

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - March 2017

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

(OK-Z001) CIMARRON, (OK-Z002) TEXAS, (OK-Z003) BEAVER				
	03/06/17 12:10 CST		0	High Wind (MAX 58 kt)
	03/06/17 13:10 CST		0	

A setup was in place for a persistent high wind event throughout the daytime hours. The Panhandles region were in a region of good surface divergence in the 300 hPa jet in-conjunction being on the lee side of a upper level trough in the Rockies. This set up under mostly clear skies was able to mix some of the strong winds aloft (700-500 hPa layer) down to the surface due to the steep height fields aloft. This allowed southwesterly down-slope winds to provide very breezy conditions with many counties in the combined Panhandles reaching High Wind criteria. A cold front came through the region that evening which tapered off the winds well below High Wind criteria.

TEXAS COUNTY --- 0.9 NW (GUY)GUYMON MUNI ARP [36.69, -101.51]				
	03/23/17 18:08 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 54 kt)
	03/23/17 18:08 CST		0	Source: ASOS

Severe weather was predominant across the central and western Panhandles. As an upper level worked its way east toward the Four Corners region, this helped to bring in some good mid level moisture. Although the low level moisture was not as pronounced, enough mid level instability and a strong mid level jet allowed did set the stage for discrete supercells. A surface low also formed in SW Kansas which helped to compact surface isobars and increase surface winds which eventually set up a dryline across the far western Panhandle which was the local initiation for these thunderstorms. Meso-analysis of 1000-1500 MLCAPE and DCAPE with 0-6 bulk shear around 50 kts allowed for discrete supercells. In-conjunction with cold mid-level temperatures moving closer to the Panhandles in association with the main upper level low, large hail and gusty winds were the main threat wit these storms. The result of the afternoon were many severe wind reports and hail size as big as 1.5".

(OK-Z001) CIMARRON, (OK-Z002) TEXAS				
	03/24/17 09:44 CST		0	High Wind (MAX 39 kt)
	03/24/17 15:44 CST		0	

An upper level low centered over SE Colorado and NE New Mexico moved ESE into the TX/OK Panhandles during the day on the 24th. With steep 850-770 hPa height gradients, especially on the backside of the low pressure system as the main center of the low progressed eastward, high sustained winds and non-thunderstorm wind gusts were reported across predominately the central and western Panhandles before the low moved east of the region during the late evening hours on the 24th.

TEXAS, North Panhandle

(TX-Z001) DALLAM, (TX-Z002) SHERMAN, (TX-Z004) OCHILTREE, (TX-Z005) LIPSCOMB, (TX-Z006) HARTLEY, (TX-Z007) MOORE, (TX-Z009) ROBERTS, (TX-Z010) HEMPHILL, (TX-Z014) GRAY, (TX-Z015) WHEELER, (TX-Z018) ARMSTRONG				
	03/06/17 10:30 CST		0	High Wind (MAX 52 kt)
	03/06/17 14:30 CST		0	

A setup was in place for a persistent high wind event throughout the daytime hours. The Panhandles region were in a region of good surface divergence in the 300 hPa jet in-conjunction being on the lee side of a upper level trough in the Rockies. This set up under mostly clear skies was able to mix some of the strong winds aloft (700-500 hPa layer) down to the surface due to the steep height fields aloft. This allowed southwesterly down-slope winds to provide very breezy conditions with many counties in the combined Panhandles reaching High Wind criteria. A cold front came through the region that evening which tapered off the winds well below High Wind criteria.

