

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LUTHER H. HODGES, *Secretary*

WEATHER BUREAU

F. W. REICHELDERFER, *Chief*

STORM DATA

NOVEMBER 1961

Volume 3 No. 11



ASHEVILLE: 1961

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

NOVEMBER 1961

PLACE	DATE	TIME	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED ¹ DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM	
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS		
ALABAMA										
Mobile County	13-14	6:00 p			0	0	4	0	Rain, wind	
					Torrential rains of more than 6 inches fell over the northern half of Mobile County causing several road and bridge washouts and flooding lowland areas. High winds early on the 14th blew down some electric power lines. About 95% of damage due to rain.					
Dale, Geneva and Houston Counties	23	12:00-4:00a.			0	0	5	0	Wind	
					High winds associated with lines of thunderstorms caused scattered damage to property beginning soon after midnight at Hartford where a frame warehouse was blown down. At Ft. Rucker 3 light aircraft were demolished and 19 others damaged between 3:12 a.m. and 3:30 a.m. In the Dothan area scattered wind damage occurred just before 4:00 a.m. Thunderstorms moved from west to east.					
ALASKA										
					None reported					
ARIZONA										
					None reported					
ARKANSAS										
Logan County	2	9:20 a.	1 1/2	100	0	0	3	0	Tornado	
					The storm moved eastward along State Highway No. 22 from a point one-half mile east of Paris. The funnel cloud was observed by several persons. Minor damage to several buildings along the path.					
Union County	2	2:16 p.			0	0		0	Tornado	
					The storm originated one mile south of El Dorado on the South Jackson Road and moved northeastward. Only slight property damage reported.					
Bradley County	22	1:50 p.	1/4	250	0	0		0	Tornado	
					The storm moved northeasterly across State Highway No. 4, one and one-half miles east of Warren. Only damage was to standing timber trees to 26 inches in diameter twisted off.					
CALIFORNIA										
Southern California	5-6				0	23	4	5	Wind	
					Strong winds downed trees and utility lines, produced a number of marine mishaps, and blew from 10% to 50% of the avocado crop from trees. Dust whipped up by wind caused a 16-car pileup, injuring 23 persons.					
Southern California	12-13				1	15	4	4	Wind	
					Wind downed trees and utility lines, damaged cars, signboards, and roofs. A parked plane was wrecked. An employee clearing sand from railroad track was killed when struck by train. Some highways temporarily closed by drifting sand.					
Los Angeles Area	20				0	0	5	0	Rain	
					First heavy rain of the season resulted in severe damage to many homes and roadways. Areas recently denuded by fire suffered major erosion inundating roads, cars, and homes in mud, ashes, and rocks.					
COLORADO										
					None reported					
CONNECTICUT										
					None reported					
DELAWARE										
Entire State	24	Daylight Hours			0	0	4	0	Wind	
					Trees and signs blown down.					
FLORIDA										
Galliver Okaloosa Co.	22	11:00 p.	Short Narrow		0	1	2	0	Tornado	
Cantonment Escambia Co.	22	11:30 p.			0	1	2		Wind	
Apalachicola Franklin Co.	23	3:50 a.	2	100	0	1	4	0	Tornado	
					Tornado moved northeastward.					
Quincy Gadsden Co.	23	4:30 a.	Short Narrow		0	0	5	0	Tornado	
					Tornado moved northeastward, affecting 2 farms about 6 miles south of Quincy. Seven tobacco barns destroyed.					
Tampa Hillsborough Co.	23	1:00 p.	Short Narrow		0	0	3	0	Tornado	
					Funnel cloud touched ground briefly in Palma Ceia section of Tampa. Funnel cloud moved eastward.					
West Palm Beach Palm Beach Co.	30	2:00 p.			0	0	4	0	Hail	
