

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - September 2014

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

(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z025) HALL, (TX-Z026) CHILDRESS, (TX-Z027) BAILEY, (TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z032) COTTLE, (TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z037) DICKENS, (TX-Z038) KING, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z040) TERRY, (TX-Z041) LYNN, (TX-Z042) GARZA, (TX-Z043) KENT, (TX-Z044) STONEWALL

09/01/14 00:00 CST	0	Drought
09/30/14 23:59 CST	3M	

Welcome heavy rains this month visited all of the South Plains, portions of the adjacent Rolling Plains and southwestern Texas Panhandle. Total monthly rainfall ranged from a few inches in the southwest Texas Panhandle to between 5 and 13 inches from the southern South Plains east to southern Garza County. Unfortunately, much of the southeast Texas Panhandle missed out on this deluge of rainfall where monthly totals ranged from just 0.65 inches to around 1.5 inches. Several instances of flooding were noted on the 18th and 20th as the remnants of Pacific Hurricane Odile drifted over West Texas accompanied by torrential rainfall at times. A large portion of the heaviest rains fell in the Lake Alan Henry watershed and pushed lake levels to significant values not recorded since late 2012.

By September 25th, nearly all of the South Plains and the far southwest Texas Panhandle improved to abnormally dry (D0) levels with a steady progression to moderate drought (D1) noted over the eastern South Plains into much of Crosby, Garza and Kent Counties. The remainder of the Rolling Plains and far southeast Texas Panhandle saw minimal change as widespread severe to extreme drought levels (D2 through D3) continued. Exceptional drought (D4) conditions lingered across southeast Cottle County.

Fire weather conditions were non-existent given abnormally moist fuels and well-below normal ERC values. The heavy rains did cause some economic strife for cotton farmers whose plants had either balled out and suffered water damage or were delayed in bolting out due to the prolonged cool and wet conditions which hindered the required heat units. Losses from the diminished yield and reduced cotton quality were estimated to reach at least \$3 million; however, cotton prices by September fell to their lowest levels seen in years which partially offset the total monetary damage. Sorghum harvesting was delayed by several weeks due to saturated fields and full playa lakes. This deep soil moisture will likely benefit upcoming winter wheat plantings and even aid next spring's cotton planting. Supplemental feeding of area livestock was no longer required due to readily available grazing land.

Since the start of the multi-year drought in late 2010, estimated economic losses plateaued around \$3.01 billion. With all of the South Plains now below D2 drought levels, the running economic impact will be reset until conditions here return to D2. Although moderate or worse drought levels persist in the Rolling Plains, limited farming there and subsequent drought impacts are markedly lower from a monetary perspective.

HOCKLEY COUNTY --- 4.0 S LEVELLAND [33.52, -102.37], 4.0 S ROPESVILLE [33.36, -102.15]

09/11/14 06:00 CST	0	Heavy Rain
09/11/14 07:30 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

Heavy rains of one to nearly three inches caused minor flooding of roads and streets from Levelland to Ropesville.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 1.6 SW (REE)REESE AFB LUBBO [33.58, -102.07], 1.2 WSW WOODROW [33.45, -101.84]

09/11/14 06:30 CST	0	Heavy Rain
09/11/14 08:00 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

Very heavy rainfall and near zero visibility contributed to a five-vehicle accident on Highway 114 near Reese Center. One motorist was injured and transported to University Medical Center Hospital in Lubbock with non-life threatening injuries. Other less serious vehicle accidents were reported in west Lubbock along Loop 289 as this heavy rain moved east. Rainfall amounts exceeded one inch over much of western and southern Lubbock County with numerous instances of minor street flooding.

LYNN COUNTY --- 8.0 W TAHOKA [33.18, -101.92], WILSON [33.32, -101.73]

09/11/14 08:30 CST	0	Heavy Rain
09/11/14 10:30 CST	0	Source: Public

Heavy rains of one to nearly four inches produced minor flooding west of Tahoka along U.S. Highway 380 and also in the community of Wilson.

A band of thunderstorms developed over the western South Plains early this morning and spread slowly east, accompanied by torrential rainfall and near zero visibility at times. In addition to minor street flooding, rain contributed to several vehicle accidents along Highway 114 near Reese Center and along West Loop 289 in Lubbock. Radar indicated that areas from near Sundown and Levelland east to southern Lubbock and Wilson saw heavy rainfall of one to two inches with nearly four inches in a few locales.

MOTLEY COUNTY --- ROARING SPGS [33.90, -100.85]

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	09/18/14 05:00 CST		0	Heavy Rain
	09/18/14 10:30 CST		0	Source: Post Office

Nearly three inches of rain fell in Roaring Springs on the morning of the 18th causing a few inches of water to pool on portions of area roadways.

FLOYD COUNTY --- FLOYDADA [33.98, -101.33]

09/18/14 06:30 CST	0	Heavy Rain
09/18/14 10:30 CST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

Rainfall amounts of two to three inches fell throughout the morning near Floydada. A few inches of standing water were observed on roadways in and around Floydada, but law enforcement confirmed that all highways were passable throughout the event.

