

APPENDIX C

MEDIA REPORTS AND TCEQ FORECAST DISCUSSIONS

**EXCEPTIONAL EVENTS DEMONSTRATION FOR 2023 PM_{2.5}
EXCEEDANCES AT HARRISON COUNTY, TRAVIS COUNTY, AND
KLEBERG COUNTY**

February 7, 2025

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
P.O. BOX 13087
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-3087**

APPENDIX C: MEDIA REPORTS AND TCEQ FORECAST DISCUSSIONS

GROUP 1 - JANUARY 1, 2023

LOCAL

Austin hosting annual 'Austin's New Year' celebration Dec. 31 at Auditorium Shores

by: [Erica Pauda](#)
 Posted: Dec 14, 2022 / 08:44 PM CST
 Updated: Dec 14, 2022 / 08:44 PM CST

Fireworks Show

SHARE

AUSTIN (KXAN) — The City of Austin announced Wednesday it plans to host its annual Austin's New Year celebration at Auditorium Shores on Saturday, Dec. 31, according to a news release.

The lawn will open at 6 p.m., and the event will conclude with a firework show at midnight, the release said.

MOST READ: Police chief: man dies after crashing vehicle then having a standoff with officers

The free, all-ages event will showcase live music from local favorites El Combo Oscuro, Tameca Jones the Texas Gentlemen and more.

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Figure C-1: Media report on December 14, 2022, discussing city sponsored firework show in Austin, TX¹

GROUP 2 - JANUARY 3, 2023

Table C-1: TCEQ forecast discussion for January 3, 2023

EE Date	Site Name	Summary of Applicable Information
1/3/2023	National Seashore	As a cold front continues to push through the state, slightly increased fine particulate levels associated with elevated relative humidity including patchy morning fog, primarily along the coastal areas out ahead of the front will raise PM2.5 levels into the "Moderate" range. Meanwhile, light amounts of smoke from the rigs in the Bay of Campeche and seasonal fire activity in eastern Mexico may continue to contribute fine particulate background levels across parts of Deep South Texas and the coastal bend of Texas.

GROUP 3 - JANUARY 16 AND JANUARY 18, 2023

Table C-2: TCEQ forecast discussion for January 16-18, 2023

¹ <https://www.kxan.com/news/local/austin-hosting-annual-austins-new-year-celebration-dec-31-at-auditorium-shores/>

EE Date	Site Name	Summary of Applicable Information
1/16/2023	National Seashore	Depending on the amount of smoke associated with burning and industrial activities across portions of Southern Mexico, Northwest Central America, and the Bay of Campeche, light amounts of aerosols mixed with elevated relative humidity may begin to filter and expand across Deep South Texas and the southern coastal bend of Texas.
1/18/2023	National Seashore	Fine particulate contributions from a combination of smoke from the burning and industrial activity in Mexico is forecast to continue building along the western Gulf of Mexico and over portions of Deep South Texas, the coastal bend of Texas, and parts of Southeast Texas as well as light scattered agricultural burning activity across portions of East Texas lingering over this region of the state.

GROUP 4 - FEBRUARY 14, 2023

Table C-3: TCEQ forecast discussion for February 14, 2023

EE Date	Site Name	Summary of Applicable Information
2/14/2023	National Seashore	Residual smoke from the burning activity in southern Mexico is expected to result in elevated fine particulate levels across parts of Deep South Texas and the coastal bend throughout the day.

GROUP 5 - FEBRUARY 27, 2023

Table C-4: TCEQ forecast discussion for February 27, 2023

EE Date	Site Name	Summary of Applicable Information
2/27/2023	Karnack	Heavy amounts of suspended fine particulate matter kicked up from an intense dust storm as a cold front moved through on Sunday over New Mexico, Northern Mexico, and Texas are still lingering over the southern Texas Panhandle as well as Far West, North Central, South Central, and East Texas this morning. Meanwhile, a sprawling area of thin density smoke/aerosols from seasonal fires and industrial activity in southern Mexico, Central America, and Cuba are filtering over the coastal bend of Texas and expanding over Southeast Texas, South Texas, as well as along the Rio Grande Valley and possibly mixing with some of the dust aerosols over South Central and East Texas, contributing towards elevated fine particulate levels.

