

OCTOBER 1978

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STORM DATA



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noaa

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA AND
INFORMATION SERVICE

NATIONAL CLIMATIC CENTER
ASHEVILLE, N.C.

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

OCTOBER 1978

PLACE	DATE	TIME - LOCAL STANDARD	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED ¹ DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
ALABAMA	October was a dry month for Alabama with no significant storms.								
ALASKA	23				0	7	6	0	High wind and rough seas; minor coastal flood
Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay	A storm moved northeast at about 50 knots from the North Pacific and crossed the Aleutians near Dutch Harbor on the morning of Oct. 23. Southerly winds to 100 knots occurred in advance of the storm over the Alaska Peninsula waters. The high winds and seas sunk a 100-foot fishing vessel, the "Key West" in the Alaska Peninsula waters; the crew of 6 was rescued. A barge was beached by the rough weather near Port Moller. Several vessels lost anchors in the strong winds ahead of the storm. The weather front associated with the storm swept over Bristol Bay on the afternoon of Oct. 23. Southwest gales behind the front caused a rise in water levels of about 6 feet in Bristol Bay on the evening of Oct. 23, causing minor coastal flooding. A cannery at Clark's Point, on Nushagak Bay, sustained minor flood damage.								
Anchorage area	29				0	?	5	?	High wind
	A strong occluded front moved eastward into Cook Inlet on the morning of Oct. 29. Southeast winds up to 65 knots occurred in the Anchorage area and in the Matanuska Valley on the morning of Oct. 29 just ahead of the weather front. There was widespread wind damage; power outages, roof damage, trees down and some damage to structures. The parent storm center moved up to the Yukon Delta on the evening of Oct. 29; minor coastal flooding occurred at Hooper Bay, just south of the Yukon Delta, at that time.								
Southeast Alaska	30				0	0	5	0	Heavy rains and mudslides
	The occluded front that caused the windstorm in Anchorage on Oct. 29 swept over southeast Alaska on Oct. 30. The frontal passage over southeast Alaska was embedded in strong southwest flow of moist maritime air. From 1 to 4 inches of rain fell at most locations in southeast Alaska on the 30th. Heavy rains caused some power outages, drainage flooding and water flowing into basements in Juneau. Mudslides occurred at Sitka and Pelican. At Pelican, 2 houses were moved from their foundations by mudslides.								
ARIZONA	NONE REPORTED								
ARKANSAS	NONE REPORTED								
CALIFORNIA NORTHERN	NO REPORT RECEIVED								
CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN	NONE REPORTED								
COLORADO	NONE REPORTED								
CONNECTICUT	NONE REPORTED								
DELAWARE	NONE REPORTED								
FLORIDA	01	4:05pm EST			0	0	0	0	Waterspout
Pinellas County	A waterspout was observed over the Gulf of Mexico offshore from Dunedin.								
Charlotte County	02	12:30pm EST			0	0	0	0	Waterspouts
	Two waterspouts were reported by the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office at the Peace and Myakka Rivers, moving toward the west.								
Monroe County	04	10:30am EST			0	0	0	0	Waterspouts
	Two waterspouts were observed for a brief period near Islamorada.								
FLORIDA (continued)									
Indian River County	04	2:00pm EST	3/10	20	0	0	4	0	Tornado
	A small tornado touched down in the extreme southeast corner of Indian River County near the community of Vero Shores. Several homes had roof damage; many power lines and trees were downed.								
Monroe County	05	10:08am EST			0	0	0	0	Funnel cloud
	A funnel cloud was sighted 3 miles southeast of the Key West International Airport.								
Hillsborough County	05	1:00pm EST			0	2	0	0	Lightning
	Lightning struck 2 women standing in the open near model homes at Beacon Meadows on Gunn Highway in northwest Hillsborough County. Both were burned, and one required mouth-to-mouth resuscitation at the scene.								
Hillsborough and Polk Counties	05	3-4pm EST			0	0	4	0	Wind, hail
	A severe thunderstorm produced winds in excess of 70 mph and golf ball size hail in an area south of Plant City in Hillsborough County. The storm moved southeastward into Polk County and did an estimated \$25000 damages to homes in the southwest part of Bartow.								
Monroe County	10	10:50am EST			0	0	0	0	Waterspouts
	Two large waterspouts, moving toward the west southwest, were observed 7 miles south of Key West International Airport.								
Dade County	11	10:00am EST			0	0	0	0	Waterspouts
	A waterspout was reported by the Dade County Sheriff's Office offshore near 163rd Street.								
Dade County	11	2:15pm EST			0	0	0	0	Funnel cloud
	A funnel cloud was observed for a few minutes 6 miles west of Homestead.								
Dade County	12	early afternoon			0	0	0	0	Funnel cloud
	A funnel cloud was reported 12 miles northeast of Homestead.								
Sarasota County	13	1:40pm EST	?	?	0	0	0	0	Tornado
Manatee County	A small tornado was reported by the Sheriff's Office just north of Fruitville, moving northwestward. It apparently retreated into the clouds after a short time but dipped down again briefly in the eastern part of Bradenton. No damages or injuries were reported.								
Alachua County	13	5:00pm EST			0	0	0	0	Funnel cloud
	A funnel cloud was reported over the south part of Gainesville.								
Palm Beach County	14	7:22am EST			0	0	0	0	Funnel clouds
	Several funnel clouds were reported 4 miles east of Lantana.								
Pinellas County	14	9:15am EST			0	0	0	0	Waterspouts
	Two waterspouts were observed offshore from Clearwater. One was reported near Clearwater Beach; the other 20 miles west of Clearwater.								
Monroe County	23	4:20pm EST			0	0	0	0	Waterspout
	A waterspout was reported in the Sugarloaf Key area.								
GEORGIA									
Athens, Clarke County	13	7:00 p			0	1	0	0	Lightning
	Lightning hit the coach of the Athens Christian football team, resulting in minor burns.								
HAWAII									
5 mi. off Waianalo, Oahu	17	5:24p-5:40p							Waterspout
	Waterspout moved northwest.								
Kauai and Oahu	30-31				0	0	*4	C	Heavy rain
	"Kona low" 500 miles Nw of Kauai moved S to 300 miles west of Kauai. Continuous 2-day rain from extensive cloud cover drenched islands. Twenty-four-hour rainfall of 8.46 inches at Lihue Airport, Kauai and 7.51 inches at Honolulu Airport, Oahu surpassed previous 24-hour rainfall records for October. Storm rainfall unusually evenly spread over islands. Post rainages collected about 10 inches. On Kauai streams barely overflowed or close to overflow stage. Home in Nawiliwili flooded. On Oahu leafy crops sustained damage.								

