

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LUTHER H. HODGES, Secretary

WEATHER BUREAU

ROBERT M. WHITE, Chief

STORM DATA

FEBRUARY 1964

Volume 6 No. 2



ASHEVILLE: 1964

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

FEBRUARY 1964

PLACE	DATE	TIME	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
ALABAMA			None	reported					
ALASKA			None	reported					
ARIZONA			None	reported					
ARKANSAS			None	reported					
CALIFORNIA									
Southern California	20-23		Strong, gusty north and east winds	damaged utility lines, and boats, closed a number of freeways for hours, and caused considerable damage to citrus. (Less severe damage was also reported from the eastern part of the San Francisco Bay Region and from both Southern California and the Bay Region on the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, and 11th of the month.)	1	3	6	7	Wind
COLORADO			None	reported					
CONNECTICUT			None	reported					
DELAWARE									
Wilmington area	6	2:00pm-3:00pm			0	0	?	0	Lightning
			Unusual display of lightning was observed during which a bolt struck a building at New Castle and set fire to roof. No estimate of damage was given.						
Statewide	10-11				0	0	4	0	Snow
			Storm yielded from 4 to 7 inches of snow. Drifts of 3 to 4 feet were noted by Bridgeville weather observer. Many minor traffic accidents were reported; fortunately, few people were injured. Many schools were closed.						
FLORIDA									
Miami Dade Co.	3	2:00 pm			0	0			Funnel Cloud
			Funnel cloud sighted in an area about 19 miles northeast of the Miami International Airport. Cloud did not touch ground.						
Orlando Orange Co.	18	1:00 pm			0	0	4		Wind
			Strong gusty winds accompanying squall line damaged several residences and business establishments and partially destroyed a church in a small area about 2 miles east-south-east of the Orlando Airport.						
Lake Istokpoga Highlands Co.	18	5:00 pm	Short narrow		0	0			Tornado
			Funnel cloud touched ground briefly in an uninhabited area about 6 miles southeast of Lake Istokpoga. Reported damages were nil.						
GEORGIA			None	reported					
HAWAII									
Honolulu	4	5:46 - 6:01 p.							Funnel aloft
			Funnel cloud aloft observed SW of Honolulu International Airport.						
IDAHO									
Adams County	4-5								Snow
			Sixteen men worked around the clock to restore telephone service from Council to New Meadows, McCall and Cascade after accumulations of snow and ice on brackets, cross-arms and wires had caused extensive damage. 4 to 6 inches of snow and ice on brackets, up to 2 ft. of snow on cross-arms.						
Richfield	5	3:30to 8:00 a.							Snow & wind
			Schools closed following early morning blizzard. Drifts up to 8 ft deep on country roads, 2 ft. in town.						
Coeur d'Alene and vicinity	15	Forenoon				2			Snow & ice
			More than a half-dozen accidents in area before noon. Two persons injured in car-logging truck accident about 5 miles east on U.S. 10						
South-Central and Southeastern areas	17-19								Snow and wind
			Strong winds caused extensive drifting of snow in area from Magic Valley eastward. Schools were closed from 1 to 3 days because of blocked roads in Camas, Lincoln, Jerome, Minidoka, Bannock Counties						
Lemhi County	18								Snow slides
			Snow slides into Salmon River Canyon below Shoup; trapped several Forest Service vehicles - occupants had to hike 9 miles. None injured.						
Idaho Falls and surrounding area	24-25								Blizzard
			Heavy snow on heels of 30-mile wind began about 2:30 p., increased in intensity during evening and finally abated around midnight. Some 2000 workers returning from National Reactor Testing Station to Idaho Falls, in 40 buses and about 160 private vehicles, were stranded for 3 hours or more along the highway. Twenty-five elementary school pupils from New Sweden were forced to stay overnight in a farmhouse, and many motorists sought refuge in nearby farm houses or potato cellars, or remained in their cars until the storm abated. Dozens of traffic accidents were reported, with relatively minor damage and no reported injuries. Schools were closed on 25th in much of the area.						
IDAHO (Cont'd)									
Oneida County	26	Afternoon				2			Blowing snow
			Reduced visibility in blowing snow resulted in two accidents. In one crash a woman sustained a severe leg injury and a man was treated for shock and severe head lacerations.						