NEWS > WEATHER

Dust from West Texas is giving Dallas poor air quality. Is it unhealthy?

People with breathing conditions like asthma might find it harder to take a breath outside Monday morning. But air quality should improve as the day continues.



By **Michael Williams**
Breaking News reporter

Feb. 27, 2023 | Updated 8:58 a.m. CST | 2 min. read



Dust from strong southerly winds partially obscured wind turbines spinning on the plains near Southland on Jan. 18, 2022. (Tom Fox)



Strong winds carried dust and dirt from the exposed grazing land of West Texas to the Dallas-Fort Worth area on Monday, dirtying cars and causing some residents to get an alert about poor air quality.

The cause is the same storm system that brought strong wind gusts to the area Sunday evening.

MOST

1

2

3

Figure C-2: Local media report from Dallas, TX that mentions strong winds and blowing dust from West Texas on February 27, 2023²

² <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/weather/2023/02/27/dust-from-west-texas-is-giving-dallas-poor-air-quality-is-it-unhealthy/>

WEATHER

Caroline Brown, Meteorologist

Published: February 27, 2023 at 1:11 PM

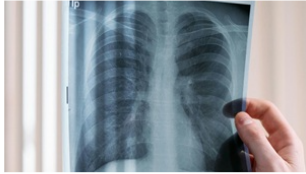
Tags: Haboob, Dust, Air Quality, Weather

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UTMB HEALTH

Air quality plummets as West Texas dust moves into Houston



Visibility is reduced due to the dust. (Copyright 2023 by KPRC Click2Houston - All rights reserved.)

HOUSTON - A cold front moved through Southeast Texas Monday, bringing gusty wind from the west that is full of West Texas dust.

This has led to a decrease in air quality, hazy skies and reduced visibility. Out in West Texas, several spots recorded wind gusts over 100 mph, which triggered power outages and even a haboob. A haboob is a dangerous dust storm that can quickly drop visibilities and often leads to traffic accidents. Here in Houston our main concern is the air quality.

Figure C-3: Local media report from Houston, TX describing gusty winds and blowing dust from West Texas on February 27, 2023³

GROUP 6 - MARCH 2, 2023

Table C-5: TCEQ forecast discussion on March 2, 2023

EE Date	Site Name	Summary of Applicable Information
3/2/2023	Webberville	The moderate amounts of smoke from seasonal fires and industrial activity in southern Mexico, Central America, and Cuba as well as scattered seasonal fires across portions of South Texas, Southeast Texas, and the coastal bend combined with urban fine particulate levels in addition to limited vertical mixing and elevated relative humidity producing patchy morning fog are forecast to persist across the eastern two-thirds of the state, out ahead of the aforementioned cold front.

³ [https://www.click2houston.com/weather/2023/02/27/air-quality-plummets-as-west-texas-dust-moves-into-houston/#:~:text=\(Copyright%202023%20by%20KPRC%20Click2Houston,hazy%20skies%20and%20reduced%20visibility.](https://www.click2houston.com/weather/2023/02/27/air-quality-plummets-as-west-texas-dust-moves-into-houston/#:~:text=(Copyright%202023%20by%20KPRC%20Click2Houston,hazy%20skies%20and%20reduced%20visibility.)

WEATHER

Mia Montgomery, KSAT Weather Authority Meteorologist

Published: March 3, 2023 at 1:29 PM
Updated: March 3, 2023 at 2:55 PM

Tags: Whatever The Weather, Wind Gusts, Cold Front, Dust, San Antonio, Outdoors

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A Dusty Drive: Thursday's wind and storms leave cars covered in dust

Peak wind gusts upwards of 50-70 mph sent West Texas dust into San Antonio Thursday night



Vehicles were covered in dust Friday morning following Thursday's front

Thursday's cold front brought downright windy conditions to South Central Texas from both the cold front itself and developing thunderstorms, which also went on to produce heavy rain, lightning and pockets of hail.