(TX-Z013) CARSON				
	03/06/17 14:43 CST		0	Wildfire
	03/07/17 00:00 CST	3	0	

The Dumas Complex Wildfire was comprised of several merged wildfires including the Reclamation wildfire, the Willow Vista wildfire, the Bluebonnet wildfire, the East wildfire, and the Folsom wildfire. The Dumas Complex wildfire began around 1443CST about seven miles north of Claude Texas in Carson County. The wildfire reportedly consumed twenty-eight thousand and eight hundred acres. There were about one hundred and fifty homes and other structures which were threatened by the wildfire and an evacuation was declared. There were no homes or other structures damaged or destroyed by the wildfire and, although no fatalities were reported, there was a local television station report that at least three firefighters were injured by the wildfire. The East wildfire began at 1501CST northwest of the Pantex Plant and north of the Amarillo Rick Husband International Airport just east of the Fritch Highway (State Road 136 and Farm to Market Road 293). There were about ten fire departments and other agencies that responded to the wildfire including the Texas A&M Forest Service. The wildfire was caused by downed power lines and was contained around 0000CST on March 7.

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(TX-Z004) OCHILTREE				
	03/06/17 14:50 CST	1	25.10M	Wildfire
	03/09/17 15:00 CST	2	0	

Direct Fatalities: U??OU

The Perryton Wildfire began around 1450CST about thirteen miles southwest of Wolf Creek Park in Ochiltree County. The wildfire was caused by downed power lines or sparks from a transformer and the wildfire consumed three hundred and eighteen thousand and fifty six acres. There was a report that this wildfire spread east across southern Lipscomb and northern Hemphill counties. The Perryton wildfire has been determined to be the third largest wildfire in the history of the Texas A&M Forest Service. The wildfire threatened homes north of Canadian and residents were urged to evacuate at a moment's notice. The town of Higgins was also threatened briefly. There were two hundred homes and one hundred other structures threatened but saved, however four homes and one hundred other structures were destroyed by the wildfire. There was one report of a fatality and two injuries along with many heads of cattle lost. There were approximately one hundred near misses reported. The wildfire was contained around 1500CST on March 9. There were approximately four thousand livestock killed in the Texas Panhandle on March 6 from all of the wildfires and total damages were estimated to be in the neighborhood of 25.1 million dollars.

(TX-Z014) GRAY				
	03/06/17 15:00 CST	3	0	Wildfire
	03/08/17 08:00 CST		0	

Direct Fatalities: U??OU

The Lefors East Wildfire began in Gray County about six miles southeast of Lefors Texas around 1500CST. The wildfire spread east into Wheeler County where an evacuation was declared for the towns of Mobeetie and Wheeler. An evacuation was also declared for the town of Lefors, however three people were killed as they tried to save livestock in the area. Many livestock were also lost from the wildfire. The wildfire consumed approximately one hundred and thirty-five thousand acres. There was a report that six homes and four other structures were threatened but saved, however one home and two other structures were destroyed by the wildfire. Other than the three people killed, there were no reports of any injuries but there were ten near misses. There were ten fire departments and other agencies that responded to the wildfire including the Texas A&M Forest Service. The wildfire was contained around 0800CST on March 8.

(TX-Z019) DONLEY				
	03/09/17 17:37 CST		0	Wildfire
	03/10/17 02:00 CST	2	0	

The JA Ranch Wildfire began around 1737CST about twelve miles southwest of Clarendon Texas in Donley County. The wildfire began as a prescribed burn which went out of control when a large fire whirl developed and consumed approximately two thousand three hundred and fifty-nine acres. There were no homes or other structures damaged or destroyed by the wildfire. Although there were no reports of any fatalities, there were two firefighters that were injured. The wildfire was contained around 0200CST on March 10.

(TX-Z011) OLDHAM				
	03/23/17 14:54 CST		0	Wildfire
	03/23/17 21:00 CST		0	

The Green Wildfire began around 1454CST about nine miles north northeast of Vega Texas in Oldham County. The wildfire consumed an estimated five hundred acres. There were no reports of any homes or other structures damaged or destroyed, however three homes and two other structures were threatened but saved. There were also no reports of any injuries or fatalities. The wildfire was contained by 2100CST and a total of nine fire departments and other agencies responded to the wildfire including the Texas A&M Forest Service.

DEAF SMITH COUNTY --- 1.1 E WALCOTT [34.93, -102.81]				
	03/23/17 15:41 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 53 kt)
	03/23/17 15:41 CST		0	Source: Broadcast Media

Wind gust of 61 MPH measured at Schoolnet site at Walcott.

