



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Apr. 22, 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) on Apr. 22, 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.

###

NMDOT
Mobility for everyone

Ami R Evans, District-1 PIO | Ami.Evans@state.nm.us | 575 640 5981



Windy, Dry and Dusty Conditions Today

National Weather Service El Paso TX / Santa Teresa NM

Issued: 8:00 AM Friday, April 22, 2022

No Updates Planned Unless Significant Changes Occur

KEY POINTS

- Very strong winds of 40 to 50 mph will occur by early afternoon with wind gusts to 60 mph for much of southwest and South-Central New Mexico. The very strong winds will continue well past sunset.
- For the rest of the area west to southwest winds will be increasing to 25 to 35 mph with gusts over 45 mph by early this afternoon.
- Blowing dust will affect the usual areas of South-Central New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- Critical fire weather conditions continue.

AREAS IMPACTED - See Graphics Below

- **Strongest sustained winds of 40 to 50 mph** - Hidalgo, Grant, Luna, Sierra and northern Dona Ana and northern Otero Counties (including the Sacramento Mountains)
- **Strong sustained winds of 25 to 35 mph** - El Paso, Hudspeth and southern parts of Doña Ana and Otero Counties
- **Blowing Dust** - El Paso, Luna, southern Doña Ana, and southwest Otero County
- **Critical Fire Weather** - All areas of southwest and south central New Mexico and far west Texas

CONFIDENCE AND DETAILS

An approaching upper level storm system will combine with a strong area of low pressure over eastern Colorado to give us very strong winds this afternoon and evening. Winds will begin to increase by late morning and should be the strongest through the late afternoon and early evening hours. The strong winds will continue well past sunset, but should finally slow down early Saturday morning. Along with the very strong winds, we will see very dry conditions leading to critical fire weather conditions and we will see areas of blowing dust from Deming to Las Cruces into the El Paso metro area this afternoon.

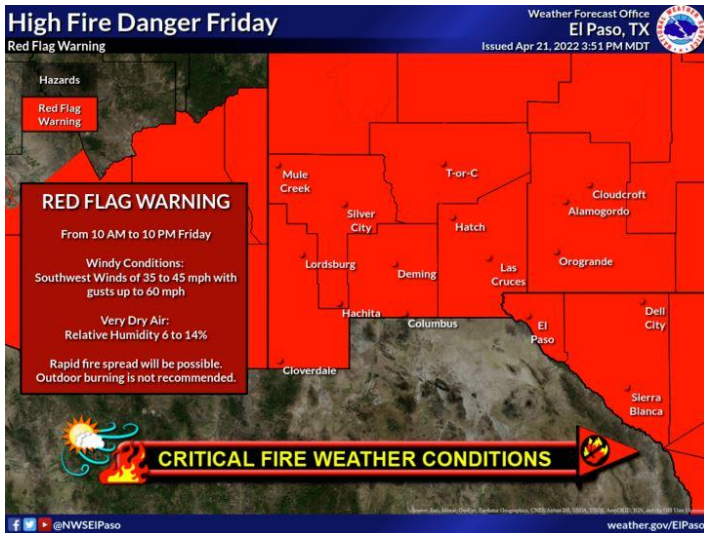
Winds - Winds will be increasing out of the west-southwest to 40 to 50 mph with gusts to 60 mph by late morning/early afternoon for much of South-Central New Mexico. We will see winds of 25 to 35 mph with gusts to 45 mph across the rest of the area. **Confidence in this forecast is High.**

Dust - Blowing dust is expected to start affecting the region in the early to mid afternoon hours when visibilities could be reduced to less than a half mile at times, especially over Luna, El Paso, southern Dona Ana, and southern Otero counties. **Confidence for this forecast is Moderate.**