Figure C-4: Local media report from San Antonio, TX describing high winds and dust associated with a cold front⁴

GROUP 7 - MARCH 15, 2023

Table C-6: TCEQ forecast discussion March 15, 2023

EE Date	Site Name	Summary of Applicable Information
3/15/2023	Karnack	Light residual smoke from seasonal fire activity across portions of the Lower Mississippi River Valley (including in Southeastern Texas), may slightly contribute towards afternoon PM2.5 levels over Southeast Texas while shifting northward as winds turn southerly, expanding over portions of the North Central and Northeast Texas.

⁴ <https://www.ksat.com/weather/2023/03/03/a-dusty-drive-thursdays-wind-and-storms-leave-cars-covered-in-dust/>

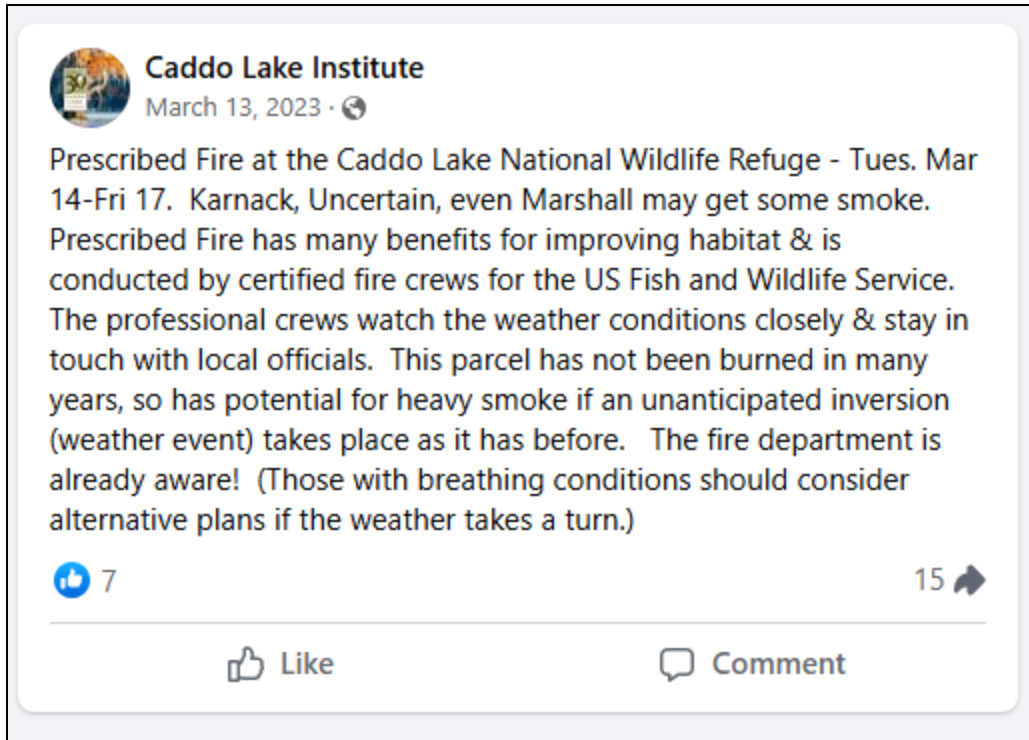


Figure C-5: Social media post from the Caddo Lake Institute about planned prescribed fires at Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, posted on March 13, 2023

GROUP 8 - MAY 5, 2023

Table C-7: TCEQ forecast discussion for May 5, 2023

EE Date	Site Name	Summary of Applicable Information
5/5/2023	National Seashore	A very large area of thin to moderate density smoke from ongoing fire activity in Mexico and Central America was detected over portions of the Atlantic Ocean off the Southeast U.S. coast and then extending west and southwest through the Gulf Coastal States of the U.S. and into Texas.



