

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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WEATHER BUREAU

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STORM DATA

JANUARY 1961

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ASHEVILLE: 1961

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

JANUARY 1961

PLACE	DATE	TIME	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
<u>ALABAMA</u> Statewide	24-26				0	0	5	5	Ice Storm
	All of state except the extreme southeast portion had glaze. Ice accumulation was generally light except moderate to locally heavy in the eastern counties. Property damage primarily to utility lines. Crop damage mainly to forests, pecan and fruit trees.								
Southern Counties	26	P.M.			0	0	4	4	Ice Storm
	All counties except Houston and Geneva had glaze. Total was light except moderate in portions of Dale, Henry and Barbour Counties. Property damage primarily to utility lines. Crop damage mainly to forests, pecan and fruit trees.								
<u>ALASKA</u> South Central Alaska	18-22		75	*125	0	0	4	0	Heavy rainstorm and related factors
	Warm, moisture-laden air, originating over the Pacific Ocean west of Southern California, continued to flow over south central Alaska during a 3-day period, bringing a rapid thaw and heavy rainfall to south central Alaska. The most affected areas included the Kenai Peninsula, upper Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound; but the unseasonable rainfall reached as far north as the lower Tanana Valley.								
	Most of the damages resulted from a combination of heavy rainfall and thawing temperatures. Seward's rainfall set a new record for January. Over one-half of the month's total, or 6.13 in., fell in the 4-day period from Jan. 18 to 21, inclusive, with 3.34 in. falling on the 21st. Rainfall for the 3-day period Jan. 19-21, inclusive, totaled about 3 in. over the upper Cook Inlet area. Snow cover on Jan. 19 at Seward averaged about 10 in. and a heavy blanket of snow extended across the Portage Pass area into the Girdwood area where the lower levels reported 5 in. of snow cover containing a high water content. Almost 2 in. of rainfall on Jan. 18-19 resulted in a rapid disappearance of snow cover from the Girdwood area; but slightly more than 6 in. of rain fell on the following 3 days (Jan. 20-22) to create serious flooding in local streams. Snow slides originating along the slopes, where snow depths were much greater, seriously hampered highway and railroad traffic in the Girdwood-Portage area. Surface snow cover was removed to an elevation of about 1200 feet with slide action removing vast quantities of snow from higher elevations. Farther to the southward the Anchor River experienced a severe ice gorge as ice thawed lodges in the upper valley and was carried by the swollen stream to the Anchor Point area. Two secondary bridges in the Girdwood area were washed away by heavy flood waters. Shoulders of paved highways gave way and about 1000 ft. of paved road bed was removed as a result of excessive surface runoff.								
	Fortunately, snow cover over the upper Cook Inlet area, including Anchorage and the Hinganusk Valley -- had been reduced by thawing to 1 in. or less prior to the beginning of the heavy rainfall period. With heavier snow cover flooding conditions would have reached more serious proportions. Heavy runoff did result in flooded basements in the eastern portions of the greater Anchorage area. Plugged storm drains resulted in considerable accumulations of surface water in local areas and at least one water main gave way under pressure to produce considerable local flooding.								
	In addition to the flood and slide damage some wind damages occurred mostly in the pass areas of the upper Kenai Peninsula. Also, during the earlier portion of the rainfall period, ice formation on road surfaces resulted in extremely hazardous driving conditions. In spite of above-freezing air temperatures the ground surface -- and, particularly, paved surfaces -- were well below freezing causing the first rainfall to freeze on pavements, some of which were already partly covered by a shallow layer of well-packed snow cover. Traffic all along the highway from the Chugiak area to Anchorage were particularly hazardous during Jan. 19-20.								
	Total damages from the complex storm factors probably reached a total of \$25,000, including costs of slide removal, damages to highways, railroad facilities, residential and business structures; and losses from disruption of commercial and winter sports activities.								
<u>ARIZONA</u>			None reported						
<u>ARKANSAS</u>			None Reported						
<u>CALIFORNIA</u> Coastlines of Orange and Ventura Counties	14-16	High tide			0	0	5	0	Wind
	Heavy surf, combined with high tides, damaged homes, roadways, and commercial property along beach. The greatest damage was concentrated in the Ventura and Surfside areas.								
<u>COLORADO</u>			None Reported						
<u>CONNECTICUT</u> Statewide	19-20	Evening of 19th through early PM of 20th			0	0	6	0	Blizzard
	Coming within a short time of the 4 to 13 inch snowfall of the 15-16th, this severe blizzard closed all schools, many industrial plants and most offices. Falls of 10 to 15 inches were recorded over most of Connecticut except 15-25 inches over the higher terrain in the Litchfield Hills. Transportation was disrupted by 15 foot drifts over the northern sections.								
<u>DELAWARE</u>			No report received by printing deadline.						
<u>FLORIDA</u>			None reported						
<u>GEORGIA</u> Hleckley County	19	3:15 p.	1 1/2	100	0	0	2	0	Tornado
	Small tornado touched ground briefly in rural Hleckley County about 8 miles southeast of Cochran. Trees were uprooted and several small farm buildings were destroyed. Storm moved eastward.								
Most of State	25-26				?	5	0	0	Glaze and Sleet
	Freezing rain began in southern part of State on the 25th and spread northward to cover most of State by the morning of the 26th. All State roads in the northern one-half of State were officially closed by State Patrol early on the 26th. Most schools and many industrial plants and businesses were also closed in this area on the 26th and 27th. Heaviest damage and discomfort occurred in the West Central and Central sections where glazing was heaviest. There was extensive damage to trees, power and telephone lines in these sections, with utility services interrupted for many entire communities. More sleet and less freezing rain in northern sections resulted in less damage but brought most activities to a standstill. The only areas not effected by this storm were the extreme southern border counties, and for many sections it was the worst ice storm since 1935. Four people died in Georgia from automobile accidents attributed to icy roads and numerous persons were injured by falls.								
<u>HAWAII</u>			None reported						
<u>IDARO</u> Northern Counties	1 to 3						4		Rime ice
	Heavy fog over much of area from Grangeville to Canadian border with extremely heavy deposits of rime ice on power and phone lines. Outages were more numerous and widespread than for many years. Ice deposits up to 8 inches in diameter were reported.								
Canyon & Ada Counties	22 & 23				1	3	3		Heavy fog
	Two persons were injured as a car ran off the highway in fog near Parma the evening of the 22nd. One man was killed and another seriously injured in a head-on collision west of Boise the evening of the 23rd.								
<u>ILLINOIS</u>			None Reported						
<u>INDIANA</u>			None reported						
<u>IOWA</u>			None Reported						
<u>KANSAS</u>			None Reported						
<u>KENTUCKY</u>			None reported						
<u>LOUISIANA</u>			None reported						

