National Weather Service
Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena

December 2005

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

OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast

OKZ039 **Stephens**

01	**0000CST**	**0**	**0**			**Wildfire**
03	**1700CST**					

A wildfire began near the town of Velma on November 27, 2005 and continued into the early part of December. This fire caused the evacuation of a town. Several homes and outbuildings were destroyed by the fire. This fire was eventually contained on December 3. Refer to the corresponding wildfire entry in November for further details.

OKZ019>020-023>032-035>048-050>052 **Logan - Payne - Caddo - Canadian - Oklahoma - Lincoln - Grady - Mcclain - Cleveland - Pottawatomie - Seminole - Hughes - Kiowa - Jackson - Tillman - Comanche - Stephens - Garvin - Murray - Pontotoc - Coal - Cotton - Jefferson - Carter - Johnston - Atoka - Love - Marshall - Bryan**

01	**0000CST**	**0**	**0**	**10M**	**500K**	**Drought**
31	**2359CST**					

With below normal precipitation for several months, drought conditions continued to increase across the area ending as D2 and D3 across much of the area. Precipitation amounts of 12 inches below normal were recorded in Oklahoma City for the end of the year, with amounts closer to 15 to 20 inches below normal for locations across the southeast. The drought conditions and warm temperatures during much of the month of December caused an increase in wildfire potential. Wildfires were easier to start and harder to contain due to the dry and frequently windy conditions. Numerous wildfires occurred across the area, especially during the last week of December. Several wildfires threatened parts of the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. A special command post was created by the state to help coordinate area firefighting efforts. The wildfire conditions were briefly alleviated in a few locations due to some winter precipitation. However, temperatures quickly warmed back to well above normal and not enough precipitation fell to put a major dent in the drought conditions. Numerous structures were destroyed by the fires, along with lives disrupted due to either property damage and/or evacuations. There were approximately 175,000 acres burned and 150 homes and business damaged or destroyed, along with numerous outbuildings destroyed, during the month of December. Many large, round hay bales were also burned. The estimated damage was over $10 million, with an estimated damage to hay and pasture at over $500,000. The numerous wildfires and damages incurred caused many counties to ask for a federal declaration of emergency.

The drought conditions were also causing lower lake levels which were affecting recreation activities. Area farm ponds were also drying up due to the lack of moisture. The dry ponds and scorched pasture lands caused many farmers and ranchers to sell their entire cattle herds.

OKZ032 **Hughes**

27	**0930CST**	**1**	**0**	**800K**		**Wildfire**
	2330CST					

A wildfire in Hughes county burned approximately 10,000 acres resulting in the damage of 8 homes, 14 barns, and 20 small outbuildings. An elderly man was also killed by this fire when he tried to assist family members whose homes were in the path of the fire. The man suffered smoke inhalation and burns. This fire caused damages in excess of $800,000.

M68OU

TEXAS, Western North

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

01	**0000CST**	**0**	**0**			**Drought**
31	**2359CST**					

Without any significant precipitation for the past several months, drought conditions continued to increase during the month of December. The drought was at D2 by the end of the month. The lack of moisture was lowering lake levels and causing farm ponds to dry up. The dry conditions were also helping to increase the wildfire potential across the area

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