HOME > NEWSROOM > NEWS RELEASES > CORPUS CHRISTI AIR QUALITY IMPACTED

Corpus Christi Air Quality Impacted

HEALTH / CITY NEWS

Due to Fire Activities in Mexico and Central America

MAY 05, 2023

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX – The Corpus Christi area is experiencing hazy conditions attributed to moderate-density smoke from ongoing fire activity in Mexico and Central America, coupled with fog produced from high relative humidity.

These conditions are expected to continue through the first part of next week. Persons susceptible to particle pollution should consider reducing activity levels or shortening the amount of time spent outdoors.

Figure C-6: Local news report from City of Corpus Christi on May 5, 2023 describing hazy conditions from ongoing fire activity in Mexico and Central America⁵

⁵ <https://news.cctexas.com/news/releases-20230505-6892025>

WEATHER

Justin Horne, KSAT Weather Authority Meteorologist

Sarah Spivey, KSAT Weather Authority Meteorologist

Mia Montgomery, KSAT Weather Authority Meteorologist

Published: May 8, 2024 at 12:20 PM
Updated: May 8, 2024 at 1:16 PM


Tags: Whatever The Weather, San Antonio, Weather

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METHODIST HOSPITAL

Parts of South Texas experiencing a dip in air quality from agricultural smoke in Mexico

Places like Brownsville and Corpus Christi will see the worst of the air quality Wednesday and Thursday



Smoke from agricultural fires in Mexico will be around San Antonio for most of this week (Copyright 2024 by KSAT - All rights reserved.)

SAN ANTONIO - Surface smoke is funneling up through Texas courtesy of agricultural burning in Mexico. This will likely lead to a decrease in air quality across parts of South Texas, especially south of San Antonio this week.

KEY POINTS:

- Small dip in air quality expected in San Antonio
- The worst air quality will be found in Deep South Texas, near Brownsville, Corpus Christi and Laredo
- Nothing unusual -- this happens every year
- Agricultural burning in Mexico should end around June

Figure C-7: Local media report in San Antonio, TX on May 8, 2023, describing poor air quality in south Texas due to agricultural burning from Mexico⁶

⁶ <https://www.ksat.com/weather/2024/05/08/parts-of-south-texas-experiencing-a-dip-in-air-quality-from-agricultural-smoke-in-mexico/>

GROUP 9 - JUNE 13, JUNE 14, AND JUNE 15, 2023

Table C-8: TCEQ forecast discussion June 13-15, 2023

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
6/13/2023	Webberville	A meandering low-pressure system in the western part of the state will slowly push eastward as a surface front extends eastward through North Central and Northeast Texas and northwestward through the Panhandle. Light to moderate residual smoke is expected to continue being transported into Texas from the south as model guidance suggests the burnings in Mexico will continue; but the majority of surface smoke is forecast to affect primarily the South, Central, and parts of the North Central regions.
6/14/2023	Webberville and National Seashore	Elevated fine particulate matter was observed across the eastern two thirds of Texas due to residual smoke from Mexico, light winds, and low-level inversions to limit mixing. Light to moderate residual smoke is expected to continue being transported northward from the seasonal burnings in southern Mexico into South, Central, and North Central Texas with higher density smoke spreading eastward into the coastal and Southeast regions, as a stalling surface front pushes into Central Texas.
6/15/2023	Webberville	The smoke from the fires in Mexico and Central America is merging with smoke from the Canadian wildfires somewhere over the south-central U.S., in addition to some aerosols from industrial activities also in Mexico and Central America. Smoke transport could persist into the eastern two thirds of Texas as the burning activity remains in the aforementioned regions. Higher density smoke is forecast to be in the South, South Central, and Southeast regions with effects still being felt in North Central and Northeast Texas.

