

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2023

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

(TX-Z044) STONEWALL

02/01/23 00:00 CST	0	Ice Storm
02/02/23 14:00 CST	0	

This is a continuation of an event that began late January. Several consecutive days of wintry precipitation occurred from late January through early February. Temperatures tumbled 30-40 degrees behind an arctic cold front from the 28th into the 29th. Even colder air settled into the region on the night of the 29th and morning of the 30th, as temperatures dipped into the teens over all of the South and Rolling Plains, and single digits in the Texas Panhandle. The bitter cold was accompanied by enough moistening to result in the development of areas of light freezing drizzle, light sleet, and light snow. Though light, the wintry precipitation did create some travel difficulties as it quickly stuck to the sub-freezing roadways. The light drizzle, sleet, and snow diminished toward midday on the 30th. Pockets of light freezing drizzle and snow flurries redeveloped over parts of the region for the second morning in a row on the 31st. The light frozen precipitation again created problems on area roadways, including in and around Lubbock. Unfortunately, there were four fatalities and two injuries from vehicle wrecks that hit icy spots on the roadway. One fatality and injury occurred on US Highway 62/82 near Wolforth where a vehicle hit a slick patch on an overpass and rolled over. Three additional fatalities and one injury occurred along US Highway 380 west of Brownfield (Terry County) as a vehicle rolled over into a ditch. The South Plains region experienced another lull in the precipitation on afternoon and evening of the 31st. Periodic spurts of freezing rain and sleet continue through the evening of the first and into early morning on the second as temperatures lingered a few degrees below freezing. A final band of precipitation exited the region to the east by late morning on the second as temperatures finally rebounded above freezing across the region. Many locations across the South Plains and Rolling Plains had experienced sub-freezing temperatures continuously from early on the 29th until mid-morning on the second. Ice accumulation totals were highest in the Rolling Plains, where a tenth to quarter inch was common.

(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY

02/09/23 14:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
02/09/23 23:00 CST	0	

A strong upper level shortwave trough progressed southeast through the Texas Panhandle during the day of the ninth producing light snowfall in the southwestern Texas Panhandle and western South Plains. Temperatures were initially too warm for accumulating snowfall during the afternoon but dropped due to wet-bulb cooling producing snow. Snowfall accumulations were generally light but some areas did measure an inch or more.

Snowfall totals from NWS cooperative weather observers are listed below:

2.0 inches at Dimmitt (Castro County),
 1.0 inch at Friona (Parmer County),
 1.0 inch at Levelland (Hockley County), and
 1.0 inch at Morton (Cochran County).

(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-Z044) STONEWALL

02/14/23 09:00 CST	50K	High Wind (MAX 63 kt)
02/14/23 13:42 CST	0	

A strong storm rapidly ejected into the central High Plains early on the 14th. This caused dry and intense sinking westerly flow around the south side of the system to sweep across the southern High Plains during the morning. Winds quickly increased in the morning, peaking between mid-morning and midday before gradually decreasing through the afternoon hours. Nearly all of West Texas was inflicted by wind gusts in excess of 50 mph. Peak wind gusts of 60 to 70 mph were common across the southern Texas Panhandle and adjacent northern and central South and Rolling Plains. The intense winds did cause areas of property damage, including rolling multiple semi-tractor trailers off Interstate-27 south of Tulia (Swisher County), where the cross-wind was maximized. In Lubbock County, several power poles were blown over. The wind also lofted copious amounts of dust, which further contributed to travel difficulties.

Maximum wind gusts from the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet are listed below:

72 mph at Silverton (Briscoe County),
 72 mph at Turkey (Hall County),
 72 mph at Roaring Springs (Motley County),
 71 mph at Caprock Canyons State Park (Briscoe County),
 71 mph at Amherst (Lamb County),