See reference notes at end of table.

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

JANUARY 1961

PLACE	DATE	TIME	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
<u>MAINE</u> Coastal	1-2	Early a. to early a.	-	-	0	0	4	0	Glass, snow
Coastal	20	Early morning to late evening	-	-	1	0	5	0	Blizzard
<u>MARYLAND</u>	No report received by printing deadline.								
<u>MASSACHUSETTS</u> Entire state	1	Morning to evening	-	-	0	0	4	0	Rain, glass, snow
Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden and Worcester Counties	15-16	Evening to Evening	-	-	0	0	4	0	Heavy snow
Central Coast, Natick and Walpole	16	Morning	-	-	0	-	-	-	Glass
Entire state	19-20	Evening to Evening	-	-	2	0	6	0	Severe Blizzard and Tidal Flooding
<u>MICHIGAN</u>	None reported								
<u>MINNESOTA</u>	None reported								
<u>MISSISSIPPI</u>	None reported								
<u>MISSOURI</u>	None reported								
<u>MONTANA</u> Missoula, Mineral, Sanders, and Lincoln Counties	5-6	Evening	160	*50-60	0	0	4	0	Freezing Rain
Glacier, Ponders, Teton, and Toole Counties	15-16	Evening	100	*100	0	0	5	0	High Wind
<u>NEBRASKA</u>	None reported								
<u>NEVADA</u>	None reported								
<u>NEW HAMPSHIRE</u> Southern and South-eastern Sections	1	Morning to Evening	-	-	0	0	4	0	Glass
Southern and South-eastern Sections	20	Early morning to Evening	-	-	0	0	4	0	Blizzard
<u>NEW JERSEY</u> Entire State	19-20	Thursday morning to Friday afternoon	-	-	-	-	1	5	Heavy snow and strong winds
<u>NEW MEXICO</u>	None reported								
<u>NEW YORK</u> Central and northern sections and some sections of western New York	1-2							5	Heavy snow
Southeastern counties, including New York City metropolitan area and Long Island.	19-20							6	Heavy snow, high winds