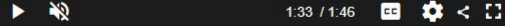
WEATHER

How Mexico's agriculture burn affects Austin local weather

by: Rich Segal

Posted: Jun 14, 2023 / 04:50 PM CDT

Updated: Jun 14, 2023 / 05:20 PM CDT



SHARE



AUSTIN (KXAN) — The [haze happens every spring](#) and it can make you feel bad.

The sky loses that beautiful azure, blue hue. Though its occurrence doesn't originate in the Austin area, if the wind is blowing just right, Central Texas and a good deal of the state will still see the haze's effects.

| [Why is the sky so hazy in Austin?](#) ▶

The Texas Commission On Environmental Quality attributes this recent haze to "a good amount of atmospheric moisture" helping to partially contribute to the hazy sky. The other factor that led to the haze partnering with the clouds is smoke that wafted into our sky from the agriculture burning ongoing in northern Mexico. These fires occur in the northern part of the country as well as the Yucatan. A south-to-southeast wind flow will cause the smoke from the Yucatan to travel across the western Gulf to our coastline and further into the coastal plain on the Interstate 35 corridor.



South and southeast winds bring in agriculture burning smoke from Mexico

The southern part of the state, as well as coastal Texas, will experience poorer visibility than Central Texas.

| [MOST READ: 12,000+ Texas kids sent to court for truancy, no one tracks what happens next](#) ▶

The fires are deliberately set to manage the farmland. Farmers use these fires to add nutrients back to the soil as well as clear the grounds of unwanted plants.

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Figure C-8: Local media report from Austin, TX on June 14, 2023⁷

⁷ <https://www.kxan.com/weather/how-mexicos-agriculture-burn-affects-austin-local-weather/>

WEATHER

Significant haze blankets Austin Tuesday, Wednesday

A mix of humid and smoky conditions caused air quality issues across Central Texas.



Credit: John Gusky

View toward Downtown Austin from Mount Bonnell on June 14. Photo by KVUE's John Gusky.

Author: Grace Thornton

Published: 4:58 PM CDT June 13, 2023

Updated: 12:03 PM CDT June 14, 2023



AUSTIN, Texas — If you were outside in [Central Texas](#) on Tuesday, you may have noticed a smog of haze on the horizon.

Figure C-9: Local media report from Austin, TX describing haze in the area associated with agricultural burning in Mexico⁸

⁸ <https://www.kvue.com/article/weather/austitn-haze-tuesday/269-4d418e8a-f05d-49d8-97a2-b6728825a163>

WEATHER

Justin Horne, KSAT Weather Authority
Meteorologist

Published: June 13, 2023 at 2:11 PM

Tags: Whatever The Weather

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Noticing a haze today in San Antonio? Smoke from Mexico is partially to blame

Agricultural burning is expected to continue this week

WEATHER AUTHORITY

LIVE CAM

Hazy conditions over San Antonio (Copyright 2023 by KSAT - All rights reserved.)

SAN ANTONIO - Surface smoke is funneling up through Texas courtesy of agricultural burning in Mexico.

While air quality remains in the "moderate" category, just shy of the "unhealthy for sensitive groups," many people are noticing the haze across San Antonio.

Figure C-10: Local media report from San Antonio, TX describing haze in the area associated with agricultural burning in Mexico⁹

GROUP 10 - JULY 15 AND JULY 16, 2023

Table C-9: TCEQ forecast for July 15-16, 2023

EE Date	Site Name	Summary of Applicable Information
7/15/2023	National Seashore	Light to moderate density plume of Saharan dust is expected to continue to build as it spreads northward and westward, with at least light patches extending to cover most of the state with the exception of the far northern Texas Panhandle and Far West Texas. The heaviest concentrations are expected to be over Southwest Texas, South Central Texas, and North Central Texas.
7/16/2023	National Seashore	Saharan dust will continue spreading through Texas reaching most spots and impacting areas at varying intensities.

