



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Michael R. Sandoval, Cabinet Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mar. 3, 2022

High winds expected with blowing dust
Travel Advisory for Southern New Mexico

DEMING - The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) will be monitoring roadway conditions with law enforcement as high wind advisories have been issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) for March 4-6, 2022, briefing from NWS attached with Press Release.

The NMDOT would like to remind the traveling public, blowing dust can escalate to blinding dust storms as they move quickly through remote areas. If you must travel, we recommend you monitor local forecast conditions prior to starting your trip and visit our web site as roadway conditions may change quickly throughout New Mexico.

Roadway advisories will be posted on www.nmroads.com, or by calling 511. If you are approaching a dust storm or caught in a dust storm, please follow the guidelines below to help you stay safe.

- Avoid driving into or through a dust storm.
- Do not wait until poor visibility makes it difficult to safely pull off the roadway — do it as soon as possible. Completely exit the highway if you can.
- If you encounter a dust storm, check traffic immediately around your vehicle (front, back and to the side) and begin slowing down.
- Do not stop in the roadway; pull completely out of the travel lanes and as far onto the right shoulder as possible.
- Stop the vehicle in a position ensuring it is a safe distance from the main roadway and away from where other vehicles may travel.
- Turn off all vehicle lights, including your emergency flashers.
- Set your emergency brake and take your foot off the brake.
- Stay in the vehicle with your seat belts buckled and wait for the storm to pass.
- Drivers of high-profile vehicles should be especially aware of changing weather conditions and travel at reduced speeds.

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NMDOT
Mobility for everyone

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Windy Conditions, Blowing Dust & Fire Danger Likely Friday into the Weekend

National Weather Service El Paso TX / Santa Teresa NM

Issued: 3:00 PM MST Thursday, March 3, 2022

Next Issuance: Friday Afternoon if necessary

KEY POINTS

- Windy Conditions on Friday. Southwest winds 25 to 35 mph with gusts to 50 possible in the afternoon. A Wind Advisory is in effect from 11 AM to 8 PM Friday. Breezy conditions again Saturday and Sunday.
- Blowing dust will be possible each afternoon as winds strengthen.
- Warm temperatures, very dry air, and gusty winds creating high fire danger on Friday. Red Flag Warnings are in effect from 11 AM to 7 PM Friday.

AREAS IMPACTED

- The strongest winds will occur across southwest New Mexico, including Grant, Hidalgo, Dona Ana, Luna, and Sierra Counties. Strong winds are also likely over the Sacramento Mountains in Otero County.
- Blowing dust is most likely along the International Border and I-10 corridor in southwest New Mexico and far west Texas.
- High fire danger will exist during the afternoon hours for much of southern New Mexico and far west Texas.

