

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Luther H. Hodges, Secretary

WEATHER BUREAU

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# STORM DATA

MARCH 1962

Volume 4 No. 3



ASHEVILLE: 1962

# STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

MARCH 1962

PLACE	DATE	TIME	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
<b>ALABAMA</b>									
Weaver, Calhoun County	21	1:00 a	2	100-100	0	10	5		Tornado
	Tornado struck Weaver Community which is about 6 miles north-northeast of Anniston, moved west to east with path 100 yards wide at touchdown point and about 100 yards wide at end. Demolished 2 houses, 5 others heavily damaged and about 25 had minor damage. Automobiles and utility lines damaged by uprooted trees.								
Sylacauga, Talladega County	21	1:25 a	1/2	Narrow	0	0	4		Tornado, Hail
	Tornado dipped down twice in southwest portion of city and damaged several houses, one industrial building, utility lines and trees. Very little damage due to hail.								
Cullman, Cullman County	25	3:30 p	3	?	0	0	4		Tornado
	Tornado struck briefly in south portion of Cullman then moved northeastward across St. Bernard campus to cross Gunterville Highway. Several houses were damaged and trees blown down.								
Douglas Community, Marshall County	25	5:15 p	1/2	100	0	0	4		Tornado
	Tornado struck in rural area demolishing or heavily damaging several farm buildings and damaging three houses. Moved from west to east.								
Birmingham, Jefferson County	30	3:00-3:30 p			0	0	6		Hail and Wind
	Heavy thunderstorm with hail, 1 to 1 1/2 inches in diameter, and wind gusts up to 60 mph moved across area with greatest damage at the Municipal Airport and in eastern portion of city. About 60 planes damaged at airport. About 90% of damage due to hail and 10% to wind.								
Albertville, Marshall County	30	4:15 p			0	0	95	0	Hail
	Marble size hail fell covering ground to a depth of 2 inches. One greenhouse was heavily damaged. Roofs were damaged and windows in houses broken with considerable damage to trees and shrubs. Some crop damage.								
Baileytown, Cullman County	30	4:00 p			0	0	4		Wind, Hail
	A heavy thunderstorm with hail and high winds damaged several buildings, one heavily. Tree and power lines down. All damage due to wind.								
Colbert County	30	11:00 p	?	?	0	0	4		Tornado, Hail
	Tornado associated with a heavy thunderstorm struck briefly near Littleville unroofing 3 houses and moving another off foundation. Several farm buildings destroyed. Large hail fell in the county with stones 1 inch in diameter at Muscle Shoals Airport. Almost all damage due to tornado.								
Belk, Fayette County	31	2:00 a	short narrow		0	0	4		Tornado
	Tornado struck in rural area heavily damaging a house, unroofing a barn and demolishing a concrete block barn.								
Winfield, Marion County	31	2:10 a	1	narrow	0	0	5		Tornado
	Tornado moved through eastern outskirts from southwest to northeast. A church and several houses were damaged, garages and outbuildings blown down. A car was overturned and trees uprooted.								
Leeco, Lee County	31	Morning			1				Electrical
	Man was killed while working on telephone lines during electrical storm.								
Bon Secour, Mifflin Baldwin County	31	8:00-8:15 a	10	100	0	0	5		Tornado
	Tornado struck first in Bon Secour area staying on ground for about 1/2 mile then lifting up and moved eastward toward Mifflin where it was on ground for about 1/2 mile. At Bon Secour several houses severely damaged and large trees uprooted. Several houses and buildings destroyed or damaged near Mifflin.								
Conecuh, Escambia, Covington, Coffee, Geneva, Dale, Pike, Henry and Houston Counties	31	Morning			0	0	5	5	Rain, Wind
	A line of thunderstorms moving through these Counties brought scattered wind damage near Dothan, Abbeville, Headland and Troy with several houses and farm buildings and two aircraft damaged. Heavy rains of 3 to more than 5 inches in a few hours brought flash flooding of lowland areas and caused considerable damage to roads and new planted crops. 85% of damage due to rain and remainder to high wind.								
