

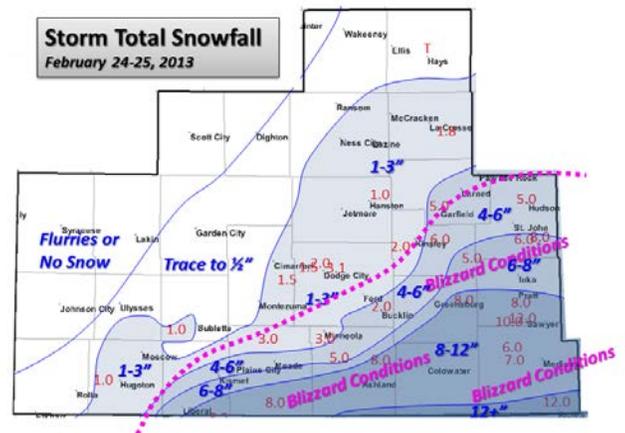
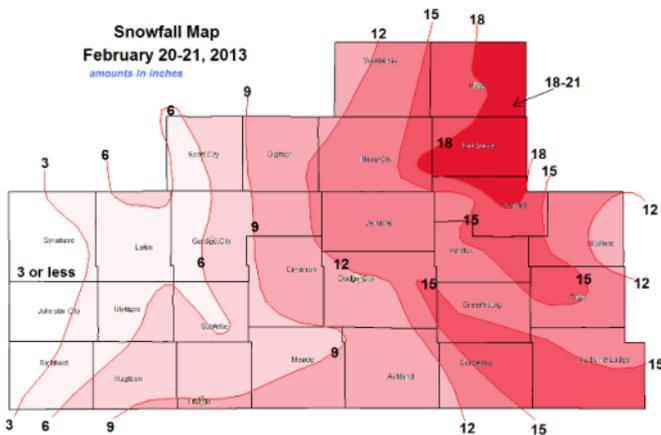
2013 Severe Weather Summary

Southwest Kansas

National Weather Service, Dodge City

It didn't take long to start the year with wickedness! A massive dust storm moved across western Kansas on the 11th of January with some instances reminiscent of the "Dirty Thirties". Visibilities dropped to zero, especially near the Colorado border. There were numerous vehicle accidents along highway 160, but fortunately no major injuries or deaths were reported.

In February a major winter storm pounded the area, especially in the central portion of Kansas. From the 20th through the 21st excessive amounts of snow in excess of 18 inches fell. In addition, strong winds produced whiteout conditions and huge drifts of at least 15 feet! Another snowstorm occurred on the 24th and 25th bringing additional heavy snow and blizzard conditions.



Other than a few typical spring severe thunderstorms, it was somewhat quiet until late spring. On May 8th severe weather comprising of hail and 2 weak tornadoes occurred in the warm and humid sector of a weather system. However, on the cool and dry side a major dust storm developed. Much like what occurred earlier in January, walls of dirt rolled in along the edge of the higher wind across western counties.