ILLINOIS			None	reported					
INDIANA			None	reported					
IOWA			None	reported					
KANSAS			None	reported					
KENTUCKY			None	reported					
LOUISIANA									
Lafourche Parish	24	11:45 p.-11:48 p.	1	300	0	0	5	0	Thunderstorm, high wind
			Severe thunderstorm with heavy rain approached from SSW, moved NNE. Accompanying winds damaged area 2 S Leeville. Neither hail nor funnel observed. Helicopters or ground damaged - one destroyed, two severely damaged, one blown into marsh and overturned. One thousand-gallon tank, containing some gasoline, lifted from foundation, blown across Tennessee Canal. Warehouse reported total loss; other damage to office building, residences, and automobiles. Power lines and almost all antennas down or badly damaged. Torrential rains in lower Lafourche Parish but no other reports of wind damage.						
Orleans Parish	24	11:55 p.			0	0	?	0	Thunderstorm, high wind
			Thunderstorm winds of 40 m.p.h., with gusts to 50 m.p.h., measured at New Orleans Airport, (Lake Front Airport).						
State					0	0	?	?	Unusual cold
			Most days temperature averaged below normal. Plowing and seedbed preparation behind schedule, no appreciable field work accomplished. Peaches February 20-23, knocked off large number strawberry blooms. Lowest temperatures for month reported either on 22nd or 23rd. Baton Rouge set new record low readings for those dates. Based on December 1963-February 1964 average temperature, many stations reported that period coldest of record, or close to it.						
MAINE									
Coastal and southwest	16				0	0	4	0	Snow
			Northeast storm with winds up to 50 m.p.h. dumped 8 to 14 inches of badly drifted snow in these sections. Roads were covered by the drifts, visibility was very poor and driving conditions were extremely hazardous until continuous plowing eased conditions. Numerous highway accidents occurred. In one accident, four women were killed in Robbinston, near Calais, when the car in which they were riding plunged into a stream.						
MARYLAND									
Statewide, including District of Columbia	10-11				0	0	4	0	Snow
			Storm yielded from 4 to over 11 inches of snow with heaviest amounts in the central and north-central sections. Heavy snow removal equipment brought out in force. Many minor traffic accidents reported. At least one death, that of a man in Washington, D. C. from overexertion in shoveling snow, was indirectly caused by storm.						
Northern and Western Counties	18-19				0	0	3	0	Snow
			Storm yielded from 10 to over 19 inches of wet, heavy snow. Trees, shrubs and vines were damaged as were telephone and power lines. Schools and many factories and plants were closed.						
MASSACHUSETTS									
Northern portion	6-7				0	0	4	0	Rain, snow
			Storm consisted of exceptionally heavy wet snow which started as heavy rain in the northeast. Snowfall amounted to 4 to 8 inches except around 1 inch or less near the coast. Snow removal and plowing were very difficult due to the weight of the snow. Heavy rain caused local flooding of streets and cellars in several northeastern communities.						
Eastern sections	8				0	0	0	0	Icy roads
			Rain storm changed to snow attending a surge of cold air and produced exceptionally hazardous condition of walks and streets. Icy surfaces were made more menacing and dangerous to travel and transportation by the light snowfall covering.						
Statewide	16				1	0	5	0	Snow, wind
			A major northeast snowstorm, intensified by gale force winds, belted the state, bringing highway traffic to a near-standstill, creating widespread power failures--particularly on Cape Cod. Snowfall amounted to 10 to 15 inches generally, slightly less along the immediate northeast coast, and from 2 to 6 inches over southeastern portions and Cape Cod where a part of the precipitation was rain. On the Cape, several utility poles snapped under 85 mile-per-hour winds, crippling main power lines. Many roadways on the Cape were flooded by heavy rain which washed away snow up to four inches in depth. At least six persons collapsed and died after shoveling snow. A woman was overcome while walking in the storm. During the full fury of the storm visibility was almost zero on highways across the state. Traffic was snarled and cars abandoned where stalled as snow blew in under hoods. In the Boston area, a brief occurrence of thunder and lightning added an eerie effect to the storm.						

