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Mesoscale Discussion 638

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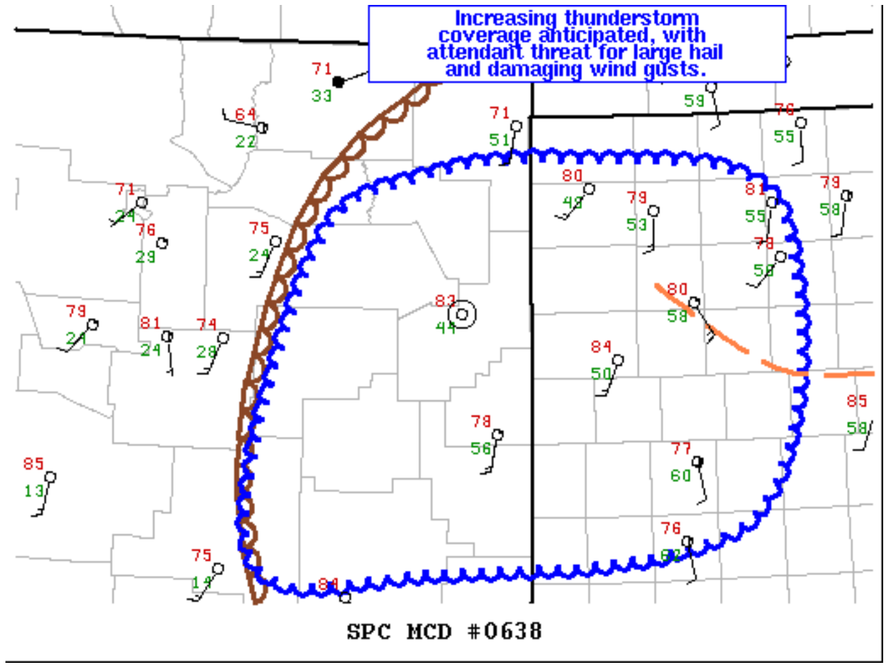

Mesoscale Discussion 0638
NWS Storm Prediction Center Norman OK
0316 PM CDT Sun May 16 2021

Areas affected...Eastern NM...Western/Central TX Panhandle...TX South Plains

Concerning...Severe potential...Watch likely

Valid 162016Z - 162215Z

Probability of Watch Issuance...80 percent

SUMMARY...Increasing thunderstorm coverage anticipated, with an attendant threat for large hail and damaging wind gusts. A Severe Thunderstorm Watch will likely be needed to cover this threat.

DISCUSSION...Visible satellite imagery shows cumulus continuing to deepen along the dryline across central NM. Mesoanalysis estimates that convective inhibition has now eroded downstream across much of east-central NM, and the expectation is for the deepening to continue, with eventual convective initiation. This activity, along with the storms developing across far northeast NM and southeast CO (discussed in MCD 636), is expected to move eastward over time into the more moist and unstable air mass over the TX Panhandle. Additionally, cumulus has started to build in the vicinity of a remnant outflow boundary which stretches from near DHT southeastward to north of CDS. 19Z AMA sounding sampled a weakly capped environment near this boundary, and there is at least some potential for thunderstorm development along this boundary as well.

Overall expectation is for thunderstorm coverage to gradually increase over the next few hours. The environment is weakly sheared, but steep low/mid-level lapse rates coupled favorable low-level moisture will still result in enough buoyancy for strong to severe storms. Hail is possible with initial, more cellular development and as a result of updraft intensification due to cell mergers. High storm bases and a deeply mixed boundary layer will also promote strong outflow. Some amalgamation of this outflow is possible later this evening.

..Mosier/Guyer.. 05/16/2021

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

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