

JUST A DROP IN THE BUCKET

By Mark Shafer

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Residents of Ada awoke to an unusual sight on Thursday morning – rain. As springtime thunderstorms rolled across Oklahoma, some areas of the state picked up more than an inch of rain. But like most thunderstorms, there were those who got the rain and many who did not.

As of Thursday morning, more rain was still falling across north central Oklahoma, but most of the state received little relief from the drought. Rainfall was heaviest from south central Oklahoma to east central Oklahoma. Twenty-four-hour rainfall totals from the Oklahoma Mesonet showed Centrahoma leading the pack with 2.10 inches. Other sites topping out over an inch included:

Mesonet Station	24-hour Total	County
Centrahoma	2.10	Coal
McAlester	1.63	Pittsburg
Stuart	1.55	Pittsburg
Newport	1.55	Carter
Talihina	1.51	Leflore
Stigler	1.49	Haskell
Ringling	1.25	Jefferson
Fittstown	1.24	Pontotoc
Sulphur	1.20	Murray
Eufaula	1.19	McIntosh
Calvin	1.11	Hughes
Vanoss	1.09	Pontotoc
Tishomingo	1.02	Johnston

Meanwhile, places in southwest Oklahoma that had gone five months without a day topping 0.10 inch continued their long dry streak. Hollis reported no measurable rainfall and Altus only picked up a scant 0.02 inch. Generally, areas north and west of I-44 received less than a quarter-inch of rain – if any.

The Drought Monitor (<http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>) continues to show just how bad conditions are across Oklahoma. Deteriorating conditions pushed the last remnants of northwest Oklahoma into the D2 – Severe Drought – designation. This makes the entire state classified as D2 or greater, with eastern Oklahoma receiving the top D4 – Exceptional Drought – designation. D4 droughts are expected to occur about once every 50 years, meaning portions of eastern Oklahoma are as dry as the historical droughts of the 1930s or 1950s.

So, while Oklahomans will eagerly take whatever rain Mother Nature can bring us, we still have a long way to go before we can say goodbye to the wildfires and drought.

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Attachments:

24-hour Mesonet rainfall map
Consecutive Days with less than 0.10" rainfall
Drought Monitor Map – March 7