

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY  
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT  
POLICY

Voluntary  Public

**Date:** 5/22/2017

**GAIN Report Number:** MX7504

## Mexico

**Post:** Monterrey ATO

### Laredo, Texas Port of Entry Hit by Tornado

**Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the News

**Approved By:**

Ann Murphy, ATO Director

**Prepared By:**

Eduardo Lozano, Ag Specialist

**Report Highlights:**

On March 21, 2017 a tornado hit Laredo, Texas affecting the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspection platform at the World Trade Bridge, also known as Bridge III. The Mexican Customs (SAT) inspection facility in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas Mexico was also affected. About thirty percent of all US agricultural exports in overland transport enters Mexico here. Trade transiting this Port of Entry (POE) was valued at over USD \$5 billion over the twelve months of 2016. Redirection of transported trade is underway using a POE about twenty miles away.

**General Information:**

This notice alerts exporters and other trade interests that the Sunday afternoon storm and a tornado damaged the Laredo, TX/Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas POE. While there was no loss of life this is a blow to the handling capacity of trade moving north and southbound through the Laredo-Nuevo Laredo POE. Fortunately, rail transport has not been disrupted. According to Global Trade Atlas (GTA), in 2016 US agricultural exports destined for Mexico and inspected at the border crossing at the Laredo, TX/Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas port of entry surpassed \$5 billion USD. This represented 30.64% of all US agricultural exports to Mexico. Until further notice, this commercial POE will be closed due to the storm damage. As a contingency plan, starting Monday May 22, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Mexico's customs authority (SAT) confirmed that they are redirecting all commercial vehicles to the Laredo, TX/Colombia, Nuevo Leon POE. According to GTA statistics, in 2016 the Colombia POE handled over USD \$2.2 billion (or 12.3% of the total USD \$18.1 billion in all US agricultural exports to Mexico). The Colombia POE was the second most-used land POE after Nuevo Laredo. Mexico's National Service of Health, Food Safety, and Food Quality (SENASICA) will assess the situation and is currently planning to send personnel from the Nuevo Laredo inspection office to support the redirected flow of trade inspection at Colombia. The Colombia POE is equipped with four verification and inspection points authorized for meat, meat products, dairy, grains, fruits and vegetables. Taking into account that Laredo and Colombia are the most important inland ports of entry for all land based trade, one could anticipate some delays due to the volume of commercial traffic converging on the Colombia POE. According to the Asociacion de Agentes Aduanales de Nuevo Laredo (Nuevo Laredo Association of Customs Agents), 40% of all international trade moving by land transport between the United States and Mexico was normally going through the now-damaged Laredo-Nuevo Laredo POE.

Note: Passenger traffic and exports by rail continue as normal through the Laredo/Nuevo Laredo POE.