					Hail stones ranging from marble size to golf ball size falling mostly in area from Military Trail to State Road 7, between State Road 80 south to near Delray, inflicted heavy damage to nurseries and some vegetable crops.					
GEORGIA										
Elkally, Early County	23	5:30 a.	Short Narrow		0	0	3	0	Tornado	
					Small tornado dipped down briefly along North Main Street. Trees were blown down and barns and other out-houses were unroofed. Two other small "whisters" were reported in rural Early County about the same time.					
HAWAII										
Island of Maui	1-3				0	0	0	0	Rain, Wind	
Island of Molokai	1-3				0	0	0	0	Rain, Wind	
Island of Lanai	1-3				0	0	0	0	Rain, Wind	
					Heavy rain and attendant high winds which began on Oct. 31, resulted in extensive damage to Islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. Flooding and erosion caused most of damage to crops, land, roads, and property. Heaviest losses occurred in West Maui District, with \$1,672,825 damage reported that area. Precipitation totaled over 26 inches in local areas of Maui for period Oct. 31-Nov. 3.					
IDAHO										
Snake River Valley	16							7	Deep soil Freeze	
					Estimate of 20,000 acres of potatoes and sugar beets lost.					
Latah - Nez Perce Counties	23-25							4	3	Record heavy snow
					Ranked as heaviest three-day November snow storm of record. Snow depths ranged from three feet at Elk River to ten inches at Lewiston. Property and livestock loss moderate.					
ILLINOIS										
					No report received by printing deadline.					
INDIANA										
					None reported					
IOWA										
SC to NE Divisions	2-3							6	5	Heavy rains
					Heavy rainfalls on saturated soil caused rivers to rise rapidly. A 400' section of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad bridge 1 1/2 miles SW of Eddyville was washed out. An auto was washed from the highway near Albia from which the 2 occupants escaped. Several highways and considerable crop land were flooded.					
Council Bluffs to Mason City	15-16							5		Snowstorm
					About 4" of wet snow downed about 20 primary power lines, downed tree limbs, saved in a green house and caused other property damage, mostly minor, primarily in the Council Bluffs area.					
KANSAS										
Barbours County	2	12:30a-1:30a		3	500			2		High wind
					High northwest winds caused considerable crop and some property damage west of and in Fort Scott.					
Montgomery County	2	1:15a						3		Electrical
					Lightning struck a farm one-half mile east of Independence. Barn and contents were burned.					
Cherokee and Crawford Counties	2	2:30a-3:00a	15	100				2	4	Tornado
					A small tornado skipped northeastward from its first damage 5 miles southwest of Cherokee to the eastern limits of Pittsburg. Damage resulted at several points where the funnel cloud contacted the earth. Most damage was to several commercial buildings in Cherokee. Two persons were injured by flying debris.					
Johnson County	12	Evening						1		Electrical
					A 15-year-old boy was injured by a lightning bolt at Sunflower in northwest part of the county.					
Cherokee County	15	12:45p								Electrical
					Lightning destroyed a barn 1 1/2 miles east of Columbus.					
North Central Counties	14-15	Night								Glass, snow, and wind
					Glazing of wires with a coating of 3/4 inch ice resulted in many telephone long distance failures in the Mitchell, Osborn, Jewell, and Republic County area. Farther south in Ellis and Russell Counties freezing rain turned to heavy wet snow which was badly drifted by northwest winds of 40-50 mph. Highways were made slick and hazardous and then became almost impassable by drifted snow. Heavy snow on trees broke many branches which in turn caused outages of power and telephone service.					
KENTUCKY										
					None reported					
LOUISIANA										
					No report received by printing deadline.					

