

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period June 20 – June 26, 2015

General Interest: While April nearly set a record for the most seeding days of any April going back to 1975, June will certainly set a record for the least number of seeding days for any June going back to the inception of the weather modification program. Although the month is not completely finished, it is highly unlikely there will be any storms for the remainder of the period which will leave the total number of seeding days at three. Even more remarkable, there was only one day, June 17th, that had organized storms of any significance that could be seeded for longer than just a few minutes. So, aside from two storm days when only a few minutes of seeding occurred each day, we had only one day in June of strong to borderline severe storms lasting longer than just a few minutes. The lack of decent storms has certainly resulted in a dry June for most locations. Combined with extreme heat, the month was clearly disappointing coming off the heels of a pleasurable wet May. Unfortunately, the weekly accumulated precipitation forecast does not look favorable for significant rainfall as the 7-day total out to July 5th calls for only 0.25 to 0.50 inches.

Weather: Most of the week was dominated by unseasonably warm temperatures along with plenty of sun. These mid-summer conditions prevailed through Thursday. By Thursday late afternoon, a few storms broke out along a stationary surface boundary stretched across western Kansas. Widespread storms occurred late Thursday night across west-central and southwest Kansas along a passing cold front. Behind the front, temperatures topped out in the 80's Friday.

Operations: There was one operational day this week.

June 26th, Program Operations Day #13

Two planes were launched at 12:04 a.m. to check on several multi-cluster storm complexes that eventually impacted target area counties from the west, northwest and north. Aided by a strong pool of cold air in the middle atmosphere and a stationary front stretched across the area, these complexes ended up merging into a very large storm mass covering most of west-central and southwest Kansas. One plane was forced to return to base as safe flight conditions at cloud base became compromised. Meanwhile, the second plane probed for decent seeding conditions on a strong storm near Scott City at 1:18. A brief period of hail suppression seeding occurred near Scott City at 1:20. The plane then moved towards western Kearny where a significant severe storm was poised to move into Kearny shortly. However, as this storm crossed into Kearny just north of Kendall, it de-intensified as it fell behind of a strong gust front thus negating any need for hail suppression seeding. Meanwhile, additional storms formed over Kearny to eventually encompass the entire county by 1:50. After awhile, it became clear the hail threat for this storm mass had subsided so the plane turned for base at 1:53 having only seeded the previous small storm near Scott City earlier.

**Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
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