

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - March 2018

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

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(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

03/01/18 00:00 CST	0	Drought
03/31/18 23:59 CST	0	

Long term drought conditions continued to worsen for the South Plains, Rolling Plains, and extreme southern Texas Panhandle during the month of March. Both Severe Drought (D2) and Extreme Drought (D3) expanded across the region. March saw several episodes of light rainfall but mostly less than normal levels and inadequate to moisten soil conditions. A significant upper level low pressure system brought rainfall from three quarters of an inch to about an inch and a half across much of the South Plains and Rolling Plains on March 27th and 28th. This episode was enough to improve upper soil moisture profiles but not widespread or soaking enough for improvement in all areas. Several episodes of wildfires occurred during March with a few instances of large wildfires. Agricultural impacts continued to be minimal outside of the growing season. However, without any significant moisture, large impacts may occur in the coming months.

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(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z037) DICKENS, (TX-Z038) KING

03/18/18 16:35 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 60 kt)
03/19/18 01:35 CST	0	

A classic West Texas wind storm occurred on the afternoon of the 18th and lasted into the early morning hours of the 19th. A very tight but potent upper level short wave moved out of the Great Basin into the four corners and then into northern New Mexico on the 18th. This allowed extremely a strong belt of mid level winds to spread across the South Plains and southern Texas Panhandle. High winds were mostly observed in the western South Plains from about 1600 CST to 2000 CST. A secondary wind maximum developed across the central South Plains into the western Rolling Plains from about 2200 CST on the 18th to 0200 CST on the 19th. Wildfire activity was exacerbated by the lack of significant rainfall in several months. Several wildfires were reported throughout the day and evening hours but none destroyed any structures or grew to more than a few hundred acres before being contained.

High wind gusts below were observed by Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet sites:

69 mph at Earth (Lamb County), 61 mph at Aiken (Hale County), 61 mph at Spur (Dickens County), 60 mph at Olton (Lamb County) and Roaring Springs (Motley County), 59 mph at Slaton (Lubbock County), Abernathy (Hale County), Lubbock International Airport ASOS (Lubbock County), and Guthrie (King County), 58 mph at Friona (Parmer County), Hart (Castro County), Anton (Hockley County), Happy (Swisher County), Tulia (Swisher County), Vigo Park (Swisher County), Morton (Cochran County), and Ralls (Crosby County).

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TERRY COUNTY --- 1.3 NNE NEEDMORE [33.34, -102.32], 1.4 NNE NEEDMORE [33.34, -102.32]

03/27/18 15:49 CST	0	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.11 mi , W: 20 yd)
03/27/18 15:51 CST	0	Source: Social Media

A video posted to social media showed a well developed landspout tornado in an open field just north of the intersection of Farm to Market Road 211 and US Highway 385 in Terry County.

As a cold front stalled out across the South Plains during the afternoon hours of the 27th, scattered rain showers and thunderstorms developed south of the front. Underneath one of these developing thunderstorms near the frontal boundary, a landspout tornado formed in northern Terry County. This landspout was documented on social media near the intersection of Farm to Market Road 211 and US Highway 385.