

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2018

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

(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-Z043) KENT

12/07/18 00:00 CST	0	Heavy Snow
12/08/18 14:00 CST	0	

A slow moving upper low moved east across the northern Permian Basin late in the night on Friday before exiting the region Saturday afternoon. Northwest of this low, a large deformation zone developed accompanied by moderate to heavy snow. At the height of the storm around 6 AM Saturday, snowfall rates were measured as great as 2 inches per hour by NWS employees. The result was a large swath of heavy wet snow between 4 and 10.5 inches spanning 16 counties across the South Plains and Rolling Plains, with lesser amounts elsewhere.

Snow covered and icy roads severely hampered travel over the region through the weekend and resulted in sizable economic losses, particularly for some Lubbock businesses. Some roads such as the South Loop 289 flyover were closed due to hazardous ice buildup. Hundreds of minor auto accidents were reported in Lubbock County alone, with similar numbers occurring Saturday night through Sunday night following refreezing of water on area roads and overpasses. Monetary losses were not available at the time of this entry.

This snowstorm was unique in that many weather models leading up to the event severely failed to capture the magnitude and extent of the snowfall. The official forecast favored a low impact event with 1 to 4 inches of total snowfall. Much of the rationale for low snow amounts was attributed to the upper low forecast to weaken and shear apart as it passed just south of the region. However, the upper low remained intact and even slowed its eastward progress thereby prolonging the duration of moderate to heavy snow over much of the South Plains. The high water content of this snow proved beneficial in restoring soil moisture to much of the region.

*****STORM TOTAL SNOWFALL (inches)*****

...Bailey County...

Muleshoe Wildlife Refuge 5.0

...Briscoe County...

Silverton 2.0

...Castro County...

Hart 3.5

...Childress County...

Tell 2.0

1 W Kirkland 1.5

7 NW Childress 0.2

...Cochran County...

Morton 4.2

...Cottle County...

10 S Paducah 5.0

Paducah 3.0

...Crosby County...

Crosbyton 8.0

White River Lake 3.0

...Dickens County...

Spur 7.0

...Floyd County...

9 SE Floydada 9.0

Floydada 5.0

...Garza County...

Lake Alan Henry 2.0

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...Hale County...				
Abernathy		7.5		
Plainview		4.0		
...Hall County...				
Turkey		3.0		
...Hockley County...				
6 NNW Ropesville		8.5		
Levelland		6.9		
...Kent County...				
Jayton		5.0		
...King County...				
15 S Paducah		8.0		
Dumont		6.0		
Guthrie		5.0		
...Lamb County...				
Littlefield		9.0		
7 SE Littlefield		6.5		
Olton		5.0		
...Lubbock County...				
4 SW Lubbock		10.5		
3 SSW Lubbock		10.5		
5 WSW Lubbock		10.5		
3 ENE Wolfforth		10.0		
7 SW Lubbock		10.0		
Lubbock Airport		10.0		
Idalou		10.0		
4 SSW Lubbock		10.0		
Shallowater		9.8		
4 WNW Lubbock		9.7		
4 E Reese Center		9.3		
1 SW Lubbock		9.0		
5 NNW Lubbock		9.0		
4 NW Lubbock		9.0		
1 NNE Ransom Canyon		8.8		
5 NW Lubbock		8.0		
6 SW Lubbock		8.0		
5 SW Lubbock		8.0		
SSW Lubbock		7.2		
3 W Woodrow		7.0		
7 WSW Lubbock		6.5		
Slaton		5.0		
5 S Wolfforth		4.8		
...Lynn County...				
Tahoka		5.0		
...Motley County...				
Roaring Springs		7.5		
Matador		5.0		
4 NE Flomot		3.5		
2 E Flomot		3.5		
Northfield		2.0		
...Stonewall County...				
Aspermont		3.5		
...Swisher County...				
Vigo Park		1.5		

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Tulia	1.0			
...Terry County...				
Brownfield	6.0			
...Yoakum County...				
Plains	5.0			
Denver City	3.0			

(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-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z032) COTTLE, (TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z038) KING, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z041) LYNN, (TX-Z042) GARZA