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					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
IDAHO			NONE REPORTED						
ILLINOIS St. Clair, Clay and Randolph Counties	12	Afternoon and Evening			1	0	5	?	Lightning, Hailstorm
			A thunderstorm, accompanied by large hail and many lightning strikes, hit the southern half of the state in the afternoon and night. Power failures were numerous. Much of the storm's fury was felt in Clay County, where several fires were believed to have been caused by lightning. A home in Louisville was destroyed by fire at about 7:40pm and a service station in Xenia was also gutted at about 9:10pm. A woman living in Flora was hit by lightning and killed in the afternoon as she gathered clothes from a drying line in her back yard. Hail as large as golf balls caused damage to soybean fields in southern Clay County. Large hail also was reported in St. Clair and Randolph Counties.						
INDIANA Lake George Steuben County	5	4:11 PM							Funnel cloud
			A funnel was confirmed over Lake George.						
Mingo LaGrange County	5	4:20 PM	1	40	0	0	4	0	Tornado
			A tornado was reported by a conservation officer near Mingo east of LaGrange. Damage was reported to several outside buildings.						
Seymour Jackson County	12	4:00 PM			0	0	?	0	Hail
			Seymour rainfall observer reported one and three quarters inch hail and heavy rain with passing thunderstorms.						
IOWA Norwalk Warren County	10	5:25P	--	--	1	1	0	0	Lightning
			Two men were walking to the green at Echo Valley Country Club when they were struck by lightning. One man was killed and the other had minor injuries. Attempts were made to revive the man but were unsuccessful.						
KANSAS			NONE REPORTED						
KENTUCKY			NONE REPORTED						
LOUISIANA St. Tammany Parish	22	9:45 PM			2	19	5	0	Dense Fog
			Dense fog with zero visibility was blamed for a fiery, chain-reaction series of collisions on Interstate 10 at the north end of the twin bridges crossing Lake Pontchartrain. One couple was burned to death when a gasoline tanker smashed into their car and another truck loaded with shrimp. At least thirteen other vehicles then plowed into the wreckage, injuring nineteen people, several seriously.						
MAINE			NONE REPORTED						
MARYLAND & D.C. Eastern Shore	12	Early Morning			0	0	0	0	Fog
			Widespread dense fog resulted in extremely hazardous driving conditions. At least two highway accidents were reported in what was termed by a police spokesman as the worst fog condition this year.						
MASSACHUSETTS Attleboro	19	9:30 PM			0	0	3	0	lightning
			Lightning struck three houses and a restaurant. Two chimneys were destroyed, some siding was burned off and an air conditioner was burned out.						
MICHIGAN 3 1/2 SW Muskegon county airport over Lake Michigan. Warren, Macomb	5	11:01 AM							Funnel Cloud Reported by the Grand Haven State Police Post.
	5	2:45 PM	1/2	100	0	0	4		Tornado Touched down briefly just north of Hoover and Stephens Rd. intersection, heavily damaging the roofs of two buildings and throwing debris through the windows of another. It then skipped ENE damaging the roof of a home under construction on Wagner Road before lifting.
MINNESOTA 2 South St. Peter, Le Sueur County	2	3:50P							Funnel Cloud
MISSISSIPPI			NONE REPORTED						
MISSOURI Johnson County	2	ngt	?	?	0	0	4	0	Lightning
			Lightning destroyed a barn on the Mark Scherer farm near Center-view. The Johnson County Volunteer Fire Department responded to the scene, but rains and recently tilled fields kept the equipment from reaching the fire. The barn was used as a machine storage shed. Its contents were also destroyed by the fire.						
North Central and Western Missouri	10	2-9 pm	?	?	0	0	0	5	Hail
			Cold air aloft combined with unstable, warm, moist air at the surface produced thunderstorms that moved southeastward over the state, producing hail at times as large as golf balls and at times lasting as long as 30 minutes. Golf-ball sized hail was reported south of Humansville and in Everton, both in Polk county and in Ray county. Hundreds of acres of soybeans were damaged. In some cases, although the hail was only marble-sized, the stones pounded the crops for nearly 30 minutes, damaging ripe soybeans and some milo in Johnson county.						
MONTANA			NO REPORT RECEIVED						
NEBRASKA			NONE REPORTED						
NEVADA Las Vegas	24	0800			0	0	5	0	Thunderstorm
			Locally heavy rain with moist tropical flow southern Nevada.						
NEW HAMPSHIRE			NONE REPORTED						
NEW JERSEY Northern N. J.	6	12 mid			0	0	?	?	Rain and Flood
			More than three feet of water was reported due to heavy rains causing floodings in Northern New Jersey. The flooding caused considerable damage to cars, roads, homes and utilities. There were no available reports on injuries, deaths or crop damage due to the storm.						
NEW MEXICO 5 Miles North of Hobbs, Lea County	10	5:53 p.	?	?	0	0	4	0	Tornado
			Small, short-lived tornado picked up and turned completely over vacant mobile home. Characteristic roaring sound was reported.						
NEW YORK COASTAL			NONE REPORTED						
NEW YORK CENTRAL			NONE REPORTED						