ALASKA	None reported								
ARIZONA	None reported								
<b>ARKANSAS</b>									
Bentonville, Benton County	20	6:00 p.			0	0	5	0	Hail, wind
	Hail with stones ranging up to the size of golf balls and high winds caused extensive damage to roofs, automobiles and signs in the City of Bentonville and the rural area to the northwest of the City. No crop damage was reported.								
Carroll County	20	6:30 p.	15	* 3/4	0	0	7	0	Hail
	Storm covered an area within a radius of 8 miles of the Town of Berryville. The hail was spotted with stones reported to average from 1/4 to 1 inch in diameter with some as large as golf balls. Property damage was very light and crop damage negligible.								
Hindsville, Madison County	20	7:15 p. to 7:30 p.	8	400	0	0	6	0	Tornado
	The storm moved from west-northwest to east-southeast. Principal damage was 2 miles to the west of Hindsville. One house destroyed, several sustained roof damage. Several barns destroyed or damaged extensively.								
Ponca, Newton County	20	7:50 p. to 7:55 p.	1/2	300	0	2	4	0	Tornado
	The storm moved from northwest to southeast, touching down briefly at the Village of Ponca. The house in which the injured persons were in was the only building destroyed. Several trees twisted off.								
Texarkana	24	4:30 p.							Funnel aloft
	Funnel cloud observed 1 mile north of Texarkana.								
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>									
Entire State	2-6				2	1	4	0	Wind, rain, snow, sleet, and hail
	Snow in Sierras closed highways and railroads; snowslides covered cars and trucks. Trees and utility lines blown down; farm buildings unroofed. Mud inundated yards and streets. One person killed when car hit fallen tree; another when blown from seafoam; one injured when motorcycle struck fallen tree. Two buildings damaged by accumulated hail on roof.								
San Diego	9				0	0	0	0	Funnel clouds
	Witnesses report seeing two funnel clouds touching the water 15 miles southwest of San Diego.								
Fresno	22				0	0	3	0	Tornado
	One or two funnel clouds reported near Fresno; one of these is thought to have caused damage to a farm building, but there were no eye-witnesses.								
<b>COLORADO</b>									
Eastern Colorado	28	Afternoon			0	1	3		Wind
	A cold front accompanied by strong gusty wind went through the area east of the mountains. Public had a wind of 52MPH and gusts were estimated up to 70 in the lower Arkansas Valley. Blowing dust was general in the area, reducing the visibility to less than 1/2 mile at many places. A construction worker was injured in Aurora when he was struck by a wind-blown piece of sheet rock venser. A few weed burning fires in the Arkansas Valley got out of control when the high wind came.								
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>									
Shore Areas	6-7	Both days			0	0	5	0	Tide and Wind
	Four successive high tides, 2-4 feet above normal, with gale force winds battered seawalls as a major storm moved eastward in the Atlantic well south of the State. Greatest damage due to tidal flooding in Fairfield and eastern New London Counties with minor damage along rest of Coast. Sand erosion moderate along eastern-most beaches. Wind damage confined mostly to tree branches and downed power lines.								
Fairfield, New Haven, Southern Litchfield, Southwest Hartford, and Northwestern Middlesex Counties	12	Most of day			0	0	4	0	Heavy Rain
	One of the heaviest and in some sections near Waterbury the heaviest 24 hour rainfalls on record totalled 2 to 3 inches throughout area. Smaller brooks and rivers overflowed their banks and some roads were washed out. Widespread local flooding caused some damage to contents of basements in homes in Greenwich, Norwalk, Bridgeport, North Haven, East Haven, Hamden, Middletown, North Woodbury, New Milford, Prospect and Bristol.								

