

FEBRUARY 1979

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STORM DATA



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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA AND
INFORMATION SERVICE

NATIONAL CLIMATIC CENTER
ASHEVILLE, N.C.

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

FEBRUARY 1979

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									
Northeast and east central counties	17-18	Evening to late morning			0	0	6	0	Snow, sleet and glaze
									Combination of snow, sleet, and glaze produced as much as 2 - 4 inches of ice. Alabama Power experienced damage to power lines and poles at \$800,000, and 80,000 customers were without power at some time during storm. The loss to poultry farmers estimated at \$1 million due to collapse of chicken houses. Heavy damage to timber resulted in some areas. Many metal awnings, catwalks, and garports damaged by weight of ice.
Statewide	23-24	Afternoon to early morning			0	0	4	0	Rain and flood
									Rainfall of from 1 - 3 inches generally over state and as much as 5 inches over southern portion resulted in flash flooding in cities and along smaller streams. Light damage due to flooding along Choctawhatchee River at Newton and Geneva.
Lamar County	24	8:21p			0	0	2	0	Wind/Hail
									Severe thunderstorm in advance of cold front produced high winds and hail larger than golf balls near Vernon and Gulligent.
Limestone County	24	9:30p			0	7	4	0	Windstorm
									Severe thunderstorm with marble size hail and damaging winds caused injury and destroyed three mobile homes in Copeland Community in northeast portion of county.
Madison County	24	10:03p			0	0	4	0	Windstorm
									High winds from severe thunderstorm destroyed barn along highway 53 in Ready Section.
ALASKA									
Southcentral	4-10				0	?	6	?	High wind.
									Low pressure strengthened just south of the Kenai Peninsula and moved southeastward into the Gulf of Alaska on Feb. 3. Strong high pressure and very cold Arctic air prevailed over the interior of Alaska. The strong high pressure gradient that moved down over southcentral Alaska late on Feb. 3 remained until Feb. 10. Strong northeast winds hit Palmer and Anchorage just after midnight on Feb. 5; the strong winds continued until the afternoon of Feb. 8 in Anchorage and until the morning of Feb. 10 in Palmer. Peak gusts of 100 mph were unofficially reported in Palmer. There was considerable damage to some buildings, frequent closure of roads in heavy drifting snow, power and telephone outages and stranded motorists. Schools were closed in Palmer for 6 days - a new record. On Feb. 9, Governor Hammond declared the Matanuska Valley and the Palmer area a disaster area. 14 aircraft were damaged at Palmer and several flights diverted from Anchorage International Airport. Tanker traffic into the harbor at Valdez was stopped on Feb. 5 and did not resume until Feb. 9; throughout on the pipeline was curtailed sharply, but not cut totally. Most building damage in this storm was sustained in Palmer and the Matanuska Valley.
Southcentral	14-15				0	2	6	?	High wind.
									Low pressure moved from Bristol Bay southeastward into the Gulf of Alaska on the 12th and 13th. High pressure and very cold Arctic air continued to hold over the interior of Alaska. The strong pressure gradient that moved down over southcentral Alaska late on Feb. 13 did not weaken until late on Feb. 15. Strong northeast wind began in Palmer just after midnight on Feb. 14 and in Anchorage just before noon on the 14th. The winds in Anchorage diminished just before noon on Feb. 15 and the strong wind in Palmer did not end until the afternoon of the 15th. The Port of Valdez was closed to tanker traffic on the 14th. There was considerable building damage - mainly in Anchorage, where winds gusted to 70 mph - and several incoming flights diverted from Anchorage International Airport. Several fires were either started or aggravated in Anchorage by the wind, causing injuries to 2 firemen. Barge dockings were delayed at Seward and Whittier; a boat sunk at Seward due to heavy freezing spray and superstructure icing. There were several power and phone outages - mostly in Anchorage.
Alaska Peninsula	28				2		6		High wind and rough seas
									A moderate occluded front moved northeastward toward the Alaska Peninsula waters on the night of Feb. 27. Southeast gales were blowing ahead of the front as it moved over the Alaska Peninsula on Feb. 28. The mountainous terrain of the Peninsula channeled the wind to storm force in places. At 1:22PM, the "Alaska Roughneck", a 138-foot landing craft carrying truck vans loaded with frozen crabmeat, went aground on Upper Iliak Island, about 25 miles southeast of Cold Bay. Though temporary repairs were made, the "Roughneck" began to take on water in rough seas and east winds to 60 knots in Bear Passage, about 20 miles southeast of Cold Bay. At 2:55PM, the ship foundered and sank. While two of the crew survived, the Master and one of the crewmen of the ship were lost.
ARIZONA									
Tempe Maricopa County	1	2:15 p.							Funnel Clouds
									Two funnel clouds were observed by Weather Service personnel on duty at Sky Harbor International Airport. Funnels were estimated to be about 5 miles to the east-southeast over Tempe. Movement was to the northeast. As one funnel retracted, another formed close by. Total time about 10 minutes.
ARKANSAS									
Northern Two-Thirds	6-7	Mid-Evening to Early Morning			1	?	6	0	Heavy Snow
									This was the 3th heaviest snowfall on record in the state. The central sections of the state received the most snow with Hot Springs and Little Rock recording 11 inches and 9 inches of snow respectively. At the height of the storm, 41,000 persons were without electrical power. The only fatality reported occurred when a 64 year old Elkins (Washington County) man died of exposure while walking from his home to a neighbor's home. Total utility damage was estimated at 750 thousand dollars and total private property damage was estimated at 250 thousand dollars.
4 Miles South of Dardanelle - Yell County	22	5:15 p.			0	0	3	0	Hail
									Thunderstorms produced baseball sized hail which heavily damaged a police patrol car. No other damage was reported.
Russellville - Pope County	22	9:26 p.							Funnel Cloud
									The public reported a funnel cloud. No movement was given.
Birdtown - Conway County	22	10:02 p.							Funnel Cloud
									A storm spotter reported a funnel cloud moving northward.
Several Counties North-Central and Northeastern	22-23	Late Night to Early Morning			0	0	6	0	Flooding
									Heavy thunderstorms moving through the counties produced heavy rains and caused localized flooding. The heaviest damage occurred in the Bono Community in Craighead County where twenty-five homes were flooded. Most of the damage in Randolph County occurred on the roadways. Damage was estimated at 250 thousand dollars in Craighead County and 150 thousand dollars in Randolph County. Other counties that were flooded included Independence, 50 thousand dollars; Cleburne, 20 thousand dollars; Sharp, 50 thousand dollars; Izard, 21 thousand dollars; Lawrence, 50 thousand; Stone, 20 thousand; and Van Buren; 10 thousand. Damage in all the counties except Craighead and Randolph was confined to roadways.
Northern Two-Thirds	24-25	Mid-Evening to Early Morning			0	?	6	0	Heavy Snow
									Heavy snow began falling on the evening of the 24th and spread east-northeastward across the state. The heaviest official snowfall was 16 inches at Mens; but unofficial reports ranged up to 18 inches. Many sections had snowdrifts up to three feet deep. At the height of the storm almost 45,000 persons were without electrical power. Several chicken houses and other large out-buildings collapsed under the weight of the snow and over 50,000 chickens were killed. Total utility damage was estimated at 500 thousand dollars and total private property damage was estimated at 200 thousand dollars.
Newark - Independence County	25	12:53 a.			0	1	4	0	Lightning
									A twenty-seven year old woman suffered minor injuries when lightning struck and severely damaged her home.
CALIFORNIA									
NORTHERN & CENTRAL									NO REPORT RECEIVED

