

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LUTHER H. HODGES, Secretary

WEATHER BUREAU

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# STORM DATA

OCTOBER 1961

Volume 3 No. 10





# STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

OCTOBER 1961

PLACE	DATE	TIME	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
KENTUCKY			None reported						
LOUISIANA									
Near Edgard	1	4:00 p.							Funnel cloud
Near Jeanerette	7	1:38 p.							Funnel cloud
Near Crowley	7	4:04 p.							Funnel cloud
MAINE									
Central and East	15	Afternoon & evening			0	0	4	3	Snow
			About 3 to 5 inches of snow fell over central interior sections, with amounts increasing northwestward to 6 to 8 inches over eastern Aroostook County. This was an exceptionally early date for the occurrence of snowfall of this magnitude. Damage to power lines, resulting from their contact with snow-laden tree limbs, accounted for most of the storm's damage. Highways became slippery, and caused a rash of automobile accidents.						
MARYLAND			No report received by printing deadline.						
MASSACHUSETTS									
Coastal	20-23				0	0	5	0	Tidal and surf
			This 4-day storm was the most prolonged "northeaster" in years. It resulted from the distant off-shore passage of two successive storms--tropical storm Gerda on the 20-21st and another in its wake, on the 22-23d. Massachusetts Bay areas were hardest hit with total damage estimated at more than \$150,000. Tides were more than 3 feet above normal as wind speeds frequently reached gale force and occasionally exceeded 55 mph at the more exposed places. Twelve small boats were sunk at their moorings in Hingham Harbor. A like number were extensively damaged in Plymouth Harbor where docking facilities were severely damaged. A 33-foot sport-fishing boat was damaged to the extent of \$17,500. Low lying areas were flooded by high tides and some coastal roads were closed to traffic. In some sections of Hull, which was one of the hardest-hit communities, the pounding surf eroded part of the shoreline and flooded over and damaged the old sea-wall. One family was evacuated and power failures were reported from all sections of this community.						
Michigan			None reported						
MINNESOTA			None reported						
MISSISSIPPI			None reported						
MISSOURI									
St. Louis	23	Afternoon					1		Thunderstorm
St. Louis County			A ten year old boy was hit by lightning while walking beside a wire fence. He required emergency treatment in a hospital.						
St. Joseph	29	4:50 PM							Funnel Aloft
St. Joseph Buchanan County									
St. Joseph Buchanan County	30	5 to 6PM					4		Thunderstorm
			Wind with gusts to 80 mph. at Rosecrans Field at 5:25 P.M. Three inches of rain fell in less than 3 hours. Heavy damage to trees, and parked cars, with local flash flooding in low spots. Many storm sewers became plugged with leaves.						
MONTANA			None reported						
NEBRASKA									
2 miles west and 2 south of Wakefield	10	2:35 p.	1/4	20	0	0	3	2	Tornado
			Storm moved from southwest to northeast with evidence of rising and dropping to ground again. Some wind damage occurred about 8-9 miles southwest and again about 4 miles northeast of tornado site.						
NEVADA			None reported						
NEW HAMPSHIRE			None reported						
NEW JERSEY									
Southern New Jersey coast	20-25				0	0	5	0	Wind and tidal flooding
			Persistent strong easterly winds, due to slow-moving Hurricane GERDA out in the Atlantic, combined with high tides, caused huge waves and extensive flooding with damage to shore installations and those inland on tidal waterways. Some additional damage on North Jersey shore, including New York Harbor area, but bulk of losses from Cape May to Atlantic City.						
NEW MEXICO									
Glanton and vicinity	30	AM			0	0	4	0	Ice storm
			Freezing rain during early morning hours built up ice on power and telephone lines one-half inch to one inch. Broken poles and downed lines interrupted electrical transmission and communications for several hours. Driving was hazardous and most trees in the city were severely damaged.						
NEW YORK			None reported						
NORTH CAROLINA			None reported						
NORTH DAKOTA			None reported						
OHIO			None reported						
OKLAHOMA									
Kay, Noble, and Logan Counties	9-10	night 9-morning 10			0	0	0	4	Heavy rains
			Heavy rains soaked Noble County and adjoining counties to the southwest, setting new precipitation records at Blackwell. Amounts generally 4-6 1/2 inches. Two bridges and numerous culverts washed out which closed Highway 15 west of Billings and S.H. 11 north and U.S. 117 south of Blackwell. Swollen streams produced considerable local flooding. Expected heavy losses to farmers from washout of much newly planted wheat.						
Afton, 3 1/2 miles north, Ottawa County	10	?			0	1	3	0	Wind
			The driver of a truck was injured when a gust of wind blew his truck from the highway into a ditch along side the road.						
Albion, Pushmataha County	10	?			0	1	0	0	Electrical
			Telephone lineman severely burned as lightning hit line he was working on.						
Norman, Cleveland County	24	8:20 p.	?	?	0	0	?	?	Hail
			One inch diameter hail reported with winds estimated at 30 mph.						
Burlington, Alfalfa County	29	7:30 a.	2-3	50	0	0	4	0	Tornado, rain
			Tornado touched down southwest of Burlington, then again several times as it traveled northwesterly, bypassing a mile to the north of the city where it bent a windmill to the ground. Five farm buildings destroyed and two farm houses damaged. Three garages destroyed in town, several roofs damaged, and downed trees disrupted utility service. About an inch of rain accompanied this tornado.						
Cleo Springs, Bryan County	30	3a			0	1	4	0	Electrical
			A lady was hospitalized with burns received when lightning destroyed a home.						
OREGON			No report received by printing deadline.						
PENNSYLVANIA									
Elinboro-MoKean Area	1	10:30 PM					5		Thunderstorm
			Two barns in this area were fired by lightning, which destroyed the structures as well as the contents.						
PUERTO RICO			No report received by printing deadline.						
RHODE ISLAND			None reported						
SOUTH CAROLINA			No report received by printing deadline.						
SOUTH DAKOTA									
Howard, Miner County	28	6 p.m.			1		2		Electrical
			Boy riding horseback in a field seven miles southeast of Howard was struck and killed by lightning. Horse also killed. Companion nearby on a horse was uninjured.						
TENNESSEE			None reported						

See reference notes at end of table.

