



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Ricky Serna, Cabinet Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Apr. 3, 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 Apr.3, 2023, impacts attached from NWS with Press Release. NWS is forecasting very strong winds from 25 to 35 mph with gusts of 50 mph in the lowlands and 30 and 40 mph with gusts up to 70 mph in the mountains. For Tuesday, the wind gusts will increase to 70 mph through the early evening hours in the mountains. Areas of blowing dust will accompany this system this afternoon as well as Tuesday afternoon.

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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Wind Event for Monday, Tuesday April 3 and 4.

Prepared by: David Hefner

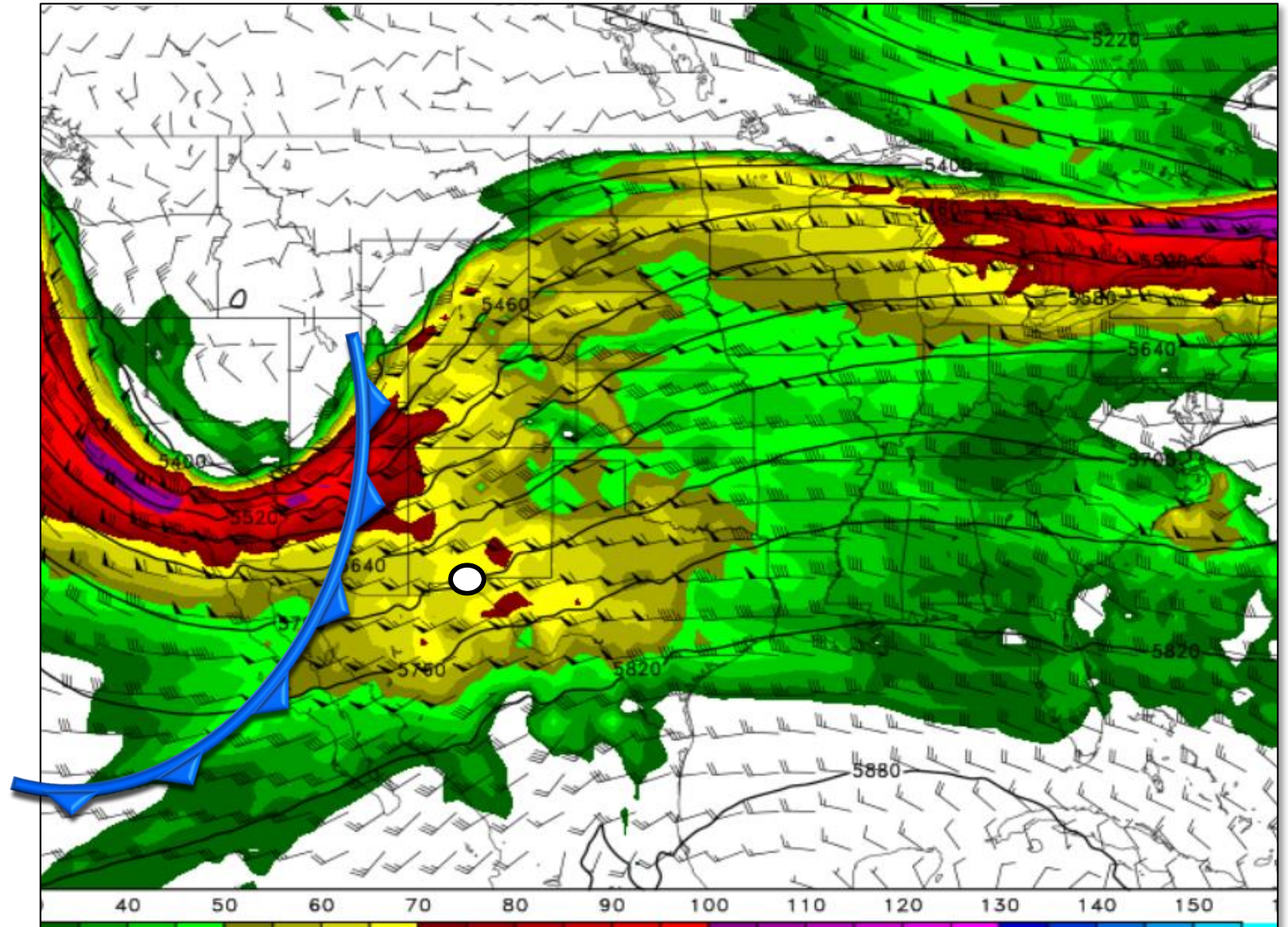
Date: April 3, 2023



Situation Overview-This Afternoon/Evening

Key Messages:

- Cold front and upper low move into Arizona this afternoon.
- Winds increase to 25-35 mph with gusts 50 mph lowlands this afternoon.
- Winds increase to 30-40 mph this afternoon. Gusts to 65 mph mountains tonight.
- Blowing dust this afternoon most desert areas; densest over Luna, Dona Ana, and El Paso Counties.

