

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PRESS RELEASE

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Committee Declares March Snowfall Set Texas State Record

Heavy snow accompanied by strong winds and blizzard conditions, occurred between the mornings of March 27 and March 28, 2009 across the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles. The most snowfall recorded in the Texas Panhandle occurred in Follett, Texas where a record-setting 25.0 inches of snow fell between 8 a.m. March 27 and 8 a.m. March 28. This surpasses the previous record 24-hour snowfall for the state of Texas which was 24.0 inches and occurred in Plainview, Texas on February 4, 1956.

This new state record was declared by the State Climate Extremes Committee consisting of climate experts from the National Weather Service forecast office in Amarillo, National Weather Service Southern Region Headquarters, the State Climatologist for the State of Texas, and climatologists from NOAA's National Climatic Data Center and the Southern Regional Climate Center. After an in-depth evaluation of the observation, it was unanimously recommended that the 25.0 inches at Follett be recognized as a new 24-hour snowfall record for the state of Texas. This recommendation was accepted by Thomas R. Karl, Director of NOAA's National Climatic Data Center, thereby officially establishing the new state record.

In addition, several observations in Northwestern Oklahoma are being evaluated as potentially setting a new 24-hour record snowfall amount for the state of Oklahoma. The standing Oklahoma record is 23.0 inches recorded at Buffalo on February 21, 1971. A separate State Climate Extremes Committee for Oklahoma will convene to determine whether a new record was established there. Information will be provided once a decision has been reached.

For interviews or more information, contact the Amarillo NWS at 806-335-1421. You may also contact the Texas State Climatologist, John Nielsen-Gammon, at 979-862-2248.

