

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - April 2018

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

04/01/18 00:00 CST	0	Drought
04/30/18 23:59 CST	0	

Drought conditions continued to worsen again through the month of April for the entire South Plains, Rolling Plains, and extreme southern Texas Panhandle. This mainly included the introduction of Exceptional Drought (D4) into portions of Cottle and King Counties. Rainfall has been minimal across the region with deficits around two inches for the month. Areas across the eastern Rolling Plains have seen deficits around ten inches dating back to October 2017. A driver of the long term drought, La Niña, was weakening and is expected to return to neutral conditions in May. Dry and windy conditions during April brought on several bouts of elevated to critical fire weather along with several large grass fires. Impact to agriculture has not been significant yet with farmers preparing fields for the upcoming crop year.

(TX-Z033) COCHRAN

04/12/18 17:00 CST	0	Wildfire
04/13/18 12:00 CST	0	

A second day of consecutive critical fire weather conditions developed on the afternoon of the 12th. A wildfire named the "206 Fire" started in Lea County New Mexico and rapidly spread into Roosevelt County and then into Cochran County Texas. The wildfire became mostly contained on the Texas side by late in the morning of the 13th. The entire wildfire consumed approximately 49,785 acres with 5,590 of those acres in Cochran County. No structures were threatened on the Texas side of the wildfire.



Wildfire in Cochran County that consumed 5590 acres. Photograph is from the Texas A&M Forest Service.

(TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z025) HALL, (TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z029) HALE

04/13/18 10:35 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 51 kt)
04/13/18 14:35 CST	0	

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(TX-Z037) DICKENS	04/13/18 15:00 CST		0	Wildfire
	04/13/18 23:00 CST		0	
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FLOYD COUNTY --- 2.0 NNE FLOYDADA [34.01, -101.32]	04/13/18 18:10 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 53 kt) Source: Mesonet
	04/13/18 18:10 CST		0	

Periods of high westerly winds developed this morning and afternoon well south of a vigorous low pressure system in eastern Colorado. Fortunately, blowing dust was not a significant problem over the region as the strongest winds avoided the major dust source regions. By late afternoon, a narrow band of thunderstorms drifted south from the southwest TX Panhandle and resulted in a convective wind gust to 61 mph near Floydada. These storms also produced welcome soaking rains from Friona and Dimmitt southeast to Plainview.

Late this afternoon, strong westerly winds promoted the spread of a wildfire in northern Dickens County. Preliminary evidence from the Texas Forest Service indicates two wildfires developed west of Afton before combining into a single fire that consumed at least 3100 acres. In addition to closing some rural roads, this fire prompted a voluntary evacuation of residents from Afton. Fortunately, no structures were damaged from this wildfire.



Wildfire near Afton, TX that resulted in partial closures of area roads in northern Dickens County. Photo courtesy of the Texas Spur.

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LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 5.3 NNE ACUFF [33.67, -101.58]	04/24/18 18:10 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in) Source: Public
	04/24/18 18:10 CST		0	

Hail up to the size of quarters was reported at a gasoline station along U.S. Highway 62/82 between Lorenzo and Idalou. No damage was reported.

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Late in the afternoon of the 24th, isolated thunderstorms developed across the southern South Plains near a cold front/dryline triple point. One of these thunderstorms became severe with hail to the size of quarters between Lorenzo (Crosby County) and Idalou (Lubbock County) along U.S. Highway 62/82.

PARMER COUNTY --- 4.2 WNW BOVINA [34.54, -102.97]

	04/29/18 16:55 CST	0		Hail (1.00 in)
	04/29/18 16:55 CST	0		Source: Storm Chaser

Damage, if any, was not known.

BAILEY COUNTY --- 0.7 N MULESHOE [34.23, -102.73]

	04/29/18 18:45 CST	0		Hail (1.00 in)
	04/29/18 18:45 CST	0		Source: Law Enforcement

No damage was reported.

CASTRO COUNTY --- 2.0 NE DIMMITT [34.57, -102.30]

	04/29/18 19:50 CST	0		Thunderstorm Wind (MG 51 kt)
	04/29/18 19:50 CST	0		Source: Mesonet

Measured by a Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet.

Numerous high-based thunderstorms developed this afternoon near the Texas and New Mexico border before spreading slowly east through the evening. In addition to swaths of heavy rain of 1 to 2 inches in Parmer, Castro, Bailey, and Cochran Counties, a few of these storms produced marginally severe hail near Bovina and Muleshoe followed by a severe wind gust at Dimmitt.

MOTLEY COUNTY --- 2.8 SSE ROARING SPGS [33.86, -100.84]

	04/30/18 17:08 CST	0		Hail (1.00 in)
	04/30/18 17:08 CST	0		Source: Trained Spotter

No damage was reported.

HALL COUNTY --- 2.4 NNE PARNELL [34.55, -100.58]

	04/30/18 17:13 CST	0		Hail (1.50 in)
	04/30/18 17:13 CST	0		Source: Storm Chaser

No damage was reported.

HALL COUNTY --- 2.4 SSE HULVER [34.49, -100.51]

	04/30/18 17:19 CST	0		Hail (1.00 in)
	04/30/18 17:19 CST	0		Source: Public

No damage was reported.

MOTLEY COUNTY --- MATADOR [34.02, -100.82]

	04/30/18 17:50 CST	0		Hail (1.00 in)
	04/30/18 17:50 CST	0		Source: Storm Chaser

No damage was reported.

Dryline thunderstorms developed late this afternoon on the Caprock and swept northeast. Stronger instability off the Caprock allowed two of these storms to produce some severe hail in Hall and Motley Counties.