HARTLEY COUNTY --- 1.8 ENE (DHT)DALHART MUNI AR [36.03, -102.52]				
	03/23/17 16:04 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	03/23/17 16:04 CST		0	Source: Broadcast Media

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Viewers reporting quarter size hail 2 miles south of Dalhart.				
DEAF SMITH COUNTY --- 3.5 N HEREFORD [34.87, -102.40]				
	03/23/17 16:31 CST	0		Hail (0.88 in)
	03/23/17 16:31 CST	0		Source: Broadcast Media
Nickel size hail reported a few miles north of Hereford on 385.				
OLDHAM COUNTY --- 3.4 E VEGA [35.25, -102.37]				
	03/23/17 16:53 CST	0		Hail (1.00 in)
	03/23/17 16:53 CST	0		Source: Broadcast Media
Reporting quarter hail 3 miles east of Vega on I-40. Hail now shifting north of highway.				
MOORE COUNTY --- 0.9 NE DUMAS MUNI ARPT [35.86, -102.01]				
	03/23/17 17:01 CST	0		Thunderstorm Wind (MG 52 kt)
	03/23/17 17:01 CST	0		Source: Broadcast Media
Schoolnet site Moore County airport reporting 60 mph winds.				
DEAF SMITH COUNTY --- 4.1 NNW HEREFORD [34.87, -102.44]				
	03/23/17 17:15 CST	0		Thunderstorm Wind (EG 61 kt)
	03/23/17 17:15 CST	0		Source: NWS Employee
Telephone pole snapped at base along County Road 10 one mile north of beef tech cattle feeder.				
OLDHAM COUNTY --- 5.8 WNW WILDORADO [35.22, -102.30]				
	03/23/17 17:20 CST	0		Thunderstorm Wind (EG 56 kt)
	03/23/17 17:20 CST	0		Source: Broadcast Media
Time estimated by radar. Time corrected.				
MOORE COUNTY --- 6.6 ESE SUNRAY [35.97, -101.63]				
	03/23/17 17:50 CST	0		Hail (1.25 in)
	03/23/17 17:50 CST	0		Source: Broadcast Media
Hail on FM 1060 and FM 1058 the size of half dollars.				
HANSFORD COUNTY --- 0.9 SW GRUVER [36.26, -101.41]				
	03/23/17 18:11 CST	0		Hail (1.00 in)
	03/23/17 18:11 CST	0		Source: Trained Spotter
Quarter size hail reported. Lasted for a good minute before moving on.				
RANDALL COUNTY --- 2.6 ENE UMBARGER [34.97, -102.06]				
	03/23/17 18:12 CST	0		Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
	03/23/17 18:12 CST	0		Source: Broadcast Media
Wind gust of 58 MPH at Schoolnet site at the Brandt Farms.				
RANDALL COUNTY --- 3.0 NNE UMBARGER [34.99, -102.08]				
	03/23/17 18:14 CST	0		Thunderstorm Wind (MG 55 kt)
	03/23/17 18:14 CST	0		Source: Mesonet
DEAF SMITH COUNTY --- HEREFORD [34.82, -102.40]				
	03/23/17 18:15 CST	0		Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
	03/23/17 18:15 CST	0		Source: AWOS
OLDHAM COUNTY --- 1.3 ENE ADRIAN [35.28, -102.66]				
	03/23/17 18:20 CST	0		Hail (0.88 in)
	03/23/17 18:20 CST	0		Source: Broadcast Media

