



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



February 2003

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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ILLINOIS, South

ILZ088>090-092>094	Union - Johnson - Pope - Alexander - Pulaski - Massac								
	06	0600CST 2300CST			0	0			Heavy Snow
	<p>A two-part winter storm dropped an average of 3 to 5 inches of heavy wet snow across extreme southern Illinois, mainly south of the Marion and Carbondale areas. The first round of snow occurred during the early morning and dropped 1 or 2 inches. The second round during the evening produced another 2 to 3 inches. Temperatures during the event were very close to freezing, and most of the accumulation was on grassy areas. Slushy roads were a concern at times, but the impact on travel was relatively minor. The snow was caused by an upper level disturbance moving east northeast from the Four Corners region. The highest reported snowfall amounts were along the Ohio River, including 4.5 inches at Metropolis and 4 inches at Cairo. Up to 3 inches of snow were reported as far north as Harrisburg, West Frankfort, and parts of the lower Wabash Valley around Grayville.</p>								
ILZ075>078-080>094	Jefferson - Wayne - Edwards - Wabash - Perry - Franklin - Hamilton - White - Jackson - Williamson - Saline - Gallatin - Union - Johnson - Pope - Hardin - Alexander - Pulaski - Massac								
	16	0100CST 1800CST			0	0			Winter Storm
	<p>A long-lasting sleet storm affected southern Illinois. The precipitation was almost all sleet south of the Marion/Carbondale area, where an inch or two was reported. Along and north of a Carbondale to Harrisburg line, there was more snow, with total accumulations of sleet and snow in the 3 to 6 inch range. Specific reports included: 6 inches at Pinckneyville in Perry County, 5.5 inches near Mount Carmel in Wabash County, 4.5 inches at West Frankfort in Franklin County, 4 inches at Carbondale, and 2.4 inches at Harrisburg in Saline County. The storm occurred on the Presidents Day weekend. Most schools and businesses scheduled to be open on Presidents Day were closed. Franklin County officials reported about 25 accidents in that county alone, none of which involved injuries.</p>								
ILZ087-090>094	Gallatin - Pope - Hardin - Alexander - Pulaski - Massac								
	18 28	1300CST 2359CST			0	0			Flood
	<p>The Ohio River rose above flood stage on the Illinois side around the 20th, and crested at most locations on the last day of the month. The flooding was minor to moderate in intensity. The crest was 6 to 10 feet above flood stage at Brookport, Grand Chain, and Cairo. Upriver from Brookport, the river had not crested as of month's end. Across the river from Paducah, KY, the crest of 46.8 feet at Brookport was almost 10 feet over the 37-foot flood stage. Riverside parks and campgrounds were inundated. Extensive flooding of low-lying woods and fields occurred. Some rural county roads were closed. Very few if any structures were affected.</p>								
ILZ081-084	Franklin - Jackson								
	22 28	1800CST 2359CST			0	0			Flood
	<p>Minor flooding of the Big Muddy River occurred. Low-lying woods and fields near the river were flooded. The river crested less than a foot above flood stage at Plumfield on Feb. 24. At Murphysboro, where flood stage is 16 feet, the crest of 21.3 feet occurred on Feb. 26.</p>								
ILZ083	White								
	23 28	1400CST 2359CST			0	0			Flood
	<p>Minor flooding of the Little Wabash River occurred in the Carmi area. The flood crest of 28.1 feet on February 28 was about one foot over flood stage. A number of county roads were flooded, creating problems for oil field pumps.</p>								
ILZ075>078-080>089	Jefferson - Wayne - Edwards - Wabash - Perry - Franklin - Hamilton - White - Jackson - Williamson - Saline - Gallatin - Union - Johnson								
	23 24	1800CST 0030CST			0	0			Heavy Snow



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ILLINOIS, South

This snowstorm was short but intense. Visibility was less than one quarter mile during the heaviest snow bursts. The heavy snowfall rates were accompanied by thunder and lightning in a few spots. Total snowfall was 4 to 7 inches along and north of a line from Carbondale to Carmi, and 3 to 5 inches elsewhere. The counties along the Ohio River from Cairo to Elizabethtown received only an inch or two. The heavy snow was caused by an intense upper level disturbance that moved east-northeast from Oklahoma. The surface low pressure system tracked northeast from Arkansas into south central Kentucky during the night of February 23. Specific snowfall reports included 7 inches at Keensburg in Wabash County, 6 inches at Grayville (Edwards County), Pinckneyville (Perry County), and Mount Carmel (Wabash County), 5 inches at West Frankfort in Franklin County, 4.5 inches at Carbondale, and 4 inches at Harrisburg.

