

South Texas Weather Modification Association

Flight Activity Report

May 16th, 2009

Synoptic conditions:

Deep upper level trough extended from southwest of Baja into west Texas. Weak ridging was located just to the east of south Texas in the upper levels. In the mid levels, a trough was located over central and southern Texas. As the day continued, a cold front moved from central to southern Texas.

Mesoscale Discussion:

An outflow boundary was located across the Hill Country during the early morning hours, moving southward. Convection began to fire during the morning hours along and just ahead of the boundary. A moist and unstable atmosphere allowed for convection to form across the southern portions of the target area. Convection started to form in Medina, Live Oak, and Atascosa counties. Convection near Pleasanton was checked out first but was still weak. Two planes were launched in order to check out convection in the northern and southern portions of the target area. Pilots seeding convection in both areas of the target area reported good inflow and excellent bases. As the missions progressed, convection began to form everywhere and gradually the convection along the northern portions of the target area merged into a linear system. After some time, the pilots began to report very poor visibility and loss of inflow. At this point, pilots returned to base due to deteriorating seeding conditions.

Operational Notes:

Communication was a problem at times during the mission with both pilots but this did not affect operations. 178M did not have a flight track due to telemetry problems.

Warnings:

None.

The pyrotechnics were 40g flares. 29 flares were used for seeding in Medina (8), Live Oak (7), San Patricio (6), Bee (6) and Karnes (2) counties, totaling 1160g of AgI.