⁹ <https://www.ksat.com/weather/2023/06/13/noticing-a-haze-today-in-san-antonio-smoke-from-mexico-is-partially-to-blame/>

FORECAST

Saharan dust making its way to Houston

Low concentrations of dust currently over Houston; impacting air quality.



Author: Chita Craft, Jaime E. Galvan, Pat Cavlin, Tim Pandajis
Published: 11:23 AM CDT July 12, 2023
Updated: 8:25 AM CDT July 15, 2023



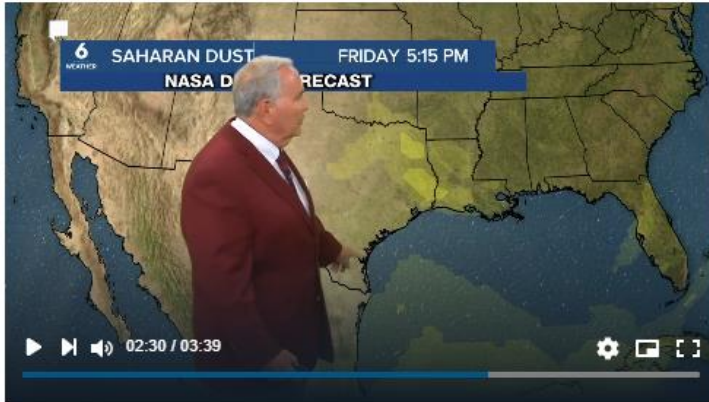
HOUSTON — Low concentrations of Saharan dust have already made the long journey across the Atlantic and have arrived in the skies over southeast Texas.

You may notice the sky looks a little extra hazy this morning thanks to the dust. Some of it is mixing down to the surface and will impact the air quality today.

Figure C-11: Local media in Houston, TX describing low concentrations of Saharan dust in Texas on July 15, 2023¹⁰

¹⁰ <https://www.khou.com/article/weather/forecast/saharan-dust-houston-texas-2023/285-39fd5aac-9141-4194-b9f8-29df13e76130>

More wicked heat for the weekend



Dale Nelson 5 pm weather 0714



By: Dale Nelson

Posted 8:21 PM, Jul 14, 2023 and last updated 8:30 PM, Jul 14, 2023

There is little change expected to our extraordinary weather well into the end of July. Upper-level high pressure is anchored over the area resulting in dangerous heat. Do expect a small decrease in our winds.

Tonight, will be breezy warm and stuffy again with fair skies and a low of 81. The heat index stays in the 90's.

Saturday and Sunday expect a little less wind but still breezy and scorching hot and under hazy sunshine we will have a high of 99 Saturday and 98 on Sunday with a heat index on both days between 115 and 120.

Saturday night will be mainly clear and calmer, and not quite as warm with a low of 79.

Figure C-12: Local media report from Corpus Christi, TX mentioning hazy sunshine due to Saharan dust¹¹

¹¹ <https://www.kristv.com/weather/todays-forecast/more-wicked-heat-for-the-weekend>