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					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
<b>TEXAS</b>									
Lake Lewisville Denton County	2	2:45 a			0	0	4	0	Wind Thunderstorm winds completely wrecked a new boat house on Lake Lewisville.
SE Corpus Christi Frescos County	2	11:00 a							Waterspout
12 NE San Antonio Comal County	10	12:38 p 12:44 p							Funnel aloft
Lake O' the Pines Marion County	10	5:30 p 5:40 p							Funnel aloft
Near Morton Cochran County	29	6:00 p	10	45	0	0	0	5	Hail, rain Small hail and heavy rain heavily damaged cotton and grain sorghums in a 5-mile-wide strip both east and west of Morton. Hail, averaging 1/2 inch in diameter, covered the ground to a depth of 3 to 4 inches. Largest stones were 1 inch in diameter.
<b>UTAH</b>									
Northern portion, mountains and western slopes of Wasatch Mountains	21	Afternoon and Evening			1	?	4	3	Winds and snow  A strong, fast moving cold front, followed by winds with gusts estimated up to one hundred miles per hour in the Provo area. Local power company lost over one mile of high tension cable with estimated damage near \$11,000, plus several thousand dollars damage to local distribution lines. The winds snapped off 65-foot cedar poles 6 to 8 feet above ground.  Locally heavy snow which accompanied the frontal system in the mountains of northern Utah trapped many hunters. One man became lost in the snow and died of exposure. Winds following the storm system caused considerable drifting and blocked roads at higher elevations.
<b>VERMONT</b>									
None reported									
<b>U. S. VIRGIN ISLANDS</b>									
No report received by printing deadline.									
<b>VIRGINIA</b>									
Virginia except Tazewell, Hland, Wythe, and Giles	20- 21	Aftn- Night			0	0	5	?	Heavy rains  Heavy rains, mostly Central Virginia, caused numerous spotty flash flooding in addition to the general river flooding throughout the James Basin. Among the most serious communities affected were Uppam Brook area of Richmond's West End, Augusta County and Roanoke County. Numerous road and bridge washouts resulted. Numerous homes, buildings, and automobiles sustained water damage; some farm buildings destroyed in Roanoke County.
Tazewell, Hland, Wythe and Giles	20	All day			0	0	?	0	Snow and freezing rain  Trees fell, power and telephone service disrupted, as well as several radio stations put out of commission; roads temporarily blocked and traffic disrupted. Snow depths ranged up to 8 inches.
Chesterfield County	20	1:15 p.	?	?			?	0	Possible tornado Described as a twister by local residents, trees were twisted off over a three block residential area 11 miles west of Hyrd Field in Chesterfield County. No damage to buildings or homes reported.
Prince George County	20	11:00 a.			0	0	?	0	High winds Numerous trees downed, blocking roads. Six trees were downed in the yard of a farm home where also a barn was unroofed and a tool shed demolished.
Goodland County, Southside Virginia	20- 21	Night			0	0	4	0	Lightning  Lightning set fire to a hay barn in Goodland County which was destroyed with damage of \$14,000. Lightning struck a home in Southside Richmond, knocked in the back wall of house and also the basement walls; all collapsed into basement - damage of \$10,000.
<b>WASHINGTON</b>									
Northern Puget Sound	6	9:30 AM						5	Thunderstorm. Lightning caused extensive damage to one residence in Bellingham and minor damage to a residence on Whidbey Island.
West of Cascades	26						4		Wind. High wind resulted in some damage to a few buildings and numerous power outages.
<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>									
Central and Southern	20	AM			1		6	C	Snow Heavy wet snow disrupted telephone and power services particularly in the South Charleston, Kanawha County, and Summersville, Nicholas County, localities. The damage to trees from broken limbs is unmeasurable but State Forest officials state the long range effects will be in the millions of dollars in State Forests. One death was attributed to exposure at Fayetteville.
<b>WISCONSIN</b>									
	11- 12	evening- early morning						5	Lightning  A squall line crossed over southern Wisconsin with accompanying locally severe thunderstorms and numerous fires caused by lightning. Particularly hard hit were the Dodgeville and Madison areas where two churches and several homes were destroyed.
<b>WYOMING</b>									
Western half of Wyo.	7 & 8	Afternoon through morning			0	0	4	0	Heavy snow and high winds  Snow accompanied by high winds began early afternoon and lasted through most of the next morning causing considerable damage to power and telephone lines and stranded over 500 motorists at various points in the western half of the state, notably along highway 30.
Statewide	28	Afternoon and even- ing			5	4	4	0	Heavy snow and high winds  Snow accompanied by high winds began early afternoon and continued through the evening. Three people were killed and four injured in auto accidents caused by low visibility. Two hunters were lost and died in the storm.

<sup>1</sup> Includes crop damage.  
<sup>2</sup> Crop damage.  
<sup>\*</sup> Miles instead of yards.  
<sup>†</sup> 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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