



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Ricky Serna, Cabinet Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 26, 2024

High Winds and Travel Advisory Issued for Southwest New Mexico *Expect Strong Winds and Blowing Dust*

DEMING - The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) will be monitoring roadway conditions with local law enforcement over the next several days, travel advisories for high winds and blowing dust have been issued. Roadway advisories will be posted on www.nmroads.com, or by calling 511.

Advisories and Weather Forecasts

- Monday, February 26, 2024, High wind advisories were issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) (impacts attached from NWS with Press Release). Southwest winds of 20 to 30 mph with gusts up to 40 mph.
- Tuesday, February 27, 2024, the NWS is forecasting very strong winds from 30 to 40 mph and gusts up to 55 mph. The I-10 corridor could see low visibilities from blowing dust.
- Wednesday, February 28, 2024, quiet weather expected for Wednesday and Thursday with increased chances for lowland rain and high mountain snow showers. Mountain snow could create slick roadways.

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. 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 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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Weather Hazards Outlook

El Paso Area NWS Forecast Office



Issued:	Effective:	Next Issuance:
Monday AM, February 26, 2024	February 26 – March 3, 2024	Thursday AM, February 29, 2024

Hazards Matrix – February 26 – March 3, 2024

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
EL PASO	WINDY BDUST	VERY WINDY BDUST		CHC RA			WINDY BDUST
HUDSPETH	WINDY BDUST	VERY WINDY BDUST		CHC RA			WINDY BDUST
DOÑA ANA	WINDY BDUST	VERY WINDY BDUST		CHC RA			WINDY BDUST
LUNA	WINDY BDUST	VERY WINDY BDUST		CHC RA			WINDY BDUST
OTERO Lowlands	WINDY BDUST	VERY WINDY BDUST		CHC RA			WINDY BDUST
OTERO Mountains	WINDY	VERY WINDY CHC SN		CHC RA/SN			WINDY
SIERRA	WINDY	VERY WINDY SLGT RA		CHC RA			WINDY
GILA/BLACK RANGE	WINDY	VERY WINDY CHC RA		CHC RA/SN			WINDY BDUST
HIDALGO & S. GRANT	WINDY	VERY WINDY BDUST		CHC RA			WINDY BDUST
Key:	No Hazard	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme	
	CHC=chance/ SLGT=slight chance/RA=rain/SN=snow/BDUST=BLOWING DUST						

*****Windy conditions areawide today and tomorrow with areas blowing dust*****

*****Chance for precipitation on Thursday*****

*****More wind and possibly dust for next Sunday*****

Forecast Overview

It must be getting close to Spring time as we have several days of windy conditions this week. For today and Tuesday, an approaching upper-level storm system will give us windy to very windy conditions both afternoons. The strongest winds and likely areas of blowing dust will occur on Tuesday afternoon. By Wednesday night and into Thursday, we will see a chance for lowland rain and high mountain snow showers. Then Friday and Saturday will be quiet with warming temperatures, before another upper-level storm system brings us more winds and possibly some blowing dust next Sunday.

Today and Tonight

WEATHER	Partly to mostly cloudy (mainly high clouds) with near record high temperatures. Southwest winds of 20 to 30 mph with gusts to 40 mph.
HAZARDS	Localized blowing dust may be possible
IMPACTS	Brief reduction in visibilities will be possible in areas of localized blowing dust.

Tuesday

WEATHER	Mostly sunny with warm temperatures. Winds will be strong at 30-40 mph with gusts up to 55 mph. Strongest winds will be over area mountains and on the east slopes of area mountains. Areas of blowing dust in the lowlands.
HAZARDS	Strong winds and blowing dust.
IMPACTS	Strong winds could damage trees and cause isolated power lines outages. Blowing dusty will reduce visibilities leading to hazardous driving conditions.

Wednesday through Saturday

WEATHER	Quiet weather except for Wednesday into Thursday, with increased chances for lowland rain and high mountain snow showers.
HAZARDS	Rain and high mountain snow showers look light. Highest rain totals of around 0.25, and only an inch or two of snow above 7,500 feet.
IMPACTS	The lowland rain and high mountain snows could produce some slick roadways.

Sunday

WEATHER	Mostly sunny with seasonal temperatures. Windy conditions in the afternoon with areas of blowing dust possible.
HAZARDS	Localized blowing dust may be possible
IMPACTS	Brief reduction in visibilities will be possible in areas of localized blowing dust.

Weather Graphics Links: *click county below (Satellite, Radar, Charts, Outlooks, etc.)*

[El Paso](#)

[Hudspeth](#)

[Doña Ana](#)

[Otero](#)

[Sierra](#)

[Luna](#)

[Grant](#)

[Hidalgo](#)

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This outlook is intended for government subscribers and is NOT FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION. Contact this office if you have any questions, or for the latest specific weather information. Thanks!

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For administrative questions relating to this product please e-mail James.Barham@noaa.gov