



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



April 2004

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

NEW MEXICO, Southeast

Eddy County

Carlsbad	02	2215MST 2223MST			0	0	0	0	Hail(1.25)
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Penny to half dollar size hail was reported by both public and trained spotters on the north side of Carlsbad

Eddy County

Carlsbad to 10 WSW Carlsbad	02 03	2230MST 0100MST			0	0	0	0	Flash Flood
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Eddy County

Carlsbad	02	2230MST 2240MST			0	0	30K	0	Hail(1.75)
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Nickel to golf ball size hail was reported covering the ground in the city of Carlsbad

Eddy County

10 WSW Carlsbad	02	2305MST 2310MST			0	0	0	0	Hail(1.00)
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Quarter sized hail was reported along Dark Canyon Road, making the road impassable.

Severe thunderstorms developed over Eddy County, southwest of Carlsbad, during the late evening on April 2nd. These thunderstorms progressed northeast into Carlsbad, inundating city streets with one to four feet of water. Numerous hail reports were also received, with two distinct periods of hail occurring over the city within a one hour period.

Lea County

8 NE Eunice	03	1430MST 1434MST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.88)
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Lea County

Eunice to Hobbs	03 04	1525MST 1545MST			0	0	0	0	Flash Flood
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A series of thunderstorms, that began on Saturday April 3rd and continued into the early afternoon on Sunday, resulted in significant flooding over Lea County, especially over the eastern portions of the county. Many roads across the eastern half of Lea County were closed due to flooding including State Routes 8, 18, 176, and U.S. Highway 62/180. During Sunday morning, the community of Nadine, between Eunice and Hobbs, also reported significant flooding.

Lea County

Eunice	03	1737MST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.88)
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Lea County

8 W Eunice	03	1910MST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.75)
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Eddy County

12 NW Whites City to Carlsbad	03 04	1940MST 1500MST			0	0	2M	100K	Flash Flood
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NEW MEXICO, Southeast



During the evening of April 3rd, a National Weather Service spotter reported Dark Canyon Road, five miles east of State Highway 137, was under seven feet of water. Additional flooding over southwestern portions of Carlsbad was reported by local law enforcement and the public. Just after midnight, early Sunday morning, U.S. Highway 285 became impassable due to flooding ten miles northwest of Carlsbad. Flooding along County Roads 658 and 672 southwest of Carlsbad resulted in several evacuations and helicopter rescues during the early morning hours on Sunday along Dark Canyon Draw. As late as Sunday afternoon, flooding of low-lying areas around Carlsbad continued along the Pecos River, as well as along Dark Canyon, Dagger, Rocky Arroyo, and Hackberry Draws.

An Eddy County flood survey revealed that three different factors contributed to the record flooding in and near Carlsbad. Flood waters from Rocky Arroyo Draw fed into the Pecos River north of Avalon Reservoir. This flow along with heavy rainfall from thunderstorms resulted in a required release of water from the Avalon Reservoir. Radar estimated rainfall totals of three to four inches near and west of Avalon Reservoir between 900 PM MST on April 3rd through 100 AM MST on Sunday, April 4th. Releases from the reservoir began near 800 PM MST on April 3rd, with a measured peak rate of 14,800 cfs (cubic-feet per second) at around 400 AM MDT Sunday morning. This release of water eliminated the potential danger of a dam failure, but resulted in the washout of Callaway Drive just downstream from the release point on Avalon Reservoir.

The second factor contributing to the record flooding was extremely high flow through the Dark Canyon Draw into downtown Carlsbad. Radar estimated rainfall totals of one to three inches over and southwest of Dark Canyon Draw during the evening and overnight hours of Saturday April 3rd. This rainfall led to catastrophic flash flooding along the Dark Canyon Draw from southwest portions of Carlsbad into the downtown area. A wall of water moved down Dark Canyon Draw at approximately 130 AM MST Sunday morning.