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69 mph at Hart (Castro County),				
68 mph at Tullia (Swisher County),				
68 mph at Floydada (Floyd County),				
68 mph at Northfield (Motley County),				
67 mph at Aiken (Hale County),				
67 mph at Abernathy (Hale County),				
66 mph at Dimmitt (Castro County),				
66 mph at Olton (Lamb County),				
65 mph at New Deal (Lubbock County),				
65 mph at Graham (Garza County),				
64 mph at Plainview (Hale County),				
64 mph at Post (Garza County),				
64 mph at Muleshoe (Bailey County),				
64 mph at Anton (Hockley County),				
63 mph at Friona (Parmer County),				
63 mph at Earth (Lamb County),				
63 mph at Slaton (Lubbock County),				
63 mph at Vigo Park (Swisher County),				
63 mph at McAdoo (Dickens County),				
63 mph at Childress (Childress County),				
62 mph at Reese Center (Lubbock County),				
61 mph at Ralls (Crosby County),				
60 mph at White River Lake (Crosby County),				
60 mph at Aspermont (Stonewall County),				
60 mph at Happy (Swisher County),				
60 mph at Paducah (Cottle County),				
59 mph at Memphis (Hall County),				
59 mph at Morton (Cochran County),				
59 mph at South Plains (Floyd County),				
59 mph at Levelland (Hockley County),				
59 mph at Texas Tech University (Lubbock County),				
59 mph at Guthrie (King County),				
59 mph at Plains (Yoakum County),				
58 mph at Lesley (Hall County),				
58 mph at Hackberry (Cottle County),				
58 mph at Smyer (Hockley County), and				
58 mph at Wolfforth (Lubbock County).				

Maximum sustained winds from the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet are listed below:

- 47 mph at New Home (Lynn County),
- 46 mph at Tahoka (Lynn County),
- 44 mph at O'Donnell (Lynn County), and
- 44 mph at Brownfield (Terry County).

Maximum wind gusts from area ASOS and AWOS stations are listed below:

- 69 mph at Lubbock International Airport (Lubbock County),
- 64 mph at Childress Municipal Airport (Childress County),
- 62 mph at Hale County Airport (Hale County), and
- 62 mph at Levelland Municipal Airport (Hockley County).

(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM

02/15/23 12:26 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 54 kt)
02/15/23 15:04 CST	0	

Following a day of widespread high winds, the 15th brought another quick-moving but powerful storm system through the southern Rockies. Winds on the 15th didn't increase in earnest until the afternoon but then persisted well into the evening. The strongest winds targeted spots on the Caprock and especially the southwest Texas Panhandle and northern and western South Plains. The most intense winds weren't as widespread or strong as the previous day, but eclipsed the 60 mph mark in a few locations. The wind also lofted areas of blowing dust though the worst of the dust was more limited in coverage than the previous day.

Maximum wind gusts from the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet are listed below:

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63 mph at Amherst (Lamb County),
 61 mph at Friona (Parmer County),
 60 mph at Hart (Castro County),
 59 mph at Abernathy (Hale County),
 58 mph at Denver City (Yoakum County).

(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z027) BAILEY, (TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z037) DICKENS, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z040) TERRY, (TX-Z041) LYNN

02/22/23 00:08 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 60 kt)
02/22/23 18:36 CST	0	

A large and intense winter storm tracking out of the western United States brought high winds to the area on the 22nd. An embedded disturbance ahead of the primary storm system provided enough lift and moisture to generate scattered showers and even a few weak thunderstorms early in the morning of the 22nd. The high-based showers did enhance the wind, creating brief bursts of strong to severe gusts in places. Very strong and dry westerly winds rapidly overspread West Texas early on the 22nd. The initial thrust of strong to severe wind gusts lifted an area of blowing dust over the southwestern South Plains around midday creating areas of low visibility.

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

69 mph at Plains (Yoakum County),
 69 mph at Denver City (Yoakum County),
 65 mph at Anton (Hockley County),
 61 mph at Wolfforth (Lubbock County),
 61 mph at New Home (Lamb County),
 60 mph at Silverton (Briscoe County),
 60 mph at Muleshoe (Bailey County),
 60 mph at Ralls (Crosby County),
 60 mph at Sundown (Cochran County),
 60 mph at Slaton (Lubbock County),
 59 mph at Levelland (Hockley County),
 59 mph at White River Lake (Crosby County),
 59 mph at Lubbock 4SE (Lubbock County),
 58 mph at New Deal (Lubbock County),
 58 mph at Reese Center (Lubbock County),
 58 mph at Morton (Cochran County),
 58 mph at Dimmitt (Castro County), and
 58 mph at Hart (Castro County).

Sustained high wind reports from the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet are listed below:

48 mph at Abernathy (Hale County),
 47 mph at McAdoo (Dickens County),
 46 mph at Earth (Lamb County),
 44 mph at Friona (Parmer County),
 44 mph at Floydada (Floyd County),
 44 mph at Amherst (Lamb County),
 44 mph at Aiken (Hale County),
 44 mph at Brownfield (Terry County),
 43 mph at Olton (Lamb County),
 42 mph at Happy (Swisher County),
 40 mph at Plainview (Hale County), and
 40 mph at South Plains (Floyd County).

