

JANUARY 1981

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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

JANUARY 1981

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	
ALABAMA Statewide	10-13				5	0	0	0	Cold
	Five deaths were attributed to the bitterly cold air over Alabama. Four of the deaths were in the Birmingham area. The other death occurred in Geneva County where an infant perished from the cold in a mobile home. Temperatures dropped to as low as 1 degree below zero atop Mount Cheaha and 2 degrees above zero at Valley Head during the early morning of the 12th.								
ALASKA South Central	1	8pm-12pm			0	0	4	0	High Wind
	A strong pressure gradient over the area combined with a moderate weather front moving from the south brought wind gusts to over 50 knots to areas along the Chugach Mountains from Turnagain Arm to Eagle River.								
South Central	23	4pm			0	0	3	0	High Wind
	A strong weather front moving through the area brought wind gusts to over 60 mph to east Anchorage.								
South Central	25	4am-11am			0	0	4	0	High Winds
	A continued strong pressure gradient over the Chugach Mountains brought wind gusts to over 60 mph through mountain passes into east Anchorage and through Turnagain Arm.								
ARIZONA									NONE REPORTED
ARKANSAS									NONE REPORTED
CALIFORNIA NORTHERN & CENTRAL									SEE END OF TABLE
CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN									NONE REPORTED
COLORADO Eastern Plains and Foothills	15-16				0	0	0	0	Snow
	Much needed snow fell in most parts of eastern Colorado. The heaviest snowfall was recorded near Fort Collins and in the foothills to the west. 6 to 10 inches fell over most of the area, but the Hidden Valley ski resort in Rocky Mountain National Park measured 14 inches of new snow. Other areas east of the Continental Divide recorded 1 to 3 inches.								
Elbert County	20	1330			1	2	3	0	High Wind
	Winds gusting to over 50 mph overturned a mobile home traveling on a highway about 25 miles southwest of Limon. The mobile home landed on a vehicle, killing the driver and injuring two other passengers.								
Eastern Plains	29	all day			0	0	0	0	Snow
	Heavy snow fell in extreme east central Colorado. 5 inches were measured at Wray, and the area just east and south of the town was buried with 10 to 15 inches. The snow was very localized, with only a fairly small area around Wray receiving measurable amounts.								
Statewide	30-31				0	0	0	0	Snow
	Snow fell over most of the state. Ski areas generally reported 3 to 6 inches, but 15 inches fell at Steamboat Springs, enabling the ski area there to open a majority of its terrain for the first time this season. 1 to 2 inches of snow fell at most spots on the eastern plains, but 5 inches were measured just south of Denver at Arapahoe County Airport, and 4 inches fell at Trinidad. High winds hit some foothill areas; Buckhorn Mountain, west of Fort Collins, recorded a gust of 52 mph on the afternoon of the 31st.								
CONNECTICUT Statewide	1-5				0	0	5	0	Severe cold
	Temperatures to 20 below zero caused extensive freezing of pipes.								
DELAWARE Kent & Sussex Counties	15				0	0	0	0	Glaze
	Combination of icing up of wet roads along with freezing rain that occurred during the evening. Dozens of highway accidents reported as very hazardous conditions developed.								
	NOTE...Lack of precipitation was very evident for the month with many observation stations reporting a record dry January. Deficient precipitation for the winter up through the end of January had officials concerned about the drought situation.								
FLORIDA									NONE REPORTED
GEORGIA									NONE REPORTED
HAWAII									NO DATA RECEIVED
IDAHO									NONE REPORTED
ILLINOIS									NONE REPORTED
INDIANA Southern and Central Indiana	6	Day							Snow and freezing rain
	Snow began during the morning and accumulated 2 to 4 inches before becoming mixed with freezing rain, making road conditions dangerous.								
Northern Indiana	6-7								Heavy snow
	Snow began the morning of the 6th and continued through the 7th. Accumulations of 5.3 inches reported.								
IOWA Southwest Half of Iowa	12/31	Noon			0	0	4	0	Heavy Snow
	1/1	11A							
	First major snowfall of the season. Snowfall of 9 inches extreme Southwest, 5 to 6 inches extreme West, and 13 to 4 inches elsewhere. Onset snow was very wet and caused slippery roads which resulted in several automobile accidents and cars sliding off roads into ditches. Winds increased and snow became drier resulting in considerable blowing and drifting snow.								
KANSAS									NONE REPORTED
KENTUCKY									NONE REPORTED
LOUISIANA									NONE REPORTED
MAINE									NONE REPORTED
MARYLAND & D.C. Western	1-2				0	0	0	0	Snow
	Cold frontal system brought an average of 1 to 4 inches of snow over the area with some sections of Garrett County reporting over 6 inches. The storm began during the late afternoon of the 1st and continued on the 2nd, along with considerable drifting. Snow emergency plans were activated as roads became treacherous.								
Garrett and Allegany Counties	6-7				0	0	0	0	Snow
	Snow squalls brought up to 6 inches of new snow, beginning the evening of the 6th and continuing most of the following day. Numerous motor vehicle accidents occurred as drifting and poor visibilities caused poor driving conditions.								
	NOTE...Severe cold and a lack of precipitation were very significant features as far as weather impact for the month was concerned. Despite a warming trend during the last two weeks of January, temperatures for the month averaged 4 to 7 degrees below normal. Two deaths were attributed to hypothermia, one, a man in Dear Park, Garrett County on the night of the 4th, the other, a Cambridge man on the 12th.								
	Many stations reported a record dry January, with deficient precipitation for the winter months causing moderate to severe drought conditions over many localities.								
MASSACHUSETTS Statewide	1-10	All day			0	0	5	0	Severe cold
	Temperatures to mins 15 degrees caused extensive freezing of water pipes.								
MICHIGAN									NONE REPORTED
MINNESOTA									NONE REPORTED
MISSISSIPPI									NONE REPORTED
MISSOURI									NONE REPORTED
MONTANA									NONE REPORTED