The third factor that contributed to the flooding was the failure at several points of the Carlsbad Irrigation District (CID) canals. These CID channels, used primarily to irrigate area alfalfa fields, began failing due to runoff crossing perpendicular to the CID channels. This runoff was due to 8-12 inches of rainfall in the previous three days. Erosion of the channels began occurring due to the high volume of water flowing over them. As the channels finally failed, water flowed into adjacent neighborhoods. The community hardest hit by this runoff was the La Huerta neighborhood in northeastern Carlsbad. As a result of this flooding, 6 to 12 inches of water was left standing throughout most of the La Huerta area with higher amounts at isolated points



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NEW MEXICO, Southeast

Lea County

Tatum	08	1708MST 1815MST			0	0	25K	0	Hail(1.75)
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Hail ranging in size from pennies to golfballs was reported in the city of Tatum. Hail accumulated on the ground up to four inches deep. Snowplows were used to clear the hail from the city streets. Numerous reports of damage to vehicles were received.

Lea County

Caprock	08	1750MST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.75)
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Lea County

Caprock	08	1820MST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.75)
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Penny size hail was reported in Caprock. This was the second severe storm to affect that community within an hour.

Several severe thunderstorms affected the northern parts of Lea County during the late afternoon and early evening of the 8th. These storms developed along a dryline that stretched across the eastern New Mexico Plains. The most significant damage occurred in Tatum, where large hail resulted in widespread damage to vehicles.

Lea County

5 NE Lovington	19	1430MST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.88)
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Penny to nickel size hail was reported northeast of the Lovington.

Lea County

Eunice to 4 E Eunice	19	1528MST 1533MST			0	0	0	0	Hail(1.00)
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Penny to quarter size hail was reported near Eunice.

Two severe thunderstorms developed along a dryline and affected parts of the Lea County during the late afternoon of the 19th. Large hail up to the size of quarters resulted from these storms.

Eddy County

2 W Artesia	28	1810MST			0	0	0	0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG57)
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A dry microburst resulted from high based thunderstorms over northern Eddy County. These storms later encountered deep low level moisture and intensified over rural sections of eastern Eddy County.

Lea County

Crossroads	30	1541CST 1544CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.88)
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Lea County

Crossroads	30	1541CST 1544CST			0	0	0	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
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An isolated severe thunderstorm resulted in nickel size hail and severe thunderstorm winds in the Crossroads community in northern Lea County during the late afternoon of the 30th.

TEXAS, West

Mitchell County

2 SW Westbrook to Westbrook	02	1243CST 1303CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.88)
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Penny to nickel size hail reported by the public.

Gaines County

Seminole	02	1725CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.88)
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TEXAS, West

Gaines County

Seminole	02	1725CST			0	0			Hail(0.88)
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Gaines County

22 W Seminole to 10 W Seminole	03	1554CST 1700CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.88)
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Thunderstorms developed over Lea County, New Mexico during Saturday afternoon on April 3rd. The most notable of these thunderstorms was a supercell thunderstorm that developed near Eunice, NM at 336 PM CST and moved northeast into Gaines County. This storm moved very slowly northeast across the western portions of Gaines County. Due to the storm's very slow propagation, large hail and heavy rainfall lingered over U.S Highway 62/180 from 3:54 pm to 5 pm CST. This resulted in up to 1 1/2 feet of hail accumulation and the closing of U.S. Highway 62/180.

Reeves County

20 SW Toyah	03	1622CST			0	0	100K	0	Hail(4.25)
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Reeves County

20 SW Toyah	03	1640CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(3.00)
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Presidio County

10 E Presidio to 15 ESE Presidio	03	1650CST 1657CST			0	0	20K	0	Hail(1.00)
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Jeff Davis County

35 NW Ft Davis	03	1705CST 2000CST			0	0	0	0	Flash Flood
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Flooding was reported along Highway 118, 2.5 miles south the Interstate 10.

Jeff Davis County

36 NW Ft Davis	03	1708CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(1.75)
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Reeves County

15 W Toyah	03	1708CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(1.75)
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Brewster County

Lajitas	03	1725CST 1747CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(4.50)
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Supercell thunderstorms moving northeast into the extreme southwest portion of Brewster County produced grapefruit to softball



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TEXAS, West

size hail for 22 minutes. Reports indicated that the softball size hail occurred around 530 pm CST.

