

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - April 2023

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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-Z033) COCHRAN, (TX-Z034) HOCKLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z036) CROSBY, (TX-Z037) DICKENS, (TX-Z039) YOAKUM, (TX-Z040) TERRY, (TX-Z041) LYNN, (TX-Z042) GARZA	04/04/23 09:21 CST		0	High Wind (MAX 62 kt)
	04/04/23 18:26 CST		0	
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(TX-Z027) BAILEY	04/04/23 14:00 CST		0	Wildfire
	04/04/23 21:00 CST		0	

A strong system emerged from the central Rockies on the fourth. While rich Gulf of Mexico moisture did get as close as western North Texas, eastern New Mexico into the Texas Panhandle and South Plains experienced the driest air of the spring to this point, with the relative humidity falling into the lower single digits. The dry air, coupled with southwesterly winds gusting as high as 50 to 70 mph, lofted dust and supported the development and spread of several wildfires. Many locations experienced visibility falling to one to two miles as a result of the thick blowing dust, with localized visibility near zero reported. A plume of white sand emanating from White Sands National Park in New Mexico spread over a narrow area in the extreme southwestern Texas Panhandle. Wind gusts of 45 to 60 mph were common over much of the Caprock from late morning through early evening. Several of the peak severe gusts occurred around midday, with another round favoring the late afternoon and early evening when high clouds gradually cleared and allowed for deeper mixing. One large wildfire developed, named the Jenny Slipper Fire, and spread through parts of eastern Bailey County near the intersection of Farm to Market Road 298 and County Road 186. This wildfire consumed 947 acres before becoming contained late on the fourth. Thick blowing dust contributed to several crashes on US Highway 84 northwest of Muleshoe (Bailey County).

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

- 71 mph at Friona (Parmer County),
- 68 mph at Olton (Lamb County),
- 68 mph at Anton (Hockley County),
- 67 mph at Amherst (Lamb County),
- 65 mph at Morton (Cochran County),
- 64 mph at Levelland (Hockley County),
- 63 mph at Hart (Castro County),
- 63 mph at Slaton (Lubbock County),
- 62 mph at Silverton (Briscoe County),
- 62 mph at Muleshoe (Bailey County),
- 60 mph at Caprock Canyons State Park (Briscoe County),
- 60 mph at Reese Center (Lubbock County),
- 60 mph at Plainview (Hale County),
- 60 mph at Turkey (Hall County),
- 60 mph at Floydada (Floyd County),
- 60 mph at Roaring Springs (Motley County),
- 60 mph at Vigo Park (Swisher County),
- 59 mph at Tulia (Swisher County),
- 59 mph at Dimmitt (Castro County),
- 59 mph at White River Lake (Crosby County),
- 59 mph at Plains (Yoakum County),
- 58 mph at Sundown (Cochran County),
- 58 mph at Denver City (Yoakum County),
- 58 mph at Graham (Garza County),
- 58 mph at Ralls (Crosby County), and
- 58 mph at Abernathy (Hale County).

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

- 66 mph at Lubbock International Airport (Lubbock County), and
- 58 mph at Levelland Municipal Airport (Hockley County).

Maximum sustained wind speeds from the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet sites are listed below:

- 46 mph at New Home (Lynn County),
- 46 mph at Tahoka (Lynn County),

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44 mph at McAdoo (Dickens County), 43 mph at Brownfield (Terry County), 42 mph at O'Donnell (Lynn County), and 40 mph at Childress (Childress County).				

CHILDRESS COUNTY --- 2.9 ESE CHILDRESS [34.41, -100.15]				
	04/09/23 14:18 CST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
	04/09/23 14:18 CST		0	Source: Public

LAMB COUNTY --- 6.0 S OLTON [34.09, -102.13]				
	04/09/23 17:10 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 55 kt)
	04/09/23 17:10 CST		0	Source: Mesonet

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near Olton measured a wind gust of 63 mph.

LUBBOCK COUNTY --- 3.0 NW SHALLOWATER [33.71, -102.02], 3.9 SSW LUBBOCK [33.53, -101.87]				
	04/09/23 17:15 CST		0	Hail (1.25 in)
	04/09/23 17:34 CST		0	Source: Official NWS Observations

A swath of severe hail was observed beginning northwest of Shallowater and continuing through western and southern portions of the city of Lubbock . Most hail ranged from dime to quarter size but hail up to half dollar size was reported. Additionally, copious amount of hail fell with this storm covering the ground in and around Shallowater. Area roadways became ice covered and made it look like snowfall. In some spots the hail didn't completely melt off until the next morning.