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CALIFORNIA (continued)									
SOUTHERN									
Inyo County	13		Big Pine experienced power failure due to heavy snow loadings during a heavy snow and wind storm.						
Mono County	13		Early morning strong winds blew hangar doors off at Mammoth Airport. A truck and trailer were blown over, and windshields of CALTRANS trucks were blown out.			7			
	28		Mammoth Airport reported winds 1825-065.						
COLORADO									
Northeastern Foothills									
	7	Aftn, eve	Strong westerly winds gusted as high as 89MPH near Boulder. The winds caused ground blizzards that closed several highways near Boulder for a time. Some cars were forced off the road and a large truck was overturned. Wind gusts of 50 to 80 MPH were common along the Front Range from Boulder northward to the Fort Collins area.	0	0	?	0		High winds
CONNECTICUT									
NONE REPORTED									
DELAWARE									
Statewide									
	7	All Day	First heavy snow of season left total of 2 to 6 inches over the south portion of the state and 6 to 8 inches over the north.						Snow
Statewide	18-19		Slow-moving low pressure system brought record snowfall beginning the afternoon of the 18th and continuing for 15-20 hours. Snow depths of 15 to 18 inches made it the worst storm since 1966, generally, and the 20 inches over Sussex County were the greatest in 57 years. While there were apparently no fatalities or serious injuries, losses were in the multi-millions of dollars. Some of the major losses included: \$3 million in losses to poultry industry due to collapse of buildings from snow weight; The total destruction of a modular home plant, valued at \$1.5 million, by fire which firemen were unable to reach due to blocked roads.	0	0	7	0		"Blizzard of '79"
Northern	21	Morning	Light freezing rain resulted in hazardous road conditions and many traffic accidents.	0	0		0		Glaze
Statewide	24-26		Nearly 4 inches of rain during the period combined with widespread snowmelt to bring a serious flooding problem to some sections on the 25th and 26th. In Kent and Sussex Counties nearly 50 roads and 9 bridges closed, with one bridge completely washed out near Rehobeth Beach. Near Frederica, Kent County, a 69-year-old woman succumbed during the attempt of the driver of the car she was in to carry her to safety through water 4 feet deep.	1	0	6	0		Rain, Flooding
FLORIDA									
Tallahassee, Leon County									
	6	7:00PM EST	Strong winds generated by a thunderstorm caused minor tree and utility line damage on the northeast edge of Tallahassee, mainly near Meridian and Osbottom roads.	0	0	2	0		Wind
Lee County	23	3:06PM EST	The Florida Highway Patrol reported a funnel cloud 5 miles west of Page Field in Fort Myers.						Funnel cloud
Walton County	24	1-3AM CST	Rain in excess of 4 1/2 inches in 2 hours damaged roads, drainage ditches, culverts and bridges in southern Walton County. Four bridge washouts were reported along the Gulf of Mexico on Route 30A.	0	0	6	0		Rain
Dade County	25	5:50PM EST	Strong winds associated with a thunderstorm caused minor damage to trees, cabanas, and utility lines in Florida City in southern Dade County.	0	0	2	0		Wind
GEORGIA									
North Central									
	6-7	began about 7P	One of the worst ice storms of the century. Not quite as severe as 1973 storm, but dollar damage higher.	0	0	7	5		Ice Storm
			The storm began as a mixture of snow and sleet before changing to freezing rain. Hart county totalled nearly 3" before the change over. Due to the warm ground, ice did not accumulate on most roads or power lines. The narrow and numerous pine trees did accumulate ice, broke under the weight, and felled power lines.						
			More than 110,000 homes were without power, some for 4 days. The hardest hit areas were North Atlanta (50,000 without power) and Athens (35,000 without power). See attached map.						
			The cost of restoring full power was estimated at more than \$5 million.						
Northern 2/3									
	17-18	4p-4P	A major snow and sleet storm struck the state. A small area in Northeast Georgia had all snow, while most of the affected area had all sleet, or a combination of precipitation types. See enclosed map.	2	0	6	5		Snow and sleet
			In contrast to the storm less than 2 weeks earlier, this one did not coat trees, but did coat roads. Therefore, major traveling problems resulted, but there were no power outages.						
			Two people died of exposure in the storm, one in Atlanta and another in Coweta County. A few others were killed in weather-related auto accidents. The storm cost businesses million of dollars in losses due to stranded travel. The Atlanta Airport was virtually closed for several hours.						
			The greatest damages occurred due to the weight of the ice and snow on roofs. This was especially true of chicken houses. Hundreds of thousands of chickens were						
	17-18		killed as a result of the roof failures. Thirteen counties in North Georgia were declared disaster areas mainly for this reason.						Snow and sleet
South	23-24	began 4P	Heavy thunderstorms produced more than 4 inches of rain. Ashburn in Turner Co. was hardest hit, with 6 families evacuated. Cars were submerged. Other areas hit were Dougherty Co, Ben Hill Co, Bacon Co, and Thomas Co.	0	0	5	4		Flooding
Thomas Co	24	3A	Thunderstorm winds downed hundred of trees near Thomasville. All trees were felled in the same direction. In addition, lightning killed 3 cows.	0	0	4	0		Wind /Lightning
Toombs Co	24	9:45A	Thunderstorm winds damaged a mobile home and downed trees in Vidalia. Damage was estimated at \$60,000.	0	0	5	0		Wind
HAWAII									
Off Ni'ihau Island									
	3	?	Band of cumulonimbus clouds and thunderstorms with strong southwest winds and heavy rain passed over area where two men were fishing aboard 29-foot boat. Body and half-sunk boat found about 10 miles southwest of Ni'ihau.			2			Probable rough seas
Cliffs above Kalapaki Bay, Kauai	3	3:15p-3:25p	Strong southwest winds accompanying cumulonimbus clouds uplifted roofs and broke numerous glass windows of five out of 22 cottages built on 100-foot cliff facing west. Estimated damages to cottages totaled \$5 million. Nine persons sustained minor cuts from flying glass.	0	9	5			Probable cumulonimbus wind gusts
East of Wheeler AFB, Oahu	6	1:13p							Funnel cloud

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Southeast Hawaii Island	19-20				0	1	6	6	Heavy rain, flood
									Deep upper trough caused heavy rain from persistent overcast non-thunderstorm clouds over southeastern Hawaii Island. Areas of heaviest damages were around Hilo, Keau, Pahoa, Kurtistown, Pahala, Mountain View and Haalehu. About 200 homes damaged. Estimated dollar damages - private housing \$400,000, Sugar plantations \$1,850,000, roads \$1.5 million, diversified agriculture \$2,650,000. Man suffered leg injury when wall of water swept his car off side road near Kurtistown. Water turned car over and tossed man out through broken door. Man held onto sugar cane stalks to keep from being swept away. Record rainfall fell at Hilo Airport - 22.30 inches in 24 hours, 28.64 inches in 48 hours and 3.08 inches in one hour.
7 miles southwest of Kaena Point, Lanai	20	2:27p							Waterspout
7 miles southeast of Kokohead, Oahu	21	7:30a							Waterspout
IDAHO Statewide	1-13				0	1	5	0	Freeze, Snow and Wind
									Continued below zero temperatures caused the ground to freeze to lower levels early in the month resulting in further damage to water lines, especially in southeast Idaho. Disrupted water supplies caused some schools to close temporarily. Salmon, Lemhi County, had a prolonged water supply problem and heavy repair costs. Snow, saturated with rain, and gusty winds collapsed the roof of a carport damaging three cars at Goeur d'Alade, Kootenai County, on the 8th. The roof of a hangar at Orofino Airport, Lewis County, collapsed onto a small plane on the 8th. There was some scattered roof damage from heavy snow loads throughout the State. At Wilford, Fremont County, the roof over the arena of a large barn collapsed under a heavy snow load on the 13th. At Silverhorn ski area in Wardner, Shoshone County, a man was injured when trapped in an avalanche on the 10th.
Blackfoot Area, Bingham County	2-5				0	0	5	?	Flooding
									Ice jamming on the Snake River north of Blackfoot caused flooding of about 100 acres on the 2nd. The ice jamming moved downstream near Blackfoot on the 4th and 5th causing flooding and closing of Interstate Highway 15. In addition to fields, many city basements were flooded.
Nez Perce County	7				0	0	6	0	Flooding
									Heavy rains combined with melting snow caused several creeks to flood. Lindsay Creek near Lewiston flooded 70 homes and 5 businesses. Sweetwater Creek flooded 46 homes on the west side of Lapwai. Roads and bridges were damaged, and much topsoil was lost from fields along creeks in the County.
Canyon County	13				0	0	6	0	Flooding
									A combination of warm rain and melting snow resulted in quick runoff causing a number of streams to flood. Willow Creek and Mills Creek Slough near Middleton caused 100 families to be evacuated, damaged 191 homes, 20 mobile homes, 12 apartments, 4 businesses, a post office, and a school. Flooding of Mason Creek caused heavy damage to a storage shed and contents in Nampa. Damage to roads and bridges in the County amounted to several hundred thousand dollars.
Weiser Area, Washington County	13				0	0	6	0	Flooding
									Ice jamming on the Weiser River moved downstream destroying the bridge about 10 miles north of Weiser and damaged another bridge 5 or 6 miles downstream.
ILLINOIS Southern Third	24-25				0	0	-	0	Heavy Snowstorm Ice Storm
									A late winter storm hit the southern part of the state. Beginning late at night on the 24th, and continuing through much of the 25th, snow over a foot deep and 18-24 inches deep in many sections, began to accumulate. Traffic and commerce were at a standstill, as the heavy snow piled up over the southern quarter of the state. The Governor requested federal disaster assistance for the 23 southernmost counties of the state hardest hit by the heaviest snow. Thousands of people were stranded by the snow while traveling on Interstate Highways 57 and 24 in the southern part of Illinois. Many of these travelers were forced to seek shelter in churches, fire stations and school gymnasiums. Several roofs were reported to have collapsed as the weight of the heavy snow put immense pressure on structures. North of the belt of heaviest snow and south of U. S. 40, most of the storm's damage was caused by thick accumulations of ice on tree limbs, wires and power poles. Hundreds of electrical poles fell with the weight of snow and ice, knocking out power to thousands of people.
ILLINOIS Northern Third	Entire Winter				0	0	0	0	Extreme Cold Heavy Snowstorms
									Record or near record snow and cold plagued the entire northern third of Illinois for all 3 winter months. At Chicago, the winter went into the record books as the snowiest ever, and as one of the coldest. The immense snow cover over northern Illinois contained a water equivalent of well over 5 inches in many sections, posing the threat of major flooding for the future.
INDIANA									NONE REPORTED
IOWA									SEE END OF TABLE
KANSAS									NONE REPORTED
KENTUCKY Crittenden, Webster, Daviess, Hancock, Breckinridge, Meade, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Henry, and Owen Cy's	22	12-5 PM EST			0	1	6	0	SVR TSTM
									A severe tstm formed over Crittenden Cy at 12 p.m. EST and moved northeastward at 45 mph. This storm moved into Louisville at 3:30 p.m. EST causing 60 MPH winds. A man at a construction site was seriously injured when he was hit by flying debris. A restaurant was deroofed and a yellow cab antenna was blown down.
Calloway Cy	23	3:15 am CST	1/2	30	0	0	5	0	Tornado
									A tornado touched down 1 3/4 miles east of Murray early Friday morning. Two campers, two barns, and two homes were damaged or destroyed. This tornado had a narrow path and was only on the ground for a short distance.
Jefferson Cy	23	4:30 am EST					6	0	Lightning
									Lightning hit the Channel 32 TV Station knocking it off the air for 3 days. Damage was more than one-half million dollars.
LOUISIANA Orleans and Jefferson parishes	5-6	Morning of 6th	?	?	0	0	?	0	Flood
									A continuous rain over several hours (more than 24 hours) which was of a light to moderate nature caused a gradual pooling of water in New Orleans and surrounding cities. The rain then became occasionally heavy during the early morning hours of the 6th which put water in as many as 100 homes. Several streets were closed which in turn closed nearly all schools due to lack of bus transportation. A few families were evacuated. No estimate of property damage was made. In all 5 to 8 inches of rain fell.