See reference notes at end of table.

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

FEBRUARY 1964

PLACE	DATE	TIME	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM	PLACE	DATE	TIME	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM								
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS							KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS									
MASSACHUSETTS (Cont'd)																											
Statewide	19-20				0	0	5	0	Snow, wind, storm tides	NEW YORK	5-16	late p.m. of 15th to early p.m. of 16th			3	15			Snow								
	<p>This was the second major snowstorm in four days. Storm yielded 8 to 14 inches, heaviest over eastern portions and over the higher elevations of western Mass. Over central sections of the state and over Cape Cod, storm yields were mostly 5 to 10 inches. Northeast gales drifted the snow badly and traffic was brought to a near-standstill. Huge waves slammed against shoreline sections damaging some installations and flooding low lying roads. Many communities experienced interruptions of power and telephone services. At least five persons died from exposure or over-exertion. Scores of highway skidding accidents were reported. Stores and other business firms closed early.</p>										<p>Storm moving through Ohio River Valley to mid-Atlantic Coast yielded from 10 to 15 inches of snow to the Catskills, adjacent southeast highlands and the upper half of the Hudson Valley. Amounts of 6 to 9 inches in central counties, decreasing to 3 inches or less near Great Lakes and in northern half of state. Mostly rain or rain and snow mixed in coastal sections. Coming on Sunday storm caused cancellation of church services in the southeast. Many schools in same area were closed on 17th due to bad driving conditions. Travel very hazardous with some drifting as a result of winds gusting to 30 mph. Deaths and injuries resulted from traffic accidents.</p>																
Cape Cod and Nantucket Island	28-29				0	0	4	0	Snow	South central, east central and southeast	18-20	late p.m. of 18th to late a.m. of 20th			1	10			Snow, wind								
	<p>A fast-moving northeast storm belted the area with 6 to 12 inches of snow. Heaviest fall was at Nantucket Island. Winds up to 32 a.p.h. piled the snow in huge drifts and crews worked through the night to keep roads open. Some utility poles were felled at Nantucket and many homes were without light or power.</p>										<p>Second major snowstorm within five days hit essentially same area as storm of 15-16th with the addition of coastal sections being affected by heavy snowfall. Snowfall of 4 to 8 inches on Long Island and 8 to 12 inches in Mohawk and Hudson Valleys, southeast highlands and south central counties westward to Cheung and Tompkins. Major portion of snowfall occurred on 19th. Schools closed early throughout affected area. Transportation facilities curtailed with airlines cancelling operations during most of 19th. Death resulted from shoveling snow; many persons injured in skidding accidents. Winds of 40 mph or more in coastal areas caused considerable drifting of Long Island highways and downed power lines at scattered points in the Bronx, Westchester County and Staten Island. Storm of little consequence along Great Lakes and northern third of state.</p>																
MICHIGAN									None reported																		
MINNESOTA									None reported																		
MISSISSIPPI State	Month				0	0	?	?	Unusual cold																		
	<p>Almost every day temperatures averaged below normal. Number of days with minimum temperature of 32 °F. or colder varied from about two-thirds of month in far north to about one-fifth of month in far south. Lowest temperatures for the month reported either on 22nd or 23rd. Jackson set new record low reading for 23rd. Based on December 1963-February 1964 average temperature, many stations reported that period coldest of record, or close to it.</p>																										
MISSOURI									None reported																		
MONTANA									None reported																		
Bridger 110 miles southwest Carbon County	5	2:30 P	?	?	0	0	8	?	0	High wind																	
	<p>Winds estimated at 100 MPH was blowing snow which reduced visibility to near zero. During the storm, a large passenger bus ran into a stalled automobile, and after the crash the strong wind blew the bus sideways onto the shoulder of the highway and down a 15-foot embankment. Two other cars and three trucks were involved in the accident before the road was cleared.</p>										<p>NORTH CAROLINA</p> <p>Northern Coast</p>									12		0	0	4	0	Wind, Waves	
Conrad (7 miles southwest) Pondera County	5	forenoon	?	?	0	0	3	0	High wind																		