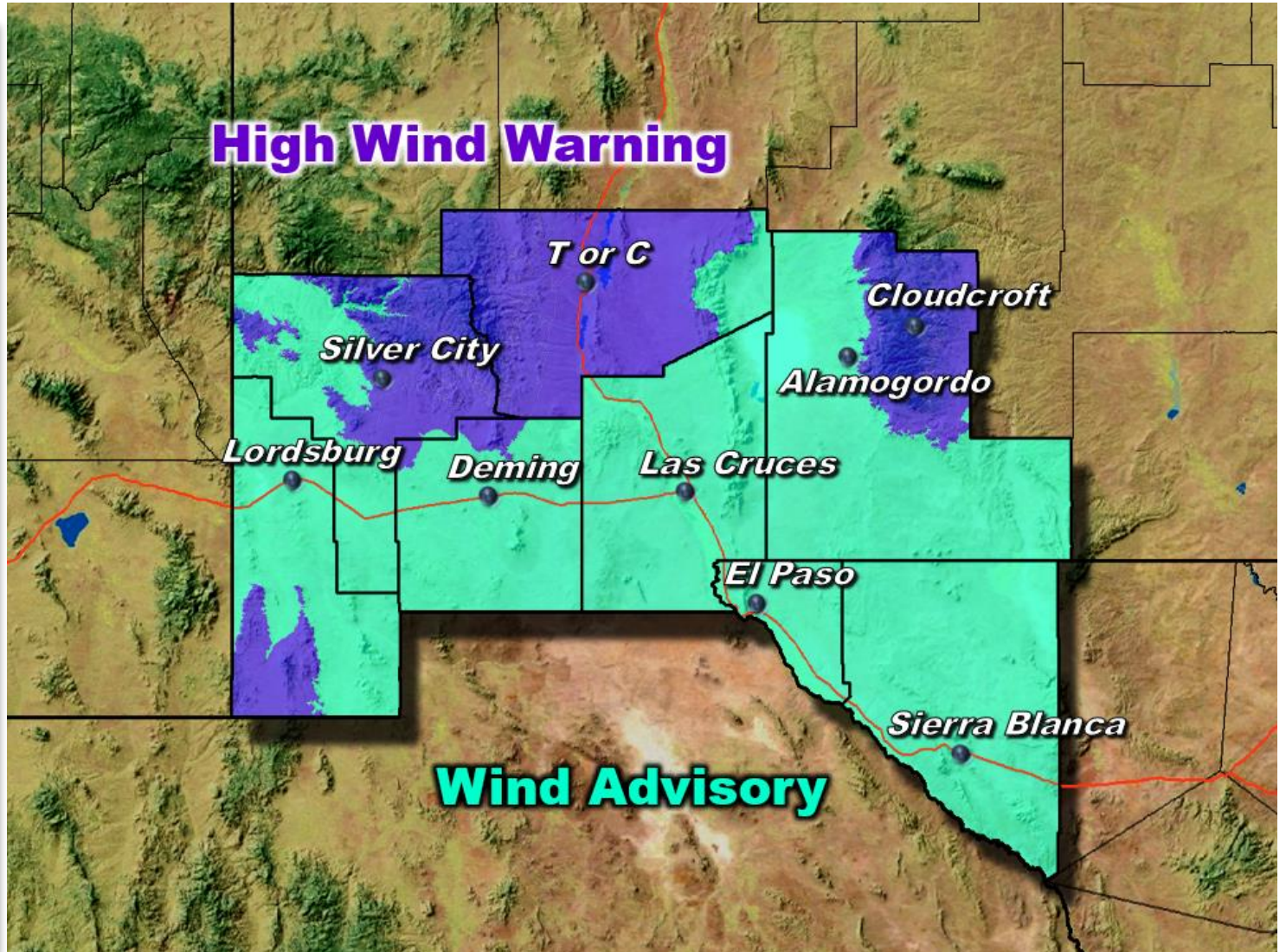




Advisories/Warning for This Afternoon Through Midnight

Key Messages:

- Wind Advisory for most of the lowlands beginning this afternoon; southwest winds 25-35 mph with gusts 50 mph
- High Wind Warning for higher elevations beginning this afternoon; southwest winds 30-40 mph with gusts to 70 mph.
- Blowing dust this afternoon most desert areas; densest over Luna, Dona Ana, and El Paso Counties.