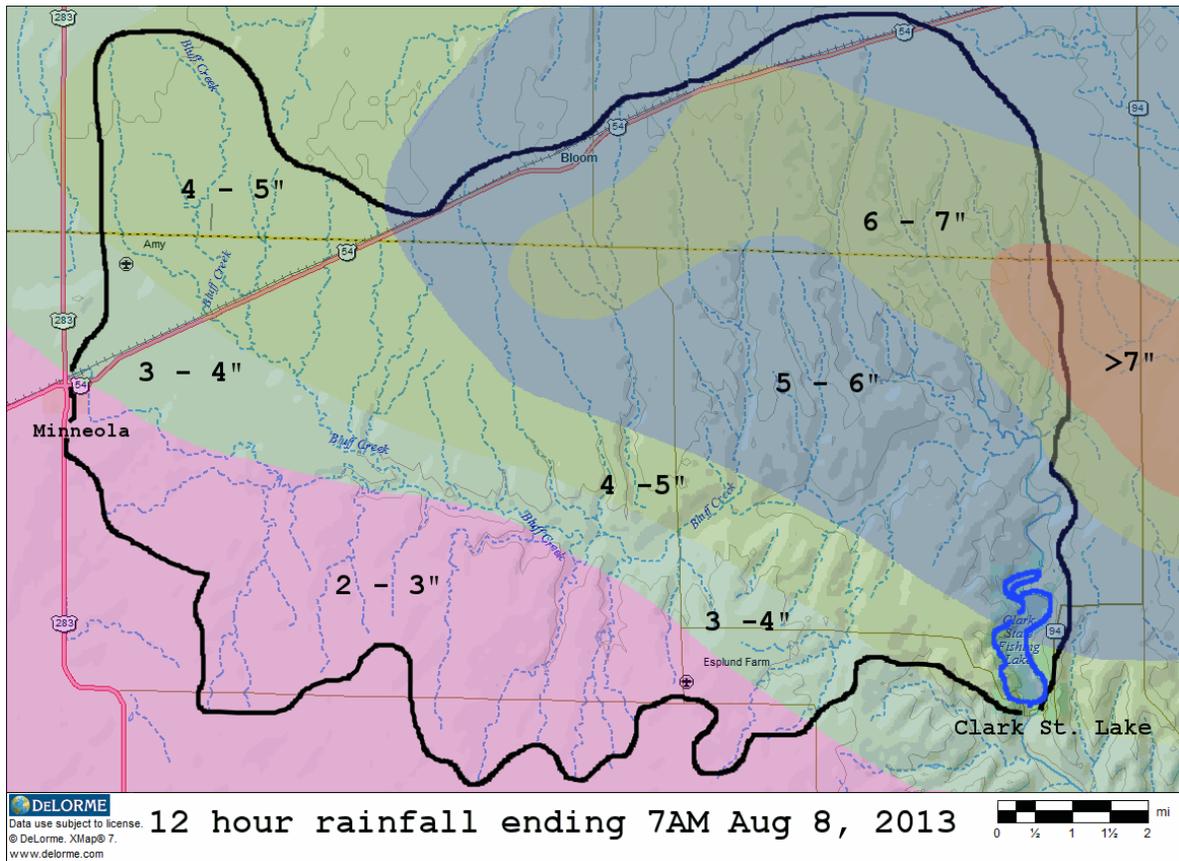


The most significant event of the year occurred on the 18th of May when severe thunderstorms spawned several tornadoes, including the EF4 tornado that did damage near Rozel in Pawnee county. Fortunately there were no injuries or fatalities.

The weather for the remainder of the spring and through most of the summer was fairly typical for western Kansas. That all changed in August when thunderstorms produced excessive rainfall on two separate occasions. The first episode was observed on the 4th and 5th when widespread rains of 4 to 6 inches fell across parts of Hodgeman, Ness, Rush, Edwards, and Ford counties. Another heavy rain event occurred late on the 7th with amounts greater than 8 inches reported. Flooding was widespread across Ford and Clark counties from that particular event.

In Clark County, Clark State Fishing Lake, that had been 9 feet low, filled to capacity and overflowed the spillway. There were numerous county roads that received extensive damage.

The map below shows the drainage basin for Clark State Fishing Lake

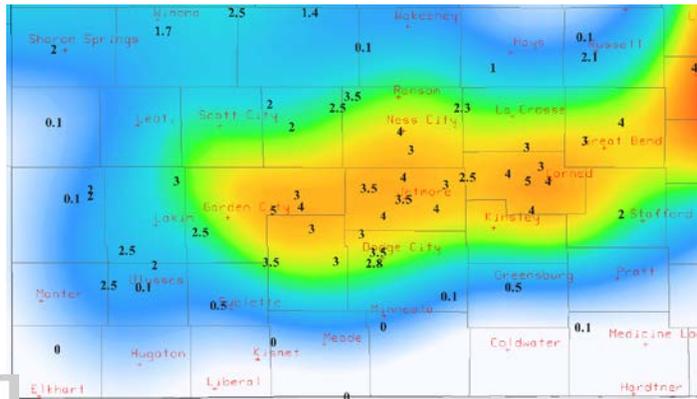


The image below shows Clark State Fishing Lake – before and after the flooding

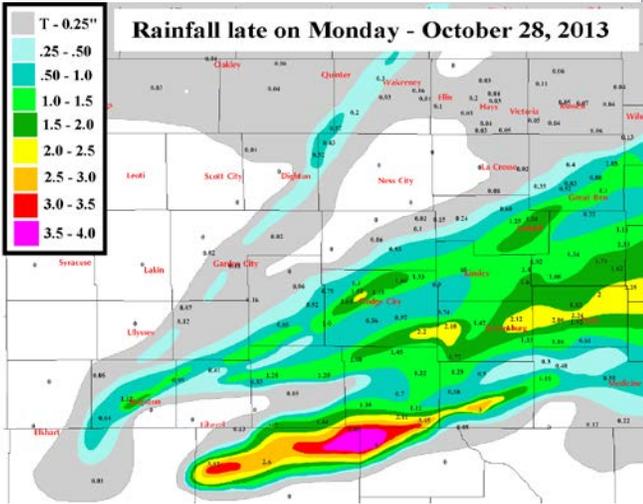


An early season storm on October 18th produced a band of 3 to 5 inches along highway 156 stretching from Garden City to Larned. It wasn't a record by any means but did seem to set the stage for winter.

However, winter conditions didn't last long as another storm moved into southwest Kansas on the 28th but this time brought rain, some of it heavy, especially near the Oklahoma border.



Snowfall on October 18, 2013



The first true Arctic air intrusion made it into Kansas on December 3rd. Temperatures fell to below zero across the area on several occasions during an eight day stretch. Mild weather returned by the middle part of the month.

On the 21st a winter storm moved into Kansas bringing freezing rain and sleet to south central and southeast Kansas and heavy snow to parts of southwest and central Kansas. The heaviest snow fell along a band from south of Dodge City to Larned. The largest amounts reported were 14 to 15 inches at Kingsdown, Kinsley and Larned.

Summarizing the tornadoes that occurred across southwest Kansas:

The first tornado observed during 2013 was on the 8th of May in Ellis County, but it was very weak and did not produce damage. The strongest tornado occurred on the 18th of May near Rozel and was rated and EF4. Other weak tornadoes were reported in June and July and the last to occur was on August 13th when a very weak tornado was observed in Lane County north of Healy.

A total of 22 tornadoes were observed during the year and this was more than normal. However, most of them were short lived and very weak in strength.