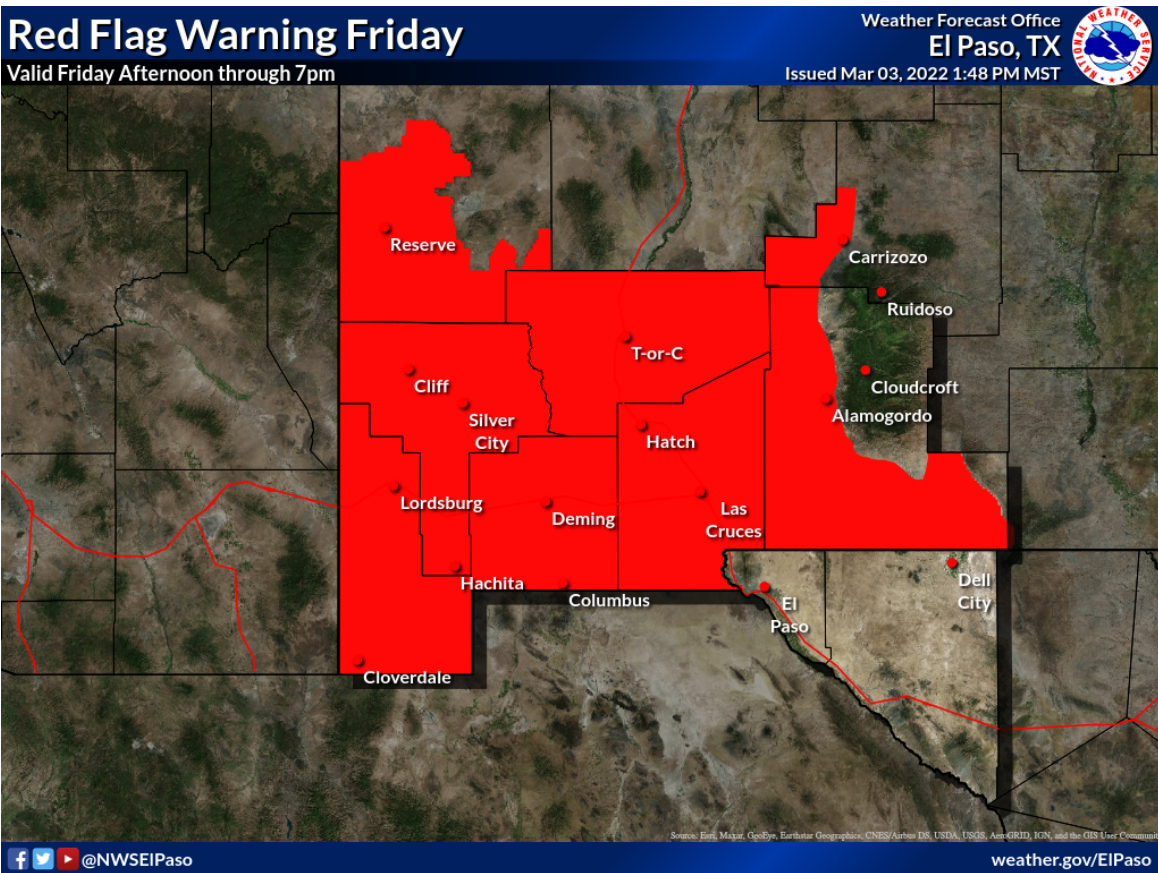
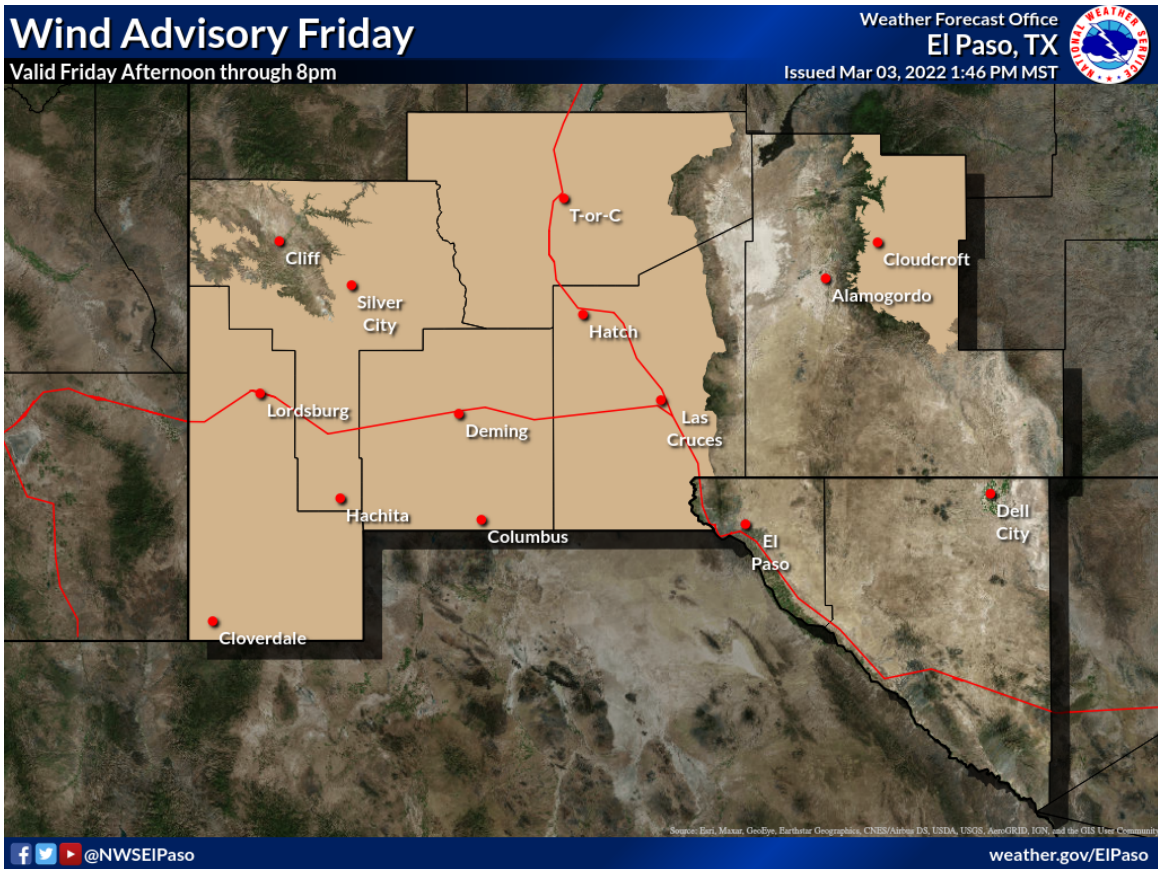
DETAILS

Winds will increase on Friday in response to strong southwest flow aloft moving over the region and an upper level disturbance crossing the Southern Rockies. This system looks to be dry and pass by well to our north, so no precipitation is expected. Wind speeds will begin to increase around the late morning and noontime hours, peaking by mid-afternoon. Southwest winds of 25 to 35 mph with gusts up to 50 mph possible across portions of Southwest New Mexico and mountain ridges/gaps. Loose outdoor objects will be blown around and high-profile vehicles may have difficulty driving. Blowing dust will also be a concern in the afternoon, especially along the International Border where nearby dust sources can be lofted into the air. Reductions in visibility will be possible for much of southwest New Mexico and far west Texas, including the Interstate 10 corridor. A Wind Advisory is in effect for much of Southwest New Mexico and the Sacramento Mountains. Future dust products may be needed as well.

