



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 2006

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Crops	Character of Storm
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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

OKZ004>048-050>052 Harper - Woods - Alfalfa - Grant - Kay - Ellis - Woodward - Major - Garfield - Noble - Roger Mills - Dewey - Custer - Blaine - Kingfisher - Logan - Payne - Beckham - Washita - Caddo - Canadian - Oklahoma - Lincoln - Grady - McClain - Cleveland - Pottawatomie - Seminole - Hughes - Harmon - Greer - Kiowa - Jackson - Tillman - Comanche - Stephens - Garvin - Murray - Pontotoc - Coal - Cotton - Jefferson - Carter - Johnston - Atoka - Love - Marshall - Bryan

01	0000CST				0	0	15M	750K	Drought
31	2359CST								

Drought conditions persisted and expanded across the area into the first month of the new year. Drought levels ranged from severe to exceptional (D2-D4), with the driest conditions in southeast Oklahoma. Some precipitation did fall during the month, mainly in the form of snow, which did not do much to alleviate the dry conditions over the area. The new year started off with a bang with a major wildfire event occurring across the area on New Year's Day due to strong winds, some gusting over 50 mph, and low humidities. The biggest fire occurred in Kingfisher county where more than 31,360 acres were burned. Another large fire occurred on January 1st in the Arbuckle Mountains of Murray county where 18,000 acres were scorched. Many federal, state, tribal, and local assets along with assistance from other states were used to fight the fires. The metropolitan area of Oklahoma City was not immune to the wildfires. Several fires ignited across the city. The largest urban wildfire affected the northeastern parts of the metro, where several neighborhoods were threatened and many residents were evacuated. Numerous structures were burned, but no injuries occurred. Overall, the wildfires across the western half of Oklahoma injured several firefighters due to smoke inhalation and minor burns, but no fatalities were reported. In all, over 55,000 acres were scorched across western and central Oklahoma on New Year's Day. Numerous structures, including many homes, were burned along with many large round hay bales which were desperately needed to sustain livestock through the drought. A Federal Emergency Declaration was declared for many of the affected counties

January 12 was another day of many wildfires across the area. Strong winds exacerbated already dry conditions. One of the largest wildfires occurred near Ratliff City in Carter county where 23,380 acres of land were scorched. The fire burned an area about 9 miles long and was at times 4.5 miles wide. Twenty homes and 3 mobile homes were destroyed. Two oil field offices, 9 garages, and 10 outbuildings were also destroyed. Two hundred round bales of hay were burned. Thirty-five head of cattle were also killed. One tank battery also caught fire which caused a hazmat incident. Four towns of approximately 800 homes were evacuated due to this fire.

Many other days saw wildfires in the area. More than 110,000 acres were scorched during the month of January destroying many structures, including homes. The drought also continued to affect farm ponds and livestock across the area, with many ranchers and farmers selling their entire herd due to scorched pasture and hay, and lack of water.

OKZ014-022 Roger Mills - Washita

01	1550CST				0	0			High Wind (MG56)
	1640CST								

Winds gusted above 50 mph in several locations across western and central Oklahoma due to a strong surface low pressure. A dry line moved through portions of the area causing winds to shift to the west. These west winds measured wind gusts as high as 50-56 knots (58-64 mph) in three locations. The highest wind gust measured was 56 knots (64 mph) at the KCSM ASOS station 2 miles west of Burns Flat in Washita County. The other two stations were Oklahoma mesonet sites at 4 WNW of Bessie in Washita County and 6 SW of Cheyenne in Roger Mills county. These high winds made fighting wildfires difficult and allowed the fires to spread quickly across the area.



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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

OKZ007>008-012>013-018>019 **Grant - Kay - Garfield - Noble - Kingfisher - Logan**

09	2000CST								
10	0730CST				0	0			Heavy Snow

Widespread snow occurred across parts of western, central, and northern Oklahoma beginning the evening of January 9th and ending during the morning hours of January 10th. Within this wide area of snow, a band of heavy snow dropped 6 to near 12 inches from Braman to Lamont to Billings to Marshall and Crescent. The largest amount measured occurred in Lamont in Grant County. The snow caused difficult travel conditions along with closures of schools and businesses. Due to warm air and ground temperatures before and after the event, the widespread snow melted in a day with the heavier amounts linger for a couple of days.

OKZ038 **Comanche**

12	1810CST								
					0	0			High Wind (MG51)

Most wind gusts across the area this evening were not high. However, one Oklahoma mesonet station did record a wind gust of 51 knots (59 mph) 3 miles west of Medicine Park in Comanche county. This site usually gusts higher than those stations surrounding it due to higher elevation. These gusty conditions increased the wildfire potential across the area on January 12th.

TEXAS, Western North

TXZ083>090 **Hardeman - Foard - Wilbarger - Wichita - Knox - Baylor - Archer - Clay**

01	0000CST								
31	2359CST				0	0			Drought

Drought conditions persisted into January 2006, with severe to extreme (D2-D3) levels across western north Texas. The weather station at Wichita Falls was 0.49 inches below normal at the end of January. However, this was in addition to the already well below normal values from the previous months. The drought conditions across Texas had become bad enough that the governor issued a drought disaster declaration for Texas in late January. The drought conditions exacerbated already critical fire weather conditions on several days during the month. Several wildfires occurred during the month with one large fire beginning in Clay County and moved east into the neighboring county of Montague affecting a nearby town