This was the eleventh winter precipitation event of the season and brought the seasonal snowfall at Carbondale to more than 30 inches. This storm exhausted the supply of snow-removal chemicals used by the Carbondale street department.

INDIANA, Southwest

INZ081>082-085>088

Gibson - Pike - Posey - Vanderburgh - Warrick - Spencer

15	2300CST								
16	1900CST			0	0				Winter Storm

The Evansville Tri-State area received the brunt of a winter storm that began during the evening of February 15th and lasted about 24 hours. The precipitation was mainly in the form of sleet. Several inches of sleet, mixed with freezing rain and snow, resulted in major travel disruptions. Multi-vehicle pileups and highway closures were reported in Evansville near the beginning of the winter storm. A thick layer of ice caused by the compacted sleet and freezing rain mixture made travel difficult at best. The storm occurred on the Presidents Day weekend. Most schools and businesses scheduled to be open on Presidents Day were closed. The weight of the sleet caused docks at an Evansville marina to start sinking. Three covered boat houses, each holding 40 to 45 boats, were threatened. Some specific reports included: 4.3 inches at Evansville (with a liquid equivalent of 1.52 inches), 4 inches at Fort Branch in Gibson County, and 3 inches at Grandview in Spencer County.

INZ085-087>088

Posey - Warrick - Spencer

19	1200CST								
28	2359CST			0	0				Flood

The Ohio River rose above flood stage on the Mount Vernon and Newburgh gages by the 20th. The river was still rising at month's end. Through the end of the month, the flooding was generally minor, primarily confined to low-lying field.

INZ081>082

Gibson - Pike

23	0400CST								
28	2359CST			0	0				Flood

Generally minor flooding of the White River occurred. The river crested near 18.5 feet at both Hazleton and Petersburg on February 25 and 26. Flood stage at both locations is 16 feet. Floodwaters covered low-lying woods and fields. Low lying oil fields and county roads flooded.

INZ081>082-085>088

Gibson - Pike - Posey - Vanderburgh - Warrick - Spencer

23	2000CST								
24	0300CST			0	0				Heavy Snow

This snowstorm was short but intense. Heavy snowfall rates of up to 3 inches per hour were reported. Visibility was less than one quarter mile during the heaviest snow bursts. Total snowfall was 6 inches or more north of Interstate 64, and 4 to 5 inches elsewhere. The exception was well to the east of Evansville in Spencer County, where 2 to 4 inches fell. The heavy snow was caused by an intense upper level disturbance that moved east-northeast from Oklahoma. The surface low pressure system tracked northeast from Arkansas into south central Kentucky during the night of February 23. Specific snowfall reports included 8 inches at Hazleton in Gibson County, 5.5 inches at Petersburg in Pike County, 5 inches at St. Philip in Posey County, and 4 inches in downtown Evansville.



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KENTUCKY, Southwest

Carlisle County

Bardwell to Cunningham	03	1800CST 1803CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G54)
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Winds gusted to 62 MPH at the county emergency operations center in Bardwell. Power lines were down at Cunningham.

KYZ001>009-011-013

Fulton - Hickman - Carlisle - Ballard - Mccracken - Graves - Livingston - Marshall - Calloway - Lyon - Caldwell	06	0600CST 2300CST			0	0			Heavy Snow
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A two-part winter storm dropped an average of 3 to 5 inches of heavy wet snow across far western Kentucky, mainly from Kentucky Lake west. The first round of snow occurred during the early morning and dropped 2 to 4 inches. The second round during the evening produced another inch or two. Temperatures during the event were very close to freezing, and most of the accumulation was on grassy areas. Slushy roads were a concern, but the impact on travel was relatively minor. One of the worst accidents was a state highway plow that spun around and rolled over on Kentucky 307 in Hickman County. There were no injuries. The snow was caused by an upper level disturbance moving east northeast from the Four Corners region. Some of the highest specific snowfall amounts included:

5 inches at Paducah, 5 inches at Water Valley (in Graves County near the Tennessee border), and 4 inches at Princeton. East of Kentucky Lake, snowfall was an inch or two in most places.

