

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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For the period July 9 – July 15, 2016

General Interest: An extended period of very hot and mostly dry weather is settling into the region. Forecast maps depict an upper level ridge of high pressure becoming anchored over Oklahoma which will have regional influences from Texas to Nebraska for several days. Daytime highs should run about eight to ten degrees above normal across the entire area with some of the warmest readings of 100 or more coming Wednesday and Thursday. Precipitation will largely be nil for most locations as downward moving air aloft will suppress chances for organized storms leaving only the low chance of an isolated heat-driven thunderstorm. As expected, 7-day precipitation totals will be light if any over west-central and southwestern Kansas. Accumulations of perhaps up to 0.25 inches may occur in extreme northwestern Kansas with higher amounts over northeast Colorado. Full sun, moderate wind, extreme temperatures and low relative humidity will likely contribute to significant evaporation and evapotranspiration.

Weather: The week started out humid and hot with daytime highs in the upper 90's to 100 degrees under sunny skies. The bulk of the week was characterized by almost nightly thunderstorms over portions of western Kansas due to favorable storm dynamics aloft. Although our target area experienced sub-severe activity, severe weather was noted with a few of the overnight storms particularly over northwestern Kansas and southwestern Kansas. By Friday, favorable conditions for a large complex of severe storms became evident by early morning. These storms finally developed by mid afternoon with the initial threats being tornadoes and large hail before transitioning to high winds over extreme southern Kansas where gust of 85 and 117 mph were recorded at Dodge City and Meade respectively.

Operations: There was one operational day this week.

July 15, Program Operations Day #14

One plane was launched at 3:50 p.m. to investigate a small grouping of developing storms over Scott County. Meanwhile, very powerful storms were traveling south down the CO/KS border where tornadoes were also reported. Seeding commenced at 4:20 over southern Scott County. Radar indicated vigorous growth as it started traveling southeast. By 4:45, the storm was entering northern Finney at which time seeding stopped. Planes headed for base shortly after. The Finney storm, along with other nearby storms eventually merged into a large cluster by 6:00 over southwestern Kansas with high winds being the primary threat along with sporadic small hail and brief gustnadoes. Extreme winds of up to 117 mph were recorded in Meade County.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
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