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NEW YORK (continued)									
WESTERN			NONE REPORTED						
NORTH CAROLINA									
			NONE REPORTED						
NORTH DAKOTA									
Northwest	4	Early Morning			0	0	?	0	Windstorm
			Winds over 55 mph. Only minor damage reported.						
Northwest	24	Afternoon			0	0	?	0	Windstorm
			Winds over 60 mph. Only minor damage reported.						
OHIO									
Lancaster, Fairfield	12	6 p	-	-	0	1	4	0	High wind, hail lightning
			A heavy thunderstorm passed over the Fairfield County Fair causing considerable damage. Lightning started some fires and high winds downed trees and toppled some tents. A 3-year old girl was struck in the head by a falling branch and was seriously injured.						
Winona, Columbiana County	12	6:25 p	7	250	0	4	6	0	Tornado
			A strong tornado moved from southwest to northeast touching down first about 2 miles southwest of Winona and lifting off about 5 miles north northeast of Winona. Several homes were extensively damaged with four of them being total losses. Also a number of mobile homes were damaged or destroyed in the Spring Valley Trailer Park. Four members of a family were injured when their home collapsed.						
OKLAHOMA									
			NONE REPORTED						
OREGON									
			NONE REPORTED						
PACIFIC									
Guam	24				2	2	*6	C	Supertyphoon Rita
			Forming just to the east of the International Dateline, tropical disturbance developed into tropical depression near 10N 178E on evening of 16th. Moving westward Tropical Storm Rita passed over or very close to Utirik, Rongelap and Bikini Atolls before passing just north of Eniwetok Atoll as Typhoon Rita on evening of 19th. No damage reports received from these islands. Continuing westward Rita attained Supertyphoon strength 350 miles east southeast of Guam and passed within 100 miles south of Guam early morning of 24th with estimated 160 mph maximum sustained winds near center. Guam was spared from Rita's strongest winds and wind speed up to 80 mph over the southern part of island did not cause as much damage as expected. Preliminary damage estimates to government facilities, private residences and crops totaled near \$2 million. Heaviest damage was to 100 yard stretch of beachside road between Inarajan and Merizo along southern coast washed out by high waves. Forty-five to 85% of crops damaged or lost, mainly in southern sections of island. Two navymen killed and another injured when electrocuted attempting to lower citizens band radio antenna before strong winds. Korean construction worker fell 6 stories off apartment building while preparing for hurricane. Speeding westward, Rita struck central Luzon in the Philippines on 26th causing considerable loss of lives and property. After passing through the Philippines, Rita weakened before reaching Vietnam coast and ended its long travel.						
PENNSYLVANIA									
EASTERN									
Pottstown, Montgomery County	14	5:30 AM EDT			0	0	4	0	Electrical
			Lightning struck the roof of an apartment building causing a fire that resulted in \$30,000 damage.						

