

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

P.O. BOX 254 Lakin, KS 67860

Lakin Office: 620-355-6914

waltergeiger@yahoo.com

Internet: www.gmd1.org/index-3.html

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

No. 2016-06

For the period May 21 – May 27, 2016

General Interest: No general interest this week

Weather: Severe weather broke out both Saturday and Sunday across localized areas of western Kansas. Supercell activity containing very large hail and tornadoes occurred. Tranquil by warm conditions prevailed during daylight hours Monday while severe storms developed overnight in northwest Kansas. Severe weather occurred again Tuesday afternoon as widespread severe storms containing large hail and several tornadoes pummeled portions of western Kansas. Wednesday and Thursday ended up being an intermission between strong weather episodes with the area under mostly sunny skies and seasonal temperatures. The severe weather streak ramped up again on Friday with another round of high end severe storms containing large hail and tornadoes.

Operations: There were no operational days this week.

May 22, Program Operations Day #3

Two planes were launched at 5:26 p.m. to check storms developing over Scott and Finney counties. Seeding for hail suppression began at 6:10 near Deerfield on a large severe storm traveling north-northeast. Seeding continued off and on over portions of western Finney and near Deerfield on several storms which were all merging into one storm complex. Intense seeding continued through 8:20 over northeastern Kearny/northwestern Finney and southwestern Scott on a huge supercell producing giant hail and frequent tornadoes. Seeding stopped at 9:08 over extreme southern Scott County. Although this storm was still extremely severe with tornadoes and large hail, the cell presented problems regarding safe flight conditions due to low cloud bases and visibility. All planes returned to base at 9:15.

May 24, Program Operations Day #4

One plane was launched at 3:24 p.m. to investigate incipient storms over western Scott. Seeding for hail suppression began at 3:55 over western Scott County. A tornado was spotted at 4:04 just west of Scott City. Seeding continued through 5:00 over northeastern Scott/northwestern Lane on this tornado producing supercell storm. A brief period of seeding occurred near Dighton at 5:15 as a line of storms began to develop from the parent storm near Manning southeast into southern Lane County. Seeding was terminated at 5:29 over eastern Lane. The majority of storm inflow had either become elevated or shifted to the eastern side of the storm line. Several tornadoes continued over eastern Lane, Ford, Seward, and Hodgeman through 6:15.

May 27, Program Operations Day #5

Two planes were launched at 4:55 p.m. to seed small storms developing along a weak cold front and within a localized area of strong mid level wind shear. Although each storm could only last for around 30 minutes due to limited organization, some hail would occur within each storm very early in the precipitation phase. A brief period of hail suppression began 5:23 near Scott City. Seeding transitioned into Lane County by 5:35. Seeding remained confined to an area clustered small storms near Dighton at 6:20. Seeding was finally terminated over eastern Lane

by 7:00 as the bulk of the storms had either fallen behind of the gust front or the main area of enhanced dynamics had pushed into central Kansas.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program