FLOYD COUNTY --- 1.0 S FLOYDADA [33.97, -101.33]				
	04/09/23 18:18 CST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
	04/09/23 18:18 CST		0	Source: Public

FLOYD COUNTY --- LOCKNEY [34.12, -101.43]				
	04/09/23 18:46 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	04/09/23 18:46 CST		0	Source: Public

A public report was received of hail up to quarter size hail in Lockney.

CROSBY COUNTY --- 1.0 SE RALLS [33.67, -101.37]				
	04/09/23 18:53 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 51 kt)
	04/09/23 18:53 CST		0	Source: Mesonet

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near Ralls measured a severe wind gust of 59 mph.

CROSBY COUNTY --- 6.0 NW WHITE RIVER LAKE [33.52, -101.16]				
	04/09/23 19:23 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 54 kt)
	04/09/23 19:24 CST		0	Source: Mesonet

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near White River Lake measured severe wind gusts from 1923 CST through 1924 CST. A peak wind gust of 62 mph was measured at 1924 CST.

LYNN COUNTY --- TAHOKA [33.18, -101.78]				
	04/09/23 19:38 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	04/09/23 19:38 CST		0	Source: COOP Observer

An NWS cooperative weather observer located in Tahoka reported quarter size hail.

Easter Sunday brought severe thunderstorms to the region during the late afternoon into the early evening. The initial thunderstorm development was concentrated along several low-level boundaries stretching across the southern Texas Panhandle and northern South and Rolling Plains. The storms were fueled by just enough moisture and instability, that when coupled with cold air and a weak disturbance aloft, several of the storms became strong to severe. Given the relatively dry, warm, and deeply mixed lower levels of the atmosphere, favorable for significant sub-cloud evaporation, the activity generated several strong wind gusts with a few exceeding severe thresholds. Most of these thunderstorms brought copious amount of hail. Although most of the hail was sub-severe, a few of the storms produced hail accumulations, covering the ground several inches deep or more.

(TX-Z021) PARMER

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	04/13/23 13:25 CST		0	Strong Wind (MAX 48 kt)
	04/13/23 13:26 CST		0	

High based thunderstorms developed within a deeply mixed boundary layer during the afternoon of the 13th across the extreme southwestern Texas Panhandle. A dryline was able to enhance vertical stretching beneath these high based storms creating a brief landspout tornado near Lariat (Parmer County). The landspout remained over an open field and caused no known damage.



A landspout tornado near Lariat. Photograph courtesy of the New Mexico State Patrol.

CASTRO COUNTY --- 3.0 N HART [34.42, -102.12]

04/17/23 17:07 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 52 kt)
04/17/23 17:35 CST	0	Source: Mesonet

A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near Hart measured severe wind gusts from 1707 CST through 1735 CST. A peak wind gust of 60 mph was measured at 1735 CST.

A very deeply mixed boundary layer developed on the afternoon of the 17th ahead of a surface trough in eastern New Mexico. Minimal convective inhibition and a weak approaching short wave allowed for a few high based storms to develop. Inverted-V sounding profiles allowed these storms to produce strong wind gusts at the surface. One storm produced a severe wind gust near Hart (Castro County).

(TX-Z031) MOTLEY, (TX-Z035) LUBBOCK, (TX-Z037) DICKENS

04/19/23 14:49 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 51 kt)
04/19/23 15:40 CST	0	

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Widespread strong winds developed on the afternoon of the 19th under a deeply mixed boundary layer. A few locations across the South Plains and Rolling Plains observed brief severe wind gusts.

High wind gusts reported by the Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet are listed below:

60 mph at Roaring Springs (Motley County),
 58 mph at Reese Center (Lubbock County), and
 58 mph at Spur (Dickens County).

SWISHER COUNTY --- 10.0 NW TULIA [34.63, -101.89], 2.0 S TULIA [34.50, -101.77]

04/25/23 17:53 CST	0	Hail (2.75 in)
04/25/23 18:27 CST	0	Source: Storm Chaser

Several storm chasers and the sheriff's office for Swisher County reported a swath of large hail from approximately ten miles northwest of Tulia into the city of Tulia and just to the south of Tulia. The largest hail size reported was baseball size hail from just south of Tulia. No damage was reported.