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HANSFORD COUNTY --- 0.9 SW GRUVER [36.26, -101.41]				
	03/23/17 18:30 CST		0	Hail (1.50 in)
	03/23/17 18:30 CST		0	Source: Public
Dime to ping pong ball size hail reported in Gruver.				
MOORE COUNTY --- 0.7 N DUMAS [35.86, -101.97]				
	03/23/17 19:11 CST		0	Hail (1.25 in)
	03/23/17 19:11 CST		0	Source: Public
Picture of quarter to half dollar size hail in Dumas.				
MOORE COUNTY --- 0.9 NW DUMAS [35.86, -101.98]				
	03/23/17 19:12 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	03/23/17 19:12 CST		0	Source: Broadcast Media
Quarter-sized hail falling at the Moore County airport at 912 pm. Visible via sky cam.				
MOORE COUNTY --- 0.7 N DUMAS [35.86, -101.97]				
	03/23/17 19:14 CST		0	Hail (1.50 in)
	03/23/17 19:14 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager
Ping pong ball hail reported in Dumas and is breaking windows.				
MOORE COUNTY --- 0.9 NW DUMAS [35.86, -101.98]				
	03/23/17 19:17 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	03/23/17 19:17 CST		0	Source: Broadcast Media
POTTER COUNTY --- (AMA)AMARILLO INTL A [35.22, -101.72]				
	03/23/17 19:39 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 51 kt)
	03/23/17 19:39 CST		0	Source: ASOS
CARSON COUNTY --- 7.3 E CONWAY [35.20, -101.25]				
	03/23/17 20:16 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 61 kt)
	03/23/17 20:16 CST		0	Source: Broadcast Media
Estimated measurement of 70 MPH.				
<p>Severe weather was predominant across the central and western Panhandles. As an upper level worked its way east toward the Four Corners region, this helped to bring in some good mid level moisture. Although the low level moisture was not as pronounced, enough mid level instability and a strong mid level jet allowed did set the stage for discrete supercells. A surface low also formed in SW Kansas which helped to compact surface isobars and increase surface winds which eventually set up a dryline across the far western Panhandle which was the local initiation for these thunderstorms. Meso-analysis of 1000-1500 MLCAPE and DCAPE with 0-6 bulk shear around 50 kts allowed for discrete supercells. In-conjunction with cold mid-level temperatures moving closer to the Panhandles in association with the main upper level low, large hail and gusty winds were the main threat wit these storms. The result of the afternoon were many severe wind reports and hail size as big as 1.5".</p>				
(TX-Z009) ROBERTS				
	03/23/17 16:29 CST		0	Wildfire
	03/24/17 01:00 CST		0	
<p>The Rankin Ranch Road Wildfire began around 1629CST about ten miles north northwest of Codman Texas in Roberts County. The wildfire was caused by downed power lines and consumed an estimated sixty-thousand acres. There were no reports of any homes or other structures threatened, damaged or destroyed by the wildfire and there were also no reports of any injuries or fatalities. There were a total of ten fire departments and other agencies that responded to the wildire including the Texas A&M Forest Service. The wildfire was contained by 0100CST on March 24.</p>				
<p>(TX-Z001) DALLAM, (TX-Z002) SHERMAN, (TX-Z003) HANSFORD, (TX-Z006) HARTLEY, (TX-Z007) MOORE, (TX-Z008) HUTCHINSON, (TX-Z011) OLDHAM, (TX-Z012) POTTER, (TX-Z013) CARSON, (TX-Z014) GRAY, (TX-Z016) DEAF SMITH, (TX-Z017) RANDALL, (TX-Z018) ARMSTRONG, (TX-Z019) DONLEY</p>				

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Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
	03/24/17 09:44 CST		0	High Wind (MAX 56 kt)
	03/24/17 16:44 CST		0	

An upper level low centered over SE Colorado and NE New Mexico moved ESE into the TX/OK Panhandles during the day on the 24th. With steep 850-770 hPa height gradients, especially on the backside of the low pressure system as the main center of the low progressed eastward, high sustained winds and non-thunderstorm wind gusts were reported across predominately the central and western Panhandles before the low moved east of the region during the late evening hours on the 24th.

(TX-Z014) GRAY

03/26/17 14:18 CST	0	Wildfire
03/26/17 22:00 CST	0	

The Arrington Wildfire began about eight miles southeast of White Deer in Gray County around 1418CST. The wildfire started between W Line Road and Keahey Haiduk Road south of Baggerman Road. The wildfire consumed three hundred and twenty-three acres and was caused by downed power lines. There were no homes or other structures threatened or destroyed by the wildfire. There also were no reports of injuries or fatalities. The wildfire was contained around 2200CST and a total of five fire departments and other fire agencies responded to the wildfire including the Texas A&M Forest Service.