See reference notes at end of table.

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					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
PENNSYLVANIA			None reported						
PUERTO RICO									
Rio Piedras	11	Afternoon			1				Heavy Rains and Local Floods
			<p>The passage of a cold front which remained stationary in the vicinity of Puerto Rico resulted in heavy rains in the Rio Piedras section of the Metropolitan Area on November 11, 1961 causing local floods, damage to property, power interruption and one death. According to reports, the most seriously affected section was Villa Nevada, where the flowing waters entered several houses and forced the residents to evacuate their homes. One death occurred when a 55 year old man, after having rescued a girl who was being carried away by the waters of a stream disappeared trying to help other people and was found drowned later. A total of 5.95 inches of rain were measured at the Agricultural Experiment Station of Rio Piedras during the 24 hour period from 8 AM. on the 11th. to 8 AM. on the 12th., as compared with only 0.15 inch for the same period at San Juan Weather Bureau City Office, about 6 miles away. Amount of property damage is unknown at this writing.</p>						
San Juan	28 and 29								Heavy Rains
			<p>The passage of a cold front, combined with an upper air trough, brought heavy rains to the East and North coasts of Puerto Rico, causing rough seas along the North coast and local floods, especially in the Metropolitan Area of San Juan. As a result, the usual traffic jams occurred, school classes in Cataño were interrupted and the ferry boat service between San Juan and Cataño had to be detoured through the San Fernando Channel. No damages were reported.</p>						
RHODE ISLAND			None reported						
SOUTH CAROLINA									
South Carolina	23	mid-morn- mid-aftn.			0	See tornado	4	0	Windstorm
			<p>An active squall line moved northeastward across South Carolina. Many counties reported light damage from winds. Such reports came from Beaufort, Charleston and Newberry Counties. Small tornadoes, listed below, were reported in conjunction with the squall line.</p>						
East of Bamberg, Lower Bamberg County	23	12 noon			0	0	2	0	Tornado
			<p>Accompanied by light hail.</p>						
Branchville, Orangeburg County	23	12:45 p.	1/8	10	0	0	3	0	Tornado
			<p>Witness saw funnel dip out of clouds. Storm sounded like a freight train. Cut a swath in cornfield near house. Blew windows outward.</p>						
Walterboro, Colleton County	23	1:00 p.	1/20	60	0	1	3	0	Tornado
			<p>Funnel appeared, dipped to ground, then disappeared.</p>						
SOUTH DAKOTA									
General Except Northwest	1-2	pm of 1 to late pm of 2					3		Snow, wind
			<p>Snowstorm began late on 1st in extreme west and spread over state next day and ended extreme east late on 2nd. Snowfall of 3 to 8 inches northern Black Hills and adjacent plains area and 1 to 3 inches most of central and east. Storm accompanied by winds of 50 to 60 m.p.h. western sections and 40 to 50 m.p.h. eastern half of state. Temperatures fell rapidly with passage of cold front with 24-hour changes of from 40 to more than 50 degrees. At NEAS Huron temperature lowered from 73° on the 1st to 21° twenty-four hours later. Moderately heavy rain, changing to sleet, preceded the snow in southeast counties. Rural schools and construction work closed in the west. The usual rash of automobile accidents occurred on highways and city streets in all sections of affected area, but no serious injuries. Property damage from high winds was minor.</p>						
TENNESSEE									
1 1/2 W Knoxville Knox County	1	2:15 a.			0	0	4	0	Wind
			<p>Half of roof blown off church, a barn blown apart, one house moved about 3 feet off foundation, and damage to trees. Winds estimated about 90 mph.</p>						
6 NE Milan Carroll County	16	11:45 p.	1	400	0	2	4	0	Wind
			<p>House and church destroyed, other buildings damaged. Man and wife asleep in house were blown into nearby cane field and received minor injuries.</p>						
