Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - July 2009

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

TEXAS, South

(TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z250) BROOKS, (TX-Z251) KENEDY, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO, (TX-Z254) WILLACY, (TX-Z255) CAMERON, (TX-Z256) COASTAL WILLACY, (TX-Z257) COASTAL CAMERON

	07/01/09 00:00 CST	0	Drought
	07/31/09 23:59 CST	0	

Drought conditions maintained their levels through mid July across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley. A record heat, but also somewhat humid, period to start the month was followed by a brief period of unsettled weather on July 8th, particularly in Starr and Zapata County, which temporarily remained below severe drought (D2) conditions. Some rainfall over the Lower Rio Grande Valley on the 11th would be the last for awhile, and hot, dry, windy conditions would soon return worsening drought conditions in these areas later in the month.

Damage to dryland crops, particularly cotton, began in earnest during July. Emptying water stocks would force some cattle ranchers to sell off some of the herd early. Irrigation of citrus and other fruits, however, was able to continue due to abundant stores of water at Falcon and Amistad reservoirs, much from the torrential rains of the Summer of 2008. Full damage statistics will be listed in the August Storm Data report.

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z252) STARR, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO, (TX-Z255) CAMERON

	07/06/09 11:00 CST	0	Heat
	07/09/09 17:00 CST	0	

The combination of northwesterly flow well above the earth's surface - ahead of building mid and upper level high pressure - with a retreating/dissipating surface front in South and Central Texas, brought enhanced surface moisture along with near record to record heat across the Rio Grande Valley counties of Deep South Texas between July 6th and 9th. Daytime heat index values reached or exceeded 111 for several hours during the period, with early morning lows generally remaining near or just above 80, mainly close to the Rio Grande River.

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z252) STARR, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO

	07/14/09 00:00 CST	0	Drought
	07/31/09 23:59 CST	0	

After a brief respite from continued hot, breezy, and relatively low humidity on July 7th, when locally heavy rainfall affected portions of Jim Hogg, western Hidalgo, Starr, and Zapata County, virtually no rain would fall for the remainder of the month from the central portion of the Rio Grande Valley through the Rio Grande Plains. Severe to Extreme Drought returned by mid month, and would continue to worsen by the end of July.

(TX-Z252) STARR

	07/20/09 12:30 CST	5K	Wildfire
	07/20/09 20:00 CST	0	

Persistent high pressure in the mid and upper levels of the atmosphere continued to maintain unusually dry conditions for mid to late July through the depth of the atmosphere across all of Deep South Texas. The dry air, combined with record high temperatures and gusty surface winds above 30 mph driven by the difference between pressures associated with the Sierra Madre lee side heat trough and high pressure in the western Gulf, and humidity falling below 20 percent each afternoon, aided the ability of wild fires to quickly spread and threaten homes and businesses in Starr and Hidalgo County. Monday, July 20th was a focus for several fires, all which were contained due to diligent work by volunteer and county fire departments across the Rio Grande Valley.

(TX-Z249) JIM HOGG, (TX-Z252) STARR

	07/21/09 00:00 CST	0	Drought
	07/31/09 23:59 CST	0	

Hot to very hot temperatures, frequently gusty winds, low humidity, and no rain allowed Extreme to Exceptional Drought to spread across all of Jim Hogg and nearly all of Starr County for the last 10 days of July. Dryland crop damage and livestock losses would increase in August; values per county will be provided in the August narrative and county-by-county breakdown for all of Deep South Texas.

(TX-Z248) ZAPATA, (TX-Z252) STARR, (TX-Z253) HIDALGO, (TX-Z255) CAMERON

	07/30/09 11:30 CST	0	Heat
	07/31/09 17:00 CST	0	

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Compression of air near the surface, aided by northwesterly flow in the mid and high levels of the atmosphere, returned very hot temperatures to portions of the Rio Grande Valley to close July. The movement of a surface front into South Central Texas helped draw higher surface moisture into the region. The result was a two day period of heat index at or above 111F for several hours each afternoon, with overnight temperatures remaining largely in the 80s in most areas.