

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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WEATHER BUREAU

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STORM DATA

FEBRUARY 1963

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ASHEVILLE: 1963

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

FEBRUARY 1963

PLACE	DATE	TIME	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED ¹ DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
Statewide	12				0	0	3	0	Snow, icing
Storm dumped snow, sleet, freezing rain and rain over the state, coating highways with a dangerous slick that made driving hazardous. More snow fell over northern parts of the state and the Berkshires. Pittsfield measured up to 10 inches. Southern sections got more of a mixture of precipitation. In some central and northern communities travel conditions were the most dangerous of the season. In the Northampton area, where 8 inches of new snow fell, the exceptional heavy accumulations of the season were narrowing the city's streets and adding to the driving hazards. Ice accumulations damaged trees in parts of the northeast and some power losses were reported where falling branches broke power lines.									
Statewide (except Cape Cod area)	19-20				0	0	6	0	Snow
A northeast storm blanketed inland areas with from 8 to 15 inches of new snow, and gave coastal areas a combination of rain and snow that accumulated to around 3 or 4 inches of slush. Driving conditions became extremely hazardous and hundreds of accidents were reported. One highway traffic death was attributed to the storm. Many were injured. Long lines of stalled traffic frequently formed behind cars unable to negotiate slippery hills. At Hudson a Boston and Maine RR train jumped the tracks. Pedestrians in coastal communities walked in the inches-deep slush. The heavy wet snow broke tree limbs and utility lines disrupting power and telephone services across the state. Thousands of homes were without heat and light for hours and some for a day or even longer. Heaviest storm losses were incurred by telephone and power companies. Heavy snow accumulations collapsed a barn roof in Winchester and another in Tully. Damage in the first instance was estimated at \$5000.									
Cape Cod	19-20				0	0	4	0	Floods
Moderate to heavy rain swept the area filling parking lots, driveways, underpasses, some stretches of highway and many other low spots whose frozen surfaces acted as catch basins. Fire crews were kept busy answering calls to pump out flooded cellars all along the Cape. Many washed-out sections in the Falmouth area had to be shored up and emergency barricades were erected with danger signals posted to safeguard motorists.									
MICHIGAN					None reported				
MINNESOTA					None reported				
MISSISSIPPI	2	6:30 p.-11:30 p.			0	0	?	0	Wind
Some trees broken off 6 to 15 feet above ground, windows and roofs damaged, electric wires felled; 50 m.p.h. wind at Fruitland Park. Unconfirmed tornado-like funnel about 9 p.m. at Bayou View, when a two-foot thick oak tree was twisted off 15 feet above ground; winds "sounded like a couple of freight trains hitting".									
MISSOURI					None reported				
MONTANA					None reported				
Southern two-thirds central Montana	1	morning	250	225	0	1	3	0	Freezing rain high wind, snow
Freezing rain which began on January 31 continued through the morning of February 1. Ice coated roads made travel very hazardous with a number of vehicles going off the highway, and there were a few collisions. The rain ended when a cold front spread across the State accompanied by strong wind and snow. Some roads were closed by drifting snow. Surface transportation was virtually halted unless vehicles were equipped with chains. The fastest mile of wind reported was 72 mph at the Billings airport. There was some wind damage in the Billings and Livingston areas.									
NEBRASKA					None reported				
NEVADA	1/29 thru 2/1				0	0	6	4	Heavy rain on snow causing flooding
Very heavy rain, which began on January 29th and continued intermittently through February 1st particularly over and near the Sierras, resulted in record precipitation. Mount Rose Highway reported record falls of 7.13 inches in 2 1/2 hours, 11.08 inches in 4 1/2 hours, 13.56 inches in 7 1/2 hours, and 13.58 inches in 9 1/2 hours, for the highest amounts ever recorded in the State during the four periods. This heavy precipitation falling on the Sierra snow pack produced serious flooding in the three counties. Three to four feet of water covered over 30 blocks of downtown Reno, and in addition did great damage to highways and agricultural facilities.									