See reference notes at end of table.

# STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

MARCH 1962

PLACE	DATE	TIME	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
<b>DELAWARE</b>									
Coastal areas	5-8	Evening of 5 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup>			7	many	7	6	Spring tide and intense, slowly moving offshore storm
									The storm deepened and nearly stagnated off the Virginia Capes giving sustained northeasterly winds for over 24 hours. The highest windspeed at Delaware Breakwater was NE 72 mph at 9PM on the 5 <sup>th</sup> . The storm tide piled on top of the high spring tides to make the water up to 5 feet above normal. In addition, 20 to 30 foot waves broke against the coast causing very serious beach erosion and destruction of shoreline property. Many beach homes and commercial property were damaged or destroyed. In some places the beach sand was completely washed away. Salt damage to flooded farmlands in northern Delaware is considerable.
<b>FLORIDA</b>									
Boynton Beach Palm Beach Co.	3	After-noon			1	0	8		Wind
									Large wind driven waves washed one man off fishing vessel. Man drowned
Southeast Florida Coast	7, 8 & 9				1	0	6		Wind generated waves
									Large waves generated by winds of an intense Atlantic storm pounded beaches along entire east Florida coast during 3 day period. Tides along coast at time of predicted high tide ranged 2 to 3 feet above predicted. Superimposed wave action caused considerable erosion and a number of beach roads and properties were inundated. Greatest damages occurred between Melbourne and Miami Beach. One death in Miami Beach occurred while fighting an electrical fire caused when rising waters created a short circuit. Nearly all damages were result of heavy ground swells rather than high tides.
Southeastern Martin County	25	4:45 p.			0	3	3		Wind
									Strong winds accompanying squall line affected two trailer parks. Three trailers were overturned and badly damaged. Three trailer occupants injured.
Milton Santa Rosa Co.	31	9:00 a.	8	150	17	100	6		Tornado
									Tornado moved northeastward with about two miles of its path passing through an inhabited area.
Valparaiso - Niceville area Okaloosa Co.	31	10:20 a.	Short	Narrow	0	0	4		Tornado
									Tornado moved northeastward inflicting major damage to 6 residences and 2 businesses and minor damages to about 12 additional residences.
Pensacola, 10 NW Escambia Co.	31	9:30 a.	Short	Narrow	0	2	3		Tornado
									Tornado demolished one house trailer and damaged one residence. Storm moved northeastward.
West Panama City Beach and Youngstown Bay Co.	31	After-noon	Short	Narrow	0	0	4		Tornado
									Tornado moved northeastward inflicting major damage to several residences and one hotel in West Panama City Beach area. This same tornado apparently touched down again briefly near Youngstown causing minor damage to several residences in that area.
Crestview Okaloosa Co.	31	11:00 a.			0	1			Lightning
<b>GEORGIA</b>									
East Central	2-3	Night			0	0	4	0	Glaze
									Several eastcentral counties hit by freezing rain with moderate damage to electric and telephone lines and to trees. Utility service interrupted in some areas for as long as 24 hours. Area included all or parts of Burke, Jenkins, Emanuel, Candler, Bulloch and Screven Counties.
Fort Valley, Peach County	10	7 p.			0	0	4	0	Wind
									High winds damaged roofs of several buildings and blew down power lines and TV antennas in the western and northeastern sections of Fort Valley.
Macon, 10 miles NNW	11	6:10 p.	Short	300	0	0	4	0	Tornado
									A small tornado dipped down briefly in the Howard Community of Bibb County, damaging several roofs and chimneys and uprooting numerous trees.