KYZ001>022

Fulton - Hickman - Carlisle - Ballard - Mccracken - Graves - Livingston - Marshall - Calloway - Crittenden - Lyon - Trigg - Caldwell - Union - Webster - Hopkins - Christian - Henderson - Daviess - Mclean - Muhlenberg - Todd	09 10	1300CST 0100CST			0	0			Winter Weather/Mix
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Two to four inches of snow fell across western Kentucky. The heaviest amounts were reported along the Tennessee border east of Kentucky Lake, where Hopkinsville measured 3.5 inches and nearby Herndon had 4 inches. Most schools were closed. Numerous accidents occurred, including 48 in the Hopkinsville area (Christian County) alone. Only a handful of those accidents involved injuries.

KYZ015-018>021

Webster - Henderson - Daviess - Mclean - Muhlenberg	15 28	1400CST 2359CST			0	0			Flood
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Flooding of the Green River began around mid-month. At Calhoun, the river crested about five feet above the 23-foot flood stage on the 25th. At the Paradise Fossil Plant in Muhlenberg County, the crest of 389.9 feet on February 24 was nearly 10 feet over flood stage. This resulted in moderate flooding, with thousands of acres flooded in the Island, Rumsey, and Jewel City areas. However, the river stopped short of directly impacting any homes.

KYZ003>008-010>011-013>016-018>020

Carlisle - Ballard - Mccracken - Graves - Livingston - Marshall - Crittenden - Lyon - Caldwell - Union - Webster - Hopkins - Henderson - Daviess - Mclean	15 16	2300CST 1900CST			0	0			Winter Storm
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The Evansville Tri-State area, including Henderson and Owensboro, received the brunt of a winter storm that began during the evening of February 15th and lasted about 24 hours. The precipitation was mainly in the form of sleet. Two to three inches of sleet, mixed with freezing rain and snow, resulted in major travel disruptions. A thick layer of ice caused by the compacted sleet and freezing rain mixture made travel difficult at best. The storm occurred on the Presidents Day weekend. Most schools and businesses scheduled to be open on Presidents Day were closed. In Hopkins County, which includes the city of Madisonville, there were 30 weather-related traffic mishaps. The storm's effects were much less severe across the Tennessee border region of western Kentucky. Accumulations in those areas were generally an inch or less. Some specific reports included: 3 inches at Owensboro, 2 inches at Dixon in Webster County, and 1.3 inches at Paducah.



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KENTUCKY, Southwest

**KYZ004>005-007-010-014- Ballard - Mccracken - Livingston - Crittenden - Union - Henderson
018**

	19	1800CST			0	0			Flood
	28	2359CST							

Moderate flooding occurred along parts of the Kentucky side of the Ohio River. The river crested on the last day of the month at most locations, including Paducah. The crest of 45 feet at Paducah was 6 feet above flood stage. Some rural county roads were closed, and riverside parks and campgrounds were flooded. Extensive flooding of low-lying woods and fields occurred near the river. Very few if any structures were damaged by flooding.

Mccracken County

1 S Lone Oak

	22	0800CST			0	0			Flash Flood
		1100CST							

The intersection of Old Mayfield Road and Hauser Road was flooded by Champion Creek. The roads were closed or monitored by emergency personnel until the water subsided.

Hickman County

Oakton

	22	1100CST			0	0			Heavy Rain
		1400CST							

Kentucky Route 123 at Obion Creek near Oakton was closed after heavy rain drove the creek out of its banks and over the road

KYZ001>006-008>009-011>013-016>017-021>022 **Fulton - Hickman - Carlisle - Ballard - Mccracken - Graves - Marshall - Calloway - Lyon - Trigg - Caldwell - Hopkins - Christian - Muhlenberg - Todd**

	25	0100CST			0	0			Winter Weather/Mix
		0700CST							

One to two inches of snow fell in southern parts of western Kentucky, including Murray and Hopkinsville. The timing of the snow coincided with the morning commute, so numerous accidents were reported. One of the most serious accidents was in Christian County, where a van overturned into a ditch. No serious injuries were reported. Most schools were closed.