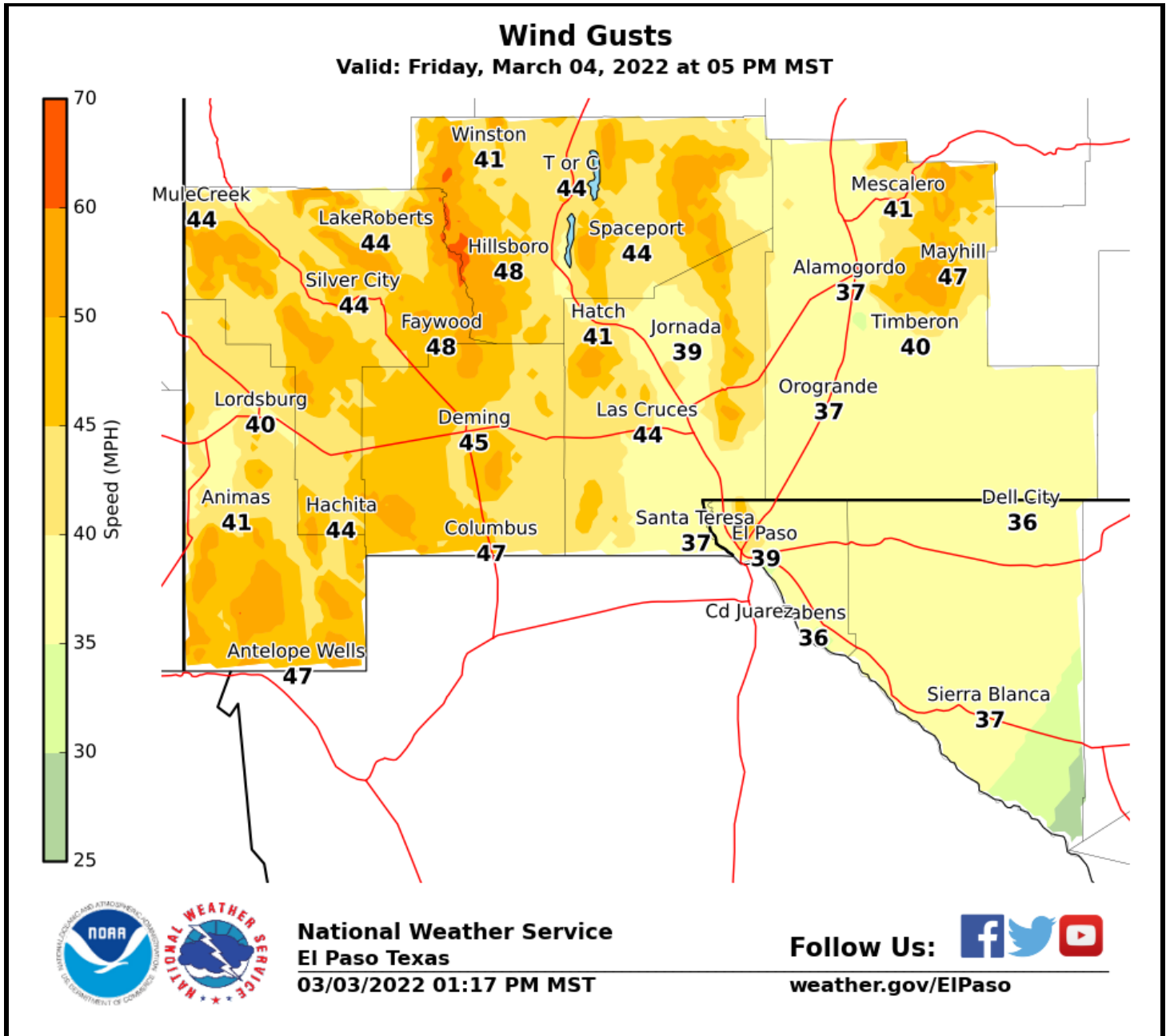
The combination of dry conditions, warm temperatures, and gusty winds will also lead to high fire danger. A Red Flag Warning is in effect Friday afternoon. Outdoor burning is not recommended tomorrow due to the potential for rapid fire spread. Breezy to windy conditions will be possible again Saturday and Sunday, but cooler temperatures may limit fire danger below critical thresholds.

- **Confidence for strong winds on Friday is high.**
- **Confidence for blowing dust Friday afternoon is moderate.**
- **Confidence for high fire danger due to wind and low relative humidity on Friday is high.**

Current Hazards for Friday



Friday Afternoon Wind Gusts (mph)



For further information updates, visit www.weather.gov/elpaso

If you have questions or would like to submit weather reports, photos, or to unsubscribe from these briefings, email nws.elpaso@noaa.gov