NEW HAMPSHIRE	2-4				0	0	2	0	Icing
Precipitation on the 2d and 3d occurred as snow, rain, sleet and freezing rain. Rapidly falling temperatures toward the end of the precipitation created unusually widespread icing of surfaces. Highways and walks were extremely slippery and many accidents were reported. In northern sections of the state precipitation was nearly all snow.									
NEW HAMPSHIRE (Cont'd)	19-20				0	0	4	0	Snow
Southern and east-central sections									
A driving northeast storm piled up from 7 to 18 inches of snow in these areas. Heaviest falls were in Hillsboro and Merrimack counties and eastern sections of Cheshire County. In southeastern sections the storm began as rain but soon turned to heavy wet snow. Snow-laden branches snapped and knocked down utility lines in many sections disrupting power and phone services. These were the principal casualties of the storm. Driving conditions were hazardous and traffic was snarled. Highway accidents were numerous. Added to the woes of road clearance crews was the problem of removing cars bogged down and abandoned in the deep snow.									
NEW JERSEY					None reported				
NEW MEXICO	1	Mid-day			0	1	3	0	Wind
Northeast New Mexico									
Strong winds, in Colfax and bordering counties, mostly to near 60 miles per hour, were common along the eastern slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. A peak gust of 106 miles per hour was recorded at Balm Weather Bureau Airport Station at 12:05 p.m., and steady winds of 50 to 60 miles per hour. One lady was injured by a heavy gate. Gull courses caddy house roof and cement wall blocks blown off. Screen doors, awnings, windows and TV antennas damaged. Large cottonwood tree blown over onto small house at Ute Park.									
NEW YORK	2-3				5				Freezing rain, sleet, high winds
Mainly over central & eastern areas									
Rochester-Syracuse area and east of Lake Ontario	13-15				4				Heavy snow
Unusually heavy Lake effect snow in Rochester-Syracuse area and the snowbelt east of Lake Ontario - one to two feet of snow fall and most highways were blocked for considerable period of time. Storm was near blizzard east of Lake Ontario.									
East-central and south-eastern counties	19				4				Heavy snow
Heavy wet snow with amounts up to around one foot. Communication and power lines down in Dutchess County, visibility near zero in Orange County, traffic paralyzed in Capital Tri-city area.									
Counties east of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie	20-21				4				Heavy snow and gale winds
Lake effect heavy snows and gale winds produced blizzard or near blizzard conditions at times in the snow belt areas. Many roads closed and travel very hazardous.									
NORTH CAROLINA	19	morning	1/4	15	0	0	3	0	Small Tornado
Robeson County									
Small home lifted from foundation and dropped into roadway, at Alma community near Maxton.									
State	26				5	Est. 100	5	0	Snow, cold
First heavy statewide snow of the season, amounts generally three to ten inches, with heaviest amounts Piedmont and interior Coastal Plain. Record-breaking cold occurred both before and after the snowfall. Snow and ice-covered roads and streets contributed to hundreds of traffic accidents. Two persons died in automobile accidents, and one when his bicycle skidded into a railroad train. One died in a fire in which weather was a factor, and one died from exposure. An estimated 100 persons were hospitalized due to weather-related traffic accidents and pedestrian falls.									
NORTH DAKOTA					None reported				
OHIO					None reported				
OKLAHOMA					None reported				
OREGON	1-3	all of the 3 days			0	0	5	4	Flooding from rapid snow melt
Most of State									
Snow and freezing rain on last 5-4 days of January produced layer of ice, saturated snow several inches thick over large areas of State. Ice formed on smaller streams of eastern Oregon to as much as two feet in thickness. Very rapidly rising temperatures on first 2 days of February accompanied by moderate to heavy warm rains produced run-off beyond capacity of streams and other natural drainage channels. In eastern Oregon ice jams formed in and immediately adjacent to city of Baker forcing approximately 100 families to temporarily evacuate their homes.									

See reference notes at end of table.