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Much of northern and central	17	Most of the 17th	0	0	0	0	?	?	Ice storm
		The worst ice storm since 1973 coated most of the northern and central parishes with up to 2 inches of ice. Most of the icing was on objects above the ground with only light icing on the ground itself. However hundreds of power lines and poles fell under the ice or were knocked down by ice covered trees. As many as 50,000 homes were without electrical power at one time and many remained without power for several days. Property damage was very scattered and generally light. The cost of restoring electric service was the main expense and estimated to be \$350,000.							
East Baton Rouge, St. Landry, Livingston, St. James, Lafayette Parishes	23	6:00 PM-8:00 PM	?	?	0	13	5	?	Windstorm
		A large area of scattered thunderstorms covered most of Louisiana during the 23rd. That afternoon and evening the thunderstorms began forming in lines or clusters moving west to east. Several reports of minor to moderate damage was reported. The community of Eunice was particularly hard hit with several businesses in the downtown section and residential homes sustaining damage. Also in Livingston parish several trailers were overturned or destroyed with 12 people with minor injuries. The local football stadium in the city of Livingston sustained \$25,000 to \$30,000 damage. Elsewhere in East Baton Rouge, Lafayette parishes some minor property damage took place. In St. James parish one person was slightly injured when a trailer was overturned.							
St. Landry Parish	23	6:30 PM	0	0	0	0	5	0	Lightning
Caddo Parish	23	?	?	?	0	0	?	?	Hail Storm
		Both of these storms were a part of the same large area of thunderstorms that covered most of Louisiana on the 23rd. In St. Landry parish lightning struck a home setting it on fire burning one man to death. Also a business in Opelousas in St. Landry parish was struck by lightning and burned completely down. In Caddo parish hailstones 2 to 4 inches in diameter fell in the Shreveport area doing some minor property damage.							
MAINE			NONE REPORTED						
MARYLAND & D.C.			NONE REPORTED						
Eastern	1	All Day			0	0	4	0	Wind
		West to northwest winds gusting to near 50 mph blew over a mobile home being towed across the Severn River Bridge near Annapolis, with damage estimated around \$5,000. The high winds prompted the closing of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge to large trucks or house trailers.							
Statewide & District of Columbia	7	All Day							Snow
		Snow began during the early morning hours and continued into the evening. Accumulations ranged from 3 to 6 inches over the Eastern Shore, to as much as 8 inches in sections of Montgomery County and 8 to 10 inches in Baltimore County. Between 5 and 6 inches reported in Washington, D.C. area and across western Maryland. Metropolitan sections suffered major rush hour traffic tie-ups with many multi-vehicle accidents. One in Baltimore involving 20 vehicles.							
Central and Eastern & District of Columbia	12	All Day			1				Snow
		Second major snowstorm in less than a week brought totals ranging generally from 5 to 7 inches. Massive rush hour traffic jams again resulted and collisions responsible for at least one fatality. In another incident, a 17-year-old girl was struck and killed by a skidding automobile as she walked along a road in Hyattsville.							
Central and Eastern Shore	15	All Day				15			Glaze
		Pre-dawn freezing rain caused a treacherous glaze condition on all roads with rush hour traffic again disrupted. Double the normal number of fall-related injuries was reported by hospitals in the Baltimore area.							
MARYLAND & D.C. (continued)									
Statewide & District of Columbia	18-19				18	24	8	0	"Blizzard of '79"
		Heaviest snowfall since 1922 over central and southern sections and greatest totals since 1966 for rest of area as two low pressure systems combined to pump a vast amount of moisture into the region. Storm lasted an average of between 15 and 30 hours, beginning the afternoon of the 18th, with travel virtually at a standstill for the following two days. Snow depths ranged between 18 and 20 inches on the average through the central sections with Montgomery and Baltimore Counties reporting up to 22 inches of dry snow. Over the Eastern Shore and western Maryland 16 to 18 inches were common, while only 10 inches fell over Garrett County. The fact that the storm occurred over the "Washington's Birthday" holiday helped to some extent, the rate of fall was unusually heavy during the latter part of the storm, amounting to between 3 and 4 inches per hour. There were a total of 13 heart attack victims, one death due to exposure, 3 auto-related fatalities and one other due to a fire that broke and fire-fighting equipment were unable to reach in time because of blocked roads. An estimate of between 50 million and 100 million dollars loss appears likely from various causes: Roof collapses due to snow weight; Snow removal expense; Excused absences of workers unable to get to their jobs; Washington Birthday Sales that had to be cancelled; Hundreds of motorists and vandals who took advantage of law enforcement agencies' immobility.							
Central	21	Morning			1	0	0	0	Glaze
		Light freezing rain began around 6AM and continued into the mid-morning hours. Many traffic accidents occurred during the rush hour. In Reckville a man assisting another motorist involved in an accident, slipped trying to get out of the way of a skidding truck, was struck and killed.							
Central, Eastern, Southern & District of Columbia	24-26				0	0	6	0	Rain, Flooding
		Slow-moving low pressure system moved northeastward out of the lower Mississippi Valley, bringing an average of nearly 4 inches of rain during the period. Main flooding problems occurred the evening of the 25th into the 26th, as high runoff combined with snow melt. Some 400 persons evacuated in the vicinity of Laurel and Columbia, in the central portion of the state, while over two dozen families were forced out of their homes in sections of the Eastern Shore and Cecil County. Road damage totalling \$35,000 was reported in Caroline County, alone. In Anne Arundel and Howard Counties a dozen roads were closed as the Patuxent River reached over 11 feet above flood stage.							
Garrett County	27				0	0	0	0	Snow
		County received heaviest snowfall of season with a total of 12 inches reported.							
Weather Note.....		Very cold temperatures prevailed during much of the month causing what Baltimore Port officials and Coast Guardsmen termed the worst ice buildup in decades on Chesapeake Bay, during the latter half of the month. At Ocean City the combination of ice and winds caused a 100-foot section of the fishing pier to collapse. Ocean ice extended out as far as 8 miles from shore, reportedly for the first time since 1936.							
MASSACHUSETTS			NONE REPORTED						
MICHIGAN									
State Wide	All month				0	0	6		Accumulation of snow and ice on roof surfaces.
		Additional snows and rain falling into snow already on roof surfaces caused heavy damage to roofs, gutters, awnings, and overhangs. Heavily damaged or destroyed were two community center buildings in Cadillac and Newaygo, two churches in Manton and South Haven, two business buildings in St. Joseph and Hancock, and three warehouses, two in Buchanan and one in Sturgis. A dozen garages and one large carport also collapsed damaging 15 vehicles. The only house collapse occurred to a large multi room home located in Houghton. Hardest hit were communities along Lake Michigan in the Lower Peninsula and in the Keweenaw Peninsula of Upper Michigan.							
MINNESOTA			SEE END OF TABLE						

