



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



August 1998

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

OKZ025	Oklahoma								
	02	1100CST			1	0			Excessive Heat
	A 53 year-old man died in his Oklahoma City home due to the excessive heat. M53PH								
OKZ025	Oklahoma								
	03	1100CST			1	0			Excessive Heat
	A 82 year-old woman died in her Oklahoma City home due to the excessive heat. F82PH								
Pontotoc County									
2 NE Ada	03	2200CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G53)
Payne County									
Yale	04	1800CST			0	0	1K		Lightning
	Lightning struck a telephone line. The electricity then transferred through the line and into a house causing a light fixture to explode.								
OKZ046	Carter								
	05	1100CST			1	0			Excessive Heat

Excessive heat and drought conditions affected western and central Oklahoma from May through early October with the most intense heat and severe drought conditions occurring from mid-June through early September across central and southern Oklahoma. The excessive heat and drought was less severe across northwest and north central Oklahoma. There were 19 fatalities and at least 3 injuries directly related to the heat. Agricultural losses are estimated at nearly 2 billion dollars for the entire state of Oklahoma. Sixty of Oklahoma's 77 counties were declared federal disaster areas.

Heat and drought conditions began in May, intensified in July and August, and diminished in September and early October. Oklahoma City experienced its 6th warmest and 16th driest May on record. Heat and drought conditions escalated after June 11th, which was the last day of widespread rainfall across western and central Oklahoma until early September. The heat and drought then ended in early October when widespread rain and cooler temperatures returned.

The first fatality directly related to the heat occurred on June 21st, when an 81 year-old woman was found dead in her house in Oklahoma City (Oklahoma County). A 76 year-old man was then found dead in his Del City (Oklahoma County) home on June 29th. The heat claimed 15 lives in July. Two persons died on the 9th. A 46 year-old man was found dead in a hotel room in Oklahoma City with no air conditioning. The temperature in the room was 115 degrees. A 73 year-old man was then found dead in his Oklahoma City home. On July 10th, a 79 year-old man was found dead in his mobile home in Mulhall (Logan County). Another heat related fatality occurred on the 11th, when a 51 year-old woman was found dead in her home in Wewoka (Seminole County).

On July 17th, in Altus (Jackson County), a 79 year-old man was found dead in his home, while on the 19th, there were 3 heat related deaths reported. The first fatality occurred to a man of unknown age. He was found dead in his vehicle in Oklahoma City. The second fatality occurred in Guthrie (Logan County) when a 55 year-old man was found dead in his house, while the 3rd fatality occurred to a 78 year-old woman when she was found dead in her Oklahoma City apartment. On July 20th, a 78 year-old woman was found dead in her Duncan (Stephens County) home, while on the 21st, another 78 year-old woman was found dead in her home, this time in Guthrie (Logan County). Two persons died in their homes from the heat on the 27th, the first, a 61 year-old man from Oklahoma City, the second, a 67 year-old man found from Cromwell (Seminole County). The last heat related fatality occurred on the 30th, when a 62 year-old woman was found dead in her Oklahoma City home.

Three heat related fatalities were reported in August. The first occurred on the 2nd when a 53 year-old man was found dead inside his Oklahoma City home. The second heat related fatality occurred on the 3rd, when an 82 year-old man was found dead inside his Oklahoma City home. The last heat related fatality in August occurred on the 5th in Gene Autry (Carter County) when a 76 year-old man was found dead inside his home. Only one heat related fatality was reported in September, and occurred on the 4th. A 76 year-old man was found dead outside of a retirement home in Oklahoma City. He was found after he went for a walk and did not return.

Only 3 heat related injuries were reported during the 5 month-long heat and drought. Three US Army troop members from Fort Sill (Comanche County) were rushed to a local hospital on July 22nd and treated for heat related injuries.

Statistics provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Agriculture indicate economic losses of approximately 2 billion dollars to Oklahoma's agriculture business. Figures were not available for individual counties. Hay and cotton crops were particularly affected. Hay producers harvested only 30 to 80 percent of the normal yield, a loss of perhaps 80 million dollars. Cotton production was reduced by about 70 percent, a loss of 38 million dollars. Other crops such as grain sorghum, peanuts and soybeans also suffered major losses. In total, crop losses across Oklahoma were near 500 million dollars, but because of the multiplying effect on the overall economy, the economic impact is closer to 2 billion dollars.



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OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

The summer of 1998 (June-August) was the 4th hottest and 5th driest on record in Oklahoma City. The drought ended gradually in September and early October, but record warm temperatures continued through September. Oklahoma City recorded an average temperature of 81.2 degrees in September, 2nd hottest September on record. The summer of 1980, considered to be the last major period of excessive heat and drought to affect central and western Oklahoma, still ranks as the hottest summer ever for Oklahoma City, however Oklahoma City did experience a drier summer in 1998 than in 1980.