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PENNSYLVANIA (continued)									
WESTERN									
Punxsutawney	4	3 PM			0	2	?	0	Lightning
			Lightning struck 4 buildings, a couple of blocks apart, and injured 2 men. They were injured while working in the garage of a car dealer. Both were taken to the hospital for treatment and later discharged. An eight story building was damaged the most. The damage included the fire service water line, parking area, bricks and aluminum siding around the side of the building, and to the TV cable connections.						
Erie	5	6:30 PM			0	0	0	0	Funnel Cloud
			A funnel cloud was spotted 3 miles offshore Lake Erie, but dispersed before reaching land.						
PUERTO RICO									
Vieques Sound	2	11:30 a.			0	0	0	0	Waterspout
Vieques Sound	4	1:45 p.			0	0	0	0	Waterspout
Vieques Sound	14	8:30 a.			0	0	0	0	Waterspout
Vieques Passage	20	4:00 p.			0	0	0	0	Waterspout
Southern and Eastern Sections	22-27				1	0	*6	C	Rain, Floods
			A combination of the effects of a tropical wave and an upper low pressure system over the eastern Caribbean generated five days of continuous moderate to heavy rains concentrated over the southern and eastern half of Puerto Rico. Although there were no periods of high intensity rainfall, there were occasional periods of heavy rains for several hours at a time. (The highest 24-hour total amount was 8.32 inches at Humacao, measured on the morning of the 27th. Some totals for the 5-day period were: Humacao 18.07, Yabucoa 17.45, Ponce 12.71, and numerous southern and eastern towns with over ten inches. The heaviest damages were to roads and agriculture. Several bridges were damaged or washed away. In Salinas, on the south coast, the bridge at Villa Colorado Street crossing the Nigua River collapsed. One man was drowned while attempting to cross the Guanani River at Guayama. No injuries were reported. The flood gates of both Lajiza and Guayabal Dams were opened to relieve pressure. No major rivers flooded although a number of smaller creeks ran over their banks and there was heavy flooding from runoff and ponding in low lying areas along the south and southeast coasts from Guayanilla do Fajardo. Landslides were numerous in the interior and most roads were impassable at one time or another. Coffee and small crops took heavy damage. In Lajas there was considerable loss of livestock. In Humacao the hardest hit area was Punta Santiago and a total of 600 families were in shelters. Along the south coast the hardest hit towns were Ponce, Juana Diaz, Santa Isabel and Villalba where a total of 1,110 families were sheltered in eleven different locations.						
Vieques Sound	23	9:15 a.			0	0	0	0	Waterspout
RHODE ISLAND									
			NONE REPORTED						
SOUTH CAROLINA									
	1-31				0	0	4	5	Dry Weather
			Unusually dry weather across entire state reduced yield of soybeans and late maturing crops. Dry conditions also resulted in high incidence of forest fires.						
SOUTH DAKOTA									
			NONE REPORTED						
TENNESSEE									
			NONE REPORTED						
TEXAS									
NORTHERN	5	12:00 a - 3:00 a			0	0	5	?	Windstorm Hailstorm
Jack, Denton, Dallas, Tarrant and Wise Counties			A line of severe thunderstorms moved southeast through North Central Texas. In Jack County, winds to 77 mph damaged some roofs and blew down trees in Jacksboro around 12:20 am. Hail covered the ground to a depth of two to three inches in Runaway Bay located in west central Wise County. Winds between 30-40 mph were reported in the remaining counties, with pea size hail in northern Tarrant County.						

