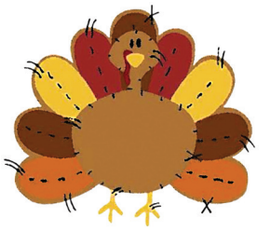
Weather 101

By: “Doppler” Dave Speelman
Chief Meteorologist



Thanksgiving Weather in El Paso, Texas: A Look Back at the City’s Holiday Weather Through the Years

Thanksgiving in El Paso, Texas, is often a pleasant time of year, with comfortable afternoon temperatures, cool mornings and plenty of sunshine. Unlike many parts of the country, where Thanksgiving can bring snowstorms, freezing rain and bitterly cold temperatures, the Borderland usually enjoys relatively mild late-November weather.

What is Thanksgiving weather normally like in El Paso?

Thanksgiving falls on the fourth Thursday of November, meaning the date changes each year between November 22 and November 28.

Based on the National Weather Service’s historical Thanksgiving climatology, El Paso’s average Thanksgiving temperature is:

Typical Thanksgiving temperatures
62°F

Average afternoon high
37°F

Although November is generally considered the beginning of the cooler season in the Borderland, Thanksgiving has occasionally felt more like an early fall afternoon.

The El Paso National Weather Service lists 79 degrees on November 25, 1965, as El Paso’s highest Thanksgiving Day temperature on record.

Other notably warm Thanksgiving temperatures include:

- 76 degrees on November 25, 1909.
- 75 degrees on November 29, 1894.
- 74 degrees on November 23, 1950.
- 73 degrees on November 24, 1892.

While warm afternoons are common, El Paso has also experienced some surprisingly cold Thanksgivings.

The coldest Thanksgiving afternoon in the historical record occurred on November 25, 1982, when the temperature reached only 41 degrees.

Other notably cold Thanksgiving highs include:

- 43 degrees on November 27, 1952.
- 44 degrees on November 22, 1979.
- 45 degrees on November 29, 1934.
- 46 degrees on November 28, 1918.

Rain and snow have occasionally made Thanksgiving memorable

Rain is not particularly common on Thanksgiving in El Paso, but historical records show that precipitation has occasionally arrived during the holiday.

The wettest Thanksgiving Day in the National Weather Service’s historical record occurred on November 25, 1953, when 0.21 inches of rain fell.

Other notable Thanksgiving rainfall totals include:

- 0.20 inches on November 27, 1969.
- 0.19 inches on November 23, 1972.
- 0.18 inches on November 22, 2007.
- 0.17 inches on November 27, 2008.

Thanksgiving snow in 1969

On November 27, 1969, El Paso received 1.90 inches of snow, making it the snowiest Thanksgiving Day in the official historical record.

There was also a trace of snowfall on November 22, 2007.

These events are relatively unusual, but they demonstrate that Thanksgiving weather in El Paso is not always sunny and mild.

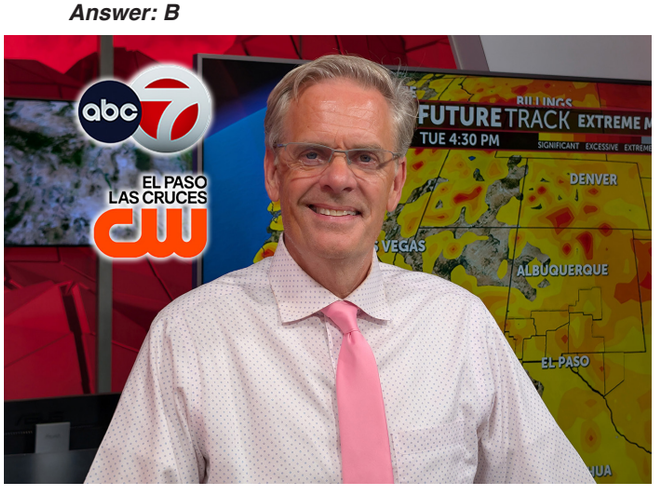
Weather Trivia:

What unusual weather event occurred in El Paso on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1969?

A. Temperatures reached a record 80 degrees.
B. El Paso received 1.90 inches of snow.
C. A tornado touched down near downtown.
D. Temperatures dropped to 5 degrees.

Answer: B





“Doppler” Dave Speelman is the chief meteorologist at KVIATV in El Paso. You can watch his forecasts at 4, 5, 6 and 10 pm on ABC-7 (channel 6 cable). If you would like Doppler Dave to address (explain) any weather issues you can email him at Dopplerdave@kvia.com.