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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	
NEBRASKA									
Southeast Nebraska	29	Early Morning to Evening			0	0	?	0	Heavy Snow
									Heavy snow fell in Dundy, Chase, Perkins and Keith Counties. Six inches accumulated in Keith County with up to 9 inches in southwest Dundy County.
West and North Central Nebraska	31	All Day			0	0	?	0	Heavy Snow
									Heavy snow fell west of a line from Imperial to Brewster to O'Neill. Dusty north winds to 35 m.p.h. caused some drifting. Snow totals included 8 inches at Basset and Oshkosh, 7 inches at Scottsbluff, Hyannis and Mullen, and 5 inches at Imperial and Ainsworth.
Southeast Nebraska	31	All Day			0	0	?	0	Heavy Snow
									Heavy snow fell east of a line from Fairbury to Omaha with 8 inches reported at Humboldt, Auburn and Nebraska City, 5 inches at Falls City, and 4 inches at Omaha and Beatrice.
NEVADA			NO DATA RECEIVED						
NEW HAMPSHIRE			NONE REPORTED						
NEW JERSEY			NONE REPORTED						
NEW MEXICO			NONE REPORTED						
NEW YORK COASTAL			NONE REPORTED						
NEW YORK CENTRAL AREA WIDE	3-4						4	0	SNOW AND COLD
									THREE TO SIX INCHES OF SNOW ALONG WITH MODERATE WINDS AND VERY COLD TEMPERATURES CAUSED MANY PROBLEMS.
									NUMEROUS TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS WERE REPORTED DUE TO SLIPPERY ROADS AND BLOWING SNOW. MANY RESIDENTS REPORTED FROZEN WATER PIPES AS WIND CHILL TEMPERATURES DROPPED TO 25 TO 30 BELOW ZERO.
									SEVERAL RECORD LOW TEMPERATURES WERE BROKEN IN THE AREA. RAILROADS EXPERIENCED DELAYS DUE TO CARS AND EQUIPMENT FREEZING. HOME AND APARTMENT RESIDENTS IN SEVERAL AREAS SUFFERED THE ABSENCE OF HEAT. SEVERAL POWER LINES SNAPPED FROM THE EXTREME COLD AND WINDS.
									FIREMEN BATTLING FIRES WERE SUBJECTED TO FROZEN WATER LINES AND THE EXTREME COLD TEMPERATURES, CAUSING STRUCTURES TO BE DESTROYED THAT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN SAVED.
NEW YORK WESTERN									
Chautauque County	1/7	Morning			0	0	4	0	Snow
									Lake effect snowstorm dumped up to 6 inches over the county and forced the closure of 8 school districts, cancellation of meetings, stalled transportation, and caused vehicular accidents.
NORTH CAROLINA			NONE REPORTED						
NORTH DAKOTA									
Northcentral	25	All day							Heavy Snow
									Heavy snow (17 inches at Mylo, 12 inches at Rolla and 10 inches at Rolette in Rolette County; 17 inches at Wolford and 15 inches at Hurricane Lake in Pierce County; 12 to 14 inches at Sherwood in Renville County; and 12 inches at Rock Lake in Towner County). Clogged roads making travel very difficult.
OHIO			NONE REPORTED						
OKLAHOMA			NONE REPORTED						
OREGON									
Southwestern Oregon and Klamath County	21, 22	Late night and morning	UNK	UNK	0	UNK	UNK	UNK	High wind
Wallowa County	25	Afternoon and evening	UNK	UNK	0	UNK	UNK	UNK	High wind
PACIFIC			NO DATA RECEIVED						
PENNSYLVANIA EASTERN AREA	6, 7	4 PM to 7 AM EST			0	0	3	0	Snow
									Snowfall over the area ranged from 2 to 5 inches and resulted in slippery roads that caused numerous automobile accidents. Snow accumulation caused a few downed utility lines.
PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN AREA	15, 17	7 AM to 4 AM EST			0	0	2	0	Snow
									Light snow fell off and on through the period with only an inch or two accumulation in most locations. However, the slippery road conditions caused numerous automobile accidents with some injuries and at least one death.
PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN			NONE REPORTED						
PUERTO RICO			NO DATA RECEIVED						
RHODE ISLAND			NONE REPORTED						
SOUTH CAROLINA			NONE REPORTED						
SOUTH DAKOTA			NONE REPORTED						
TENNESSEE			NONE REPORTED						
TEXAS NORTHERN			NONE REPORTED						
TEXAS SOUTHERN			NONE REPORTED						
TEXAS WESTERN			NONE REPORTED						
UTAH			NONE REPORTED						
VERMONT			NONE REPORTED						
VIRGINIA									
South Central	21				0	0	0	0	Snow
									Rain changed to wet snow during the morning as a low pressure system moved northeastward out of the lower Mississippi Valley. Snow depths of 1 to 2 inches were common, with 4 inches reported at Woolwine and 12 inches at Meadows of Dan in Patrick County. Precipitation came at a much-needed time.
Southwestern	29-30				0	0	0	0	Snow
									The first significant snowfall of the season in the region was experienced. Snow began in late evening of the 29th and continued into early afternoon of the following day. Amounts ranged from 1 to 3 inches, generally, to 4 inches in the Bristol area and 5 inches at Wytheville.
									NOTE... Very cold temperatures gripped the state during the first half of the month, leading to three fatalities. On the 5th, a Richmond man was found in an unheated automobile and an elderly Maidens (Cochland County) woman died in the hospital after being found lying outside her home. On the 12th, a Norfolk man was found in his unheated home, an apparent victim of hypothermia.
VIRGIN ISLANDS			NO DATA RECEIVED						
WASHINGTON			NONE REPORTED						
WEST VIRGINIA			NONE REPORTED						
WISCONSIN			NONE REPORTED						
WYOMING			NONE REPORTED						