Gaines County
20 W Seminole

03	1735CST 1742CST				0	0	10K	0	Hail(2.75)
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Nickel to baseball size hail was reported covering the ground at the intersection of U.S. Highway 62/180 and Farm to Market Road 331.

Presidio County
20 SW Marfa

03	1747CST				0	0	0	0	Hail(1.00)
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Presidio County
25 SE Redford

03	1750CST				0	0	20K	0	Hail(2.50)
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Tennis ball size hail resulted in car and camper damage in extreme southern portions of Presidio County.

Jeff Davis County
Valentine

03	1755CST 1815CST				0	0	0	0	Hail(0.88)
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Reeves County
6 W Toyah

03	1815CST				0	0	0	0	Hail(1.00)
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Gaines County
4 NW Seminole

03	1822CST				0	0	0	0	Hail(1.00)
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Gaines County
**Seminole to
16 NW Seminole**

03 04	1835CST 1530CST				0	0	0	0	Flash Flood
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Thunderstorms that began on the afternoon of April 3rd continued into the afternoon of April 4th. This resulted in flooding across the western half of Gaines County. The flooding was also compounded by additional flooding caused by the melting of over one foot of hail in the western portions of the county. Many roads were closed due to flooding, including State Highway 214 between Seminole and Denver City and U.S. Highway 62/180 between Seminole and Hobbs. Flooding was reported at the intersection of County Road 331 and U.S. Highway 180 at Seminole Draw, along County Road 308 near Farm to Market Road 181, and along County Road 347 near the state line. Water five to six feet deep was reported four to five miles north of U.S. Highway 62/180 on Farm to Market Road 1757.

Gaines County
13 SW Seminole

03	1905CST	0.1	25		0	0	0	0	Tornado (F0)
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A weak tornado was reported southwest of Seminole.

Reeves County
**2 NW Balmorhea to
2 N Balmorhea**

03	1917CST 1925CST	1	25		0	0	0	0	Tornado (F0)
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A tornado was observed by a Texas Department of Public Safety trooper moving east at ten mph. The tornado moved over rural areas with no damage noted.

Reeves County
Verhalen

03	1930CST				0	0	0	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
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Reeves County
4 NW Verhalen

03	1933CST 1934CST	0.1	25		0	0	0	0	Tornado (F0)
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A Department of Public Safety trooper observed the tornado "touch down and then go right back up".

Reeves County
5 SW Pecos

03	1951CST 1952CST	0.1	25		0	0	0	0	Tornado (F0)
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A tornado was reported near the town of Pecos.

Reeves County
Pecos

03	2002CST				0	0	0	0	Hail(0.88)
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TEXAS, West

Gaines County

15 SW Seminole to 5 SW Seminole	03	2009CST 2035CST			0	0	0	0	Funnel Cloud
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There were several reports of funnel clouds by trained spotters and the general public.

Reeves County

15 S Pecos	03	2030CST 2034CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(1.75)
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Gaines County

15 W Seminole	03	2035CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(1.00)
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Brewster County

50 E Lajitas	03	2215CST			0	0	30K	0	Hail(1.75)
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Seven vehicles received hail damage during the storm.

Reeves County

10 N Balmorhea	03 04	2235CST 0130CST			0	0	0	0	Flash Flood
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Flooding was reported along Farm to Market Road 2903 between Toyah and Balmorhea, making the road impassable. Farm to Market Road 869 and State Highway 17 were also closed due to flooding.

Brewster County

5 E Alpine	04	0130CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(1.75)
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Golfball hail was reported by the Sheriff's office.

Reeves County

Toyah	04	0200CST 1430CST			0	0	500K	0	Flash Flood
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Eight to twelve inches of rainfall resulted in the failure of a protective levee near Toyah. With the failure of this dike, three to four feet of water inundated the town of Toyah and prompted the evacuation of the town's residents. While 19 people in the town of 103 elected to stay through the flood event, the remainder of the town's residents were moved to a Red Cross shelter in the nearby community of Pecos. The extensive flooding in Toyah left virtually every home with flood damage. One home was completely destroyed.

Flooding lingered until late afternoon on Sunday, April 4th with State Highway 17 and Farm to Market Roads 2903, 869, and 1450 remaining underwater.