	<p>A strong gust of wind picked up a stock truck loaded with six horses and dropped it into the borrow pit. Two horses had to be killed because of injuries.</p>										<p>Offshore low pressure storm caused rough seas which eroded a strip of beach at Kill Devil Hills, destroying one cottage and causing minor damage to others.</p>																
Central Montana	19	Early morning	250	*200	0	0	0	?	High wind																		
	<p>Northerly turbulent gale force winds caused considerable soil erosion over north-central Montana and southern Alberta. The dust was carried southward and deposited in snowfall over central Montana. This discolored snow remained on ground in some areas at the end of the month.</p>										<p>Piedmont and Interior Coastal Plain</p>									16		0	0	4	0	Wind, Electrical	
NEBRASKA									None reported																		
NEVADA									None reported																		
NEW HAMPSHIRE									None reported																		
Eastern and south-central sections	6-7				0	0	4	0	Snow																		
	<p>Storm yielded exceptionally heavy, wet snow amounting to 5 to 10 inches. Near the coast, snowfall was mixed with or preceded by rain, forming an unusually deep covering of slush. The weight of the heavy snowfall accumulation downed large branches and wires causing widespread interruptions in power and phone services. Schools were closed in several communities because of the hazardous conditions of travel and transportation.</p>										<p>Piedmont and Coastal Plain</p>									18-19		0	0	4	0	Wind	
Statewide	16				0	0	4	0	Snow																		
	<p>A major storm dumped 10 to 18 inches of snow across most of the state and gale force winds whipped the snow into heavy drifts. Snowfall diminished northward through Coos County to just an inch at First Connecticut Lake. Motorists met extreme difficulty bucking drifts and poor visibility, near zero at times, added to hazardous driving conditions. Major highways were kept open with difficulty as the wind-blown snow drifted in behind the plows. Several communities experienced loss of power and phone services.</p>										<p>NORTH DAKOTA</p> <p>OHIO</p> <p>OKLAHOMA</p> <p>Panhandle and Western Quarter of State</p>									3-5	1:00 a., 3rd - 9:00 a., 5th		0	0	5	0	Snow, sleet and rain
NEW JERSEY									None reported																		
NEW MEXICO									None reported																		
Northeastern New Mexico	2-3				3	6	3		Blizzard																		
	<p>Snowfall totals from 4 to 18 inches, whipped by winds of 20 to 30 miles per hour and gusts to over 50 miles per hour, caused drifts up to 7 feet deep. A state of emergency was declared in Quay, San Miguel, and Union Counties and National Guard units aided by clearing roads, rescuing stranded travellers, and feeding over 42,000 head of cattle. Two thousand motorists were stranded between Albuquerque and the west Texas border, mostly in the Santa Rosa-Tucuman area. One killed and six injured in two-car crash 15 miles southwest of Carlsbad and one killed south of Santa Rosa in car accidents due to ice. One apprehended in car near Tucuman when exhaust became clogged with snow. Numerous minor automobile accidents.</p>										<p>A snowstorm of near blizzard intensity slowed activity in 16 western counties of Oklahoma with its heaviest snow located in the northern part of the Texas Panhandle. Heavy snow accumulations of 10 to 16 inches and drifts of 4 to 8 feet deep across Oklahoma's Panhandle blocked highways for two days, closed schools, and halted most outdoor operations. Sixteen-inch snow cover from Goodwell to Guymon was second only to the record-breaking 22 inches that fell at Goodwell during the storm of January 1959. Several communities suffered considerable streak damage from the freezing and thawing of the melted snow accumulations. Counties west of a line through Harper, Elaine, Washita and Harmon Counties received sleet and snow cover of 2 to 8 inches except for 10 to 14 inches in Ellis, Roger Hills, and Beckham Counties. Precipitation amounts varied from 2 inches in the Panhandle and northwest to 4 inches in Jackson County. Ice and snow build-up to 34 inches in diameter on lines caused service interruptions of 2 to 36 hours in Woodward, Dewey, Roger Hills, Custer, Washita, and Beckham Counties. About 600 telephone outages were caused by 100 downed poles and 275 broken crossarms, while electrical outages were caused by burned lines and 42 downed poles that affected 1500 families. One furniture warehouse roof was collapsed from wet snow load at Dill City, Custer County.</p>																
OREGON									None reported																		
PACIFIC AREA									None reported																		
PENNSYLVANIA									None reported																		
PUERTO RICO									None reported																		
RHODE ISLAND									None reported																		