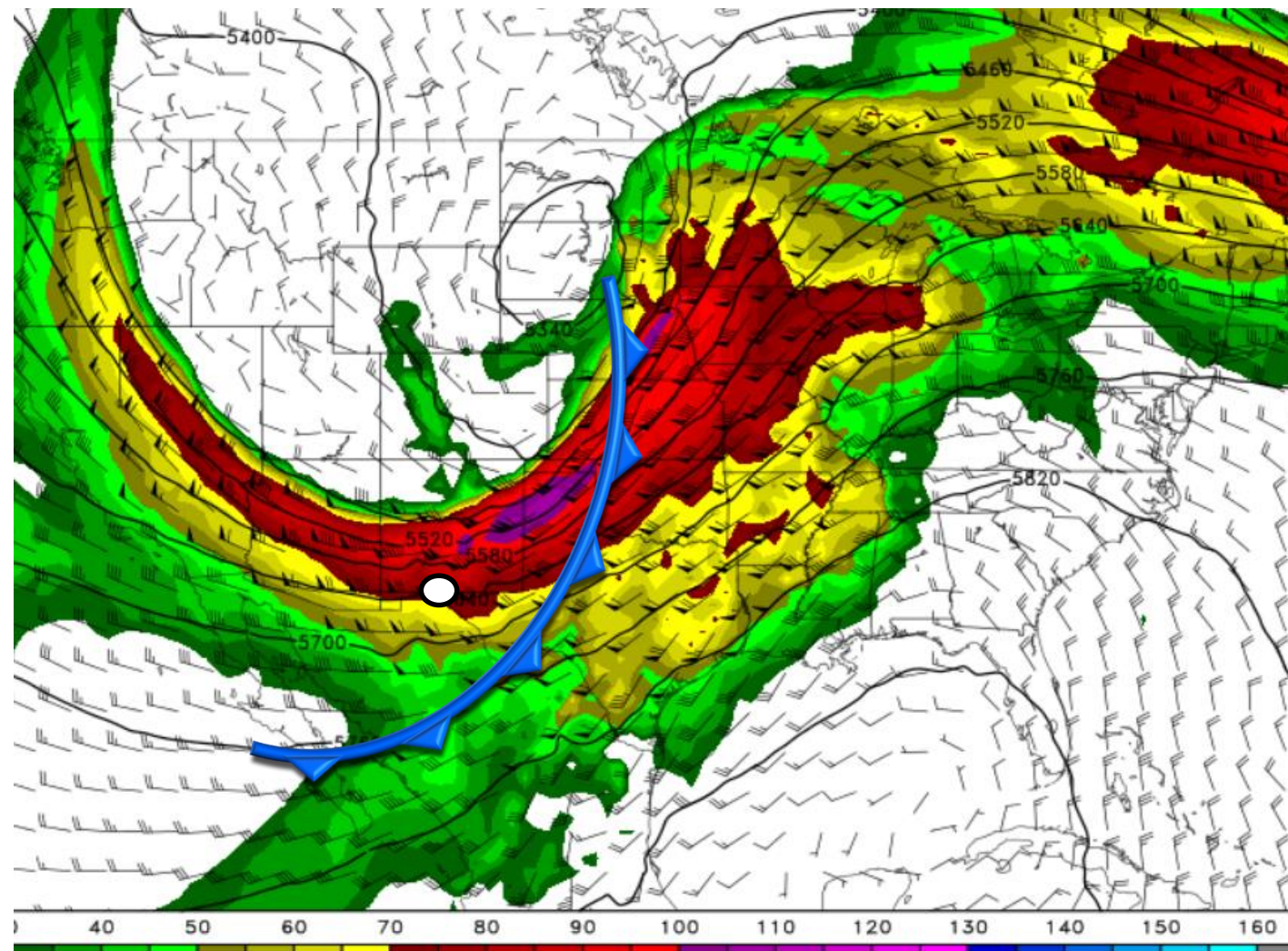




Situation Overview-Tuesday

Key Messages:

- Cold front and upper low move east of area.
- Winds
- Winds increase to 25-35 mph with gusts 50 mph lowlands through early Tuesday evening.
- Winds increase to 30-40 mph through early Tuesday evening. Gusts to 70 mph mountains through early Tuesday evening.
- Patchy blowing dust Tuesday afternoon most desert areas.

