

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2021

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

(OK-Z001) CIMARRON

	01/01/21 00:00 CST	0		Drought
	01/31/21 23:59 CST	0		

Impacts to agriculture continued across the combined Oklahoma and Texas Panhandle through the month of January due to drought especially in the northwest, southwest and southeast. Emergence of small grain plantings was limited during the month leading to very few cattle in pasture. Subsoil and topsoil moisture remained short to very short at the end of the month. For the southwest Texas Panhandle the Exceptional (D4), Extreme (D3), and Severe (D2) drought conditions were creating a potential forage deficit toward the end of January. This led to increased demand and increase prices for forage silage. Wheat crop will most likely not be harvested for grain but instead farmers will most likely cash in on diverse forage options for livestock producers. Similar conditions are being felt elsewhere where drought conditions remain in D2 and above.

(OK-Z002) TEXAS, (OK-Z003) BEAVER

	01/15/21 10:00 CST	0		High Wind (MAX 63 kt)
	01/15/21 12:25 CST	0		

A very large and intense low pressure system move over the mid-west helped generate strong winds well behind a cold front as very strong wind speeds aloft in the atmosphere were able to mix down to the surface on January 15th. Wind gusts peaked around 60 MPH in the north and northeast combined OK and TX Panhandles between 10 AM and noon. Sustained winds reached 30 to 45 MPH across the entire combined Panhandles. Winds were out of the north to northwest and had been strong in eastern Colorado before coming south into the Panhandles. With ongoing drought conditions in southeast Colorado a lot of dust a plume of dust reduced visibility to ¼ mile or less from the west-central Oklahoma Panhandle to near I-40 around Groom, Texas. The high winds fed two wildfires in the area. One fire west of Goodwell, OK jumped Highway 54 just south of Goodwell and blocked traffic for some time.

(OK-Z002) TEXAS

	01/15/21 11:45 CST	0		Dust Storm
	01/15/21 12:15 CST	0		

Very strong wind speeds aloft were able to mix down to the surface on January 15th. Wind gusts peaked around 60 MPH in the north and northeast combined OK and TX Panhandles between 10 AM and noon. Sustained winds reached 30 to 45 MPH across the entire combined Panhandles. Winds were out of the north to northwest and had been strong in eastern Colorado before coming south into the Panhandles. With ongoing drought conditions in southeast Colorado a lot of dust a plume of dust capable of reducing visibility to ¼ mile or less spread south through west-central Oklahoma Panhandle and spread all the to parts of I-40 around Groom, Texas. Also, the high winds fed two wildfires one west of Goodwell, OK that jumped Highway 54 just south of Goodwell and blocked traffic for some time. The other fire was in southeast Amarillo Proper in Randall County. This fire managed to take out one house with it and needed several fire agencies working together to get it contained. Fires would have been way worse with these winds had fuels been any drier.

(OK-Z002) TEXAS

	01/15/21 12:15 CST	0		Wildfire
	01/15/21 18:30 CST	0		

Strong winds in excess of 30 to 40 mph and minimum afternoon relative humidity values between 10 and 15 percent, along with areas of blowing dust reducing visibilities, and lack of recent precipitation, contributed to a large wildfire in Texas County near Goodwell Oklahoma in the central Oklahoma Panhandle.

(OK-Z001) CIMARRON, (OK-Z002) TEXAS

	01/30/21 11:25 CST	0		High Wind (MAX 60 kt)
	01/30/21 15:40 CST	0		

Strong winds aloft left in the wake of a potent upper level storm system were able to mix to the surface during the late morning and early afternoon of January 30th, 2021. Wind gusts upwards of 60 mph were recorded by several mesonets across the area. Also, these automated weather systems recorded 40 to 50 MPH for several hours.

TEXAS, North Panhandle

(TX-Z015) WHEELER, (TX-Z016) DEAF SMITH, (TX-Z017) RANDALL COUNTY, (TX-Z018) ARMSTRONG, (TX-Z020) COLLINGSWORTH

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	01/01/21 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	01/31/21 23:59 CST		0	

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(TX-Z014) GRAY, (TX-Z019) DONLEY

01/01/21 00:00 CST	0	Drought
01/26/21 23:59 CST	0	

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(TX-Z003) HANSFORD, (TX-Z004) OCHILTREE, (TX-Z008) HUTCHINSON, (TX-Z009) ROBERTS, (TX-Z010) HEMPHILL, (TX-Z014) GRAY

01/15/21 09:38 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 52 kt)
01/15/21 15:23 CST	0	

A very large and intense low pressure system move over the mid-west helped generate strong winds well behind a cold front as very strong wind speeds aloft in the atmosphere were able to mix down to the surface on January 15th. Wind gusts peaked around 60 MPH in the north and northeast combined OK and TX Panhandles between 10 AM and noon. Sustained winds reached 30 to 45 MPH across the entire combined Panhandles. Winds were out of the north to northwest and had been strong in eastern Colorado before coming south into the Panhandles. With ongoing drought conditions in southeast Colorado a lot of dust a plume of dust reduced visibility to ¼ mile or less from the west-central Oklahoma Panhandle to near I-40 around Groom, Texas. The high winds fed two wildfires in the area. One wildfire, just southeast Amarillo in Randall County, destroyed one home and required several fire agencies working together to get it contained.