Tennille, Washington County	11	7:15 p.			0	0	4	0	Tornado
									Several buildings unroofed or damaged when storm hit business section. Among the buildings damaged were a hotel and implement company. The oxygen system was knocked out and other damage caused at the Washington County Hospital in Sandusville, just north of Tennille. Electric and telephone service was disrupted for
<b>GEORGIA (Cont'd)</b>									
Cherokee County	21	3:15 a.	10	Variable	0	0	5	0	Tornado
									Storm hit the Hickory Flat, Avery and Macedonia Communities in southeast part of County. Roofs were torn from houses and service stations and many poultry houses were demolished. Thousands of chickens were killed or lost. Wind damage also reported in several other areas of north Georgia on same night. Among the counties affected were Haralson, Polk, Carroll, Bartow, Hall, White and Habersham.
Atlanta	30	6 p.			1	1			Lightning
									Emory University student killed by lightning while walking on campus. A companion was injured.
Tifton, Tift County	31	12:30 p.	?	200	0	0	4	0	Tornado
									Several houses unroofed, trees uprooted and wires blown down in southeastern part of Tifton. Possibly the same storm caused considerable damage at Doerun, 25 miles southwest of Tifton, about forty-five minutes earlier. Some wind damage also reported at Noultrie and Leesburg on same date. Storm moved NE.
Alma, Bacon County	31	1:50 p.							Funnel cloud
									Pilot reported funnel cloud 5 miles northwest of Alma.
HAWAII Islands of Kauai, Oahu, and Hawaii	13-15				0	0	0	5	C
									Rain
									Heavy rain over Kauai March 13-14 caused estimated damage of \$65,000 to roads, streets, crops and irrigation canals at scattered locations on the island. Flash flooding in the Waialeale, Sunset Beach, and Waialua areas of Oahu March 14 caused damage of \$75,000 to buildings, automobiles, roads, and farms. Heavy rain at Pahala March 15 washed out roads and damaged fields and crops.
IDAHO Snake River Plains - Payette and Canyon Counties	22	1:30-3:00 p.					4		Wind
									Wind, rain, and hail damaged buildings and contents over a valley area from the vicinity of Marsing to near Weiser. Wind speeds were estimated at from 50 + 60 or more mph. Buildings were unroofed and some smaller ones moved on their foundations.
<b>ILLINOIS</b>									
Tuscola	11	6:15 p.			0	0	2	0	Tornado
									Funnel observed to "drop out of black cloud and skip around on ground". Damage to porch of one house and fence of neighbor.
<b>INDIANA</b>									
Evansville	11	6:21 pm			0	0	0	0	Hail
									A mixture of various sizes and shapes of hail fell which ranged up to 1 1/2 inches in diameter.
Boone County	11	8:25 pm	5	10	0	0	4	0	Tornado
									It was likely a small tornado which deroofed a steel building near Stringtown then moved north northeastward to wreck a barn located 1.3 miles east of Pike. Accompanying rain was brief. The tornado apparently was not seen or heard.
<b>IOWA</b>									
North and West Iowa	10-14	a. m.					6		Snowstorm
									Began as rain, changed to snow p. m. of 10th. Moderate to heavy 11-12 with N to NWly winds 20-30 mph., gusting to 40, which drifted highways, closed schools and isolated communities, particularly in NW Iowa where previous heavy accumulations accentuated severity of this storm.
<b>KANSAS</b>									
Lyon County	10	7:37p							Hail
									Hail 3/4 inch in diameter was reported 15 miles north of Emporia.
Badgwick County	20	4:30p							Hail
									Golf ball sized hail was reported about 15 miles west of Wichita.
Clark and Meade Counties	23	7:00p							Electrical
									Fires were started by lightning which burned between 5,000 and 10,000 acres of pasture grass in a 35-mile line from north of Ashland to western Meade County.