HALE COUNTY --- 4.0 SSW PLAINVIEW [34.15, -101.73], 1.8 WNW HALE CENTER [34.08, -101.86], 1.4 S HALE CENTER [34.05, -101.83], 2.0 ENE FURGUSON STA [34.14, -101.72]

09/18/14 06:30 CST	0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
09/18/14 11:30 CST	0	Source: Department of Highways

The Texas Department of Transportation reported Farm to Market Road 1424 north of Hale Center was inundated with several other roads, including access roads to Interstate 27 southwest of Plainview. Rainfall amounts of two to four inches were common with locally higher amounts reported.

LAMB COUNTY --- 6.0 S OLTON [34.09, -102.13], 2.7 WSW AMHERST [34.01, -102.47], 2.6 S AMHERST [33.98, -102.42], 2.5 NE HART CAMP [34.05, -102.12]

09/18/14 06:30 CST	0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
09/18/14 11:30 CST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

Widespread rainfall amounts of two to three inches occurred during the morning hours, causing flooding along portions of U.S. Highway 84 near Amherst according to law enforcement. Several road closures due to high water were also reported.

PARMER COUNTY --- 4.1 NE FARWELL [34.42, -102.98], 3.8 NE FARWELL [34.42, -102.98], 3.6 NE FARWELL [34.42, -102.99], 3.8 NE FARWELL [34.42, -102.99]

09/18/14 06:30 CST	0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
09/18/14 07:30 CST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

Law enforcement officials observed flooding along approximately a one mile stretch of Farm to Market Road 3333 northeast of Farwell, forcing them to close the road for a short period.

BAILEY COUNTY --- 2.0 SSW MULESHOE [34.19, -102.74], 2.0 NNW MULESHOE [34.25, -102.74], 1.2 NNW MULESHOE WARREN ARPT [34.25, -102.71], 1.5 SE MULESHOE [34.20, -102.71]

09/18/14 07:40 CST	0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
09/18/14 11:30 CST	0	Source: NWS Employee

Curb to curb street flooding was reported in Muleshoe at the intersection of U.S. Highway 84 and West 12th Street on the 18th. The Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet site just southwest of town measured over three inches of rain during this period.

DICKENS COUNTY --- 1.5 WSW GLENN [33.77, -100.87], 5.9 NW SPUR [33.54, -100.92], 13.8 ESE DICKENS [33.55, -100.61], 10.8 E AFTON [33.77, -100.61]

09/18/14 08:00 CST	0	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
09/18/14 10:30 CST	0	Source: Post Office

Local post office and school officials reported flash flooding along sections of Farm to Market Road 193 and U.S. Highway 82 in and around Dickens on the 18th. Several inches of water rapidly rushed across these roadways following one to two inches of rain falling in a short period. While water flowed across these roadways for several hours, they did remain passable for most vehicle types.

GARZA COUNTY --- POST [33.18, -101.38], 14.8 NE POST [33.33, -101.20]

09/18/14 08:20 CST	0	Heavy Rain
09/18/14 10:00 CST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

The Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet station in Post recorded over two inches of rainfall. Law enforcement and Texas Department of Transportation officials observed small amounts of standing water on portions of roadways between Post and Calgary. Low water crossings experienced typical nuisance flooding, but no road closures were reported.

STONEWALL COUNTY --- ASPERMONT [33.15, -100.23]

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	09/18/14 10:30 CST		0	Heavy Rain
	09/18/14 12:30 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

A rapid two to three inches of rain fell near and around Aspermont on the 18th causing localized nuisance flooding of parking lots and poor drainage areas.

TERRY COUNTY --- 2.0 N BROWNFIELD [33.21, -102.28], 2.3 WSW BROWNFIELD [33.16, -102.31], 3.5 NE FOSTER [33.11, -102.26], 1.7 NNE BROWNFIELD ARPT [33.19, -102.17]

	09/20/14 07:45 CST		0.10M	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	09/20/14 11:30 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

The Brownfield Sheriff's office reported water over roadways throughout town, as well as along portions of Highways 137 and 380 south and east of town on the 20th. Widespread rainfall amounts of two to four inches were observed with locally higher amounts. Several cars stalled out due to the high water.

LYNN COUNTY --- 2.9 E TAHOKA [33.19, -101.73], 1.9 ESE NEW LYNN [33.19, -101.64], 2.1 WNW GRASSLAND [33.14, -101.63], 3.0 ENE SKEEN [33.14, -101.74]

	09/21/14 12:45 CST		0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	09/21/14 14:30 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

Local law enforcement officials observed flooding of Farm to Market Road 1054 east of Tahoka along U.S. Highway 380. This was due to additional light to moderate rainfall which added to saturated soils, from heavy rains on the 20th.

TERRY COUNTY --- 1.9 N BROWNFIELD [33.21, -102.29], 1.7 SW BROWNFIELD [33.16, -102.30], 2.6 ESE BROWNFIELD [33.16, -102.24], 2.3 NE BROWNFIELD [33.20, -102.25]

	09/21/14 12:45 CST		0	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	09/21/14 15:00 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager

Local emergency management officials reported street flooding and over spilling playa lakes as additional rainfall amounts of up to one inch fell on top of that from the 20th.