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					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
NEW YORK (Cont'd)									
Statewide	20-30				3		6		Severe cold
	Severe cold weather with temperatures many degrees below zero for extended periods. Watertown reported 62 hours of consecutive sub-zero temperature. Some temperatures as much as 30 or more below zero. At least 3 deaths resulting from freezing to death in the open. Coldest weather in some sections in memory and in many sections for the past 20 to 40 years.								
NORTH CAROLINA									
Mountain Section	19	Evening			1	Unk	4	0	Snow, Ice
	Hazardous driving conditions resulted in many minor accidents, with one fatality reported. Schools closed several counties.								
Most of State	21	Day & following night			8	Unk	5	0	Snow, Glaze, Cold
	Snow, sleet and freezing rain over greater part of State, followed by coldest weather of winter. Many auto accidents due to icy streets and highways, and many fires caused by overtaxed heating systems. One person died from exposure, one from auto accident, six in fires. Six additional deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning partly attributable to weather. Schools closed one or more days over most of State.								
Most of State	26	Morning			1	Unk	5	0	Snow, Sleet, Glaze
	Practically entire State covered with ice during early morning hours. One person killed in auto accident, numerous injuries. Power lines broken, with outages or several hours over large areas. Schools closed over more than half of State.								
NORTH DAKOTA									
	No report received by printing deadline.								
OHIO									
	None reported								
OKLAHOMA									
	None reported								
OREGON									
Western and Central Oregon	7	Afternoon			10	8	6	3	Wind Storm
	High winds reaching sustained speeds of 58 mph Eugene with gusts to 81 mph and fastest mile of 52 mph at Portland caused 10 deaths, at least 8 injuries, many hundreds of thousands dollars damage. Three of deaths resulted at Eugene when a roof on which the men were working was torn off and demolished taking them with it. Two of the other seven were crab fishermen whose boat got into trouble trying to get back into port off mouth of Columbia in the high wind, and the remainder were five Coastguardsmen trying to rescue them. Wide scale, extensive interruptions to power, telephone service; hundreds roofs damaged; windows smashed; trees blown across homes, garages, cars, trailer houses; several major highways closed temporarily by falling trees; stores outdoor signs demolished; number of buildings suffered structural damage. Most injuries resulted from car accidents caused directly or indirectly by winds. Storm extended over entire State west of Cascades and well into parts of central Oregon.								
Northern Willamette Valley	26	Afternoon	30	5 Miles	0	6	5	0	Wind Storm
	Short-lived gusty winds in Portland and immediately surrounding area, tipped over large bridge truss in process of being assembled at a Portland plant. In falling, it badly damaged sizable office building and injured six occupants.								
PENNSYLVANIA									
Southern and Eastern Counties	19-20	AM of 19th thru AM of 20th			4	7	5		Snowstorm
	The snowstorm, accompanied by strong winds, paralyzed communities and cities throughout the area affected. Transportation was severely curtailed, especially in the southeast, where snowfall measured up to 19 inches with drifts 6 to 8 feet in some places, forcing schools, business offices, and some industries to close for several days. Many auto accidents, mostly of a minor nature, resulted. However, auto accidents took the lives of 3 persons and injured 7 others, while 1 death was attributed to over-exertion. Although no exact figures are available, the cost of removing the snow from roads and loss of retail business has been estimated in the millions of dollars.								
PUEERTO RICO									
	None reported								
RHODE ISLAND									
Statewide	19-20	Evening of 19th to evening of 20th			1	1	5	0	Blizzard
	Closely following the 4 to 7 inch fall of the 15-16th, this severe blizzard brought 10 to 13 inches except 5 inches at Block Island. Numerous drifts of up to 10 feet closed schools, industrial plants and offices. All transportation was disrupted. At least 1 severe injury and 1 death from freezing in a drifted snow bank were recorded.								
SOUTH CAROLINA									
Florence, two miles north Florence County	14	4:45 pm			0	0	0	0	Funnel Cloud
Beaufort, Beaufort County	20	10:50 am			0	0	4	0	Windstorm
	Windstorm destroyed a small hangar, damaged two small planes and an automobile.								
South Carolina	25-26	Night of 25 to afternoon 26th			0	0	5	4	Ice storm
	During this period there were intervals of sleet, snow and frozen rain with sleet predominating. Temperatures were near or below freezing from the evening of 25th to morning of 29th, producing a moderate to heavy glaze in most interior parts of the state. Transportation was paralyzed for two days in many areas, schools were closed and there was damage to power and communication facilities.								
SOUTH DAKOTA									
	None reported								
TENNESSEE									
	None reported								
TEXAS									
McLennan County	12	12:30 a.			1	0	0	0	Flooding
	One woman drowned when the car in which she was riding was swept off the end of a low-water bridge by rain-swollen currents of the South Basque River, six miles west of Waco, Texas.								
South Plains	24-25				1	0	7	0	Blizzard
	From 3 to 6 inches of freezing rain, sleet, and snow driven by 40-60 mph winds lashed the South Plains, disrupting communications and contributing to numerous highway accidents. An estimated 15 towns were without telephone service temporarily as an estimated 100 telephone poles were pulled down by ice-covered wires. The storm extended from the Big Bend eastward across East Texas, and from the Panhandle southward through the Hill country, covering the entire area with a coat of ice and snow, but reached peak intensity in Lamb, Hale, and Floyd Counties. Temperatures dropped to 3 to 10 degrees in Northeast Texas and 15 to 20 degrees in North Central following the storm. One 14-year old boy died of exposure near San Marcos in Central Texas after becoming lost in the woods for several days.								
UTAH									
	None reported								
VERMONT									
Northwestern section	1	Early morning to evening			0	0	4	0	Heavy snow
	Unusually heavy snowstorm yielded 10 to 20 inches. Some wires downed by heavy snowfall accumulation or by falling snow-laden branches. Transportation slowed to a crawl.								
Extreme Southern portion	20	Early morning to evening			0	0	4	0	Heavy snow
	Eight to 15 inches of snow deposited by storm which reached near-blizzard or blizzard intensity. Heaviest amounts in southeast corner of state. Area mostly rural with no heavy population concentration. New snow fell on residue of previous accumulations to give total depth of 20 to 30 inches over most of area.								
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS									
	None reported								
VIRGINIA									
State wide	19				2	13			Heavy snow and sleet
	Heavy snow in all but the southeastern counties brought accumulations up to 12 inches in northern corner, to 10 inches in the Shenandoah Valley and 11 inches in the western mountains with lighter amounts over the central part of the state. Numerous traffic accidents due to skidding on snow and sleet caused 2 deaths and injuries to 7 persons, most of them serious. 6 of the persons were injured due to falls on icy streets and roads. Great traffic jams in northern and central Virginia stranded some motorists for hours.								
State wide	26				1	18			Heavy snow, sleet and freezing rain
	Snow, sleet and freezing rain blanketed the entire state with accumulations ranging from 2 up to 9 inches, with heaviest deposits just south of Washington. The ice deposits rendered highways and streets extremely hazardous, but unusually careful driving held the casualty list to 1 killed and 8 or more injured. 8 persons were injured in falls on ice and at least 2 in sledding accidents.								