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MISSISSIPPI Lauderdale County	24				0	1	0	0	Thunderstorm, lightning.
<p>A man was struck by lightning while standing under an umbrella on a street corner in the city of Meridian. He was hospitalized with reported head injuries. His condition was described as "good".</p>									
MISSOURI Stone and Stoddard Counties	22	ngt.	?	?	0	0	4	0	Wind
<p>High winds in thunderstorms caused damage in both Stone and Stoddard counties. In Dexter, Stoddard county, winds blew down signs, turned over a trailer home, and blew out a number of windshields of cars parked at Elder's Manufacturing Plant. In Kimberling City, Stone county, there was an estimated \$20,000 damage to commercial boat docks. One dock was blown up on the bank and another was torn loose from its moorings. Roofs of docks suffered the most damage. At the Kimberling City Supermarket, water damage occurred when some of the plate glass windows were broken and part of the roof blew off. The wind also blew over a concrete wall at a service station and downed trees and TV antennas.</p>									
Southeast	25	all day	?	?	0	0	5	0	Blizzard
<p>Heavy snow fell most of the day Sunday with wind gusts up to 50 mph. The heaviest snow fell in a band 100 miles wide centered on a line from West Plains to Cape Girardeau. Amounts ranged from 10 inches on the fringes of the band to two feet at Cape Girardeau. Governor Resdale declared Southeast Missouri a disaster area and called out the Missouri National Guard to give emergency assistance to the following nine counties: Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, Madison, Perry, Scott, Stoddard, and Wayne. Interstate 55 was closed Sunday afternoon until Monday afternoon between Perryville and Cape Girardeau and until Monday evening between Cape and Sikeston. Stranded motorists overflowing motels and restaurants were put up and fed in buildings opened as emergency shelters in Benton, Charleston, Jackson, and Sikeston. A U. S. Army helicopter from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, airlifted a woman in labor from her home in rural Perry county to the Southeast Missouri Hospital at Cape Girardeau where she gave birth to a baby boy 15 minutes after arriving there. Heavy snow caused the roads and awnings of numerous buildings to collapse, and the strong winds downed large signs, tree limbs, TV antennas, and power lines.</p>									
MONTANA Garfield	7	Day			1	0	0	0	Blizzard
<p>A 42-year old man was found either frozen or died from asphyxiation in his truck on Montana Highway 200 near Sand Springs.</p>									
NEBRASKA			NONE REPORTED						
NEVADA Reno	13	0300P			0	0	5	0	Wind Storm
<p>Wind gusts to 58 mph were recorded at the Reno International Airport, with stronger gusts in outlying areas--North of Reno 10 mobile homes were damaged and 5 semi trucks were rolled over by the wind.</p>									
NEW HAMPSHIRE			NONE REPORTED						
NEW JERSEY Coastal Areas	19				?	?			Snowstorm
<p>Washington's birthday snow storm created difficulties for both the motorist and the pedestrian. The storm left as much snow as last year's near blizzard of Feb. 13 and more than the 13 inches of Jan 20, 1978. Because of the lack of strong winds it is not classified as a blizzard but the after-effects, due to the sheer amounts of snow, are the same.</p>									
NEW MEXICO			NONE REPORTED						
NEW YORK COASTAL			SEE END OF TABLE						
NEW YORK CENTRAL AREAWIDE	5	2P - 7A			0	1	4	0	SNOW
<p>THREE TO SEVEN INCHES OF NEW SNOW COMBINED WITH 35 TO 50 MPH WINDS CREATED ZERO VISIBILITY AT TIMES, ALONG WITH TWO TO THREE FOOT SNOW DRIFTS. MANY ROADS WERE CLOSED AND THESE CONDITIONS, ALONG WITH ICY ROADS, CAUSED NUMEROUS TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS. CLOSED MANY SCHOOLS, AND STRANDED MANY TRAVELERS. BELOW ZERO TEMPERATURES ALSO CAUSED SCATTERED POWER OUTAGES. A SIXTY YEAR OLD MAN IN WALTON, DELAWARE COUNTY, SUFFERED FROM HYPOTHERMIA WHEN HIS CAR SKIDDED OFF THE ROAD AND HE COULD NOT CLIMB UP THE EMBANKMENT FOR HELP.</p>									
NEW YORK (continued) CENTRAL AREAWIDE	6-19				1	0	5	0	PROLONGED COLD WAVE
<p>A PROLONGED COLD WAVE WITH TEMPERATURES FREQUENTLY BELOW ZERO SET MANY NEW LOW TEMPERATURE RECORDS IN THE STATE, CAUSED NUMEROUS WATER LINE BREAKS AND MANY POWER FAILURES DUE TO FROZEN AND DOWNED POWERLINES. MANY HOMES AND OFFICES WERE WITHOUT HEAT CAUSED BY POWER FAILURES, HEATING SYSTEM FREEZE UPS AND LACK OF OIL. MANY SCHOOLS WERE ALSO FORCED TO CLOSE. NUMEROUS HOMES AND BUILDINGS WERE DESTROYED BY FIRE WHEN PIPES AND FIRE BOXES BROKE FROM THE LOW TEMPERATURES. OLD FORGE IN HERKIMER COUNTY TIED THE RECORD LOWEST TEMPERATURE EVER RECORDED IN THE STATE AT 52 DEGREES BELOW ZERO ON THE 18TH. A FORTY-TWO YEAR OLD MAN FROZE TO DEATH AFTER FALLING IN AN ALLEY IN THE TOWN OF WINDSOR, BROOME COUNTY ON THE 18TH.</p>									
NEW YORK WESTERN			SEE END OF TABLE						
NORTH CAROLINA									
Foothills	1st Morning						5		Wind
<p>Strong gusty winds damaged buildings and trees in several areas. At Shiflet Field near Marion. Winds gusting over 50 mph lifted a roof off a hanger (\$10,000 damage). Winds as high as 38 mph damaged trees and a mobile home near Hendersonville (\$10,000 damage). Near Traphill there was extensive damage in 50 to 60 mph winds. Trees and chicken houses were damaged (\$100,000).</p>									
Western 2/3 of State	6						2	Many	5
<p>Heavy snow fell over the western two thirds of the state. There was a period of freezing rain and sleet in the southern central area. Snowfall ran from 1-2 inches in the east, 4-6 in the central, and 10 inches to over 2 feet in the mountains. There were numerous injuries from fall and car accidents. Two men died of heart attacks, one in Wilksboro from shoveling snow and the second near Morgantown when he got stuck in deep snow. Scotland county was hit hardest by the freezing rain where utility lines had over \$50,000 damage. A few buildings collapsed under heavy snow.</p>									
Most of State	17-19						8	Many	6
<p>The snow storm began late Saturday and ended early Monday. Snow fall ranged from trace along the Coast; 6 to 8 inches of the Coastal Plain; 9 to 13 inches in the Piedmont; and 10 to 14 inches in the Mountains. Several buildings collapsed from snow on the roof. Poultry farms in Union County have near 1/2 million dollars in damage. Eight people were killed. Four got lost in the snow and died of exposure; two boys were killed by a snow plow; and two men had heart attacks in the snow. Businesses and Schools closed. Some utility lines were damaged. Several scout troops had to be rescued in the mountains where they camped. In addition there were many people injured and cars damaged from snow related accidents.</p>									
Wrightsville & Carolina Beaches	18							4	
<p>Berm cut back 5 to 12 feet at Wrightsville Beach. Bulkhead damage on Shell Island, Fishing Pier damaged at Carolina Beach.</p>									
Beaufort County	25th 10pm		6	60	0	0	5	0	Thunderstorm
<p>STRONG WINDS lifted a roof off a house and did considerable damage to farm building in the Chocowiny area.</p>									
Rowan County	25th 3pm		6	50	0	3	5	3	Tornado
<p>Tornado touched down in trailer park near China Grove. Ten mobile homes were destroyed and several other out buildings. The tornado touched down at 3 other points, up-winds with only tree damage. Three persons were slightly injured. Damage about \$250,000.</p>									
NORTH DAKOTA									
West and North	11-12								0
<p>Heavy snow (over 7 inches in two days) clogged rural roads forcing the cancellation of school athletic activities, and the overnight billeting of some rural students in emergency housing at Watford City (McKenzie County).</p>									
Entire State	14-15						1	3	0
<p>A winter storm sent the wind chill temperature to 60 to 80 below and dumped up to 10 inches of wind-whipped snow over the state. Roads and highways became clogged with snowdrifts; schools were closed; large flights were delayed or cancelled; social events were cancelled; and several motorists became stranded. A 36-year old man was found dead of exposure on the 15th near Leeds (Benson County). The body of the dead man was discovered near a farmyard...about one quarter of a mile from his abandoned vehicle. In addition, three persons suffered frostbite when they became stranded in the storm and two people died of heart attacks...one while shoveling and one while walking to work.</p>									