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					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS							KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS		
TEXAS (continued)																				
SOUTHERN																				
Kingsville, Kleberg Co.	3	Noon																		Funnel cloud
The funnel aloft was observed near Kingsville during moderate to heavy thunderstorms. No damage occurred as it never touched ground.																				
El Campo, Wharton Co.	3	12:30 p																		Funnel cloud
The Wharton County sheriff observed the funnel aloft just north of El Campo. Heavy thunderstorms in the area produced 4 1/2 inches of rain at the time causing minor flooding, but the funnel receded harmlessly back into the thunderstorm cloud without touching ground.																				
Port Mansfield, Willacy Co.	3	3:15 p & 5:30 p	7	7	0	0	0	0												Funnel cloud, Waterspout
At 3:15 pm the Port Mansfield harbor master observed the funnel aloft just south of Port Mansfield on the coast. At 5:30 pm a pilot observed a waterspout in the Gulf due east of Port Mansfield and east of Padre Island. It caused no reported damage to marine interests.																				
Arcadia, Galveston Co.	5	12:45 p	Short	Narrow	0	0	4	0												Tornado
A large heavy coastal thunderstorm spawned the small short-lived twister which briefly touched ground and twisted off the roof of a mobile home at 1562 1/2 Pine Street. Damage was estimated at \$5000. The occupants were not hurt. Heavy small hail fell during the storm but apparently caused no additional damage.																				
TEXAS																				
WESTERN																				
Carson County	7	8:06 p			0	0	4	6												Hailstorm
An extensive hailstorm with .5-inch hail damaged crops in an area 25 miles long and 8 miles wide just west of the town of Panhandle, in Carson County. Hail was piled five to six inches deep in some places with 50 to 80 percent of the milo, corn, and sorghum crops destroyed over the area. Damages were estimated at nearly one million dollars to crops, with only minor damages to windows and other vegetation. As much as six inches of rain was reported with the storm.																				
Amarillo, Potter County	7	9:45 p			0	0	0	0												Hailstorm
Hail measuring 1.75 inches in diameter was reported in an area 18 miles north of Amarillo. Hail covered the ground in places to a depth of 6 inches. However, the storm occurred in an area of pasture land and no damage was indicated.																				
El Paso, El Paso County	21	4:15 p			0	0	0	0												Windstorm
Wind gusts to 59 miles an hour were reported at the Weather Service Office in a locally heavy shower. One inch of rain was recorded. No damage was indicated.																				
UTAH			NONE REPORTED																	
VERMONT			NONE REPORTED																	
VIRGINIA			NONE REPORTED																	
VIRGIN ISLANDS																				
Virgin Passage	1	12:05 p.			0	0	0	0												Waterspout
Virgin Passage	3	8:35 a.			0	0	0	0												Waterspout
Virgin Passage	15	1:30 p.			0	0	0	0												Waterspout
WASHINGTON			NONE REPORTED																	
WEST VIRGINIA			NONE REPORTED																	
WISCONSIN			NONE REPORTED																	
WYOMING			NONE REPORTED																	

