



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Ricky Serna, Cabinet Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mar. 1, 2023

High winds expected with blowing dust
Travel Advisory for Southwest 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) on Feb. 28, 2023, impacts attached from NWS with Press Release. NWS is forecasting very strong winds from 25 to 35 mph with gusts of 50 mph, and heaviest snow fall will be over the Gila & Black Range region, lowlands seeing trace amounts. Roads may become slick, so travel carefully. Gusty winds/Mountain snow event starting Wednesday evening into Thursday, March 1-2.

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.

###

NMDOT
Mobility for everyone

Ami R Evans, District-1 PIO | Ami.Evans@dot.nm.gov | 575 640 5981

Wednesday

Weather Forecast Office

El Paso, TX



Windy, Dry, Blowing Dust, and Critical Fire Weather Conditions

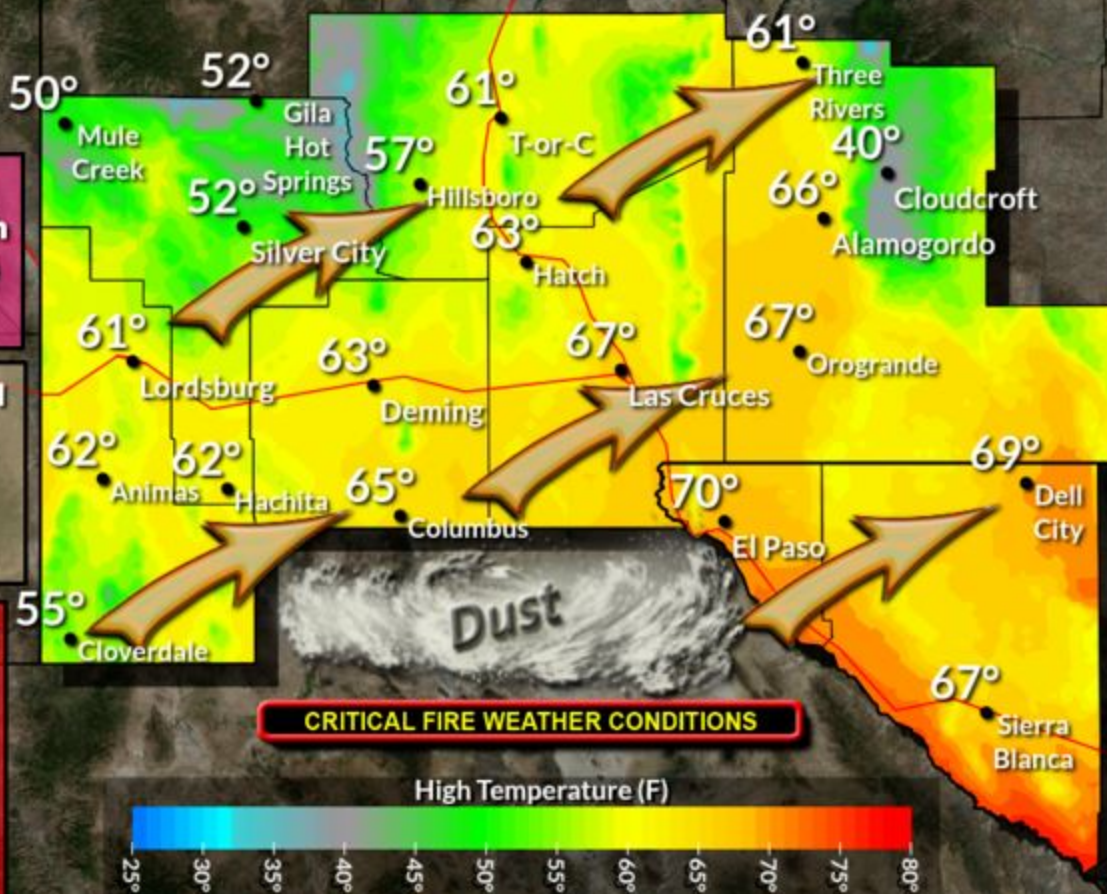
Issued Feb 28, 2023 7:58 PM MST



Windy with speeds 20-35 mph with gusts up to 55 mph

Blowing dust will be possible, creating reductions in visibilities

Red Flag Warning for far west TX, the lowlands of Otero, portions of Sierra, and Dona Ana counties



@NWSEIPaso

weather.gov/EIPaso

Spring time is in full swing as windy conditions, blowing dust, and fire weather concerns will be the major concerns. Remember to pull aside and stay alive if you are faced with blowing dust with reductions in visibilities. High profile vehicles need be very cautious driving, especially on N/S oriented highways. Lastly, do not burn as very dry air and windy conditions Wednesday will make it a prime environment for wildfires.

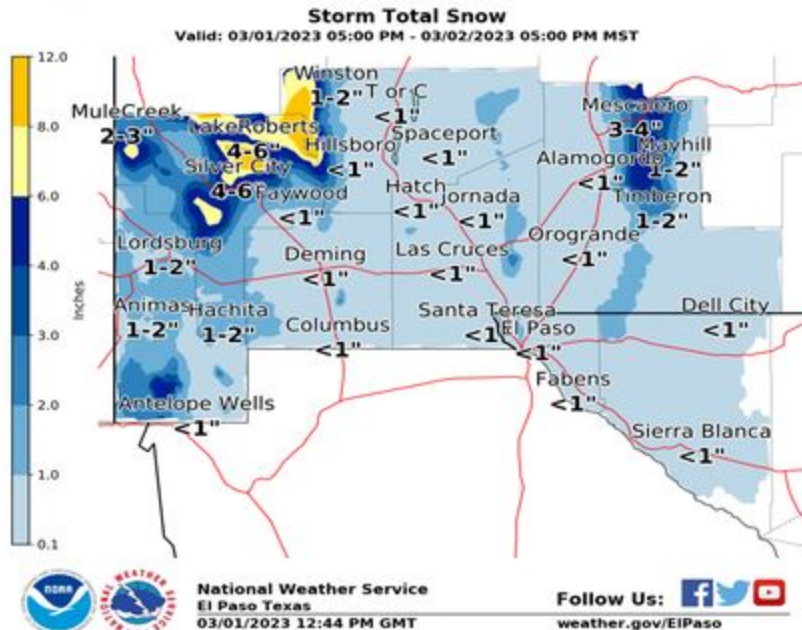


Expected Storm Total Snow Amounts

Strong winds and Blowing Snow Tonight

Snow Amounts:

- **Lowlands:**
 - 1-2 inches - west
 - Trace to 1 inch Central & East
- **Sacramento Mountains:**
 - 3-6 inches
- **Gila Region Mtns/Blacks:**
 - 6-10 inches



Last Updated 3/1/2023 6:13 AM

National Weather Service – El Paso

Here is our expected snow amount forecast for tonight through Thursday morning across the Borderland. Most of the heavier snow will fall over the Gila and Black Range region, followed by the Sacramento mountains and Bootheel. Finally the lowlands will see light amounts. Roads may become slick, so travel carefully.