



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



July 2003

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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GULF OF MEXICO

GMZ335 4 NW Eagle Point	Galveston Bay 04	0850CST			0	0			Waterspout
GMZ335 1 E Beach City	Galveston Bay 12	0619CST			0	0			Waterspout
GMZ335 1 S Eagle Point	Galveston Bay 12	0619CST			0	0			Waterspout
GMZ335 3 NW Smith Pt	Galveston Bay 12	0625CST			0	0			Waterspout Two waterspouts.
GMZ355 1 E Galveston	High Is To Freeport Tx Out 20Nm 14	0645CST			0	0			Waterspout Two waterspouts off 81st street (reported by Galveston Beach Patrol).
GMZ335 Eagle Point	Galveston Bay 18	1006CST			0	0			Marine Tstm Wind (MG41) Measured at Eagle Point PORTS.
GMZ335 Eagle Point	Galveston Bay 18	1012CST			0	0			Marine Tstm Wind (MG43) Measured at Eagle Point PORTS.

TEXAS, Central Southeast

Wharton County 5 NW Egypt	07	1350CST	0.1	20	0	0	18K		Tornado (F0) Minor damage on CR 267 near Valley Drive when a tree fell on a home; two nearby small buildings destroyed.
Brazos County 7 W College Station	07	1650CST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
Burleson County 6 E Caldwell	07	1710CST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
Colorado County 6 NE Eagle Lake	08	1758CST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
Harris County Seabrook	11	1357CST			0	0	8K		Hail(1.75) Golf ball size hail
Harris County Seabrook	11	1357CST			0	0	11K		Thunderstorm Wind (EG60) Roof blown off building in Seabrook and NASA Road 1 area.
Brazos County 1 NE Bryan	11	1441CST			0	0	5K		Hail(0.88) Nickel size hail at intersection of Highway 6 and Highway 21
Galveston County Bacliff	14	1108CST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
Harris County 5 SW Bellaire	14	1645CST			0	0			Funnel Cloud Two funnel clouds spotted at Bellfort and Gessner
TXZ213>214-235>238	Harris - Chambers - Jackson - Matagorda - Brazoria - Galveston 14 16	1800CST 1200CST			0	2	10.9M		Hurricane/Typhoon



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TEXAS, Central Southeast

Hurricane Claudette made landfall along the middle Texas coast at Port O'Connor around 10:30 AM CDT on Tuesday, July 15, 2003. Claudette was the first hurricane to strike the Port O'Connor and Matagorda Bay area since Hurricane Fern on September 10, 1971. Historical records dating back to 1851 indicate Claudette is the first July hurricane to make landfall in this area.

Claudette developed from a tropical wave over the central Caribbean Sea on July 8th. The storm moved westward until July 10th, when it turned northwestward over the northwestern Caribbean Sea. This motion brought the center over the northeastern Yucatan peninsula of Mexico on July 11th. Claudette briefly became a hurricane on July 10th and was a 60 mph tropical storm at landfall in Yucatan. Claudette moved northwestward into the Gulf of Mexico on July 12th, then meandered over the central Gulf of Mexico on July 13th. A general north-northwestward motion followed on July 14th and Claudette slowly intensified during this time. Claudette reached hurricane strength on July 15th as it turned west-northwestward. This motion brought the center to the Texas coast at Port O'Connor that morning as a 90 mph Category 1 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale. Claudette turned westward after landfall, moving across portions of southern Texas and northern Mexico. The cyclone turned west-northwestward across northwestern Mexico and the Texas Big Bend area before dissipating on July 17th.

Damage was observed across most Southeastern Texas coastal counties. Major beach erosion was observed from High Island to Freeport. Large geo-tubes on Galveston Island and the Bolivar Peninsula did significantly reduce erosion. Coastal roads along the west end of Galveston Bay were under water due to tidal flooding. Further south in Matagorda County, major beach erosion was observed in the Sargent area. Tides in the west Matagorda Bay area were minimal. Water was pushed out of Matagorda Bay as Claudette approached and did not have adequate time to generate a large surge once the winds became east and then southeast.