TEXAS									
Rice Navarro County	2	6:30 a	short	narrow	0	0	2	0	Tornado, Funnel aloft
			<p>Small tornado lifted the roof off a barn and carried it 150 yards. A much larger funnel cloud ascended and descended, but did not touch ground.</p>						
Sulphur Springs Hopkins County	2	7:45 a							Funnel aloft
Longview Gregg County	2	10:30 a	short	narrow	0	0	3	0	Tornado
			<p>A small tornado struck the Mid-Valley Pipe Line pump station southwest of Longview, unroofing a residence, and causing minor damage to the pump station. The tornado lifted back into the air, but touched ground again in spots along both sides of Harrison Road, inside the Longview city limits. In Longview, a large tin barn was unroofed and a frame garage overturned. An eye witness at the pump station reported tree limbs and sheet metal were whirled around about 3 feet off the ground. Several witnesses compared the roar of the storm to that of a freight train.</p>						
Port Lavaca Calhoun County	2	11:30 a- 11:40 a	1/4	200	0	0	4	0	Tornado
			<p>Small tornado blew the roof off one residence and about one-half the roof off a school gymnasium. Several other homes in the area received minor damage. The tornado moved from the north toward the south.</p>						
Cherokee Lake Gregg County	2	afternoon ?	?	?	0	0	2	0	Waterspout
			<p>A large waterspout moved across Lake Cherokee from west to east. The waterspout struck a power plant, shattering 16 windows and stripping limbs from trees.</p>						
Baytown Harris County	12	9:00 p			0	0	3	0	Lightning
			<p>Lightning struck the chimney of the Robert E. Lee High School causing 10,000 dollars damage.</p>						
2 W Lockhart Caldwell County	12	9:40 p	1	*1/4	0	0	4	0	Tornado
			<p>Tornado demolished 2 large chicken houses and a garage attached to a house.</p>						
TEXAS									
Near San Marcos Hays County	12	11:30 p	short	narrow	0	0	3	0	Tornado
			<p>A small tornado touched ground on the Lawrence Smith ranch at the end of Lime Kiln Road. The tornado picked up and destroyed a garage out of a cluster of buildings without causing much damage to the other buildings.</p>						
Houston Harris County	12-13				1	0	?	0	Heavy Rain
			<p>Heavy rains of 5.2 inches in 24 hours flooded streets, tangled traffic, and almost isolated some schools in Houston. One 11-year-old boy drowned in floodwaters overflowing from White Oak Bayou. At one time, police listed 22 streets as impassable.</p>						
West Texas	13-15				1	1	?	?	Snow, ice, Wind
			<p>The earliest heavy snow on record fell in extreme West Texas and the western portion of the Panhandle and South Plains near the New Mexico border. El Paso received 7.8 inches of snow on the 13-14th, the heaviest November snowfall in 55 years. Strong easterly winds estimated as high as 70 mph blew down power lines on the west side of the Franklin Mountains in El Paso. Damage in the city was estimated at \$15,000. From 4 to 20 inches of snow fell in the Panhandle and western portion of the South Plains from the 13th to 15th. Twenty inches were recorded at Hartley, and an unofficial measurement of 16 inches at Romero. Freezing rain left a heavy accumulation of ice in the eastern Panhandle and central and eastern portions of the South Plains. Damage was particularly heavy to trees in the area, as they had not yet lost their leaves. A pilot was killed in a plane crash near Carron in an accident attributed to the storm. A 6-year-old El Paso girl was critically injured when a 5-inch sliver of glass from a broken window was blown through her body.</p>						
1 1/2 NW Hondo Medina County	21	7:45 a- 7:55 a							Funnel aloft
			<p>Surface winds at Hondo were estimated at 40-55 mph for about two minutes.</p>						
25 SE Brady McCulloch County	22	1:00 a- 1:10 a	10	*3	0	0	4	0	Hailstorm
			<p>Hailstones up to 3 to 4 inches in diameter severely damaged all roofs in the area. Most of area is open ranch land. No known cattle losses, but lots of head deer found in open areas.</p>						

