



# Weather Report

Collision of BNSF Eastbound Train S-LACLPC1-26K  
and BNSF Westbound Train Q-CHISBD6-27L

Panhandle, Texas

January 28, 2016

DCA16FR008

Weather Observation - The closest official weather reporting location to the accident site was from Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport (KAMA), located approximately 18 miles west-southwest in Amarillo, TX, at an elevation of 3,607 feet. The airport had an Automated Surface Observation System (ASOS) and reported the following conditions about the time of the accident:

Amarillo Weather at 0753 CDT, automated, wind from 280° at 5 knots, visibility unrestricted at 10 miles or more, sky clear below 12,000 feet, temperature 68° Fahrenheit(F), dew point temperature 57°, relative humidity 69%, and a sea level pressure 1020.4-millibars.

The winds began to veer to the northwest with the morning and increased in wind speed to 11 knots. No precipitation was reported during the 24-hour period prior to the accident or afterwards.

Astronomical Conditions – according to the United States Naval Observatory’s website for Panhandle, Carson County, TX, the beginning of civil twilight was at 0603 CDT, sunrise at 0633 CDT, with sunset at 2104 CDT, and the end of civil twilight at 2134 CDT. At the approximate time of the accident, the sun was 19° above the horizon at an azimuth of 75°. Based on the orientation of the track in Panhandle, TX, this would have had the sun almost directly in the eyes of the northeast bound train conductors vision.