(TX-Z003) HANSFORD, (TX-Z008) HUTCHINSON

01/15/21 12:15 CST	0	Dust Storm
01/15/21 13:20 CST	0	

Very strong wind speeds aloft were able to mix down to the surface on January 15th. Wind gusts peaked around 60 MPH in the north and northeast combined OK and TX Panhandles between 10 AM and noon. Sustained winds reached 30 to 45 MPH across the entire combined Panhandles. Winds were out of the north to northwest and had been strong in eastern Colorado before coming south into the Panhandles. With ongoing drought conditions in southeast Colorado a lot of dust a plume of dust capable of reducing visibility to ¼ mile or less spread south through west-central Oklahoma Panhandle and spread all the to parts of I-40 around Groom, Texas. Also, the high winds fed two wildfires one west of Goodwell, OK that jumped Highway 54 just south of Goodwell and blocked traffic for some time. The other fire was in southeast Amarillo Proper in Randall County. This fire managed to take out one house with it and needed several fire agencies working together to get it contained. Fires would have been way worse with these winds had fuels been any drier.

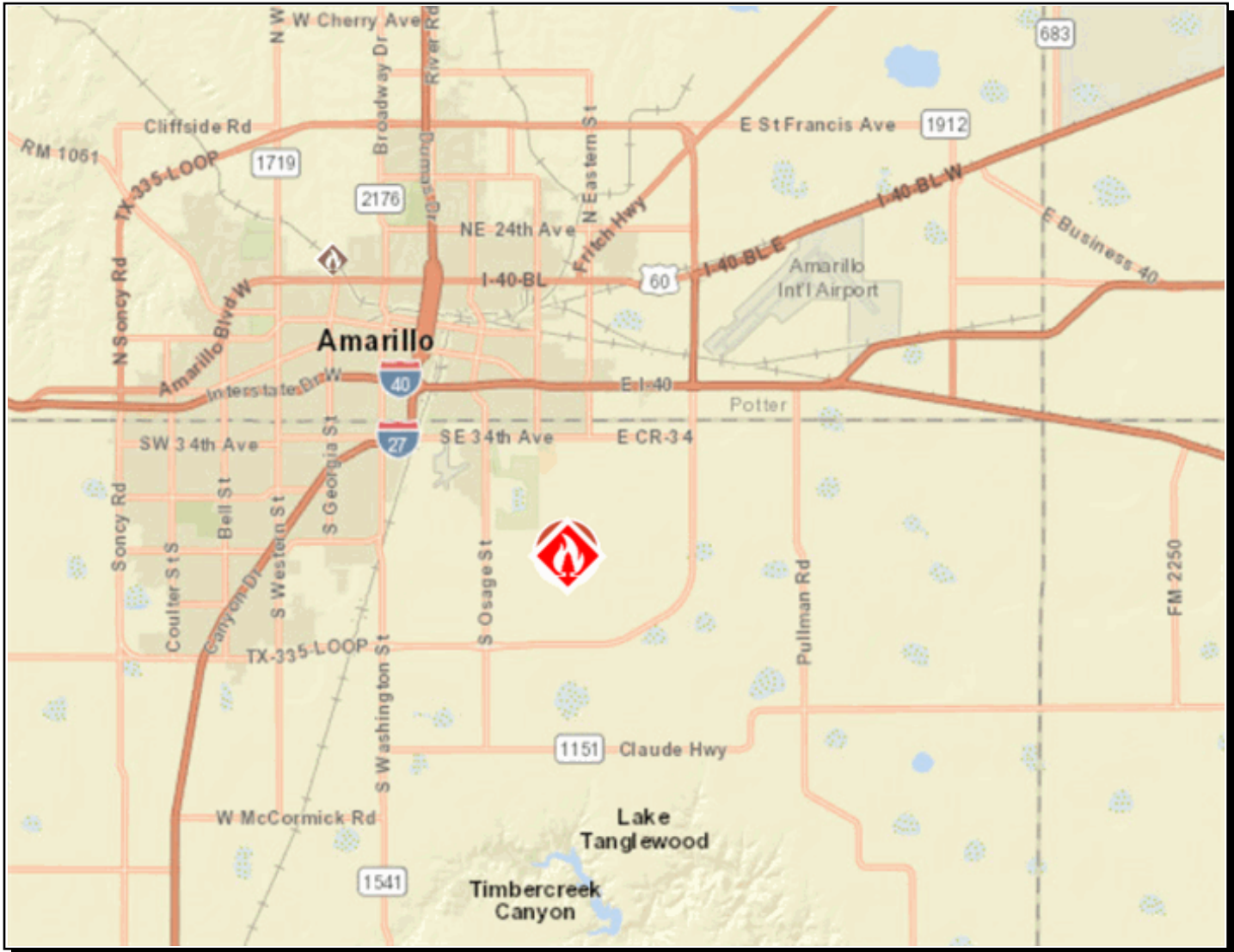
(TX-Z017) RANDALL COUNTY

01/15/21 13:30 CST	0.10M	Wildfire
01/15/21 18:24 CST	0	

Despite recent snowfall over the past week, fuels became receptive enough, as minimum afternoon relative humidity values dropped to near 10 percent and downsloping northwest winds increased to around 30 to 40 mph with gusts near 50 mph, to allow for a wildfire to start in the southeastern section of Amarillo Texas.

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Map of the location of the Eastern wildfire on January 15, 2021 courtesy of the Texas A&M Forest Service.

(TX-Z002) SHERMAN, (TX-Z003) HANSFORD, (TX-Z006) HARTLEY, (TX-Z007) MOORE, (TX-Z008) HUTCHINSON, (TX-Z011) OLDHAM, (TX-Z014) GRAY, (TX-Z017) RANDALL COUNTY, (TX-Z018) ARMSTRONG

01/30/21 07:25 CST	0	High Wind (MAX 52 kt)
01/30/21 15:31 CST	0	

Strong winds aloft left in the wake of a potent upper level storm system were able to mix to the surface during the late morning and early afternoon of January 30th, 2021. Wind gusts upwards of 60 mph were recorded by several mesonets across the area. Also, these automated weather systems recorded 40 to 50 MPH for several hours.