12/13/18 03:45 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 50 kt)
12/13/18 18:05 CST	0	

On the heels of an upper low that brought some light snow early this morning to areas such as Denver City (Yoakum County) and Brownfield (Terry County), north winds of 40 to 50 with frequent gusts over 60 mph gripped much of the region for up to ten hours in some locales. Several dozen reports of downed trees, fallen power poles and minor structural damage were received, particularly in the Lubbock area. These cold north winds also generated widespread blowing dust to a few miles visibility, mainly from the southern Panhandle into the northern South Plains which was coincident with a lack of snowfall and wet soil from the prior week's significant snowstorm.

The following are the maximum high wind gusts (58+ mph) per county as measured by Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonets (WTM) and ASOS stations.

- Bailey: 58 mph at Muleshoe WTM
- Briscoe: 66 mph at Caprock Canyon WTM
- Castro: 59 mph at Friona WTM
- Childress: 61 mph at Childress ASOS
- Cochran: 62 mph at Morton WTM
- Cottle: 60 mph at Hackberry WTM
- Crosby: 65 mph at Crosbyton WTM
- Garza: 59 mph at Graham WTM
- Hale: 61 mph at Aiken and Abernathy WTM
- Hockley: 60 mph at Levelland WTM
- King: 59 mph at Guthrie WTM
- Lamb: 62 mph at Olton WTM
- Lubbock: 60 mph at Wolfforth WTM, 58 mph at Lubbock ASOS
- Motley: 62 mph at Roaring Springs WTM
- Parmer: 58 mph at Dimmitt WTM
- Swisher: 64 mph at Tulia WTM
- Yoakum: 62 mph at Plains WTM.

LAMB COUNTY --- 0.6 W LITTLEFIELD [33.92, -102.33]

12/26/18 14:05 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
12/26/18 14:05 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

No damage was reported.

GARZA COUNTY --- 2.4 NNE JUSTICEBURG [33.06, -101.18]

12/26/18 14:56 CST	5K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 56 kt)
12/26/18 14:56 CST	0	Source: Public

A carport at Turkey Ridge was blown over and damaged.

DICKENS COUNTY --- 2.2 NNE AFTON [33.78, -100.78], 2.5 NNE AFTON [33.78, -100.78]

12/26/18 15:40 CST	30K	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.34 mi , W: 30 yd)
12/26/18 15:41 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

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An emergency manager relayed a public report of three heavily damaged silos with minor property damage to other outdoor structures about 2 miles east-northeast of Afton. Since debris was cleaned up by the following morning, a storm survey was not possible. Once NWS personnel talked with the affected property owner who corroborated other reports of a tall funnel cloud around this time, it was deemed that a tornado was responsible for the damage. Despite no radar indication of mesocyclones with most of these non-supercell storms, other funnel clouds (and possible tornadoes) were documented on social media from similar storms later this afternoon. This tornado's event time was estimated from radar.

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

	12/26/18 15:50 CST	0		Hail (1.00 in)
	12/26/18 15:50 CST	0		Source: Public

Hail up to quarter size was covering Highway 62 near Matador. Damage reports were not available.

COTTLE COUNTY --- 1.3 NNW PADUCAH [34.04, -100.31]

	12/26/18 16:30 CST	0		Funnel Cloud
	12/26/18 16:30 CST	0		Source: Social Media

Video of a weakly rotating funnel cloud located north of Paducah was posted to Facebook. No evidence was available that this funnel matured into a tornado.

Following a mild Christmas, unusually moist air streamed north early this morning complete with some thunderstorms. This moisture deepened through the day on very breezy southeast winds all ahead of a mature upper level trough and Pacific cold front. Shortly after noon, a broken line of strong thunderstorms developed along this front across the southwest South Plains and spread swiftly east with predominantly small hail, downpours and strong wind gusts. A few of these embedded storms became severe at times with quarter size hail and high winds. Strong low level wind shear even supported the development of a rare wintertime tornado in northern Dickens County that damaged some structures.

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This weakly rotating funnel cloud was captured north of Paducah, TX. No evidence was available this became a tornado. Photo courtesy of Jori Parks.