Maximum wind gusts from area ASOS and AWOS stations are listed below:

60 mph at Lubbock International Airport (Lubbock County) and
 59 mph at Levelland Municipal Airport (Hockley County).

(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

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Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
	02/26/23 13:31 CST		0	High Wind (MAX 73 kt)
	02/27/23 00:29 CST		0	

(TX-Z021) PARMER, (TX-Z022) CASTRO, (TX-Z023) SWISHER, (TX-Z024) BRISCOE, (TX-Z025) HALL, (TX-Z027) BAILEY, (TX-Z028) LAMB, (TX-Z029) HALE, (TX-Z030) FLOYD, (TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z040) TERRY, (TX-Z041) LYNN, (TX-Z042) GARZA

02/26/23 16:30 CST	0	Dust Storm
02/26/23 20:00 CST	0	

BRISCOE COUNTY --- 7.0 SE SILVERTON [34.40, -101.21], CAPROCK CANYONS STATE PARK [34.41, -101.07]

02/26/23 18:05 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 67 kt)
02/26/23 18:16 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

A swath of severe wind gusts occurred from near Silverton to Caprock Canyons State Park . Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet sites near Silverton and Caprock Canyons State Park measured severe wind gusts from 1805 CST through 1816 CST. A peak wind gust of 77 mph was measured at 1805 CST by the Silverton mesonet. A peak wind gust of 71 mph was measured by the Caprock Canyons State Park mesonet at 1814 CST.

HALL COUNTY --- 2.0 S LESLEY [34.64, -100.80], 1.0 NE MEMPHIS [34.73, -100.52]

02/26/23 18:22 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 99 kt)
02/26/23 18:37 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

A swath of severe wind gusts were measured from near Lesley to Memphis . Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet sites near Lesley and Memphis measured severe wind gusts from 1822 CST through 1837 CST. A peak wind gust of 70 was measured near Lesley at 1822 CST. A peak wind gust of 114 mph was measured near Memphis.

HALL COUNTY --- 2.0 WSW TURKEY [34.39, -100.91], 3.0 SSE ESTELLINE [34.51, -100.41]

02/26/23 18:24 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 54 kt)
02/26/23 18:50 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

A swath of severe wind gusts occurred from near Turkey to near Estelline . Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet sites near Turkey and Estelline measured severe wind gusts from 1824 CST through 1850 CST. A peak wind gust of 59 mph was measured near Turkey at 1824 and 1825 CST. A peak wind gust of 62 mph was measured near Estelline at 1850 CST.

HALL COUNTY --- MEMPHIS [34.72, -100.53]

02/26/23 18:38 CST	0	Hail (1.75 in)
02/26/23 18:38 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

An emergency management official reported wind driven hail up to golf ball size. Numerous windows were destroyed in the city of Memphis.

CHILDRESS COUNTY --- (CDS)CHILDRESS ARPT [34.43, -100.30], 2.0 NNE CHILDRESS [34.45, -100.19]

02/26/23 18:59 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 62 kt)
02/26/23 19:03 CST	0	Source: ASOS

A swath of severe winds were measured in and around Childress from 1859 CST through 1903 CST. An Automated Surface Observing System at Childress Municipal Airport measured a wind gust of 71 mph at 1859 CST. A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near Childress measured a severe wind gust of 71 mph at 1903 CST.

COTTLE COUNTY --- 10.0 SW PADUCAH [33.92, -100.42], 2.0 SSE HACKBERRY [33.90, -100.14]

02/26/23 19:17 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 51 kt)
02/26/23 19:33 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

A swath of severe wind gusts were measured from near Paducah to near Hackberry . Texas Tech University mesonet sites near Paducah and Hackberry measured severe wind gusts from 1917 CST through 1933 CST. A peak wind gust of 59 mph was measured near Paducah from 1917 CST through 1919 CST. A peak wind gust of 59 mph was measured at Hackberry at 1933 CST.

KING COUNTY --- 10.0 WSW GUTHRIE [33.56, -100.49]

02/26/23 19:22 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 67 kt)
02/26/23 19:28 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near Guthrie measured severe wind gusts from 1922 CST through 1928 CST. A peak wind gust of 77 mph was measured at 1922 CST.

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KENT COUNTY --- 1.0 SSE JAYTON [33.24, -100.57]				
	02/26/23 19:24 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 56 kt)
	02/26/23 19:24 CST		0	Source: Mesonet

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near Jayton measured a severe wind gust of 64 mph.