GROUP 11 - JULY 25, JULY 26, JULY 27, AND JULY 28, 2023

Table C-10: TCEQ forecast for July 25-28, 2023

EE Date	Site Name	Summary of Applicable Information
7/25/2023	National Seashore	The large area of residual smoke from the Canadian wildfires is forecast to persist over Texas in light concentrations with most of the smoke remaining aloft. Meanwhile, a moderate to heavy density plume of Saharan dust is expected to arrive in South Texas and begin spreading inland over portions of Central Texas, Southeast Texas, and along the southern Rio Grande Valley.
7/26/2023	National Seashore	The residual smoke from the Canadian wildfires is forecast to continue persisting over Texas with the majority of the smoke expected to remain aloft with only very light amounts reaching the surface. Meanwhile, the plume of Saharan dust is expected to continue to build as it spreads northward and westward, with light patches possibly extending to cover most of the state with the exception of Far West Texas and the upper Texas Panhandle, with the highest concentrations over South, Central, Southeast Texas as well as along the coastal bend of Texas and the Rio Grande Valley.
7/27/2023	National Seashore	The fine particulates associated with the residual smoke from the Canadian wildfires are expected to persist over the state though much of the smoke should remain aloft. Additionally, light amounts of residual smoke associated with small, scattered, local burning activities across East and Central Texas may enhance fine particulate background levels in these portions of the state. Meanwhile, Saharan dust is forecast to continue moving over the entire state of Texas and impact areas at varying intensities with the heaviest amounts over Central Texas, North Central Texas, Southeast Texas, and along the coastal bend of Texas.
7/28/2023	National Seashore	The moderate density plume of Saharan dust will persist over the state at varying intensities while light amounts of fine particulate matter associated with the residual smoke from the Canadian wildfires are also expected to persist over the state though most of the smoke is expected to remain aloft and not mix down to the surface. Additionally, light residual smoke associated with small, isolated, burning activities across East and Central Texas combined with incoming continental haze particularly over East Texas could slightly increase fine particulate levels in parts of these regions of the state as well.

WEATHER

Mia Montgomery, KSAT Weather Authority Meteorologist
Justin Horne, KSAT Weather Authority Meteorologist

Published: July 17, 2023 at 11:17 AM
Updated: July 24, 2023 at 12:38 PM

Tags: Whatever The Weather, Saharan Dust

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Saharan Dust arrives in San Antonio on Tuesday

Dust is typically stirred up over the Sahara Desert, especially in the summer months

Saharan dust forecast (Copyright 2023 by KSAT - All rights reserved.)

It's a summertime topic in South Central Texas: Saharan dust.

While it's originally stirred up thousands of miles away, it can travel across the Atlantic basin and haze up our sky in San Antonio.

While we've only seen light concentrations of dust move through our area over the past week or so, many are wondering what the outlook is in the foreseeable future. Here's the latest:

Saharan dust forecast

- THIS WEEK (Monday, July 24 - Sunday, July 30):** A plume of dust is forecast to arrive late on Tuesday and thicken a bit on Wednesday and Thursday, before dissipating on Friday. Expect a light haze across the sky, along with some colorful sunsets. Air quality is forecast to stay in the moderate range and should not be a big issue for residents of South Central Texas.

Figure C-13: Local media report from San Antonio, TX on July 24, 2023, describing Saharan dust moving into the area¹²

¹² <https://www.ksat.com/weather/2023/07/17/saharan-dust-what-is-the-latest-outlook-and-how-does-it-get-to-san-antonio/>

Saharan dust is returning to San Antonio again. Here's what to know.

Texans can expect to see hazy skies beginning Thursday evening

By **Jennifer Flores**, Digital Content Producer
Updated July 26, 2023 10:07 a.m.



Saharan Dust arrived in South-Central Texas on Wednesday afternoon in New Braunfels.
US National Weather Service Austin-San Antonio Texas

The Saharan dust is returning again to Texas, and San Antonians can expect to see hazy skies this week. If you are wondering what this means for you and your family, here is what to expect and how you can prepare.

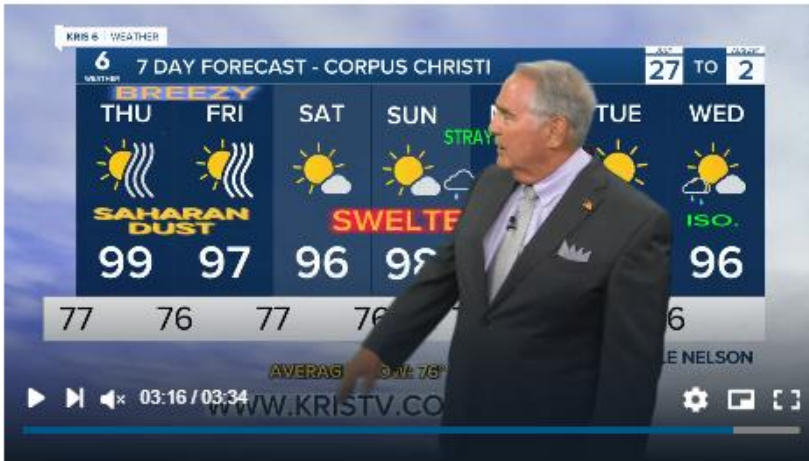
CPS Energy Chief Meteorologist Brian Alonzo announced on Twitter, Tuesday morning, July 11, that the Saharan dust will be moving into Texas Thursday evening, July 13. According to Alonzo's tweet, the dust is expected to linger through next week. The dust is expected to return again July 25 to 27.

