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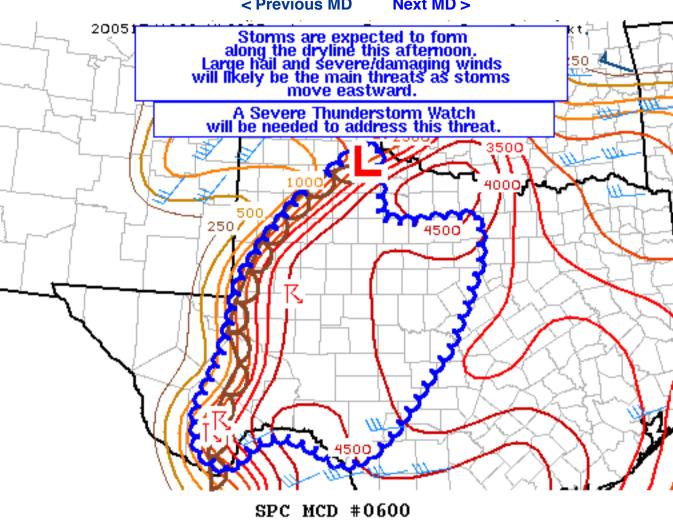
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Mesoscale Discussion 600

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Mesoscale Discussion 0600 NWS Storm Prediction Center Norman OK 0230 PM CDT Fri May 15 2020

Areas affected...Portions of west and central TX

Concerning...Severe potential...Severe Thunderstorm Watch likely

Valid 151930Z - 152130Z

Probability of Watch Issuance...95 percent

SUMMARY...Storms are expected to develop along the dryline this afternoon. Large hail and severe/damaging winds should be the main threats as storms move eastward. A Severe Thunderstorm Watch will be needed to address this threat.

DISCUSSION...Storms have formed early this afternoon across the higher terrain of Brewster County in the TX Big Bend as a subtle southern-stream shortwave trough moves eastward over this region. At the surface, a dryline extends southwestward from a weak surface low near CDS across much of west TX. Cu is beginning to become agitated along/east of this boundary this afternoon as temperatures continue to increase into the mid/upper 80s and lower 90s and convective inhibition erodes. Low-level convergence along the dryline will likely become sufficient to lift multiple parcels to their LFCs by 20-22Z (3-5 PM CDT), and additional storms will likely form along the length of the dryline across west TX in this time frame.

Rich low-level moisture and steep mid-level lapse rates around 8-8.5 C/km are supporting very strong to extreme instability east of the dryline (MLCAPE 2500-4500 J/kg). Mid-level flow may be slightly enhanced with southward extent across the warm sector in association with the previously mentioned low-amplitude shortwave trough. Even so, effective bulk shear will likely remain limited to 25-30 kt or less. Initial development may pose an isolated large hail threat owing to the very favorable thermodynamic environment. Efficient downdraft accelerations owing to a well-mixed boundary layer will likely support scattered to numerous severe winds as storms congeal into multiple clusters/bows and spread eastward this evening. Damaging winds should become the main threat with time. A Severe Thunderstorm Watch will be needed across parts of west/central TX in the next 1-2 hours (by 21Z/4 PM CDT).

- ..Gleason/Dial.. 05/15/2020
- ...Please see www.spc.noaa.gov for graphic product...

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