

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

No. 2012-2

For the period April 21 – April 27, 2012

NOTE 1: Any person, group, newspaper or entity not receiving this newsletter and wishes to receive it either by email or mail, or if you are getting it and wish to discontinue, or if you have an address change, please respond to us using one of the above contact points.

General Interest: No general interest this week. Next week, information will be given regarding April rainfall across the area. I look to have the hailman@pld.com email functioning next week as well at which time I will be using that address to send newsletters instead of my personal email address.

Weather: Tranquil conditions along with seasonable temperatures started the week. By Tuesday, the mercury climbed into the low to middle 90's. A few weak showers passed through Tuesday aided by high heat and a surface trough in the area. Very warm weather continued on into Wednesday. By Thursday morning, light rain was ongoing over mainly northwestern and west-central Kansas along with a few rumbles of thunder. One moderate intensity thunderstorm also formed around 8:45 a.m. over northern Kearny and then faded away around 8:54 a.m. over northeast Kearny. Strong to severe storms formed over southeastern Colorado by late afternoon Thursday and eventually moved into portions of southwestern Kansas. Although the atmosphere was not particularly conducive to strong storms Friday, a single storm moved into Kansas from Colorado during the evening hours. This storm became severe just north of Syracuse and tracked through Hamilton and southern Kearny counties.

Operations: There were two operational days this week. Seeding for hail suppression occurred each day.

April 26th, Program Operations Day #1

All aircraft were launched at 5:50 p.m. to southwestern Hamilton/northwestern Stanton where a severe storm was going to cross into Kansas. The planes patrolled the area until the storm began crossing the border. Seeding began for hail suppression at 7:03 and continued over mainly northern Stanton until 7:30. By 7:30, the storms transitioned into moderate rainstorms. At 8:45, the order was given to return to base.

April 27th, Program Operations Day #2

One plane was launched at 7:50 p.m. to investigate a storm over Hamilton County. Radar indicated this cloud was growing stronger and might pose a small hail threat. A second plane was launched at 8:03. Seeding for hail suppression began at 8:17 just north of Syracuse. Seeding was terminated at 8:55 over southeastern Kearny as the storm began crossing into southern Finney. Planes returned to base at 9:21.

Acknowledgement: The Western Kansas Weather Modification Program is funded, in part, through the State Water Plan, administered by the Kansas Water Office.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program