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THE FOLLOWING ARE LATE REPORTS, CORRECTIONS, AND DELETIONS:

LATE REPORTS										
MASSACHUSETTS										
			AUGUST 1978							
North Attleboro	7	10:40 PM		0	0	2	0		lightning	
As a large pine tree was struck, electricity passed into a house cutting a hole in the roof.										
MONTANA										
			SEPTEMBER 1978							
Northeast	7	Aftn		0	0	5	5		Hail, Wind	
Golfball hail in combination with strong winds broke numerous windows and damaged roofs.										
Phillips County	7	10 PM		0	2				Strong Wind, Hail	
Strong winds from a thunderstorm blew away a cockhouse. Two persons were injured.										
Northeast	10	night		0	0	5	5		Hail, Rain, Wind	
A vigorous storm with egg-size hail with strong rains destroyed crops, broke windows and damaged buildings										
Southeast	17	night		0	0	5	0		Heavy snow, Wind	
Heavy rains lower elevations and up to 3 feet of 4 thousand feet caused extensive damage to power poles and some homes.										

CORRECTIONS										
MONTANA										
			JULY 1978							
Cascade	3	4:30 PM	1	300	0	2	5	5	Tornadoes	
Three tornadoes destroyed 200 acres of timber and a campground. A school bus with 20 occupants was lifted from the ground.										
DELETE										
RHODE ISLAND										
			AUGUST 1978							
North Attleboro	7	10:40pm		0	0	2	0		Lightning	
A large pine tree was blown up as lightning hit. Electricity passed into a house making a hole in the roof and blowing fuses										

- 0 Includes crop damage.
- C Crop damage.
- * 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 Million
 - 7 \$5 Million to \$50 Million
 - 8 \$50 Million to \$500 Million
 - 9 \$500 Million to \$5 Billion

Note: This publication contains our best information on storms but, due to the difficulties inherent in collection of the type of data, it is not all-inclusive. Late Reports and Corrections will be carried in the month following receipt of these data.

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THIRD CLASS
BULK RATE