M76PH

Grady County									
4 S Alex	07	1730CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Atoka County									
Stringtown	08	1720CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Garfield County									
Lahoma	09	1807CST			0	0	42K		Thunderstorm Wind
Garfield County									
3 SE Breckinridge	09	1825CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G58)
Garfield County									
Breckinridge	09	1825CST			0	0	15K		Thunderstorm Wind

An isolated severe thunderstorm developed over Garfield County the evening of the 9th. A roof and 5 classrooms at Cimarron Elementary School were damaged in Lahoma along with two custom storage trailers at Beckham Trailer and Motor Sports Incorporated, and a wooden swingset. Severe thunderstorm winds also damaged an airplane and hangar at Carson Flying Service Incorporated, several power poles, house roofs and storage sheds in Breckinridge. Oklahoma Mesonet also measured a wind gust of 77 mph at 1825 CST 3 miles southeast of Breckinridge.

Caddo County									
Apache	10	1430CST			0	0	0.50K		Thunderstorm Wind
Greer County									
Granite	10	1430CST	0.3	50	0	0	0.50K		Tornado (F0)
Kiowa County									
Mountain View	10	1430CST			0	0	1K		Lightning
Kiowa County									
Hobart	10	1437CST			0	0	1K		Thunderstorm Wind (G67)
Comanche County									
3 E Sterling	10	1733CST			0	0	10K		Lightning
Seminole County									
Seminole	10	1800CST			0	0	4K		Lightning
Stephens County									
Duncan	10	1800CST 1930CST			0	0	0.50K		Lightning
Woodward County									
13 N Mooreland	10	1810CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)

Scattered severe thunderstorms developed over portions of central and western Oklahoma during the afternoon and evening of the 10th. One small tornado and many occurrences of lightning damage were reported. The tornado, rated an F0, was witnessed by several persons east of Lake Creek Road near Granite in Greer County. The tornado was on the ground for less than one minute as it knocked down a few trees and blew several long feeders a short distance on a farm. Severe thunderstorm winds downed large tree limbs onto some wires in Apache in Caddo County knocking out power to 150 residents for 4 hours, while in Mountain View in Kiowa County, lightning struck a utility pole knocking out power to 300 residents for 3 hours. Also in Kiowa County, near Hobart, a wind gust of 77 mph was observed. Two power poles were also downed on US 183 just south of Oklahoma 9 near the Gotebo fire site. Lightning struck 2 oil tanks 3 miles east of Sterling in Comanche County setting them ablaze. Numerous power outages were also reported leaving many residents without power for several hours. Lightning also struck in Seminole in Seminole County. A television antenna was struck by lightning causing a television and numerous breakers to explode. The coax cable going into the house and the exterior siding were also damaged. Lastly, lightning caused damage in Duncan in Stephens County. Lightning struck a power line on the north side of Duncan knocking power out to 500 residents for 2 hours. Lightning also struck a transformer on the east side of Duncan knocking power out to 78 residents for 1 hour and 20 minutes.



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

Logan County									
Guthrie	12	1546CST			0	0	1K		Lightning
Seminole County									
Seminole	12	1700CST			0	0	25K		Lightning
Bryan County									
Yuba	12	2000CST			0	0	15K		Lightning

Lightning struck a fuse box in Guthrie in Logan County causing one power outage. Lightning also struck a power pole on the east side of Guthrie near SH 105 causing another power outage. Lightning struck a house about one-quarter of a mile south of SH 9 in Seminole in Seminole County causing a fire that resulted in major structural damage to the house. Lastly, lightning struck the steeple of First Baptist Church in Yuba in Bryan County starting a fire that damaged the foyer.

Beckham County									
4 NW Elk City	19	1430CST			0	0	2.5K		Lightning

Lightning started a 30 acre grass fire that consumed a large fence. Several fire departments battled the blaze for many hours.

TEXAS, Western North

Wichita County									
Wichita Falls	03	1615CST 1730CST			0	0	6K		Flash Flood
Wichita County									
Wichita Falls	03	1700CST			0	0	30K		Thunderstorm Wind
Wichita County									
7 N Wichita Falls	03	1700CST			0	0	15K		Thunderstorm Wind

An isolated severe thunderstorm developed over Wichita County during the late afternoon of the 3rd resulting in wind damage and flash flooding. The roof was blown off at Git-N-Go Texaco on Kell Boulevard in Wichita Falls. Numerous power poles, trees and power lines were also downed across the city. One tree fell on a car. Damage was also reported at Midwestern State University, training camp of the Dallas Cowboys, where several bleachers, tents and fences were damaged. The most widespread damage occurred around Midwestern Parkway and Taft Boulevard. Two inches of rain fell in a short period of time causing many streets to flood in Wichita Falls. Many people needed to be rescued from their cars, including 2 police officers, due to high water. Power lines were also downed, and one mobile home was also blown over during the storm 7 miles north of Wichita Falls.