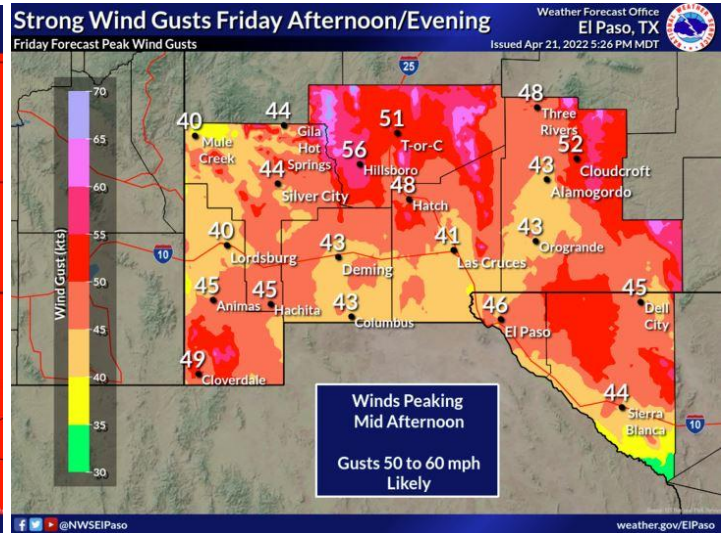
Fire Weather - We will see critical fire weather conditions for very low relative humidities and very strong winds across the entire area this afternoon. Min RH's will be from 6 to 15% and we will see southwest winds of at least 25 to 35 mph with stronger gusts. Any fires that do get started today, will quickly spread. **Confidence in this forecast is High.**

FORECAST GRAPHICS

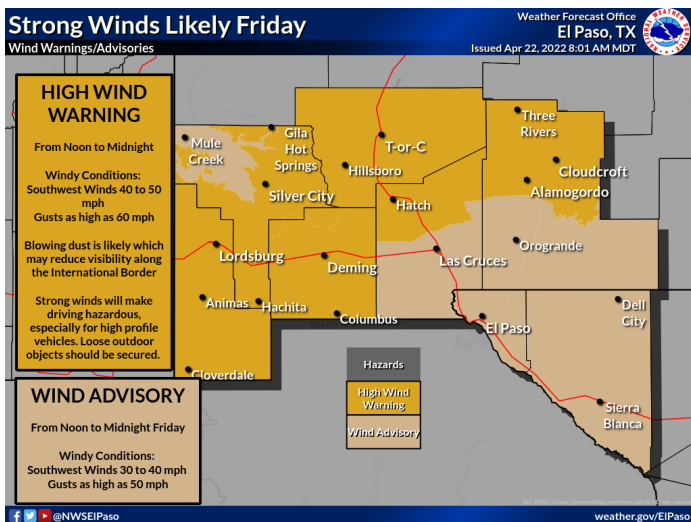
Red Flag Warning



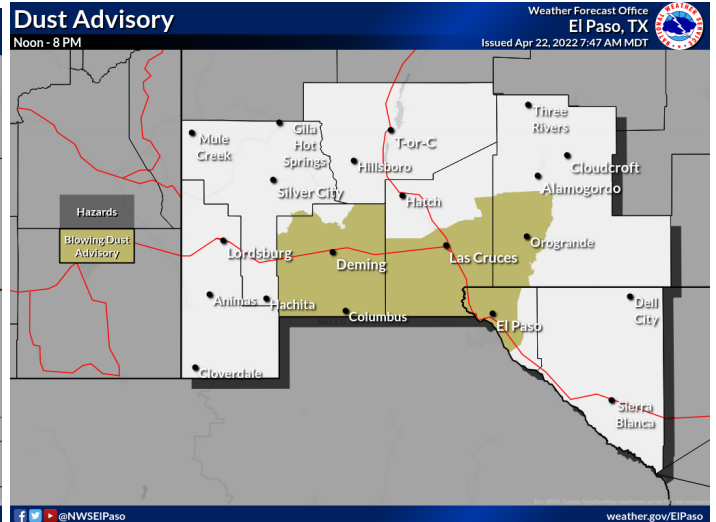
Max Wind Gusts



High Wind Warning/Advisories



Blowing Dust Advisories



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 sr-epz.leadership@noaa.gov