HALE COUNTY --- 2.9 E FINNEY [34.28, -101.67]

04/25/23 18:55 CST	3K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 61 kt)
04/25/23 18:55 CST	0	Source: Storm Chaser

A storm chaser reported a snapped power pole at the intersection of Farm to Market Roads 400 and 788 northeast of Plainview. The snapped power pole was likely due to rear flank downdraft winds within the supercell.

FLOYD COUNTY --- 3.5 WNW DOUGHERTY [33.94, -101.14], 3.3 WNW DOUGHERTY [33.94, -101.14]

04/25/23 20:17 CST	0	Tornado (EFU, L: 0.18 mi , W: 30 yd)
04/25/23 20:20 CST	0	Source: Storm Chaser

Numerous storm chasers documented a tornado over open land approximately three miles west of Dougherty. An NWS storm survey in the vicinity did not find any definitive indications of damage.

DICKENS COUNTY --- 3.0 NW MC ADOO [33.76, -101.02], 0.6 WNW DICKENS [33.62, -100.84]

04/25/23 20:37 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 78 kt)
04/25/23 21:09 CST	0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

An NWS storm survey revealed a swath of high winds from a supercell thunderstorm from approximately three miles northwest of McAdoo, through McAdoo, and into Dickens. Most of the damage from severe thunderstorm winds was found in McAdoo. An old, abandoned grocery store was completely demolished, with cinder block walls collapsed to the outside of the building in a roughly symmetrical pattern. A farmer's coop building lost roughly 30 feet of the northern portion of the metal panel roof. Roof damage to several other structures was mostly observed as peeling of roofing material on the north and/or west sides of the structures. Additionally, the sheriff's office in Dickens reported multiple broken windows due to wind driven hail. All of the damage indicators supported severe straight line wind damage associated with a strong rear flank downdraft surge observed on radar imagery. A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site three miles northwest of McAdoo measured severe wind gusts from 2037 CST through 2042 CST. A peak wind gust of 90 mph was measured at 2039 CST.

FLOYD COUNTY --- 6.0 ENE MUNCY [34.11, -101.31], 3.0 E FLOYDADA [33.98, -101.28]

04/25/23 20:41 CST	0	Hail (2.75 in)
04/25/23 20:55 CST	0	Source: Storm Chaser

Several reports were received, including a video on social media, of a swath of hail from approximately ten miles north of Floydada to three miles east of Floydada. The largest hail size reported was baseball size. No damage was reported.

DICKENS COUNTY --- MC ADOO [33.73, -100.98], DICKENS [33.62, -100.83]

04/25/23 20:44 CST	0	Hail (4.50 in)
04/25/23 21:08 CST	0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

As a supercell thunderstorm moved over the town of Dickens, numerous reports of large to giant sized hail were received. A swath of severe hail occurred from McAdoo through Dickens. An NWS storm survey revealed extensive damage to vehicles along with window and exterior siding damage to homes. The largest hail reported was via social media and showed a hail stone roughly grapefruit size.

The approach of an upper level storm system through the Four Corners, in combination with a gradual return of Gulf of Mexico moisture, a tightening dryline, and lifting warm front triggered scattered thunderstorms on the afternoon and evening of the 25th. The initial thunderstorm development was concentrated across the southwestern Texas Panhandle as well as the western South Plains, in close proximity to the warm front and dryline. The most intense storm of the day evolved from a cluster of thunderstorms over the southwestern Texas Panhandle during the late afternoon hours. Once the storm became organized it began rotating and took a right turn. The southeast track of the supercell brought the thunderstorm across Tulia (Swisher County), just northeast of Floydada (Floyd

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County), and eventually through McAdoo and Dickens (Dickens County) before finally weakening over far southeast Dickens County late in the evening. During its greater than six hour trek, the supercell thunderstorm was a proficient hail producer, tossing hail as large as baseballs, softballs, and even grapefruit size. The large to giant hail caused significant damage around the region, including Dickens, which took a direct hit. Windows were smashed out of homes and vehicles, while roofs and siding incurred large impact craters. The hail-producing thunderstorm occasionally generated intense straight-line winds too. A Texas Tech University West Texas mesonet site near McAdoo measured a peak wind gust of 90 mph. In addition to generating very large hail and damaging winds, the supercell produced one brief tornado near Dougherty, in a rural area of southeastern Floyd County.