires, some reaching several thousand acres, occurred across many locations, particularly from Hidalgo and Brooks County west through Zapata, Starr, and Jim Hogg Counties, as the combination of short and long-term drought conditions worsened.

(TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO

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Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
	02/01/08 00:00 CST		0	Wildfire
	02/01/08 19:00 CST		0	

Dry air and strong gusty winds ignited several wild fires in the central Lower Rio Grande Valley to close January. One of these fires, in Jim Hogg County, continued to burn into the first day of February before being contained.

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
(TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS				
	02/05/08 14:00 CST		0	Wildfire
	02/05/08 20:00 CST		0	

Strong and Gusty winds on February 4th into early on the 5th, followed by a hot and dry afternoon with temperatures near 100 and humidity below 20 percent, set the stage for high wildfire growth potential. One notable wildfire developed in the central Lower Rio Grande Valley that afternoon.

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
(TX-Z252) STARR				
	02/12/08 15:00 CST		0	Wildfire
	02/12/08 19:00 CST		0	

A pre-frontal trough moving across the central and eastern Lower Rio Grande Valley, and one that helped trigger some severe weather toward the coast, brought a brief period of strong and gusty northwest winds, with sustained values between 20 and 30 mph and gusts to just below 40 mph, across the central and western portions of the Valley by mid to late afternoon. With dry ground and falling humidity, the wind set the stage for elevated fire growth potential, realized in Starr County.

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
(TX-Z252) STARR, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO				
	02/14/08 12:00 CST		0	Wildfire
	02/14/08 18:00 CST		0	

Sustained winds above 25 mph, with gusts to 40 mph, across the central Lower Rio Grande Valley, occurring within the area between high pressure moving through the Gulf of Mexico and a strengthening trough over west Texas and northeastern Mexico, allowed two fires to spread, including a small fire whose embers caused significant damage to a few structures and threatened hundreds of other buildings.

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
(TX-Z248) ZAPATA				
	02/28/08 10:00 CST		0	Wildfire
	02/28/08 17:00 CST		0	

A notable wildfire spread to more than 300 acres along the Zapata/Webb County line during the late morning and into the afternoon. The fire was likely driven by sustained winds between 20 and 25 mph, with frequent gusts above 30 mph. Low humidity, near or below 15 percent, may have contributed to favorably low fuel moisture.

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