

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2010

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

(TX-Z038) KING

	12/11/10 04:25 CST	0	0	High Wind (MAX 52 kt)
	12/11/10 04:25 CST	0	0	

A strong cold front swept southward across the South Plains region of west Texas during the early morning hours of the 11th. Although sustained winds were generally in the 25 mph to 35 mph range with gusts in the 45 mph to 55 mph range, a localized severe wind gust of 60 mph was measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet near Guthrie. No damage was reported.

(TX-Z027) BAILEY

	12/13/10 14:45 CST	0	0	Wildfire
	12/13/10 21:00 CST	0	0	

A wildfire ignited in cured grasslands of northwestern Bailey County during the afternoon hours of the 13th. Terrain made accessibility and containment efforts difficult. Firefighters described a largely plume-dominant fire which burned an estimated 600 acres before it was contained around 21:00 CST.

(TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z030) FLOYD

	12/15/10 11:15 CST	20K	0	Wildfire
	12/15/10 18:00 CST	0	0	

Strong westerly winds sustained at speeds near 30 mph to 35 mph, record high temperatures, and relative humidity values less than 10% contributed to critical fire weather on the South Plains on the 15th.

A wildfire quickly grew from an ignition source along U.S. Highway 70 west of Earth (Lamb County) around 11:15 CST. The fire jumped the four-lane U.S. Highway and then ran through grasslands. At least seven structures were threatened and saved. The fire burned 1,600 acres before it was finally contained around 15:00 CST.

At 15:10 CST a fire ignited along Texas Highway 207 just north of Floydada. The fire burned through wooden utility poles and downed power lines before scorching more than 2,600 acres of grassland.

Although an estimated 4,200 acres burned, no injuries or serious damages were reported. Texas Forest Service and Department of Public Safety investigations revealed that both fires began from incidental sources along major routes, possibly from discarded cigarettes.

COCHRAN COUNTY --- 1.0 ENE MORTON [33.73, -102.75]

	12/30/10 19:10 CST	0	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 56 kt)
	12/30/10 19:10 CST	0	0	Source: Mesonet

The Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site near Morton recorded a peak thunderstorm wind gust of 65 mph at 19:10 CST. No damage was reported.

HOCKLEY COUNTY --- 7.0 W LEVELLAND [33.58, -102.49]

	12/30/10 19:19 CST	20K	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 56 kt)
	12/30/10 19:19 CST	0	0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue

Thunderstorm winds snapped four wooden utility poles west of Levelland along Texas Highway 114. The resultant downed power lines sparked a large wind-driven grassland wildfire.

(TX-Z034) HOCKLEY

	12/30/10 19:19 CST	0	0	Wildfire
	12/30/10 23:00 CST	0	0	

BAILEY COUNTY --- 2.0 SSW MULESHOE [34.19, -102.74]

	12/30/10 19:20 CST	0	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
	12/30/10 19:20 CST	0	0	Source: Mesonet

A thunderstorm wind gust of 58 mph was recorded by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site near Muleshoe. No damage was reported.

LAMB COUNTY --- 1.0 NE AMHERST [34.03, -102.41], 6.0 S OLTON [34.09, -102.13]

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	12/30/10 19:35 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 66 kt)
	12/30/10 19:50 CST		0	Source: Mesonet

Thunderstorms produced a swath of severe winds and blowing dust over portions of Lamb County. A 76 mph gust was initially measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet near Amherst at 19:35 CST. A subsequent wind gust of 59 mph was measured at the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site south of Olton at 19:50 CST. No significant damages were reported.

An intense storm system and upper air jet contributed to high-based convection over the western South Plains of west Texas during the evening hours of the 30th. The thunderstorms produced damaging wind gusts measured as high as 76 mph and blowing dust. Winds downed utility poles and lines which sparked a 2,000 acre wildfire west of Levelland.



Thunderstorm winds downed utility lines into cured grasses and sparked a large wind-driven grass fire west of Levelland during the evening hours of the 30th. Photo courtesy: KCBD-TV - Lubbock, Texas.

(TX-Z024) BRISCOE

12/31/10 10:30 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 51 kt)
12/31/10 11:30 CST	0	

Strong westerly winds sustained in the 25 mph to 35 mph range with gusts in the 40 mph to 50 mph range were common across the west Texas South Plains during the late morning and early afternoon hours of the 31st. These winds accompanied the passage of an upper air storm system. Localized severe wind gusts were measured by the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site near Quitaque. A peak gust of 59 mph was recorded at 10:37 CST. No damage was reported.