

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
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For the period June 21 – June 27, 2014

General Interest: No general interest this week.

Weather: The week started off hot with mostly sunny skies Saturday afternoon. A few strong to severe storms were located primarily over extreme western and northwestern Kansas Saturday evening and early night. Scattered storms broke out across western Kansas and eastern Colorado Sunday afternoon. Several storms grew to severe levels due to daytime heating and a disturbance passing through along with a cold front sweeping across the region. Scattered showers and non-severe storms pushed out of Colorado and into southwestern Kansas during the overnight Monday. Most of the sustained activity was located over Stanton and Grant counties. Another round of strong to severe storms pushed from north to south through much of western Kansas early Tuesday afternoon into the early evening hours. These storms were traveling along an outflow boundary from storms that occurred late Monday night over northwestern Kansas. Strong storms traveled through northwest and a portion of west-central Kansas primarily overnight on both Wednesday and Thursday. The primary threat from these storms was high winds. Severe storms fired again Friday evening along a cool front/outflow boundary sweeping through western Kansas. These storms continued throughout the night providing for a few areas substantial rainfall and subsequent flooding.

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

June 22nd Program Operations Day #8

Two aircraft were launched at 4:50 p.m. to investigate developing storms over Scott, Lane and Wichita counties. Radar indicated these storms were forming along a stationary boundary over the area. A patrol of these storms was carried out for awhile as these clouds posed no hail threat. Meanwhile, rapid development occurred in Kearny around 7:15. Seeding for hail suppression began at 7:21 p.m. about 5-miles north of Lakin. Seeding tracks were extended to cover the southern end of Kearny County by 7:30. The line was exiting the target area at 7:42 at which time seeding was terminated.

June 24th Program Operations Day #9

Two aircraft were launched at 12:45 p.m. to begin seeding a rapidly developing storm line stretching from Lane northeast into northern Scott County. By 1:03, radar indicated the strongest storm area was located over northern Scott while the Lane storms became tampered due to being behind a surface boundary. Seeding for hail suppression began at 1:16 p.m. near Scott State Lake. Seeding continued on strong and nearly stationary storms north and northwest of Scott City through 1:50. Seeding was extended into western Lane by 2:00. The storms were stacked along an east to west line running from Dighton to Scott City by 2:30. One plane exhausted seeding agent at 2:45 and returned to base to reload. Seeding for hail suppression was terminated at 3:00 over Scott County. The plane then began traveling to Kearny County to work newly developing storms there. Seeding for hail suppression began at 3:29 over northern Kearny County. With the storm passing out of southeastern Kearny by 4:30, planes terminated seeding and headed for home.

June 25th, Observation Day

Two aircraft were launched at 5:20 p.m. to investigate rapidly developing storms over southwestern Hamilton. The planes patrolled the Hamilton storms until 7:34. Due to the westward motion of these storms, no seeding was performed as there was no hail threat to the target area.

June 27th, Program Operations Day #10

Two aircraft were launched at 10:30 p.m. to investigate developing storms over Scott and Kearny counties. A brief period of hail suppression was carried out from 11:00 to 11:18 over western Scott County within very sporadic and brief updrafts within an otherwise choppy air mass. It was determined that updrafts below 9,000 ft were likely non-existent due to a stable low layer which effectively negates effective seeding. Planes returned to base at 11:30. These storms continued to train over the same areas throughout the night providing for flood and flash flooding under the storm lines.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program