SAHARAN DUST: It's coming back folks. It moves into Texas Thursday evening. Looks to linger through next week. So there will be a bit more hazy skies later this week. Also, if you have allergies or respiratory issues, you'll definitely want to limit your time outdoors. pic.twitter.com/HeNIQ2P2uS
— Brian Alonzo (@wxprobrian) July 11, 2023

Figure C-14: Local media report from San Antonio, TX on July 26, 2023, describing Saharan dust in Texas¹³

¹³ <https://www.mysanantonio.com/news/weather/article/saharan-dust-cloud-texas-18194585.php>

Hazy and very hot



Dale Nelson 5 pm weather 0726



By: Dale Nelson

Posted 8:30 PM, Jul 26, 2023 and last updated 8:37 PM, Jul 26, 2023

Our extraordinary heat and dry conditions continue with little hope of much change in this weather pattern through the end of next week, and well into August.

Tonight will be hazy and tranquil and also warm and stuffy with fair skies and a low of 77.

Thursday expect hazy sunshine breezy and baking hot again with a high of 99 and a heat index between 110 and 115.

Thursday night will be tranquil with clear skies, and seasonal with a low of 76.

Friday expect a few more clouds, hazy sunshine, breezy and not quite as hot with a high of 96.

The Saharan dust goes away over the weekend and temperatures stay hot with only a stray shower.

Figure C-15: Local media report in Corpus Christi, TX on July 26, 2023, describing Saharan dust and hot weather¹⁴

¹⁴ <https://www.kristv.com/weather/todays-forecast/hazy-and-very-hot>

WEATHER

Frank Billingsley, Chief Meteorologist
Amanda Cochran, Digital Special Projects Manager

Published: July 28, 2023 at 8:59 AM
Updated: July 28, 2023 at 10:17 AM

Tags: Weather Blog, Saharan Dust, Sahara, Frank Billingsley

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The dust is back...all the way from the Sahara!



Credit: Suzanne on Click2pins at Point West

HOUSTON – Today's I'm 'dusting' off a blog I wrote last year regarding the origins of our Saharan dust which I find fascinating. Here are some of the salient points:

Most of the dust comes from ONE spot in Africa. We've known about the dust since the 1960s. The dust is iron and phosphorous rich which greatly helps marine and plant life, especially the Amazon Forest in South America. Here's more:

Believe it or not, half of Saharan dust that comes our way begins in one place: the Bodélé Depression (pronounced Bah-del). Just *what and where* is this dust source in the Sahara?

First the what. Over thousands of years, the once huge Lake Chad (about the size of Lake Erie and now only 5% of that) dried up leaving silt and sediment in the hot desert sun which baked into a fine dust. This bowl, or depression, of dust is northeast of the current Lake Chad and is 310 miles long, 93 miles wide and about 500 feet deep. In fact, it only takes up .2% of the whole Sahara Desert and yet is THE primary source of all this dust--hundreds of thousands of tons of it every year! You can see on the map below the exact location of the Bodélé Depression. Other countries to the west--Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and Algiers supply airborne dust due to the very hot 100+ temperatures causing rising air which takes the dust upward where winds transport it westward.

Figure C-16: Local media from Houston, TX on July 28, 2023, describing Saharan dust origins¹⁵

¹⁵ <https://www.click2houston.com/weather/2023/07/28/the-dust-is-backall-the-way-from-the-sahara/>