See reference notes at end of table.

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

FEBRUARY 1964

PLACE	DATE	TIME	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
SOUTH CAROLINA			None reported						
SOUTH DAKOTA	No report received by printing deadline.								
TENNESSEE									
Knoxville, Knox County	6	4:00 A			0	0	4	0	Wind
	Strong winds, accompanied by rain, lightning and snow, during passage of a cold front uprooted trees one of which damaged a house, did minor building damage, and downed power lines and billboard signs.								
TEXAS									
Panhandle	3-5				4	0	6	5	Snowstorm
	The worst snowstorm of the 1963-64 season buried portions of the Texas Panhandle under 18 to 26 inches of snow. This was the second heaviest snowfall in Panhandle history, and fell on the anniversary date of the record 1956 storm, which occurred February 2-5th. The snow blanketed portions of Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Generally, 15 inches or more fell from the Texas-New Mexico line along Leaf Smith and Oldham Counties northward through Wheeler, Hemphill and Lipscomb Counties. Borger reported 26.0 inches, Miami 23.8, Claude 23.5, Panhandle 22.0 and Perryton, Spearman, Hereford, and Dumas 18.0 inches. Amarillo reported 17.3 inches, the heaviest since a 20.6 fall in November 1931. Lesser amounts fell on the South Plains with 5.6 inches at Plainview, 5.0 inches at Crosbyton, but only 1.0 inch at Lubbock. Winds of 30 to 35 mph piled snow in 8 to 10 foot drifts, completely paralyzing traffic, and isolating towns, farms and ranches for as long as three days. At one time, on the 6th, all highways leading to Amarillo were closed, except U. S. highway 87 south. All highways in the Panhandle north of Amarillo were closed. No mail reached Borger for three days. Thousands of motorists were stranded along the highways. Motels and hotels were swamped with tourists. Many stayed in private homes, gas stations, and churches. Minimum temperatures were generally in the 20's, and with wind velocities only 30-35 mph, casualties and stock losses were low. Four persons died in Texas, as a result of the storm. One person died from exposure on an isolated ranch near Stinnett; two near Amarillo died from heart attacks or carbon monoxide poisoning; while another, near Amarillo, backed his pick-up truck into the path of a train, in the blinding snow. Thousands of cattle strayed during the storm, and about 200 were killed by locomotives as they gathered in railway "cubs", seeking shelter from the storm. 150 head were found dead along the railroad tracks in Hartley and Dallam Counties. An estimated 200 head died from exposure. Cattle losses were extremely light compared to those in the March 1957 blizzard. Property damage was estimated at \$650,000 and livestock losses at \$61,000. Approximately half of the property damage was to streets and roads, caused by alternate freezing and thawing. In Borger, four business houses and one or two small homes collapsed under the weight of the snow. Many garages, awnings, and overhangs also collapsed under the weight of the snow. Farmers were jubilant over the generous amount of moisture provided by the snow.								
Eagle Lake Colorado County	4	4:20 a.- 4:30 a.	2	200	0	1	?	0	Tornado
	A tornado skipped and zig-zagged through Eagle Lake causing several thousand dollars property damage and one injury. The storm approached from the southwest. Hardest hit area was in the vicinity of the airport where a large airplane hanger and office was demolished and wood and sheet metal scattered a quarter of a mile. The tornado skipped over a frame house located just a few feet from the hanger, flipped a house trailer upside down, and moved northerly, ripping sheet metal from a hay barn near the Cats Spring Road. One person was injured in the overturned trailer house. Heavy damage was also reported in the area west of Eagle Lake with many out-buildings demolished and power and telephone poles twisted off or blown down. A small shed in the rear of a home on highway 90A west was hurled over a hundred yards into a vacant pasture. About 50 television antennae were twisted off, and the brick chimney of a home on McCarty Street toppled.								
Rosenberg Fort Bend County	4	5:30 a.	2	200	0	0	4	0	Windstorm, hail
	Two homes were damaged by thunderstorm winds estimated at 75 mph. A portion of the roof of one home at 1023 Magnolia Street was blown away. A carport was also blown off the same home. One side of a garage, about one-half a block away, was also blown off. Television antennae along the block were twisted by the wind. A number of signs were twisted along the Wharton Highway. Property damage was estimated at \$10,000. Hailstones up to golf-ball size fell during the storm. Average size was 1/2 to 3/4 inch.								
Richmond Fort Bend County	4	6:00 a.	?	?	0	0	?	0	Windstorm, hail
	Thunderstorm winds estimated at 60 mph blew off the roof of a garage, and caused considerable damage to signs. Hailstones up to 2 inches in diameter fell during the storm.								
UTAH									
	None reported								

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					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
VERMONT									
Southeastern sections	16				0	0	4	0	Snow
	Wind-whipped storm dumped 10 to 15 inches of badly drifted snow over this area. Driving conditions became very difficult and poor visibility, near zero at times, added to the hazardous conditions. Several communities experienced interruptions of power and telephone services during the storm.								
Extreme southern portion	19-20				0	0	4	0	Snow
	Storm yielded 8 to 12 inches of wind-whipped snow that was piled into drifts of several feet. Travel and transportation were slowed to a crawl. This was the second heavy snowstorm to strike this section within 4 days.								
U.S. VIRGIN IS.									
	None reported								
VIRGINIA									
	None reported								
WASHINGTON									
	None reported								
WEST VIRGINIA									
Statewide	10-11						?		Snowstorm especially in White Sulphur Springs and Charleston areas. Total snowfall was 5 to 13 inches and was the first wet snow of season.
Eastern Panhandle North Central Sections	19						?		Snowstorm
	Three Eastern Panhandle counties paralyzed by 20-inch snowfall. Four towns between Fairmont and Wheeling isolated by 6-10 inch snowfall. Snowladen trees fell on and broke power and telephone lines throughout northern half of State.								
Northern half of State	28								Snowstorm
	8-10 inch snowfall northern half of State. Little damage reported. Traffic paralysis temporarily.								
WISCONSIN									
	None reported								
WYOMING									
	None reported								

- * Miles instead of yards.
- † 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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USCOMM-WB-Asheville, N. C. -3/31/64-1000