The second powerful winter storm to affect the region in less than a week brought another round of highly impactful weather to West Texas. The powerful winter storm system accelerated through the Four Corners and emerged across the central and southern High Plains on the afternoon of the 26th. As this occurred, rapidly deepening low pressure, in combination with a dryline and Pacific cold front, increased the wind dramatically across the entire region. Initially gusty southerly winds not only transported moisture northward, but began to loft enough blowing dust to turn the sky an orange/brown color by mid-afternoon. As the Pacific front raced out of eastern New Mexico, the wind and dust levels increased and became dangerous. Widespread severe wind gusts lofted copious amounts of dust, dropping the visibility to and below one quarter mile in most locations on the Caprock through the late afternoon hours. The thick dust made travel difficult to impossible and contributed to several vehicle accidents around the region. Severe winds also brought down numerous utility poles across the South Plains. When the cold front overtook the dryline, widespread showers and thunderstorms filled in over the southeast Texas Panhandle into the Rolling Plains. The storms did provide a little rain in spots as a quick-moving line raced eastward, but they also enhanced the wind and a few locations even experienced hail, as large as golf balls in Memphis (Hall County). Wind gusts of 60 to 80 mph were common with the strongest thunderstorm activity, but the West Texas Mesonet site one mile northeast of Memphis (Hall County) recorded an impressive 114 mph gust. Thankfully, this magnitude of wind appeared quite localized, though the town of Memphis did have some damage, both from the wind and wind-driven hail. Several windows were broken, roofs were damaged and carports were destroyed. Behind the dryline, the intense winds and warm and much drier air created a period of critical fire weather. These conditions supported the ignition and spread of several wildfires on the South Plains, including one west of Levelland (Hockley County) and a second in northwest Lamb County.

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

- 84 mph at Paducah (Cottle County),
- 82 mph at Hart (Castro County),
- 82 mph at White River Lake (Crosby County),
- 79 mph at Friona (Parmer County),
- 78 mph at Amherst (Lamb County),
- 78 mph at Plainview (Hale County),
- 77 mph at Dimmitt (Castro County),
- 77 mph at McAdoo (Dickens County),
- 77 mph at Lubbock 4E (Lubbock County),
- 77 mph at Anton (Hockley County),
- 76 mph at Roaring Springs (Motley County),
- 75 mph at Olton (Lamb County),
- 75 mph at Floydada (Floyd County),
- 75 mph at Levelland (Hockley County),
- 75 mph at Graham (Garza County),
- 75 mph at Plains (Yoakum County),
- 75 mph at Denver City (Yoakum County),
- 74 mph at Aiken (Hale County),
- 74 mph at Lesley (Hall County),
- 73 mph at Tulia (Swisher County),
- 73 mph at Silverton (Briscoe County),
- 73 mph at Ralls (Crosby County),
- 73 mph at Muleshoe (Bailey County),
- 73 mph at Earth (Lamb County),
- 72 mph at Northfield (Motley County),
- 72 mph at Vigo Park (Swisher County),
- 72 mph at Wolfforth (Lubbock County),
- 72 mph at Reese Center (Lubbock County),
- 72 mph at Abernathy (Hale County),
- 72 mph at Morton (Cochran County),
- 71 mph at Hackberry (Cottle County),
- 71 mph at Lubbock Texas Tech University (Lubbock County),
- 71 mph at Sundown (Cochran County),
- 71 mph at South Plains (Floyd County),
- 70 mph at Childress (Childress County),
- 70 mph at Lubbock 6SSW (Lubbock County),
- 70 mph at New Deal (Lubbock County),

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69 mph at Happy (Swisher County),				
69 mph at Post (Garza County),				
69 mph at Caprock Canyons State Park (Briscoe County),				
69 mph at Spur (Dickens County),				
69 mph at Guthrie (King County),				
68 mph at O'Donnell (Lynn County),				
68 mph at Slaton (Lubbock County),				
67 mph at Turkey (Hall County),				
67 mph at Brownfield (Terry County),				
64 mph at Tahoka (Lynn County),				
64 mph at Lubbock 4SE (Lubbock County),				
62 mph at Estelline (Hall County),				
60 mph at New Home (Lynn County), and				
58 mph at White River Lake (Garza County).				

Maximum wind gusts from area ASOS and AWOS stations are listed below:

78 mph at Childress Municipal Airport (Childress County),
77 mph at Lubbock International Airport (Lubbock County),
75 mph at Levelland Municipal Airport (Hockley County), and
63 mph at Hale County Airport (Hale County).