



SOUTHWEST WEATHER BULLETIN

Spring-Summer 2007 Edition

National Weather Service El Paso/Santa Teresa

Severe Autumn Thunderstorms...Winter Snows and Cold Temperatures Hit the Borderland

After a summer of historic floods, the Borderland continues to see stormy weather into the autumn months as a series of severe and even tornado-producing thunderstorms strike southern New Mexico and far western Texas. A few thunderstorms with heavy rains also cause yet more flooding into October.

The stormy autumn is followed by a snowy chilly winter as a series of low pressure systems from the north move across the area, dumping heavy snow. In addition, the early winter is unusually cold with temperatures remaining well below normal through much of January.

By the middle of February however, the weather pattern becomes more favorable for westerly winds and high pressure. Thus warmer drier weather prevails through late winter and early spring.



On October 9 this large tornado develops in the desert near Deming NM. (Photographed by Nick Margentina)

Seasonal Weather Highlights

October 7 2006: Heavy rains fall over Grant County New Mexico with streets flooded across portions of Silver City.

Oct. 9: Severe thunderstorm outbreak across southern New Mexico and western Texas. Large tornado develops near Deming. (Continued on page 2)



National Weather Service El Paso/Santa Teresa
Meteorologist-In-Charge - Bill Alexander
Warning Coordination Meteorologist – John Fausett
Science Officer – Val Macblain
Newsletter Editor-Writer/Senior Forecaster – Joe Rogash



Weather Highlights Continued

October 9 (continued): In addition, golf ball-sized hail falls across the Deming area. Quarter-sized hail falls over Las Cruces with accumulations up to 6 inches deep. Hail around an inch in diameter also occurs at La Luz and Animas New Mexico while over an inch of rain falls around Hillsboro.

In western Texas, severe thunderstorms move over Hudspeth County during the early evening. Around Tornillo, golf ball-sized hail causes extensive crop damage with hail drifts up to 2 feet deep. Golf ball-sized hail also falls across Interstate 10 near Ft. Hancock, causing a tractor trailer to overturn.

Oct 15: Severe thunderstorms produce penny-sized hail over El Paso TX and nickel-sized hail around Alamogordo NM. A weak tornado also touches down at White Sands Missile Range. Thunderstorms with heavy rains meanwhile flood Highway 54 near La Luz.

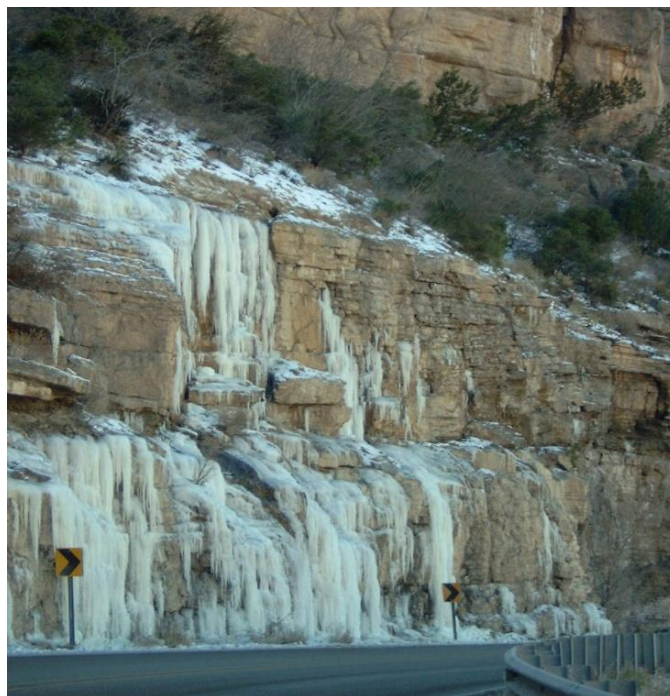
Oct. 24: Strong thunderstorms with locally heavy rains and small hail move across El Paso and Horizon City in west Texas.

November 27: Thunderstorms with heavy rain and small hail flood streets over portions of Las Cruces.

Nov. 29-30: Across the southern Sacramento Mountains, late autumn storm drops 6 inches of snow over Mescalero with 5 inches of snow around Cloudcroft.



Thunderstorms produce this small tornado over White Sands Missile Range on October 15.
(Photographed by Jeff Passner)



Ice along Highway 82 between Alamogordo and Cloudcroft after the late November storm.
(Photographed by Lois Stewart)



Around an inch of snow falls across El Paso, including the Franklin Mountains along Trans Mountain Road (above) on January 2, 2007. (Photographed by Corey Pieper NWS)

Weather Highlights Continued

Nov. 31: An unusually cold day as temperatures plummet to well below normal after a strong cold front moves across southern New Mexico and western Texas. Over the lowlands, morning low temperatures are only in the teens and lower 20s with daytime highs in the 30s and lower 40s. It was colder over the mountains where daytime temperatures remain near or below freezing.

December 19-20: Winter storm brings 8 inches of snow to Cloudcroft with 3 inches falling over Silver City.

