

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2022

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

(TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z025) HALL, (TX-Z026) CHILDRESS, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z032) COTTLE, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z037) DICKENS, (TX-Z038) KING, (TX-Z044) STONEWALL

01/01/22 00:00 CST	0	Drought
01/01/22 23:59 CST	0	

Extreme drought (D3) conditions expanded during the month of January due to continued drier than normal conditions. Most of the expansion of D3 was observed in the Rolling Plains which now includes Hall, King, Dickens, Crosby, and Stonewall Counties. Moderate (D1) to Severe (D2) drought conditions expanded elsewhere across the remainder of the region.

These drought conditions were strongly tied to a mature moderate strength La Niña over the tropical eastern Pacific Ocean. Several drier than average months have led to these conditions. The latest three month precipitation amounts continued to range from 5% to 25% of normal. The only beneficial rainfall fell around New Year's Day but was too little to cause an improvement in long term drought conditions. After record breaking temperatures in December, January saw several but brief cold spells which brought monthly temperatures slightly below seasonal normals. There are few agricultural impacts this time of year with most of the area cotton already harvested. However, winter wheat emergence has been very poor to this date. Furthermore, livestock was being fed supplemental feed due to poor native grasslands.

(TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM

01/01/22 03:46 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 58 kt)
01/01/22 15:40 CST	0	

(TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK

01/01/22 16:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
01/01/22 20:00 CST	0	

On the morning of New Year's Day, the strongest cold front of the season to date moved through the region bringing falling temperatures throughout the day. During the evening, a short wave trough swung out of the southern Rockies and across the Southern Plains. Lift from this short wave acted upon the moisture and cold air in place over the region creating widespread light snowfall. Snow began late in the afternoon and only lasted until early in the evening. Most areas saw one inch or less of snow accumulation but a few locations did see higher amounts. Areas across the city of Lubbock (Lubbock County) saw snowfall amounts generally ranging from one inch to three inches. NWS cooperative weather observers in Plainview (Hale County) and Matador (Motley County) measured 2.0 inches of snowfall.

Additionally, virga showers during the early morning hours brought isolated severe wind gusts due to very dry surface air at the time.

The Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet sites below measured severe wind gusts:

67 mph at Levelland (Hockley County),
64 mph at Denver City (Yoakum County), and
58 mph at Caprock Canyons State Park (Briscoe County).

(TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z025) HALL, (TX-Z026) CHILDRESS, (TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z032) COTTLE, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z037) DICKENS, (TX-Z038) KING, (TX-Z041) LYNN, (TX-Z042) GARZA, (TX-Z044) STONEWALL

01/14/22 16:46 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 58 kt)
01/15/22 09:59 CST	0	

An intensifying storm system dropping through the center of the nation brought a prolonged period of wind to West Texas from the afternoon of the 14th into the morning of the 15th. A strong cold front moved through during the afternoon and evening hours, switching the winds around to the north and carrying much colder air on strong winds. Blowing dust peaked on the evening of the 14th, along and behind the frontal passage, while temperatures tumbled into the 20s by early on the 15th. Stout northerly winds continued to blow Friday night and through much of Saturday, generally peaking during the overnight hours, before finally diminishing Saturday evening as the storm system shifted off to the east. Peak wind gusts of 58 to 66 mph were common, favoring the southeast Texas Panhandle and Rolling Plains. The highest wind gust measured was 67 mph, recorded at Childress Municipal Airport (Childress County), though the entire region experienced gusts in excess of 50 mph.

High wind reports below are from the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet:

67 mph at Childress ASOS (Childress County),
66 mph at Caprock Canyons State Park (Briscoe County),

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65 mph at Turkey (Hall County), 65 mph at Abernathy (Hale County), 65 mph at Graham (Garza County), 63 mph at Silverton (Briscoe County), 63 mph at Paducah (Cottle County), 61 mph at Aspermont (Stonewall County), 60 mph at McAdoo (Dickens County), 60 mph at White River Lake (Crosby County), 59 mph at Plainview (Hale County), 59 mph at Lubbock ASOS (Lubbock County), 59 mph at Reese (Lubbock County), 59 mph at Northfield (Motley County), 59 mph at Roaring Springs (Motley County), 58 mph at Olton (Lamb County), 58 mph at Slaton (Lubbock County), 58 mph at O'Donnell (Lynn County), 58 mph at Guthrie (King County), 58 mph at Aiken (Hale County), 58 mph at Tulia (Swisher County), and 58 mph at Childress (Childress County).				

(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z026) CHILDRESS, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY

01/26/22 09:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
01/26/22 17:00 CST	0	

(TX-Z025) HALL

01/26/22 11:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
01/26/22 17:00 CST	0	

A strong cold front and compact upper level storm system joined forces to bring a brief bout of wintry weather in late January. The initial cold front moved through the region on the evening of the 25th, complete with gusty easterly winds and temperatures tumbling from the upper 40s and 50s into the lower to middle 20s by early the next morning. Clouds gradually filled in behind the front and light precipitation developed early on the 26th. Farther south, where moisture and lift were shallower, areas of light freezing drizzle affected much of the South Plains. The freezing drizzle switched to snow in spots, as stronger lift from the approaching system spread over the region. One intense band of snow formed over the central South Plains, just north of Lubbock, and advanced northeastward across Floydada, Flomot, Memphis, and Childress during the afternoon. Where the snow band lingered longest, many locations recorded one to three inches of snow, while Estelline measured 4.3 inches. The snow quickly diminished from west-to-east through the late afternoon and early evening hours, finishing with another brief bout of freezing drizzle in spots.

Snowfall totals from NWS cooperative weather observers and public reports are listed below:

4.3 inches at Estelline (Hall County),
3.5 inches at Turkey (Hall County),
2.0 inches at Childress (Childress County),
2.0 inches at Flomot (Motley County),
2.0 inches at Floydada (Floyd County),
1.5 inches at Quitaque (Briscoe County),
1.5 inches at Friona (Parmer County),
1.3 inches at Dimmitt (Castro County), and
1.1 inches at Abernathy (Hale County).