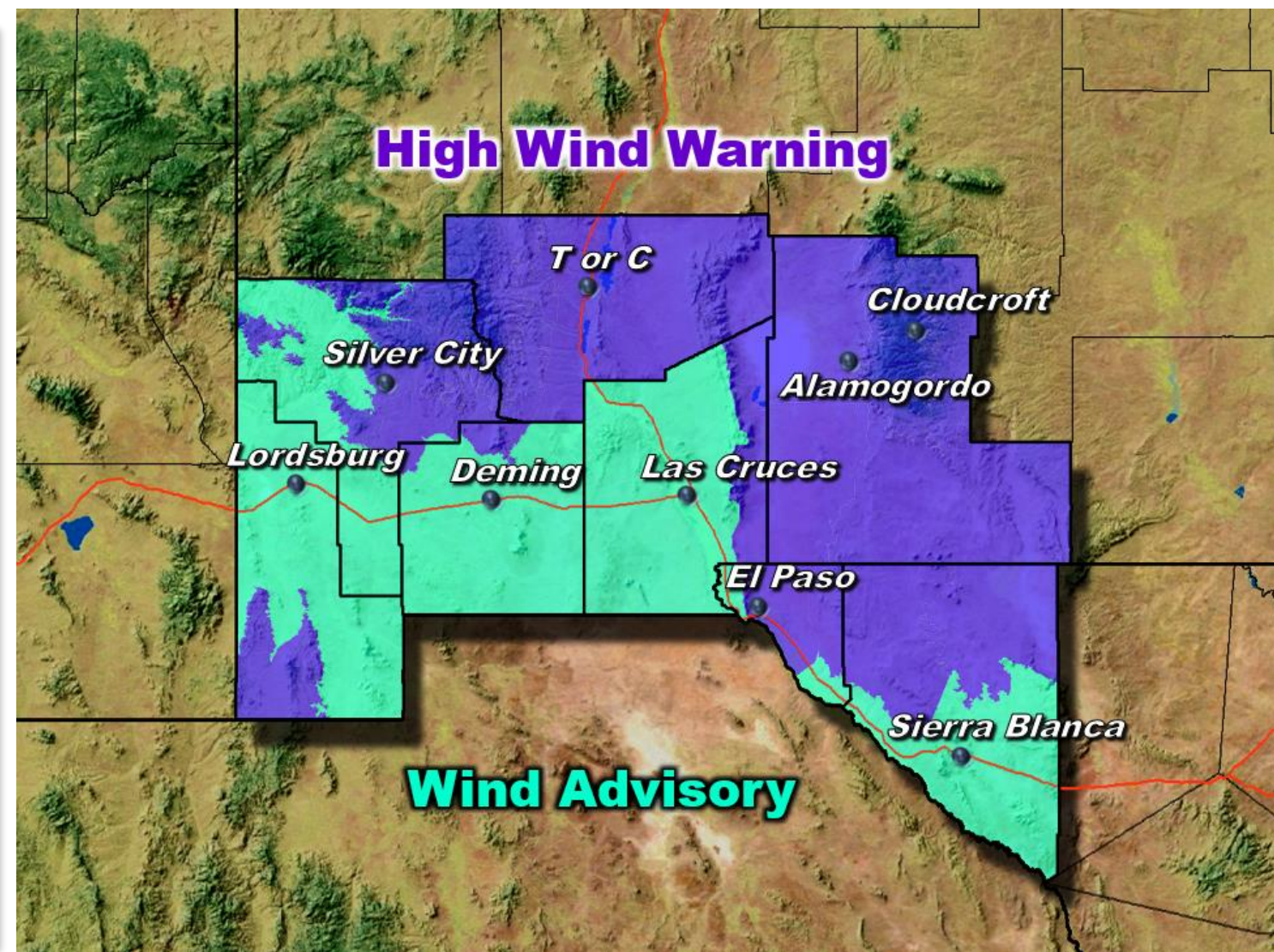




Advisories/Warning for Tuesday

Key Messages:

- Wind Advisory for most of the western lowlands through early Tuesday evening; southwest winds 25-35 mph with gusts 50 mph
- High Wind Warning for higher elevations and areas along east slopes of mountains through early Tuesday evening; southwest winds 30-40 mph with gusts to 70 mph.
- Patchy blowing dust possible, but only minor reductions to visibility expected.





Summary Overview

- **Strong, gusty winds this afternoon and again on Tuesday.**
- Some areas such as the lowlands will likely see winds dissipating this evening, before redeveloping Tuesday afternoon.
- Other areas such as the mountains and along east slopes of terrain, will see strong winds continue overnight into Tuesday.
- **Blowing dust this afternoon, possibly dense at times. Motorists use caution.**
- Patchy blowing dust on Tuesday but few if any reductions to visibility expected.



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