See reference notes at end of table.

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TEXAS (Cont'd.)									
Hawley & Hodges area Jones County	22	1:15 a	8	*2	0	0	4	4	Hail
Hailstones up to 3 inches in diameter broke windowpanes and automobile windshields, damaged automobile tops and roofs. Cotton losses estimated at 25 to 50 per cent in area. Average size of hailstones was 1 1/2 inches. Up to 3 inches of rain accompanied the storm.									
Breckenridge Stephens County	22	2:00 a- 2:30 a	.30	*5	0	0	5	?	Hail
Hailstones up to 3 inches in diameter dented automobiles, broke windshields and plate glass windows, and caused heavy damage to roofs in Breckenridge. The hailstones averaged one inch in diameter. Surface winds estimated at 60 mph accompanied the storm. Rainfall varied from 1 to 2.50 inches in the area.									
Coolidge Limestone County	22	2:00 a 4:00 a	30	*2	0	0	4	0	Windstorm
Strong thunderstorm winds damaged several roofs, demolished several large chicken houses and a garage, and damaged another dwelling. One large plate glass window was blown in. Wind speed was estimated at 50 to 60 mph.									
Dublin Erath County	22	3:30 a	?	?	0	0	?	?	Hail
Hailstones up to "golf ball" size fell for about 5 minutes, and covered the ground.									
Uvalde Uvalde County	22	6:30 a							Funnel aloft
Surface winds were estimated at 50 mph, and caused minor roof damage.									
Kilgore Gregg County	22	6:30 a 6:15 a	?	?	0	0	4	0	Tornado
A tornado felled 2 oil derricks on the western edge of Kilgore and unroofed or damaged several homes and small businesses. It moved to the north central portion of the city, then appeared to lift and remain in the air until striking again on the northern edge. There it caused extensive damage to about 10 structures, and destroyed awnings, plate glass, and trees. At Danville, about 3 north of Kilgore the tornado blew over a barn. Several small farm buildings were destroyed off State Highway 119 south of the Sabine River, south of Longview, in the southern part of Gregg County. This tornado was first observed near Lake Tyler in Smith County, and moved in a north-easterly direction across portions of Smith, Rusk, and Gregg Counties.									
San Antonio Bexar County	22	7:30 a- 7:32 a	short	narrow	0	0	3	0	Tornado, Funnel aloft
A small tornado touched ground briefly on Kiowa Street in SW San Antonio ripping off a carport and picking up a 1500 lb. boat and tossing it about 50 feet. A 2 x 4 and a 4 x 4 timber were blown through the sides of an empty house. Another funnel, which remained aloft, moved over the north central part of San Antonio.									
Nacogdoches County	22	8:30 a 9:30 a	15	150	1	10	5	4	Tornado
A tornado moved through the Lillbert, Looneyville, and Oak Flat communities in northwest Nacogdoches County then up into Rusk County, near Mount Enterprise. The one dead and 10 injured were in the Oak Flat community east of Cushing. Twelve homes were destroyed and several automobiles severely damaged. Heavy damage resulted to timberlands in the tornado path. The tornado moved in a northeasterly direction to near Mount Enterprise where 7 additional dwellings suffered roof damage and several barns were demolished.									
3 W Rosenberg Fort Bend County	22	About 4:00 p	?	?	0	0	0	0	Funnel aloft, hail
3 funnels were sighted aloft. Hailstones averaging 1 inch in diameter fell in the area.									
Hungerford Wharton County	22	4:00 p 4:15 p	2	200	0	0	4	0	Tornado
Small tornado destroyed one barn, one dwelling, one garage, and damaged 2 automobiles. The tornado moved from west to east. Four persons within the dwelling were not injured despite the fact that the roof was blown off and several walls collapsed.									
UTAH									
No report received by printing deadline.									
VERMONT									
Northern portion	21, 22, 27				0	0	0	0	Glaze
Local areas of light glazing on these days, with no damage reported.									
Northern portion	27- 30				0	0	0	0	Heavy Snow
Rather spotty distribution of heavy snow accumulations generally 10 to 20 inches in extreme northeastern Vermont and along a narrow band from Chittenden to Enosburg Falls. Some reported storm totals exceeding 24 inches in the Montpelier to Waterbury area. This light dry snow was blown into drifts up to 5 or 6 feet deep to temporarily block roads. Storms of this size are especially remarkable in November. Schools were closed in several communities.									

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					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS			None	reported					
VIRGINIA			None	reported					
WASHINGTON WESTERN WASHINGTON	10						4		Wind.
A combination of high wind and high tides along the coast resulted in damage to property and highways in some localities. Power lines were damaged by falling trees in many localities and other minor property damage occurred.									
WEST OF CASCADES and in LOWER YAKIMA and WALLA WALLA VALLEYS EAST OF CASCADES	22						4		Wind.
High wind velocities on the 21st and during the early morning of the 22nd disrupted power service in several localities west of the Cascades and in the Walla Walla and Yakima Valleys east of the Cascades. Windows were broken and other minor property damage occurred.									
WEST VIRGINIA			None	reported					
WISCONSIN			None	reported					
WYOMING Wheatland 8 N	3	Morning			0	1	3		High winds
High winds overturned truck and house trailer causing minor injuries to driver.									

⁰ Includes crop damage.
^C Crop damage.
^{*} Miles instead of yards.

⁺ Storm damages are placed in categories varying from 1 to 9 as follows:
1 Less than \$50
2 \$50 to \$500
3 \$500 to \$5,000
4 \$5,000 to \$50,000
5 \$50,000 to \$500,000
6 \$500,000 to \$5,000,000
7 \$5,000,000 to \$50,000,000
8 \$50,000,000 to \$500,000,000
9 \$500,000,000 to \$5,000,000,000.

Note: This publication contains our best information on storms but, due to the difficulties inherent in collection of this type of data, it is not all-inclusive. Delayed data and corrections will be carried in the June and December issues of this publication.

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