

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - November 2009

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

(TX-Z027) BAILEY

11/07/09 14:00 CST	0	Wildfire
11/07/09 17:00 CST	0	

A controlled burn escaped and evolved into a large wildfire in northern Bailey County during the afternoon hours of the 7th. Farmers attempted to burn corn stubble in a field five miles southwest of Muleshoe. Such agricultural burns are common over corn-growing regions of the west Texas South Plains and the Texas Panhandle during the fall season.

Weather conditions during the afternoon of the 7th were characterized by abnormally warm temperatures (fifteen degrees above seasonal averages) and breezy southwesterly winds. As relative humidity values dropped to below ten percent and wind speeds became sustained between 15 mph and 20 mph, the fire jumped a county road and grew uncontrollably through CRP grassland around 14:00 CST. The fire scorched 1,288 acres of grasslands in less than three hours. No damages or injuries were reported.

(TX-Z026) CHILDRESS, (TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z032) COTTLE

11/10/09 06:00 CST	30K	Dense Fog
11/12/09 08:00 CST	0	

Fog developed over portions of the South Plains during the morning hours of the 10th, and the fog briefly became dense at a few locations. Low visibilities contributed to a fatal automobile accident near Amherst (Lamb County) around 08:30 CST. A 42 year-old female was killed when she rear-ended a farm tractor on Texas Farm to Market Road 1055 just north of the city.

A more widespread dense fog event occurred over the extreme southeastern Panhandle and the northern Rolling Plains during the overnight hours of the 11th and early morning hours of the 12th. A teen-aged boy died following an auto accident in Paducah (Cottle County) during the late evening hours of the 11th. Although weather was not a contributing factor toward the cause of the accident, air ambulance operations were prohibited due to low visibilities in fog, and the patient died before he could be transported to one of the region's hospitals.

(TX-Z027) BAILEY, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY

11/21/09 17:00 CST	20K	Wildfire
11/21/09 19:00 CST	0	

Large grass fires developed over central Bailey and western Hockley Counties during the afternoon of the 21st. Both fires developed during the 17:00 CST hour, when warm and dry conditions combined with breezy southwesterly winds to result in favorable weather conditions for rapid wild land fire spread. A fire south of Muleshoe (Bailey County) charred 1,500 acres, but did not threaten any structures. Another fire in western Hockley County burned more than 2,000 acres. At least two firefighters sustained minor injuries when their fire truck was overturned in rough terrain while battling the blaze.

(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z023) SWISHER

11/29/09 09:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
11/29/09 15:00 CST	0	

(TX-Z022) CASTRO

11/29/09 09:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
11/29/09 15:00 CST	0.50M	

Accumulating snowfall occurred over the extreme southwestern Texas Panhandle during the daytime hours of the 29th. The snow was part of a powerful and slow moving winter storm that impacted the southwestern U.S. Snow developed over much of the Texas Panhandle as warm air advection processes occurred above the frontal layer of a cold Great Basin airmass that pushed southwest across west Texas during the pre-dawn hours of the 29th. The heaviest snow fell within a narrow band that was oriented southwest to northeast across eastern Castro County, where snowfall was significant enough to result in damage to unharvested cotton crops. The same storm system again resulted in accumulating snowfall on December 1st as it ejected eastward over southwest Texas. Reported snow accumulations that occurred on the 29th follow:

Nazareth...4 inches (Castro County), Dimmitt...2 to 3 inches (Castro County), Friona...1 inch (Parmer County), Happy...1 inch (Swisher County).

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Photograph of snow accumulation in a field in Castro county. Photograph taken by Ursula Hamilton of The Springlake-Earth Enterprise.