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# Mesoscale Discussion 429

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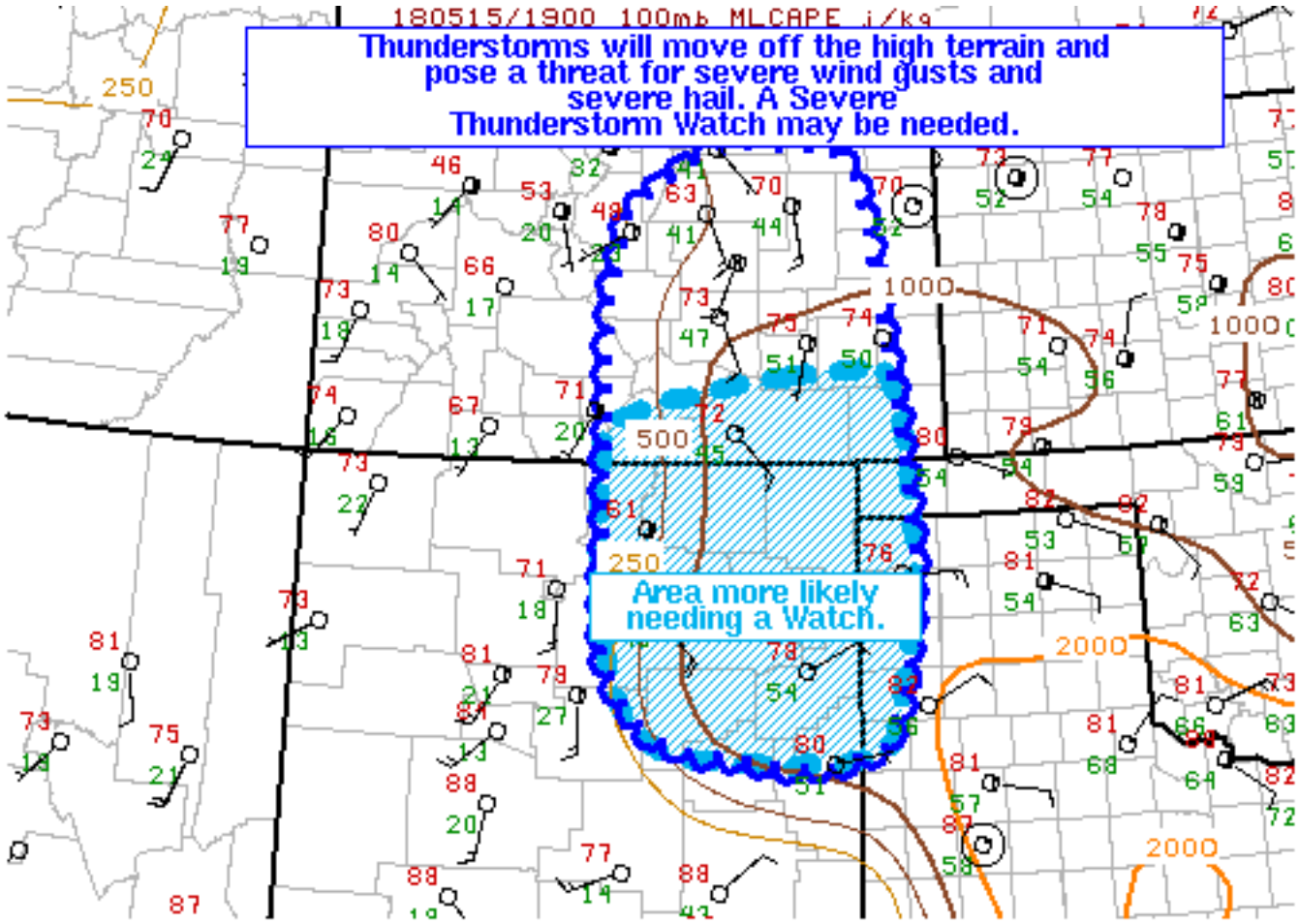


SPC MCD #0429

Mesoscale Discussion 0429
NWS Storm Prediction Center Norman OK
0232 PM CDT Tue May 15 2018

Areas affected...Portions of eastern Colorado...northeast New Mexico...far western OK panhandle...and far northwest Texas panhandle

Concerning...Severe potential...Watch possible

Valid 151932Z - 152130Z

Probability of Watch Issuance...60 percent

SUMMARY...Thunderstorms will move off the high terrain and pose a threat for severe wind gusts and hail this afternoon. A Severe Thunderstorm Watch may be needed, particularly over the southern portion of the area.

DISCUSSION...Strong heating over the Mountains has contributed to scattered thunderstorm development, most concentrated currently over

the southern Rockies. Strong heating also is occurring over the Colorado and New Mexico High Plains, and has generated very steep low-level lapse rates over the entire area. Although surface dewpoints are in the low-to-mid 40s, mean boundary-layer mixing ratios are sufficient for generating MLCAPE ranging from 250 J/kg over the Colorado High Plains to over 1000 J/kg over the New Mexico High Plains. Furthermore, an easterly fetch of higher moisture has been flowing persistently toward the Raton Mesa area and southward, where dewpoints should reach the low 50s by late afternoon. The higher moisture content, combined with higher effective bulk shear of 35-45 kt, is creating higher confidence in the need for a Severe Thunderstorm Watch over the southern portion of the area. Scattered discrete supercells are expected to evolve initially, but because numerous storms are expected, and cold pools should be at least moderately strong, storm consolidation into a mixed multicell/supercell cluster is expected by late afternoon. The corridor of instability within the easterly fetch is sufficient and widespread enough to favor the maintenance of the cluster/MCS through the early evening.

..Coniglio/Grams.. 05/15/2018

...Please see www.spc.noaa.gov for graphic product...

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