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

FEBRUARY 1979

PLACE	DATE	TIME - LOCAL STANDARD	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
NORTH DAKOTA (continued)									
Entire State	22-23				0	0	5	0	Winter Storm
	A winter storm dumped up to 9 inches of snow virtually paralyzing much of the state. The heavy snow forced the closure of schools and businesses; the cancellation of some plane flights and the postponement of many social events. One person was killed in a traffic accident near Carrington (Roster County) during the storm. Heavy snow accumulations resulted in the collapse of a grocery store awning in Watford City (McKenzie County); the collapse of a barn roof on a farm near Northwood (Grand Forks County)...21 head of cattle were killed or had to be destroyed; the collapse of a poultry farm barn near Larimore (Grand Forks County)... nearly 7,000 chickens were killed; and the collapse of a store awning in Casselton (Cass County).								
OHIO									
Entire State	17-18	All Day	-	-	2	0	3	0	Unusual cold
	A winter storm brought 2 to 4 inches of snow and bitter cold to Ohio. Two Butler county residents froze to death. One was found frozen next to his car in a mobile home park and a woman slipped on ice outside her home and froze to death before she was found.								
Northeast Lake Shore Counties	20-21	All Day	-	-	0	0	0	0	Extreme cold
	Subzero weather wiped out the peach crop and did substantial damage to the grape crop in that area.								
Northeast	25-26	4 pm	-	-	0	0	4	0	Ice storm and heavy snow
	Rain began and temperatures dropped causing ice to accumulate about 1/2 inch in many of the northeast Ohio counties. Temperatures continued to drop and the rain changed to snow during the evening. Up to 18 inches of snow accumulated in Geauga, Ashtabula and Trumbull counties. The ice and snow caused numerous utility outages and some structural damage.								
OKLAHOMA									
McAlester, Pittsburg County	22	6:05p.			0	0	3	0	Hail
	Hail whitened lawns and streets with some pellets being measured at 3/4 inch in diameter. Damage was heaviest in the southeast part of the City. Winds reached 47 mph with damage reported to trees, signs, and roofs.								
OREGON									
Stanfield Umatilla County	2/8				0	0	6	UNK	Rain and melting snow caused flooding on frozen ground.
Tillamook and Clatsop Counties	2/13	6 PM to 11 PM			0	UNK (5)	5	UNK	Wind
	(5) Five men were swept overboard from the Wisgaria Coral 400 mi. off Coos Bay, OR								
PACIFIC									
			NONE REPORTED						
PENNSYLVANIA EASTERN									
			SEE END OF TABLE						
PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN									
			NONE REPORTED						
PUERTO RICO									
Northeast Portion		10:00 p.-14-15	10:00 a.		0	0	5	0	Heavy Rain
	Heavy rains and thunderstorms struck the northeastern portion of Puerto Rico on the evening of the 14th and lasted into the early morning hours of the following day. The heaviest rains were reported in the San Juan Metropolitan area where totals ranged from six to ten inches for the twelve-hour period from 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM, February 14-15, 1979. The heavier rainfall appeared to be in a fairly narrow band just inland from the coast. Many coastal locations such as the San Juan International Airport received less than a half inch of rain. Heavy street flooding occurred in many of the lowlying areas of Metropolitan San Juan and a number of homes in the Puerto Nuevo area were flooded with 1 to 2 feet of water. In the town of Canovinas, just east of San Juan, Barrio San Isidro, flooded from heavy runoff and about 18 persons were evacuated by Civil Defense. Numerous power failures and telephone service outages occurred and some landslides were reported in the interior sections. No deaths or injuries were reported.								
RHODE ISLAND									
			NONE REPORTED						
SOUTH CAROLINA									
Northwest and Central	6	--	--	--	0	0	7	4	Snow, Sleet, Ice
	Winter storm produced up to 5 inches of snow, ice accumulations in northwestern South Carolina with lesser amounts in the eastern portion of the state. Falling trees disrupted utilities with power outages up to one week.								
Entire State	17-18	--	--	--	2	0	6	4	Snow, Sleet, Freezing Rain
	Up to 12 inches of snow in northwestern South Carolina and with lesser amounts of sleet and freezing rain over the remainder of the state paralyzed transportation and caused widespread destruction to utilities. The most serious damage was in the Charleston area where several million dollars in power outages up to four days was reported. While there were numerous traffic related accidents and injuries, there were only two known fatalities due to the storm...one person froze to death at Columbia. Another slipped on ice and fell in Charleston and was killed.								
SOUTH DAKOTA									
			SEE END OF TABLE						
TENNESSEE									
Entire State	6-7	Noon on 6th to Afternoon on 7th			0	0	4	0	Heavy snowstorm
	Snow began in West Tennessee around noon on the 6th, spreading over the state during the afternoon. The snow ended in the west midmorning of the 7th and tapered off during the afternoon of the 7th across East Tennessee. Snowfall amounts were light along the southcentral and southeast border of Tennessee, but amounts were as high as 12 inches in northern West Tennessee. Obion, Dyer, Weakley, Gibson, and Henry Counties--8 to 12 inches; Memphis--3 to 5 inches; Nashville--7 inches; Knoxville area--6 inches; Campbell, Scott, Morgan, and Roane Counties of East Tennessee--8 to 10 inches. Schools closed and travel restricted.								
Middle and East	17-18	Afternoon of 17 to Noon/18			0	0	4	0	Heavy snowstorm
	Heavy snow fell across Middle and East Tennessee on the afternoon of the 17th and the morning of the 18th. Snowfall amounts were generally 6 to 8 inches. Schools closed and travel restricted.								
Tiptonville and Ridgely, Lake County	24	10:30 p.			0	0	4	0	Windstorm
	Winds gusted to 50 to 60 mph damaging boat dock, boats, and pier at Gboch's Camp. Trees, awnings, antennae, and several out-buildings were damaged around the county.								
Northeast	26	All Day			0	0	4	0	Heavy snowstorm
	Snowfall of 4 to 8 inches fell over an area along and north of a line from Crossville to Knoxville to Gatlinburg. Travel restricted, schools closed. Some damage to power lines, trees, and ornamental shrubs due to wet snow. Bristol--6 inches; Knoxville--4 inches; Jefferson County--8 inches.								
Shelby County	28	5:39 p.			0	0	2	0	Hail
	One-inch hail reported with a thunderstorm between Germantown and Fisherville.								