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CALIFORNIA									
NORTHERN & CENTRAL									
Chico (3 miles west) Butte County	22	between 11 am and noon	--	----	0	0	3	0	Tornado
		Tornado occurred on private residence 3 miles west of Chico. Tornado blew in a window, blew front door open and seat out of back of a pickup truck, and scared a horse who tried to jump a barbed wire fence. Horse suffered some cuts.							
Stockton San Joaquin County	23	2.45 pm	--	----	0	0	4	0	Tornado
		Small twister hit a condominium complex under construction. Several roofs, buildings, and one carport damaged. Total damage estimated around \$10,000. Trained SKYWARN spotter noted that tornado lasted only about 20 to 30 seconds.							
Collierville San Joaquin County	23	4.00 pm	--	----	0	0	0	0	Funnel Cloud
Entire Area	27-29	-----	--	----	0	0	5	0	Winter Storm
		Major winter storm affected a large part of northern and central California. High winds blew down fences, sheds, and trees. Winds also ripped apart a boat dock near O'Brien (Lake Shasta). Heavy snows fell in the Sierra Nevada with some locations reporting as much as 7 feet during the 3-day storm.							
CALIFORNIA									
NORTHERN & CENTRAL									
San Jose Santa Clara County	28	4.00 pm	--	----	0	1	0	0	Lightning
		Pacific Gas and Electric Company lineman was struck while repairing power lines damaged by strong winds the day before.							
Santa Maria Santa Barbara County	29	afternoon	--	----	0	0	0	0	Hail
		Pea size hail covered the ground locally to 2-4".							
San Luis Obispo (near) San Luis Obispo County	30	unknown	--	----	0	0	4	0	Heavy surf
		Heavy surf cracked a 230 foot section of one of the two 1000 foot seawalls protecting the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. The plant was not in operation at the time.							