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TEXAS, West

Comanche Creek, which runs through the park, ran well out of its banks as can be seen in the above photo.

Jeff Davis County

Ft Davis

04	0738CST				0	0	0	0	Hail(0.88)
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Reeves County

Pecos

04	0920CST 1230CST				0	0	0	0	Flash Flood
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Flooding was reported along U.S. Highway 285. Street flooding was also reported in the city of Pecos.

Ward County

Barstow

04	0927CST 1230CST				0	0	0	0	Flash Flood
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A thunderstorm moving out of Pecos County produced flooding over portions of Ward County during the morning of Sunday, April 4th. Several streets were flooded in the town of Barstow. Flooding was also reported at the intersection of Interstate 20 and Farm to Market Road 1219 and along a four mile stretch southward along Farm to Market Road 1219.

Ector County

Odessa

04	1243CST 1600CST				0	0	0	0	Flash Flood
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Thunderstorms produced up to five inches of rain in western portions of Odessa, resulting in flash flooding. Flash flooding was reported in the western and northeast portions of Odessa and also in the town of Gardendale. The flooding finally subsided by late afternoon.

Andrews County

16 WNW Frankel City

04	1245CST 1430CST				0	0	0	0	Flash Flood
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Flooding was reported at a guardhouse in western Andrews county. Additionally, reports indicated several feet of water on field roads.

Reeves County

3.5 ENE Toyah

04	1630CST 1900CST				0	0	2.5M	0	Flash Flood
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A bridge along Interstate 20 just east-northeast of Toyah over the normally dry Salt Draw failed Sunday evening. This failure was the result of fast-moving flood waters originating from previous heavy rainfall over the Davis Mountains. Hydrologists also credited a residual flow of water through the draw from the Toyah dike break early Sunday for contributing to the gradual process that caused



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TEXAS, West

the bridge to collapse. Authorities said that advance warning of additional runoff and flooding allowed the interstate to be closed to both eastbound and westbound traffic at the first sign of danger to the bridge. A state official for the Texas Department of Transportation said that 86 feet of roadway in the eastbound lanes fell into the river, and that additional 40-foot segments on each side of the river were also damaged. On the westbound side, one of the upright supports holding the bridge had moved six to eight inches, opening a crack in the roadway.

No fatalities were reported with the bridge collapse, however, five indirect fatalities occurred in a multi-vehicle collision along a detour, U.S. Highway 285, south of Pecos.

Jeff Davis County

4 W Ft Davis	05	1335CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.88)
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Presidio County

20 NW Marfa	05	1351CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.75)
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Brewster County

4 N Study Butte to 7 N Study Butte	05	1550CST 1623CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.75)
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Reeves County

Balmorhea to 9 E Pecos	05	1615CST 1645CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(2.75)
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Golfball to baseball size hail fell in Balmorhea and also along Farm to Market Road 1450 east of Pecos
Hail was still covering FM 1450 at 915 pm that evening.

Midland County

Midland to Greenwood	05	1636CST 1657CST			0	0	0	0	Hail(0.88)
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Penny to nickel size hail was reported in Greenwood and Midland.

Brewster County

25 ENE Panther Junction	05	1720CST			0	0	50K	0	Hail(4.00)
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House windows and cars were heavily damaged.

Brewster County

25 ENE Panther Junction	05	1720CST			0	0	0	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG61)
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Howard County

Big Spring	05	1925CST 2230CST			0	0	0	0	Flash Flood
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Heavy rains forced road closures in Big Spring.

Mitchell County

7 N Westbrook	05 06	2100CST 0000CST			0	0	0	0	Flash Flood
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Six inches of water was reported on FM 1229.

Scurry County

Snyder to 9 SE Hermleigh	05 06	2113CST 0000CST			0	0	0	0	Flash Flood
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Up to 18 inches of water was reported on city streets in Snyder. Flooding was also reported in Hermleigh and along U.S. Highway 84 southeast of Hermleigh.

Scurry County

6 SE Hermleigh	05 06	2250CST 0200CST			0	0	0	0	Flash Flood
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Water and debris running across U.S. Highway 84.