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**(S.D.) - Western South Dakota welcomes weekend rains**

By: John Thayer Posted at: 04/16/2012 08:21 AM

**RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) -** Western South Dakota is welcoming some much-needed moisture.

The National Weather Service says rain fell throughout the region over the weekend after a record-breaking dry March. More than 1 1/2 inches was recorded in Rapid City.

Firefighters in the Black Hills are breathing a bit easier. Rapid City Fire Department Lt. Brent Long said the moisture will help slow the spread of any wildfires, and also give firefighters some time to do any needed work on equipment.

The weather in eastern South Dakota on Sunday included thunderstorms that brought rain and hail and also spawned funnel clouds. Some of them reportedly touched down but there were no immediate reports of damage.

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