KYZ001>009-011>013-016>017-021>022 **Fulton - Hickman - Carlisle - Ballard - Mccracken - Graves - Livingston - Marshall - Calloway - Lyon - Trigg - Caldwell - Hopkins - Christian - Muhlenberg - Todd**

	26	0500CST			0	0			Winter Weather/Mix
		1100CST							

From 1 to 3 inches of snow fell across southwest Kentucky. The heaviest amounts were close to the Tennessee border. Murray, Hopkinsville, and Cadiz were among those places receiving 3 inches of snow. Further north, around an inch fell at Paducah. The snow caused numerous vehicle wrecks, including one that prompted the closure of part of U.S. Highway 641 near Benton.

MISSOURI, Southeast

Stoddard County

**Dexter to
10 ENE Dexter**

	03	1710CST			0	0	15K		Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
		1715CST							

Shingles were torn off a home near the New Madrid County line. About a half dozen trees were blown down in Dexter.

MOZ076-086>087-100-107>112-114 **Perry - Bollinger - Cape Girardeau - Wayne - Carter - Ripley - Butler - Stoddard - Scott - Mississippi - New Madrid**

	06	0500CST			0	0			Heavy Snow
		2200CST							

A two-part winter storm dropped an average of 4 to 6 inches of heavy wet snow across southeast Missouri. The first round of snow occurred during the early morning and dropped 2 to 3 inches. The second round during the evening produced another 1 to 3 inches. Temperatures during the event were very close to freezing, and much of the accumulation was on grassy areas. Slushy roads were a concern, and numerous accidents occurred. No serious injuries were reported. Schools and businesses were closed due to the slippery road conditions. The snow was caused by an upper level disturbance moving east northeast from the Four Corners region. Some of the highest specific snowfall amounts included:

6 inches at Lake Wappapello in Wayne County, 5.5 inches at Clearwater Dam in Wayne County, 5 inches at Marble Hill in Bollinger



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MISSOURI, Southeast

County, and 4 inches at Perryville in Perry County. The highest amounts were in the hilly terrain north and west of Poplar Bluff.

MOZ076-086>087-111>112

Perry - Bollinger - Cape Girardeau - Scott - Mississippi

16	0300CST 1400CST				0	0			Winter Storm
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A winter storm produced mainly sleet over much of southeast Missouri. One to two inches of sleet, mixed with some freezing rain and snow, was common north of the Sikeston area. The most snow was reported north of Cape Girardeau, with up to a quarter inch of ice glazing surfaces in Mississippi County. The storm occurred during the Presidents Day holiday weekend. Icy road conditions contributed to a fatal vehicle accident on Interstate 55 in New Madrid County that killed three people (indirect storm fatalities). A car slid across the median of the highway and slammed into a tractor trailer rig. Minutes later, also on Interstate 55 in New Madrid County, a person walking toward a disabled motorist was killed by a car that slid into him and into the disabled vehicle. The two occupants of the disabled vehicle were seriously injured. The total number of accidents was relatively low during the storm. Police attributed this partly to fewer people commuting to work or school during the holiday weekend. Even after the holiday weekend, some schools delayed or cancelled classes until roads improved. Places from Poplar Bluff to New Madrid recorded less than one half inch of sleet.

MOZ076-086>087-100-107 Perry - Bollinger - Cape Girardeau - Wayne - Carter

23	1500CST 2200CST				0	0			Heavy Snow
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This snowstorm was short but intense. Visibility was less than one quarter mile during the heaviest snow bursts. Total snowfall was 4 to 6 inches north of a line from Cape Girardeau to Poplar Bluff, tapering down to a dusting along the Arkansas border and near the Bootheel. The heavy snow was caused by an intense upper level disturbance that moved east-northeast from Oklahoma. The surface low pressure system tracked northeast from Arkansas into south central Kentucky during the night of February 23. Specific snowfall reports included 6 inches at Piedmont and Clearwater Dam (both in Wayne County), 5 inches at Ellsinore (Carter County) and Perryville (Perry County), 4.5 inches at Jackson in Cape Girardeau County, 4 inches at Marble Hill in Bollinger County, and 3.5 inches at Cape Girardeau. Many schools closed.

MOZ111>112-114

Scott - Mississippi - New Madrid

26	0400CST 1100CST				0	0			Winter Weather/Mix
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From 1 to 3 inches of snow fell across the extreme southeast part of Missouri, southeast of a line from Poplar Bluff to Cape Girardeau. One fatal motor vehicle accident occurred on Interstate 55. About 6 miles north of Sikeston, a northbound vehicle skidded across the median and into the path of a southbound vehicle. A 40-year-old female was killed (indirect storm fatality). Many other minor accidents were reported on the interstate.