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<u>WASHINGTON</u>	7				0	0	4	0	Wind
	Power and communication lines were damaged in many localities of western Washington by branches broken from trees, and a few buildings were damaged by falling trees. Wind velocities ranged from 40 to 60 m.p.h. In eastern Washington, several buildings at the fair grounds at Walla Walla were damaged by wind.								
Coastal Areas	12				7	1	5		Wind
	High wind along the southwestern Washington coast resulted in the loss of seven lives, 3 Coast Guard and one crab-fishing boat. The 3 Coast Guard vessels were lost while attempting to rescue a stranded crab-fishing boat near the mouth of the Columbia River during a period of high wind and rough sea conditions.								
Western	13-15						5	0	Heavy precipitation
	Heavy precipitation over the Olympic Peninsula and along the western slope of the Cascades resulted in flooding in the lower valleys in the northern Puget Sound area and over the Olympic Peninsula. 24-hr. precipitation amounts ranging from 5 to 9 inches were recorded in some localities. A railroad bridge over the Dungeness River was destroyed and highways were damaged in numerous areas by slides and high water. Several families in low areas were evacuated.								
<u>WEST VIRGINIA</u>						12			Cold and snow
	Unusually cold and snowy weather mostly the last half of the month caused the deaths directly or indirectly by a newspaper survey.								
<u>WISCONSIN</u>					None reported				
<u>WYOMING</u>					None reported				

* Miles instead of yards.
 ° Includes crop damage.

C Crop damage.

† Storm damages are placed in categories varying from 1 to 9 as follows:

- 1 Less than \$50
- 2 \$50 to \$500
- 3 \$500 to \$5,000
- 4 \$5,000 to \$50,000
- 5 \$50,000 to \$500,000
- 6 \$500,000 to \$5,000,000
- 7 \$5,000,000 to \$50,000,000
- 8 \$50,000,000 to \$500,000,000
- 9 \$500,000,000 to \$5,000,000,000.

Note: This publication contains our best information on storms but, due to the difficulties inherent in collection of this type of data, it is not all-inclusive. Delayed data and corrections will be carried in the June and December issues of this publication.

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