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					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS			
OREGON (Cont'd)	Number of homes, farm buildings, basements, some potato storage cellars flooded. Farm machinery and other equipment damaged. Heaviest damage in Helmer, Baker counties though considerable in Harney, Umatilla and some northwestern counties.										
PACIFIC AREA	None reported										
PENNSYLVANIA	None reported										
PUERTO RICO	None reported										
RHODE ISLAND	19-20	PM of 19 through early AM of 20th	None reported								
Statewide											
			0	0	4	0	Snow and wind				
	Major storm of heavy wet snow with accumulations of 2-5 inches along Coast and 6-12 inches in the interior caused some power failures but was notable for the large number of skidding accidents which resulted.										
SOUTH CAROLINA	None reported										
SOUTH DAKOTA	None reported										
TENNESSEE	None reported										
TEXAS	None reported										
Entire State	2		0	2	?	0	Windstorm				
	Strong gusty winds accompanying a cold front resulted in injuries to 2 persons in Harris County, and caused damage to roofs, signs, trees, and utility lines in most sections of the State. Heaviest damage was in East and Southeast Texas. Sandstorms in West Texas reduced the visibility to 2 miles at Midland, and to 3 miles at Wink. Wind gusts reached 43 mph at Midland, and 60 mph at Worton. At Lufkin, in East Texas, wind gusting to 55 mph turned an aluminum car shed inside out, broke plate glass windows, blew down signs, and snapped off trees. Utility lines were torn down when trees fell across them. At Nacogdoches, sustained winds of 52 mph, with gusts estimated at 62 mph, twisted a 70-foot tree down 12 feet from the ground. A tool shed and barn were destroyed, and the roof blown off another, in nearby communities. At San Antonio, wind gusts to 42 mph disrupted electrical power, and blew down utility poles in Bexar County. In Houston, one person was injured by flying glass when a large light globe fell from the street light. Trees and billboards were blown down in several sections of the city. Peak gusts reached 55 mph in Houston. In Crosby (Harris County), a woman suffered bruises when a chicken coop which she was entering blew over and landed on its roof about 15 feet from where it stood. Peak gusts reached 60 mph on Galveston Bay, capsizing several small boats. Several persons were reported missing, but it is not known if they were later found. At Luling, four prize bulls valued at \$3100 were electrocuted when power lines blew down.										
UTAH	None reported										
Cache, Summit and Utah Counties	1/29 thru 2/1		0	0	4	3	Rain, heavy Thunderstorms				
	Heavy storm during four-day period produced record precipitation for 24-hour period at Deer Creek Dam of 5.06 inches. This storm was relatively local and consisted of a series of thunderstorms in the heavy precipitation area in Provo Canyon. Flooding washed out Provo City water line, destroyed over 1/2 million fish at the Midway Fish Hatchery, and did considerable damage to property in the Hobart, Vivian Park and Wellsville areas. The four-day storm, which totaled a record 10.13 inches at Deer Creek Dam, caused the reservoir to rise over three feet.										
VERMONT	None reported										
Southern and western sections	2-4		0	0	2	0	Icing				
	Snow, sleet, freezing rain and rain on the 2d and 3d, with rapidly falling temperatures near the end of precipitation created unusually widespread icing conditions. Highways and streets and walks in towns were extremely hazardous and numerous accidents occurred.										
U. S. VIRGIN IS.	None reported										
VIRGINIA	None reported										
WASHINGTON	None reported										
Southeastern	2-4				6	5	Rain and flood.				
	A combination of frozen ground, 15 to 20 inches of ice on streams, a rapid rise in temperature, runoff from melting snow, and 1 to 2 inches of precipitation between the 1st and 4th of the month resulted in flooding along rivers and smaller streams in the southern half of eastern Washington. The most extensive damage occurred in the southeastern counties.										
WEST VIRGINIA	None reported										
WISCONSIN	None reported										
WYOMING	None reported										

* Miles instead of yards.
 ** Yards instead of miles.
 † 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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