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

FEBRUARY 1979

PLACE	DATE	TIME - LOCAL STANDARD	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
TEXAS									
NORTHERN									
North	17-18	Midnight-9 p.m.			0	?	6	0	Ice and Sleet Storm
Showers of sleet and occasional freezing rain began falling in western and central north Texas shortly before midnight on the 17th. The precipitation spread into eastern sections of north Texas after sunrise on the 18th. Damage to trees and power lines was common in eastern north Texas, particularly around Nacogdoches. Although no one was killed as a direct result of the storm, 5 people died in ice-related automobile accidents. An undetermined number were injured by falling on ice-coated sidewalks.									
Gainesville, Cooke County	22	5:15 p-5:25 p			0	0	?	0	Hailstorm
One-half to one inch hail was reported by Civil Defense storm spotters. Damage was apparently light.									
Decatur, Wise County	22	5:53 p			0	0	?	0	Hailstorm
Civil Defense spotters reported up to 2 inch diameter hail as a severe thunderstorm swept across the area. Some residential roof damage resulted from the hail.									
Eagle Mountain Lake, Tarrant County	22	7:00 p-7:35 p			0	0	0	0	Hailstorm
Golf ball size hail which apparently caused little or no damage, fell from a severe thunderstorm that moved northeast across the area.									
Springtown, Parker County	22	7:10 p			0	0	0	0	Hailstorm
The Eagle Mountain Lake storm dumped 3/4 inch hail over nearby Springtown.									
Sherman, Grayson County	22	7:20 p			0	0	0	0	Hailstorm
Hail to 3/4 inch in diameter was reported by storm spotters.									
Denton, Denton County	22	7:20 p-7:40 p	5	?	0	0	4	0	Hailstorm
A storm which earlier produced hail in Wise County dropped up to 1.5 inch diameter hail in a swath from 5 miles west of Denton through north Denton. Some roof damage occurred in Denton.									
Bonham, Fannin County	22	9:10 p			0	0	?	0	Hail and Wind-storm
High winds and 3/4 inch hail, reported by storm spotters, caused light damage in Bonham.									
11 miles S. Centerville, Leon County	23	11:30 a		short narrow	0	0	0	0	Tornado
A severe thunderstorm that earlier produced large hail in Robertson County moved northeast and dropped a brief tornado in Leon County. The tornado was sighted in a rural, forested area near Highway 75, about 11 miles south of Centerville. The tornado occurred beneath the southwest flank of the parent storm.									
Lufkin, Angelina County	23	3:00 p			0	0	4	0	Flash Flood
Over 3 inches of rain caused minor flash flooding in Lufkin. At least one business sustained water damage and a number of cars were stalled on flooded streets.									
Nacogdoches, Nacogdoches County	23	Aftn.			0	0	?	0	Flash Flood
Minor flash flooding on Taylor and Frenont Streets stalled and damaged a number of automobiles.									
Arlington, Tarrant County	24	7:30 a			0	0	4	0	Lightning
Three homes were damaged by lightning strikes from an early morning thunderstorm. The homes, next door to each other, sustained a total of \$8500 damage from lightning and a resultant fire. The third home sustained about \$200 in damage.									
West, McLennan County	24	7:45 a			0	0	0	0	Hailstorm
Large marble size hail apparently caused little or no damage.									
TEXAS (continued)									
NORTHERN									
Eastern Henderson and Western Smith Counties	24	9:35 a-9:50 a	11	100	0	1	5	?	Tornado, Hail, Wind, Rain, and Funnel Clouds
The tornado, confirmed by spotters and a radar hook echo, first touched down on the west side of Lake Palestine at Coffee City. After downing power lines, trees, and carports, the tornado moved across the lake into Smith County. The twister moved along a skipping, 11 mile path to 2 miles south of Flint, damaging homes, destroying out buildings, and uprooting trees. Uprooted trees slammed into and destroyed several mobile homes and automobiles. Six cows were seriously injured when they were hurled into the side of a barn by the tornado. One person was injured by falling debris. The tornado caused almost \$100,000 damage in Smith County.									
Henderson area, Rusk County	24	10:17 a			0	0	?	?	Hailstorm
During the tornado, 1 to 2 inch diameter hail fell in a 1/2 mile by 17 mile swath from near Lake Palestine to northeast of Whitehouse, causing about 30 thousand dollars damage. Hail to 1 inch in diameter fell in Henderson County from near Athens to Lake Palestine. Funnel clouds were observed east of Athens and near Ballard (Smith County) at 10:15 a.m. Other damage caused by the parent thunderstorm in Smith County included straight-line winds (\$70,000) and minor flash flooding (\$20,000).									
Longview area, Gregg County	24	10:20 a-			0	0	?	?	Hailstorm and 3 Funnel Clouds
The Smith County storm covered the ground with 1 to 2 inch diameter hail in Longview and at the Longview Airport. Three funnel clouds were observed in the same area.									
Scottsville, Harrison County	24	11:10 a			0	0	?	?	Hailstorm
Large marble hail fell from the torradic thunderstorm.									
Carthage, Panola County	24	11:30 a-Noon			0	0	?	?	Hailstorm
Before moving into Louisiana, the Smith County torradic storm dropped 1/2 to 1 inch diameter hail in and around Carthage.									
Mineral Wells, Palo Pinto County	27	7:00 p			0	0	0	0	Hailstorm
Golf ball size hail fell for a brief period in Mineral Wells. The report was made by the Department of Public Safety.									
TEXAS SOUTHERN									
SEE END OF TABLE									
TEXAS WESTERN									
Petersburg, Hale County	17	10:00 p			1	0	0	0	Snowstorm
Heavy snow fell across Hockley, Lubbock, Hale, and Floyd Counties of the South Plains with Almerathy (in Hale County) reporting 12 inches. During the nightting, a lone man apparently attempted to walk from one farm house to another but was unable to make the trip. He died of exposure that night.									
UTAH									
NONE REPORTED									
VERMONT									
NONE REPORTED									
VIRGINIA									
Patrick County	1	Morning			0	0	4	0	Wind
Strong northwest winds gusting up to 50 mph took down many trees and some power lines, with over 1,000 utility company customers without power for a time. Farm in Ararat area had \$15,000 damage to buildings.									
Statewide	7				1	8	5	0	Snow
Snow began early in the day, ending during the evening hours, with total snow depths generally 4 to 6 inches. Up to 12 inches reported in Wise County. Falls accounted for much over the normal of cases treated in hospital. In Stuart, Patrick County, a man was fatally injured when equipment he was using to clear snow in his driveway overturned. Snow removal in Arlington area, alone, estimated to be between \$100,000 and \$200,000.									

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

FEBRUARY 1979

PLACE	DATE	TIME - LOCAL STANDARD	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS				ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	PROPERTY	CROPS	
VIRGINIA (continued)											
Southwest	9	All Day			0	0	0	0	0	0	Snow
					Snow beginning during the early hours of the day accumulated a total of 4 inches in the area. The rest of the state had totals of 2 inches or less.						
Statewide	10				0	1	0	0	0	0	Cold
					Record low temperatures over many sections. The 6 degrees at Roanoke and minus 8 degrees at Richmond were new record lows for the date. A 37-year-old Richmond man was treated for frostbite.						
Northern	12	All Day			0	0	0	0	0	0	Snow
					Second snowstorm in less than a week brought a total of 5 inches of new snow to the Leesburg area, and around 5 inches in Arlington.						
Northern	15				0	0	0	0	0	0	Glaze
					Sleet and freezing rain began late in the morning and continued throughout the day, causing a rash of minor traffic accidents in Strasburg, and in the Fredericksburg area.						
Statewide	18-19				4	16	6	0	0	0	"Elizzard of '79"
					Combination of two low pressure systems resulted in heaviest snow-fall since 1966 over much of state and worst in 57 years over the extreme north portion. Snow depths ranged from 6 to 8 inches over southwest and southeastern sections, 8 to 14 inches over the central and south central portions, with up to 20 inches over the extreme north portion. Storm began the afternoon of evening of the 18th and continued for around 15 hours, with heaviest rate of fall (2 to 3 inches per hour) occurring during the latter part. At least four fatal heart attacks attributed to stress during or following the storm, while many injuries from falls were reported. Cancelled Washington Birthday sales were a substantial part of the loss.						
Statewide	23-26				1	0	7	0	0	0	Rain, Flooding
					Between 3 and 5 inches of rain fell over the three-day period, and this combined with snowmelt to cause a serious flood threat over some sections. In Farmville a basement wall of home collapsed doing some \$3,000 damage, while in Sugar Grove, Smyth County, a mudslide pushed another home off its foundation - the loss in the thousands of dollars. Flooding of low-lying areas became widespread the evening of the 24th and through the 25th, with a large number of roads closed due to high water. Near Richmond a car was partially submerged in high water and one of the three occupants swept away and presumed drowned when he attempted to swim to safety. One of the hardest hit areas was Halifax County, where nearly two million dollars damage was reported in Riverdale, near South Boston.						
VIRGIN ISLANDS											
Virgin Passage	2	1:45 p.			0	0	0	0	0	0	Waterspout
Virgin Passage	12	9:15 a.			0	0	0	0	0	0	Waterspout
Virgin Passage	13	11:00 a.			0	0	0	0	0	0	Waterspout
Virgin Passage	13	4:00 p.			0	0	0	0	0	0	Waterspout
WASHINGTON											
Jefferson	12	PM			2				8	4	Wind Storm
Grays Harbor	13	AM			Ships off the Northern California coast had begun reporting winds up to 50 knots at 1000 PST February 12th. On February 12 at 1900 PST Feb 12, the surface low center passed over Buoy 46009 at 46N 131W with a central pressure of 969 mbs. Surface pressure rose 11.5 mbs in the next three hours at the buoy. Strong surface winds began to buffet the coast of Washington in the late afternoon February 12th. Most inland areas west of the Cascades experienced strong gusty south to southwesterly winds of 25 to 40 mph the night of February 12-13. Considerable rainfall for several days prior to this storm had left the first few feet of soil saturated. Winds were very gusty. The strongest winds hit the coast about midnight with Cape Flattery reporting gusts of 85 knots at 0100 PST Feb 13th. At the height of the storm, extensive wind damage occurred over the Olympic Peninsula especially to the timber industry. Forestry officials estimate the wind blew down 94 million board feet of timber worth \$11 million in the Olympic National Forest. Private timber firms reported at least 55 million board feet of timber lost on their lands on the Olympic Peninsula. In the early morning hours, the western pontoons of the Hood Canal Bridge sank under the pressure of wind and waves during extreme gusts. Winds in the central span area of the bridge were clocked in excess of 100 mph by the State Department of Highways. The cost of the bridge was \$4.6 million (1961 value). By 2200 PST Feb 12 the storm was showing signs of filling and was centered at 48N 133W with a central pressure of 970 mbs. Shortly thereafter, the center moved over Vancouver Island and began to fill rapidly. Strong winds continued over western Washington until about 0800 PST February 13. Wind damage caused by falling trees and branches was quite extensive over all counties in Western Washington with the exception of Skamania Co. Several new houses were damaged by fallen trees in King County. Some barns blew down in coastal counties. A man was killed on Spirit Lake highway in Cowlitz County when the cab of his truck was hit by a tree about midnight. Another man was killed in Grays Harbor County when a tree hit his vehicle about 2AM. This was the strongest and most extensive wind storm since the Columbus Day storm of 1962.						
WEST VIRGINIA											
NONE REPORTED											
WISCONSIN											
Entire State											
?											
Heavy snow cover and prolonged cold temperatures continued to plague Wisconsin through the month of February. The heavy snow cover created problems for buildings, especially metal pole structures, causing numerous roofs to collapse around the state. Jefferson County reported 38 buildings with structural damage or roof collapse under the weight of ice and snow. Damage estimates in this county alone were in excess of one million dollars. Walworth County officials estimate damage in excess of \$900,000 to buildings in their county due to roof collapse.											
Most other counties throughout the state reported damage to buildings due to heavy snow cover with total damage estimates ranging into the millions of dollars.											
WYOMING											
Statewide	1 to 15	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	Severe winter conditions
Heavy amounts of snow on the ground, combined with extremely cold temperatures continued well into February, making this winter the most severe ever recorded in most areas of the state. Heavy cattle and sheep losses continue in Wyoming. Numerous roofs reportedly collapsed from heavy snow loads in several areas. Wyoming is now requesting \$4 million in aid for snow removal and frozen water system repairs across the state.											

