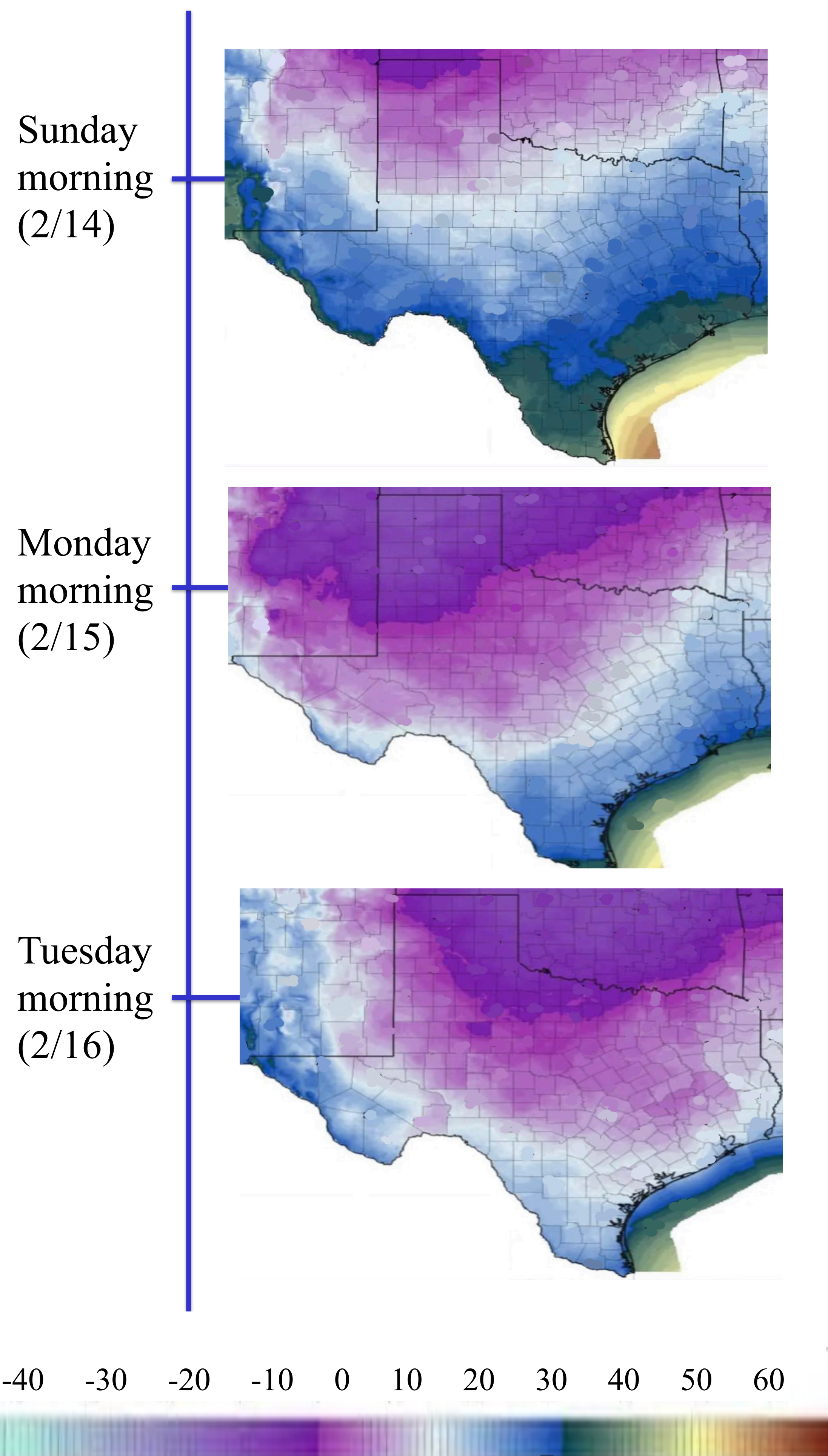




Texas Water Crisis

A Timeline of the Storm From (2/14-2/16)



Images from <https://texasstormchasers.com/2021/02/12/historic-cold-and-multiple-winter-storms-incoming-to-texas/>

The Effects on Texas

- More than 800 public water systems serving 162 of the state's 254 counties had been disrupted as of Thursday

- This affected 13.1 million people, according to a spokeswoman for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



- In Harris County, more than one million people have been affected by local water systems that have either issued notices to boil water so it is safe to drink or that cannot deliver water at all, according to Brian Murray, a spokesman for the county emergency management agency

- Houston, the nation's fourth-largest city, is included in this county

- For Texans who do have water, millions are being told to boil it before consuming in cities across the state

- These cities include: Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Fort Worth, Arlington, Galveston and Corpus Christi

- Reduced water pressure is the root of the problem for many of these infrastructure problems.

- Reduced water is caused by pump failures and increased demand from burst pipes and millions of people dripping their faucets for days on end

- Reduced water pressure can lead to harmful bacteria growing in the water; other times, power outages have prevented treatment centers from properly treating water

- The South Austin Medical Center's incident command team was distributing bottles and jugs of water to patients and employees for drinking and hand washing



- The hospital was also losing heat because water feeds the facility's boiler.

- In addition to these measures, the hospital was working to get water trucks and portable toilets, and was canceling all non-emergency procedures.

- "Through our national partner, HCA Healthcare, we are able to secure and source food, linens, medication and supplies needed to care for and serve our patients." (O'Kane, 2021)

Solutions

- Residents that were fortunate enough to have water needed to boil it before it was consumed.

- Residents that had no water needed to find an open store that had bottled water left, or gather snow and ice from outside to be melted

- Hospitals worked together to locate, distribute and share resources when available. And when not available moving patients to the nearest facility with water was arranged.

- Federal funding and resources was made available through an approved Major Disaster Declaration in Texas

- Once power was restored the used of rolling blackouts was put into effect in an effort to reestablish water pressure, and teams were sent out to repair pipes that had burst.



References

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