During the third week of September, an unusually moist and unsettled pattern overspread much of West Texas. The majority of this moisture was sourced from the remnants of Pacific Hurricane Odile and contributed to multiple waves of slow-moving showers and thunderstorms punctuated by periods of flooding. The most extensive flooding was noted during the morning and afternoon of the 18th from the northern South Plains into portions of the western Rolling Plains where several inches of rain fell in the span of mere hours. By late morning on the 18th, TxDOT reported that numerous roads had flooded sections and in some cases temporary road closures were required due to standing water and thick mud. Although not as widespread, additional flooding was noted on the 20th and 21st generally from Terry County east to Garza County. Radar derived precipitation indicated as much as 10 inches of rain fell across southeast Terry County on the 20th. In total, much of the South Plains saw widespread 2 to 4 inch rainfall this week with the lightest amounts of one half inch or less confined to portions of Hall and Childress Counties.

The heavy rainfall was of significant benefit to many area lakes and reservoirs. Lake Alan Henry saw a 9-foot rise to its highest level recorded since November 2012. White River Lake's smaller watershed still managed to push its water level to the highest seen there since early 2013. Unfortunately, the cool and wet weather was detrimental to the regional cotton crop as projected yields were reduced by at least a half a million bales; however, the improved deep soil moisture raised prospects for winter wheat planting in the months ahead.

Although rainfall as great as 15.26 inches fell in nearby Borden County, below are some official five-day rainfall totals from the NWS Lubbock forecast area from September 17th through the 21st. Except where noted, all amounts are from Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet stations.

Slaton (Lubbock County) 5.56 inches, Sundown (Hockley County) 4.70 inches, O'Donnell (Lynn County), 4.62 inches, Wolfforth (Lubbock County), 4.42 inches, Plainview KVII-TV SchoolNet (Hale County) 4.31 inches, Brownfield (Terry County) 4.11 inches, Post (Garza County) 3.90 inches, Muleshoe (Bailey County) 3.38 inches, Floydada (Floyd County) 2.58 inches, Spur (Dickens County) 2.45 inches, Aspermont (Stonewall County) 2.41 inches, Lubbock Int'l Airport ASOS (Lubbock County) 2.19 inches, Jayton (Kent County) 1.54 inches, Paducah (Cottle County) 1.25 inches, and Childress ASOS (Childress County) 0.06 inches.

PARMER COUNTY --- 10.1 NW PARMERTON [34.67, -102.95]

	09/24/14 15:15 CST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
	09/24/14 15:15 CST		0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue

Local fire department officials observed penny sized hail in Rhea.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 3.1 NE SHALLOWATER [33.71, -101.94]

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	09/24/14 16:55 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	09/24/14 16:57 CST		0	Source: Public

Hail estimated up to quarter size fell between New Deal and Shallowater.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 2.5 WSW LUBBOCK [33.56, -101.89]

09/24/14 17:30 CST	1K	Lightning
09/24/14 17:30 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

A local broadcast media outlet reported that lightning struck the awning of a coffee shop at Indiana Avenue and 34th Street in Lubbock, causing the awning to break and fall to the ground.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 4.1 ESE ABERNATHY [33.80, -101.79], 1.5 NNW CALDWELL [33.79, -101.93], 0.9 WSW SLIDE [33.41, -101.91], 0.9 WSW UNION [33.41, -101.78]

09/24/14 18:00 CST	0.25M	Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
09/24/14 22:00 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

A swath of intense rainfall moved south directly over Interstate 27 from Abernathy, through downtown Lubbock, and south to Woodrow. Although total rainfall was around two inches in most locations, the majority of this fell in less than one hour resulting in prolific flooding near downtown Lubbock. A stretch of the Marsha Sharp Freeway near University Avenue was inundated with up to four feet of standing water resulting in multiple stranded vehicles. Many other vehicles were disabled by floodwaters along the northwest Loop 289 near Highway 84. Several vehicle accidents were also reported due to near zero visibility and hydroplaning. The majority of monetary losses were attributed to vehicles being totaled from flood damage.

YOAKUM COUNTY --- 2.4 NNW ALLRED [33.01, -102.94]

09/24/14 18:50 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
09/24/14 18:50 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

The Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet station near Denver City measured a 58 mph wind gust.

An unusual southwest-moving upper disturbance triggered numerous thunderstorms across the South Plains this afternoon and evening. These storms began by mid morning in the Oklahoma Panhandle and at times were severe with very large hail and damaging winds as they moved south-southwest through the Texas Panhandle. Once these storms reached the South Plains, they lost much of their vigor as they consolidated into a large line that only produced two known instances of severe weather. However, this line became more efficient at producing torrential rainfall rates and flooding throughout the South Plains with some locations recording one inch of rain in 15 minutes or less. Parts of Lubbock experienced significant flooding that left at least two dozen cars stranded in high waters. Frequent cloud-to-ground lightning and power outages added to the drama as up to 8,000 Lubbock residents were without power during the height of the storm.