

April 2011 Operations Report

April 20, 2011 - Seeding operations were conducted over Irion (19), Schleicher (39), and Sutton (4) counties. 62 flares were burned within 7 cells merging into mainly one large cluster. A frontal boundary, weak shortwave, and moisture combined to promote thunderstorms over the eastern target. This is the first day for seeding in April and 1st day for seeding during the season.

April 24, 2011 - Seeding operations were conducted over Crockett (2) County. 2 flares were burned within 1 small cell. A retreating dryline late in the afternoon helped to promote a small cloud. This is the second day for seeding in April and 2nd day for seeding during the season.

The month of April contained 2 days of operations

Date	Flares	Counties seeded
20	62	Irion, Schleicher, Sutton
24	2	Crockett
Total Flares: 64		

The general weather pattern for April began with a large ridge over the southern Plains promoting temperatures well over average. Hot, dry, and windy conditions prevailed the first few days of the month breaking daily high records at San Angelo and Abilene on the 2nd and 3rd. The ridge passed by and a surface cold front maintained windy conditions but dropped temperatures to below normal for the 4th and the 5th of the month. Temperatures warmed up once again as a trough deepened over the Rockies during the following week. Rain finally fell over parts of the target area Sunday evening of the 10th but San Angelo did not receive a fair amount. The southern target fared best as the dryline moved westward after dark and the approaching cold front collided. Hot and dry conditions prevailed through the middle of the month with wildfires common across the state. Dewpoints dropping into the 10-30 degree range, temperatures approaching 100° and winds gusting over 20mph hampered firefighters.

A frontal boundary, insurgence of gulf moisture, and weak shortwave ahead of a trough on April 20th allowed for afternoon seedable thunderstorms and the start of the 2011 season. An upper level trough lingered for four days with thunderstorms over parts of central and west Texas. Seeding occurred for the second day as a dryline retreated westward late in the evening. Atmosphere was not as conducive over the target area as it was near Abilene and northeastward where tornadic storms occurred. The month of April finished off with hot and dry conditions leading to multiple wildfires across Texas.

April held below average rainfall and above average temperatures. Totals at San Angelo, and Midland are below the monthly normal for April but Abilene managed to have above normal monthly rainfall due to a single event. San Angelo received .03 inches and was 1.57 inches below normal. Abilene received 2.42 inches and was .77 inches above normal. Midland received .00 inches in April and was .38 inches below normal. All three sites are below normal for annual precipitation. San Angelo recorded 1.12 inches, Abilene 4.44, and Midland .11 inches. Respectively, each site was below normal by 3.47, 0.74, and 2.15 inches for the year.

Monthly rain gauge measurements from nearest locations inside and out of the target area recorded either by the National Weather Service, Weatherbug Sites, Wunderground or Mesowest sites are provided.

NWS

0.03 Mathis Field
2.42 Abilene
0.59 Junction
0.62 Sonora
0.00 Midland
0.00 Big Spring

0.20 Sonora
0.31 Cox Ranch
0.18 Ozona

CocoRahs

1.02 Eldorado
0.47 Knickerbocker
0.00 Garden City
0.45 Ozona (15mi SSW)
0.00 Iraan

0.06 Vancourt

Wunderground

0.00 Sterling City
0.04 Mertzon

Other

0.03 San Angelo (7NW)
0.02 St. Lawrence
0.00 Mertzon

Utah Mesonet

0.16 Barnhart