Dec. 28-29: 5 inches of snow fall at Cloudcroft with 3 inches around Silver City.

December 31: Morning dense fog lowers visibilities under a quarter mile in the El Paso metropolitan area.



Rabbit wanders about in the snows near Capitan NM. (Photographed by Kathy Darrah.)

January 2 2007: Up to 2 inches of snow fall over portions of the El Paso metro area.

Jan. 6: An inch of snow falls around Las Cruces.



Clint TX after the January 2 snowfalls.
(Photographed by April Estrada)



Rainbow near showers over southern Dona Ana County
on January 12. (Photographed by Diane Green NWS)

Weather Highlights Continued

Jan 15-23: An unusually prolonged period of cold weather over the Borderland as daytime high temperatures stay mostly in the 30s and 40s across the deserts through much of the period. January 16 is especially cold with afternoon high temperatures barely above freezing. Skies are mostly cloudy during this time with sunshine amounts also well below normal.

Jan 19: A deep upper-level low pressure system brings a variety of winter weather to the Borderland. In southwestern New Mexico, 9 inches of snow fall at White Signal with 6 inches of snow at Mimbres and 5 inches at Hillsboro. Across the El Paso, Deming, and Lordsburg vicinities snow, sleet and ice pellets fall creating major traffic problems, especially over Interstate 10. A mixture of freezing rain, sleet and snow occur in the Ft. Hancock area of Hudspeth County. Cloudcroft again experiences heavy snow with 6 inches accumulating around the area.



Near Cloudcroft after the heavy snows of January 19.
(Photographed by Marty McFarland)



Fun in the snow in west El Paso following the
January 19 storm. (Photographed by Rudy Gutierrez
El Paso Times)



**Western slopes of the Franklin Mountains near sunset.
(Photographed by Lance Tripoli NWS)**

Jan 22: Another low pressure system dumps heavy snow over much of the area. Around Silver City, 8 to 13 inches of snow fall while Cloudcroft again gets hit hard with another 8 to 12 inches. Elsewhere, 10 inches of snow are reported at Kingston, 7 inches at Buckhorn and 6 inches at Animas.

Jan 23: Heavy snows fall across western Texas during the morning hours creating traffic nightmares during the rush hour. Portions of east El Paso see 4 to 6 inch snowfalls with 1 to 3 inches falling elsewhere around the city. In Hudspeth County, 8 inches of snow fall at Allamoore with 2 to 4 inches measured around Sierra Blanca and Ft. Hancock.

Jan 26: Snow again falls over the Borderland with 1 to 3 inches reported over most locations of southern New Mexico and western Texas.



**On January 22, 7 inches of snow fall at Buckhorn.
(Photo graphed by Tom Drummond)**



**Silver City experiences heavy snow on January 22.
(Photographed by Tom Nupp)**



Just east of Cloudcroft on January 22. (Photographed by Tom Drummond)



On January 26, several inches of snow fall around the Alamogordo area. (Photographed by Damian Horton)

February 1-2: Heavy snows fall across the southern Sacramento Mountains with 12 inches reported around Mescalero. Over southwestern New Mexico in Grant County, 6 inches of snow fall at Mimbres and 1 to 3 inches are reported around Silver City. Elsewhere in Grant County, thunderstorms with small hail move across the Hurley area.

Feb. 13-14: Winter storm again blasts the southern Sacramento Mountains causing 7 to 13 inches of snow around Cloudcroft. Thunderstorms with small hail also hit scattered areas of the region including the El Paso metropolitan area.

Feb. 23-24: Strong winds blow across the Borderland with gusts to 73 mph measured over east El Paso. The winds topple a large crane onto an elementary school but fortunately nobody is injured.

March 11: Thunderstorm winds gust to 60 mph at Caballo and Hurley NM.



Pinos Altos NM after the February heavy snows. (Courtesy of Robert and Ronnee Sue Mountaineire)

Mar: 25 Severe thunderstorms produce penny-sized hail near Sierra Blanca TX.

April 13: Spring snowstorm dumps 13 inches of snow over Cloudcroft.

April 28: Thunderstorms drop nickel-sized hail near Animas with small hail and heavy rains falling around Kingston and Hillsboro.



**Snow-covered Organ Mountains near Las Cruces .
(Courtesy of Frank and Linda McClure)**

Spotters...Please call the National Weather Service If You Observe:

Tornado or Funnel Cloud...Report Time, Location and Movement

Hail...1/2 Inch or Larger

**Damaging Winds...Damage To Buildings, Motor Vehicles, Trees, Power Lines
And Other Structures**

**Flash Flooding...Flooding Of Streets and Buildings , Or If Rivers, Streams And
Arroyos Flood Or Overflow**

**Heavy Rains...1/2 Inch of Rain In Less Than 30 Minutes Or At Least 1 Inch Of
Rain In Less Than 2 Hours**

**Blowing Dust...Whenever Blowing Dust Reduces The Visibility To Less Than
2 Miles**