POTTER COUNTY --- 5.0 WNW AMARILLO [35.23, -101.90]

03/28/17 10:40 CST	0	Hail (0.80 in)
03/28/17 10:40 CST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

POTTER COUNTY --- 1.3 WSW AMARILLO [35.19, -101.84]

03/28/17 10:43 CST	0	Hail (0.75 in)
03/28/17 10:43 CST	0	Source: Public

MOORE COUNTY --- 0.9 NE MASTERTON [35.64, -101.96]

03/28/17 11:25 CST	0	Hail (0.88 in)
03/28/17 11:25 CST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

Heavy nickel sized hail along with torrential rain and zero visibility fog.

CARSON COUNTY --- 0.6 E SKELLYTOWN [35.57, -101.17]

03/28/17 14:03 CST	0	Hail (0.88 in)
03/28/17 14:03 CST	0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue

Nickle sized hail with localized flooding reported in areas prone to it.

DONLEY COUNTY --- 2.1 SSE HOWARDWICK [35.04, -100.91]

03/28/17 14:33 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
03/28/17 14:33 CST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

DONLEY COUNTY --- 3.5 ENE JERICHO [35.18, -100.86]

03/28/17 15:12 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
03/28/17 15:12 CST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

GRAY COUNTY --- 1.7 W MC LEAN [35.23, -100.63]

03/28/17 15:20 CST	0	Hail (0.75 in)
03/28/17 15:20 CST	0	Source: Public

COLLINGSWORTH COUNTY --- 3.1 NE QUAIL [34.91, -100.41]

03/28/17 16:57 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
03/28/17 16:57 CST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

Quarter size hail reported.

COLLINGSWORTH COUNTY --- 4.0 NW WELLINGTON [34.89, -100.27], 5.0 N WELLINGTON [34.92, -100.23]

03/28/17 16:57 CST	0	Tornado (EF0, L: 3.10 mi , W: 50 yd)
03/28/17 17:01 CST	0	Source: Storm Chaser

Rain wrapped tornado is on the ground approximately 4 NW Wellington.

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ARMSTRONG COUNTY --- 12.2 SW CLAUDE [34.98, -101.50]				
	03/28/17 23:36 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 52 kt)
	03/28/17 23:36 CST		0	Source: Mesonet
<p>Quite an active day across the Panhandles. An upper level low pressure was progressing eastward centered over the Arizona/New Mexico border. This helped to advect moisture into the region from the south, mostly confined in the mid-levels between 850-700 hPa due to a more stable surface airmass underneath some cloud cover. In-conjunction with MLCAPE of 1000-1500 J/kg with a warm front draped across portions of the far SE TX Panhandle with shifting surface winds and dewpoint contrast along the front, the set up was there for local lift and possibly even a tornado. Eventually going into the afternoon and early evening hours, supercells did form south of the warm front and produced large hail and strong winds. One supercell formed in the more unstable surface airmass well to the south and moved NE. As it did so approaching the warm front boundary, low level wind shift caused a tornado to form in Collingsworth County before the storm weakened moving north of the front into a more stable airmass.</p>				
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CARSON COUNTY --- 1.8 WSW PANTEX [35.32, -101.60]				
	03/31/17 21:52 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	03/31/17 21:52 CST		0	Source: Public
<p>Time estimated by radar.</p>				
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HUTCHINSON COUNTY --- 0.6 E STINNETT [35.82, -101.44]				
	03/31/17 22:55 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	03/31/17 22:55 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

A weak surface low forming in eastern New Mexico late on 3/31 and early 4/1 along a convergence boundary and a weak warm front draped west to east across the mid central TX Panhandle had just enough lift for some isolated storms to form. With MUCAPE around 1000 J/kg and 500 hPa temperature of -14C to -16C, aloft was cold enough along the localized lift to support some severe criteria hail.