In Chambers County, lowland flooding was observed on the eastern shore of Galveston Bay within the communities of Smith Point, Oak Island, White Heron Estates, Cedar Point and Beach City. In Harris County, flooding was observed in the low-lying areas along the western shore of Galveston Bay (Seabrook and La Porte).

In Galveston County, 38 single family homes were destroyed, 25 received major damage, and 964 received minor damage. 33 businesses were affected with damage costs of an estimated \$970,000. Total damage, including beach erosion, was estimated at \$8.3 million. The highest recorded tide level, 7.56 feet above mean low-lower water, occurred around sunrise on the 15th at Pleasure Pie.

In Brazoria County, 2 single family homes were destroyed, 10 received major damage, and 39 received minor damage. 2 businesses were destroyed and 9 received major damage totaling \$655,000. Total damage, including beach erosion, was estimated at \$1.27 million. The highest recorded tide level, 6.99 feet above mean low-lower water, occurred in Freeport at the Brazos River levee on the morning of the 15th.

In Matagorda County, 85 homes and 75 mobile homes were destroyed. 70 homes and 26 mobile homes received major damage. 105 homes and 117 mobile homes received minor damage. 52 businesses were destroyed or received major damage and 50 businesses received minor damage. One tornado (F1) damaged a couple buildings at the Baptist Youth Camp in Palacios. Total storm damage was estimated at \$716,300. The highest recorded tide level occurred at the Colorado River Locks at Matagorda where the tide level reached 8.00 feet above mean low-lower water on the morning of the 15th.

In Jackson County, all damage was wind related. Numerous homes suffered roof damage and numerous trees were down in the southern portion of the county. 4 single family homes were destroyed, 13 suffered major damage and 38 had minor damage. One business received major damage from wind. There were two injuries. Total damage was estimated at \$593,860.

The highest reported wind gust was at the South Texas Nuclear Power Plant in Matagorda County where an 86 mph wind gust was recorded at 1000 CDT on July 15th. The highest recorded sustained wind (58 mph) was recorded at East Matagorda Bay (PORTS/TCOONS site) in Matagorda County.

The greatest 24-hour rainfall total (ending 800 AM CDT on the 15th) was recorded at the Galveston Coast Guard Station where 3.70 inches was observed. The greatest 24-hour rainfall total (ending 800 AM CDT on the 16th) was recorded in Edna where 3.48 inches was observed.

Matagorda County

Palacios

15	1430CST	0.3	40	0	0	150K	Tornado (F1)
Tornado in the eye wall of Hurricane Claudette damaged a couple buildings at the Baptist Youth Camp in Palacios							

Harris County

Houston Hobby Arpt

18	1150CST			0	0	3K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG58)
Tree down near the airport.							



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TEXAS, Central Southeast

Fort Bend County

Fresno **18** **1216CST** **0** **0** **4K** **Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)**
Downed tree limbs.

Harris County

1 N Almeda **18** **1245CST** **0** **0** **Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)**

Houston County

Crockett **23** **0615CST** **0** **0** **14K** **Thunderstorm Wind (EG58)**
Tree down on trailer home.

Jackson County

Ganado **23** **1050CST** **0** **0** **Funnel Cloud**
Numerous funnel clouds along US 59.

Fort Bend County

Sugarland **23** **1245CST** **1** **2** **Lightning**
Three males struck after taking shelter under a large tree. One twenty-one year old died, two others (twenty-three and twenty-seven years old) were injured. Group was installing a chain-link fence. M21UT

Wharton County

5 SW El Campo **24** **1530CST** **0** **1** **Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)**
Man injured in Hillje while trying to cover a grain trailer with a tarp when wind gust blew him down.

Wharton County

1 NNW Wharton Arpt **24** **1610CST** **0** **0** **Funnel Cloud**

Jackson County

6 ESE Edna **28** **1035CST** **0** **0** **Funnel Cloud**
Spotted at 111 South near Lake Texana.

Jackson County

1 S Vanderbilt **28** **1210CST** **0** **0** **Funnel Cloud**

Jackson County

La Salle **28** **1215CST** **0.2** **15** **0** **0** **1K** **Tornado (F0)**
Tornado that briefly touched down likely began as a waterspout over Lavaca Bay or Redfish Lake and rapidly dissipated after moving over land.