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

FEBRUARY 1979

PLACE	DATE	TIME - LOCAL STANDARD	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
IOWA North Central	15-16	4:00 P to 12:00 Noon	---	---	0	0	2	0	Ground Blizzard
	Extremely cold temperatures and wind gusts up to 35 MPH produced wind chill factors to 80° below zero. The winds whipped snow already on the ground into drifts 10 to 12 feet high. Visibility was reduced to near zero. Many roads were closed and many cars and trucks were stranded.								
MINNESOTA Southwest	15				1	5	5	0	Wind
	Snowfall was light, but wind gusting up to 70mph whipped new snowfall and old snow into full scale ground blizzard. Whole area of Southwest Minnesota immobilized. Multiple accidents included several loaded semi-trucks with perishable goods. All major roads closed by 6-foot drifts with ground visibility often near zero. Wind and falling temperatures produced a wind chill of -70° to -80° below zero. Schools closed and community activities cancelled. (One hospitalized with frostbite on both arms. One killed and four others injured in three-car crash in LeSueur County. Approximately 100 semi-trucks stranded in Jackson area. Freight train stalled by engine failure due excessive moisture from storm.								
Southern	22				0	0	6	0	Rain and Ice Storm
	At Midnight Thursday, Feb. 22nd, low pressure was deepening over Southern Wyoming, with snow and freezing rain eastward to Nebraska. By daybreak the low had begun to move northeastward with snow to the Eastern Dakotas, Western Minnesota, and Northwest Iowa, and freezing rain and sleet in Nebraska. The storm center continued northeastward, and by Noon freezing rain and drizzle covered much of Eastern South Dakota and Southern Minnesota, with snow north to the border. By evening the low was in Eastern South Dakota and continuing northeastward. Precipitation had changed to rain with the temperature in the low to middle 30's over Southern Minnesota, and freezing rain was spreading rapidly northeastward. Snow continued in the north. The rain and ice storm caused extensive damage throughout the State. Rain and frozen storm sewers caused minor flooding, stalling hundreds of cars at highway intersections and low-lying residential areas. Extensive water damage to buildings and homes. Many power failures reported in Minneapolis and suburbs, as well as other Southern Minnesota cities. Glaze on roads led to numerous highway accidents. Extensive damage with collapse of many buildings and also farm outbuildings due to the weight of rain-soaked snow. This included the Crystal Airport Hangar roof where 8 planes were damaged. In Hamdale, 11 cars damaged when storage building roof gave way. Eight to ten inches of snow in Northern Minnesota, combined with high winds, blocked many roads in North. Classes cancelled, mail service disrupted, and games, meetings, and other functions postponed.								
NEW YORK COASTAL Extreme Southeast, Nassau, Suffolk Co.	7&19				?	?			Snow
	Snow totaled 20.2 inches this month making this the ninth snowiest February on record. All measurable snow fell between the 7th and 19th. It was the 11th time that New York has experienced a snow-storm with 10 inches or more in February.								
NEW YORK WESTERN Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, Yates and Southern Erie Counties	2/25 to 2/27	2000 to 0900			0	?	?	0	Snowstorm
	Snow accumulation of up to 24 inches caused numerous minor road accidents, brief power failures, numerous school closings, flight cancellations and postponements.								
PENNSYLVANIA EASTERN Eastern	7-8	7 AM EST to 8 AM EST			0	0	3	0	Heavy Snow
	Snowfall over Eastern Pennsylvania accumulated to 4 to 6 inches over the Lower Susquehanna area and 6 to 8 inches elsewhere. Numerous accidents resulted on the slippery roadway with some accompanying injuries.								
Eastern	12-15	9 AM to 4 PM EST			0	0	2	0	Heavy Snow
	The second snowstorm in less than a week deposited 4 to 6 inches of snow on the southernmost portion of Eastern Pennsylvania and lesser amounts to the north. Many traffic accidents occurred on the slippery roads and some injuries resulted.								
Eastern	18-19	7 AM to 1 PM EST			0	0	3	0	Heavy Snow
	An intense storm with near blizzard conditions dumped 12 to 20 inches of snow on southern sections and 6 to 12 inches north. Winds blew the snow into 3 to 5 foot drifts. Many roads were closed and many vehicles were stranded. Businesses, industries and activities of all kinds had to be cancelled. A number of people died of heart attacks while shoveling snow. The storm caused similar or worse conditions on the East Coast from Virginia to New England.								
Eastern	23-26	10 AM to 5 PM EST			0	0	6	0	Heavy Rain Flooding
	Rain from the 23rd through the 26th was accompanied by mild temperatures which melted a deep snow cover. The rain was heavy at times on the 24th and 25th. Some flooding followed the heavy rain on the 24th then became widespread after the additional heavy rain on the 25th. Ice jams on some streams also added to the flood problems. Widespread roadway and stream flooding resulted; with houses and building of all types flooded. Some people were forced to evacuate their homes. Flood levels were almost as high as those experienced one month earlier.								
SOUTH DAKOTA Statewide	14-16						1		Wind and Snow
	High winds of 50 MPH or more and snow from 1/2 inch to more than 14" moved through the state late on the 14th with winds slowly subsiding on the 16th. Visibility was reduced to near zero at the height of the storm and no travel was advised in some areas. Temperatures fell to -25°F with wind chill temperatures of as much as -87°F on the 15th. One man suffered frostbite after being stranded in his truck for seventeen hours during the height of the storm. Power was lost at Wall, SD due to high winds snapping power lines together.								
TEXAS SOUTHERN Fredericksburg, Gillespie County	5	8&45 p			0	0	4	0	Lightning
	Lightning struck the radio tower at Hill Country Memorial Hospital in Fredericksburg. The electrical surge severely damaged hospital radio equipment. Switchboard and elevator equipment as well as various medical electronic devices were damaged. Hospital electrical circuitry also sustained damage.								
southeast and south central	17	early morning			0	0	?	0	Glaze
	Ice began forming on bridges and roadways during the night of the 16th and by early morning on the 17th had made highway travel dangerous over south Texas north of a line from Orange to Houston to Beville to Eagle Pass, Minor but widespread damage resulted to road surfaces and small utility lines. Some economic loss occurred from disrupted travel.								
Kerr and Kendall Counties	23	7:15 a	20	#3	0	0	?	0	Hail
	A severe thunderstorm intensified over southern Kerr County and moved east-northeast into central Kendall County, Hailstones up to 1 3/4 inch diameter covered the ground to a depth of 3 inches 6 miles south of Center Point. Unknown damage occurred to vehicles and property along the storm's path into Kendall County.								
Kerr and Kendall Counties	23	7:40 a	25	#3	0	0	?	0	Hail
	A second storm formed over central Kerr County south of Hunt. It moved east-northeast dropping hailstones of 2 inch diameter on Kerrville and other points into northwest Kendall County. Unknown damage occurred to vehicles and property.								