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THE FOLLOWING ARE LATE REPORTS, CORRECTIONS, AND DELETIONS:										
LATE REPORTS										
CONNECTICUT										
Statewide	25	All day			1	?	7	0		High wind
<p>An intense storm brought extensive damage to coastal areas and some damage inland. Gusts to 76 mph were recorded at the National Weather Service Office in Bridgeport. Towns hit the worst were from about Guilford westward including Darien, Greenwich, Milford, Norwalk, Stamford, Stratford and Westport. A firefighter in Milford was drowned as his rescue boat capsized. In Stratford six houses were destroyed and a seawall wrecked. The seawall damage estimate was two million dollars. In Norwalk and Bridgeport other seawalls were destroyed. A community center in Norwalk sustained heavy damage. Throughout the entire coast hundreds of pleasure craft were smashed ashore.</p>										
MASSACHUSETTS										
Coastal areas	18	All day			0	0	5	0		High wind
<p>Onshore winds to 60 mph caused many boats to break their moorings and crash ashore.</p>										
Statewide	25				0	3	7	0		High wind
<p>Another strong coastal storm brought wind gusts to 80 mph. A policeman in Lynn was injured as a tree fell upon his moving cruiser. A girl was struck in a similar manner as she traveled through Oyster Bay. And in Amherst another girl was injured by a falling telephone pole. Extensive window breaks and trees knocked onto cars resulted statewide. Many large trees fell onto houses. The most costly damage resulted in coastal areas where hundreds of boats were swept from their mooring and smashed on the shore. Much onshore wind and hence grounding occurred along the coast and at locations open to the south and southwest.</p>										
RHODE ISLAND										
Statewide	25	All day			0	0	4	0		High wind
<p>A coastal storm destroyed Marina Floats in Jamestown and many boats were blown from their moorings and washed ashore.</p>										
CONNECTICUT										
Statewide	10-11	All day			0	0	4	0		High wind
<p>Wind gusts to 60 mph blew out windows and knocked trees onto cars.</p>										
MASSACHUSETTS										
Statewide	10	All day			3	0	5	0		High wind
<p>High winds to 60 mph knocked down many trees onto automobiles and homes especially in western and central portions of the state. At sea several boats sank and three fishermen were lost.</p>										
RHODE ISLAND										
NONE REPORTED										
CONNECTICUT										
Statewide	3	All day			0	1	4	0		Wind
<p>A tree was blown down upon a moving vehicle and its driver was injured. A 20' x 100' concrete block wall was blown over in Milford. Plate glass windows were broken throughout the state.</p>										
MASSACHUSETTS										
Statewide	4	Afternoon			0	0	4	0		Wind
<p>High winds toppled buildings and uprooted trees statewide as winds gusted to 70 mph. Mt. Washington Observatory recorded a gust to 75 mph which was the highest since 1942.</p>										
OKLAHOMA										
NONE REPORTED										
RHODE ISLAND										
NONE REPORTED										
CORRECTIONS										
CALIFORNIA										
NORTHERN & CENTRAL										
Kings and Tulare Counties	5	afternoon								Tornadoes
<p>Several tornadoes destroyed some buildings and uprooted trees. First tornado struck around 1.40pm near Grangeville. Second twister struck Hanford around 2.25pm destroying a large chicken coop. Third touchdown was about 7 miles northwest of Tulare. One person was injured near Grangeville when a tree fell on a car.</p>										
OHIO										
Mt. Hope, Holmes County	7	3:25pm	1	50	0	1	6	0		Tornado
<p>A mini tornado touched down briefly just north of Mt. Hope destroying three mobile homes and damaging several farm buildings. An infant in one of the mobile homes was injured by flying glass.</p>										
Dundee, Tuscarawas County	7	3:45pm	3/4	50	0	0	5 ^c	0		Tornado
<p>A tornado touched down briefly near Dundee. Damage was limited to trees and farm outbuildings. This tornado came from the same storm that produced the Mt. Hope tornado.</p>										
<p>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</p>										
<p>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.</p>										
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