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

FEBRUARY 1979

PLACE	DATE	TIME - LOCAL STANDARD	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
TEXAS (continued) SOUTHERN Bandera, Kendall, and Comal Counties	23	7:50 a	35	*5	0	0	?	0	Hail
									A severe thunderstorm intensified north of Lake Medina in Bandera County and moved northeast across southern Kendall County and reached northeast Comal County about 8:55 am. Hailstones of 1 to 1 3/4 inch diameter were reported from near Boerne to near Spring Branch. Most damage apparently was in Bandera County near the community of Lake Hills where hailstones up to 2 1/2 inch diameter were observed. Significant but unknown damage occurred.
Robertson County	23	10:15 a	?	?	0	0	?	0	Hail
									Hailstones up to 1 inch diameter fell from severe thunderstorms moving northeastward over the county. Between Hearne and Calvert hailstones covered the ground. Unknown damage occurred to vehicles and other property.
southern Travis County	23	12:30 p	10	*1	0	0	6	0	Hail
									A thunderstorm intensified over southern Travis County and moved northeastward across Bergstrom AFB. Hailstones of 1 inch diameter did considerable damage to about 2000 automobiles and some windows were also broken in buildings. Estimated damage at Bergstrom was about \$1.1 million with additional unknown damages occurring in surrounding areas.
northern Harris County	23	6:30 p							Funnel clouds
									Residents of northern Harris County near North Belt Highway and Hardy Road observed the funnel aloft. It moved toward the east-northeast at 10 mph passing just south of Houston Intercontinental Airport before being sighted again near Farm Road 1960 between Humble and Lake Houston. It did not touch ground.
Colmesneil, Tyler County	24	12:45 p							Funnel cloud
									Texas Department of Public Safety personnel observed the funnel just north of Colmesneil moving east. It passed over heavily wooded areas without evidence of having touched ground.

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

PLACE	DATE	TIME - LOCAL STANDARD	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
THE FOLLOWING ARE LATE REPORTS, CORRECTIONS, AND DELETIONS:									
LATE REPORTS MAINE					DECEMBER 1978				
					NONE REPORTED				
NEW HAMPSHIRE					DECEMBER 1978				
					NONE REPORTED				
CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN					JANUARY 1979				
San Diego, San Diego County	18	09:02am	1/4	30	0	0	7		Tornado
The tornado touched ground and traveled about 100 yards breaking glass, tearing down a sign and generally scattering debris. It lifted off the ground and touched down again about 1/2 mile east again breaking glass and scattering debris for about 100 yards before lifting to a funnel cloud and continuing east and dissolving.									
Inyo County	30								Many highway accidents during snowstorm. 2 fatalities in Southern Inyo County (near Clancha)
San Diego, Santee, Lakeside, Lemon Grove, Chula Vista, National City, all in San Diego County.	31	2am - 6pm			1		6		Thunderstorms and heavy rain showers
Thunderstorms, heavy rain and hail were widespread in the San Diego metropolitan area. Rain accumulations of 2 to 4 inches in 24 hours were common with most of the rain falling in short duration downpours. As an example, WSO, San Diego recorded .21 inches in 5 minutes and .51 in 15 inches while the 24-hour total of 2.64 was one of the lighter accumulations in the area. The damage was mainly on private property (homes)									
Los Angeles and Orange Counties	31				0	0	6		
Hailstones the size of golf balls broke windows, highways were smothered by snow, a series of Tornadoes and torrents of rain marked the violent passage of a winter storm.									
A small tornado dipped down into the downtown area of Santa Ana at approx 3:30 PM. There may have been two funnels, but this is unconfirmed. The path of the tornado was approx. 2 miles. Most damage was confined to a two-block area. No injuries. An automobile was overturned and several roofs were lifted.									
Another small tornado occurred at Universal Studios in North Hollywood, causing estimated 1 million dollars damage to outside movie sets, but no injuries.									
Approx. 2 inches of snow fell in Palm Springs, Ca. Interstate 5 between Los Angeles and Bakersfield was closed in the Gorman area due to snow drifts to 7 feet.									
The storm also caused numerous power failures throughout the 2 counties.									
MAINE					JANUARY 1979				
Southern	7-8				0	0	6	3	Ice storm
An ice storm, the heaviest in many decades, glazed roadways and coated trees and powerlines with more than 2" of ice. A 130 mile swath from Portland to Vandeboro, inland from the coast was most severely affected. More than 45,000 homes were without power for an extended period. Falling trees and branches snapped powerlines. Countless storm related traffic accidents. Schools and businesses closed. Orchardist reported moderate damage to fruit trees.									
Southwestern	17-18				0	0	4	0	Northeast snow-storm
Northeast paralyzed southwestern counties with one to two feet of snow. Portland had the most ever in 24 hours and the most in a single storm. Transportation and business at standstill and schools closed. Northeast gales lashed the coast and caused serious drifting snow.									
Southern	21				0	0	4	0	Rain and snow
A combination of heavy snow followed by heavier rain, 3 inches at Portland, left a mess as snow-clogged drains caused major street and highway flooding. Home owners battled flooded cellars and rain-soaked snow. Many storm related accidents and injuries. Extensive power outages from downed limbs and flooding.									
LATE REPORTS MAINE (continued)					JANUARY 1979				
Statewide	25				0	0	5	0	Northeast snow storm
The fourth major snowstorm of the month hit the southern two-thirds of the state. Northwest gales at the peak of the storm reached more than 60 mph along the coast with heavy surf battering and coastal flooding causing damage to dwellings, seawalls, and coastal roads. Some evacuation of coastal residents was necessary. The culmination of periods of heavy snow and rain brought widespread reports of collapsing roofs and structural damage.									
NEW HAMPSHIRE					JANUARY 1979				
Statewide	7-8				0	0	5	0	Freezing rain
Snow, sleet and freezing rain accumulated to 2" of ice on trees and powerlines. Major disruption of power and transportation. Many businesses and schools closed. Slush and snow-plugged catch basins with widespread street and highway flooding. Ice covered roads resulted in many storm related accidents.									
Statewide	20-21				0	0	4	0	Snow and rain
Heavy snow followed by sleet, freezing rain, and rain. Clogged storm drains caused street flooding. Accumulation of snow and rain resulted in collapsing roofs and structural damage. Power outages caused by flooding and falling trees and branches. Many storm related traffic accidents.									
Statewide	24-25				0	0	6	0	Northeast storm
Coastal gales caused 15' seas battered coast, breaching seawalls and causing coastal flooding. Roads Hampton to Rye blocked by water and debris. Tides 3' above normal some coastal evacuation. 1 to 2' of snow in Lakes Region with drifts 12 to 14". Mt. Washington Observatory reported 143 mph. Rain, snow, and slush caused more local flooding. Trailer Park at Salem evacuated with 3' of water. Countless traffic accidents. Power outages. Accumulation of snow and rain continues to cause roof collapses and structural damage. Transportation at standstill in many areas.									
PENNSYLVANIA EASTERN					JANUARY 1979				
Eastern	5	8 PM to 6			0	0	3	0	Snow
Snowfall, the first significant fall of the season for many sections, brought accumulations of 1 to 5 inches. This resulted in many traffic accidents.									
Eastern	6	11 PM EST to 8			0	0	3	0	Snow, Glaze Heavy Rain
Snow which accumulated 1 to 3 inches turned to sleet and freezing rain and then to rain. Slippery road conditions caused many automobile accidents with many injured and a few deaths. The rain and melting snow caused some roadway and small stream flooding. The rain changed to snow before ending on the 8th with another inch or two of accumulation north portion.									
Eastern	20	11 AM to 21			0	0	4	0	Ice Storm, Rain, Flooding
Sleet and freezing rain on the 20th caused very hazardous driving conditions and downed tree limbs and power lines. Many automobile accidents resulted and 10,000 or more customers had power outages. The precipitation changed to all rain and continued most of the 21st with precipitation amounts of 1 to 3 inches. The melting ice and sleet plus the rain caused widespread roadway drainage and stream flooding. Many basements were flooded and about 40 people had to be evacuated from their homes									

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

PLACE	DATE	TIME - LOCAL STANDARD	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED' DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
LATE REPORTS									
PENNSYLVANIA (continued) JANUARY 1979									
EASTERN	24	5 AM to							
Eastern	26	2 AM EST			0	0	6	0	Heavy Rain, Wind, Flooding
<p>Thunderstorms and heavy rain falling on already saturated soil caused widespread flooding of streams and rivers. The flooding reached levels at least as high as any occurrence since the "Agnes" floods of 1972. Roadway and drainage flooding was widespread. Flooding streams washed out roadways and bridges, flooded many houses and other buildings and inundated many roads. A number of automobiles caught in the flood waters were washed off roads. Innumerable basements were flooded. Many people were forced to evacuate their residence and some were rescued from houses or automobiles already caught in rising waters. Precipitation amounts were mostly in the 2 to 3.5 inch range. The rain changed to snow before ending on the evening of the 25th. The rain and thunderstorms on the 24th were accompanied by strong wind gusts which reached as high as 50 miles per hour. The winds tore off roofs on portions of roofs and damaged other structures and trees.</p>									
SOUTH DAKOTA									
JANUARY 1979									
NONE REPORTED									
WASHINGTON									
JANUARY 1979									
NONE REPORTED									

O 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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