See reference notes at end of table.

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					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS			
<b>KENTUCKY</b>											
Paducah	11	4:30 PM							Hail		
			Hallstones one inch diameter.								
Blueberry Hill (South of Lexington)	21	Afternoon					4		Tornado		
			Storm described as a small tornado destroyed two barns, a garage, and uprooted trees. One barn was lifted and carried away, leaving uninjured cattle inside.								
<b>LOUISIANA</b>											
Harbor Inn, 40 ENE New Orleans	31	7:00 a - 7:14 a	**30	30	0	0	3	0	Tornado		
			Moved from northeast, destroying one shed. Recorded winds to 65 miles per hour.								
<b>MAINE</b>											
Coastal South of Portland	6-8				0	0	4	0	Flooding		
			This area received fringe effects of a vast ocean storm that wreaked havoc along coastal areas farther south. Flooding of coastal lowlands and some road washouts were reported. Slight damage was reported to sea walls.								
Norway	9	Evening			0	0	3	0	Wind		
			Wind-downed pine tree crashed onto roof of barn causing extensive damage. Other minor wind damage reported.								
Central and south	12-13				0	0	5	0	Snow		
			Snow yielded 10 inches of snowfall over coastal areas and from 12 to 20 inches over other parts of this section. While this was the heaviest snow storm of the year in only some areas, there was general agreement that this yield was the heaviest in gross weight in nearly all of the affected area. This condition increased the usual difficulty of clearance and removal. In some cases, cars parked at curbs were completely buried; others were abandoned where stalled on roads. Principal arteries were kept open but secondary streets were frequently impassable. Traffic tie-ups were frequent and numerous. School sessions were generally cancelled. Power and phone services were the heaviest casualties of the storm. All sections reported widespread outages lasting up to 12 hours or longer. Heavy roof-top accumulations caused the collapse of a garage, damaging 3 vehicles, and endangered many older structures. Downed trees and branches and broken wires hampered the work of road crews. At Rockland, the Alton Frook lighter broke part of its moorings and swung around to pound the coastal tanker Rockland Gulf. Damage to tanker was estimated at \$10,000.								
<b>MARYLAND</b>											
Central and Southern	5-7	Evening of 5 <sup>th</sup> to Morning of 7 <sup>th</sup>			0	?	5	4	Wet snow and wind		
			Heavy wet snow with moderate winds broke down trees and utility lines. Electric power was off in most areas from a few minutes to several hours but in some places as long as a week.								
Coastal Areas	5-8	Evening of 5 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup>			3	many	7	6	Spring tide and intense, slowly moving offshore storm		
			The storm deepened and nearly stagnated off the Virginia Capes giving sustained northeasterly winds for over 24 hours. Ocean City Coast Guard reported 40-45 mph wind with gusts 55-65 mph for 18 hours. The storm tide piled on top of the high spring tides to make the water up to 5 or 6 feet above normal. Four or five such high tides with 20 to 30 foot waves broke against the coast causing serious beach erosion and destruction of shore property. Many beach homes and commercial property were damaged or destroyed. Other property was damaged by water and sand. Nearly 1.5 million broilers and an unknown number of incubator eggs were lost due to power failure. Salt damage to flooded farmlands was minimized by the rain-soaked soil. Direct wind damage was small. Greatest and longest lasting damage is to beaches where the sand was washed away.								
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>											
Coastal areas	6-8				0	1	5	0	Wind, tidal surge		
			This area was relatively lightly affected by the vast ocean storm that wreaked havoc over coastal areas to the south. A combination of wind-driven tidal surges and spring tides brought seas crashing over and damaging walls erected against them. Complete sections of some old sea walls were washed out. Low-lying areas were flooded. Some structural damage to waterfront installations occurred and many cellars were flooded. About 100 residents of Kennerly Park, Hull, Mass., were evacuated as a precautionary measure. Winds reached and maintained gale force for long periods on the 6th and 7th. However, wind damage was scattered and mostly light and was generally limited to broken windows and downed signs. Many flights out of Logan Airport, E. Boston, were cancelled because of the winds there and the weather at other airports along the coast. A boy was injured when struck by a wind-blown storm door.								
<b>MASSACHUSETTS (Cont'd)</b>											
Statewide	12-13						0	0	5	0	Wind, snow, rain, flooding
			This storm produced a variety of damaging weather conditions over the state. A common feature was the gale force winds that did widespread damage. In eastern sections damage was mostly of a minor nature consisting of broken windows, downed signs, broken branches, etc. Wind damage increased westward and reached maximum proportions over north Berkshire County. In South Williamstown a solidly constructed country store was wrecked and its roof carried 150 feet in a northerly direction. Other wind damage consisted of trees and large limbs downed, television antennae broken or twisted out of shape, plate glass windows blown in, shingles ripped off buildings, etc. A combination of rain and melting snow in much of the State, accumulating over a frozen surface, produced widespread local flooding of streets and highways, cellars and basements. In the Berkshires and a few of the high elevations new snowfall accumulated to depths of 8 to 12 inches. Strong winds caused high drifts which filled some roads and highways, blocking or snarling traffic. Many cars were abandoned where stalled in these drifts. Major casualties of the storm were the widespread power and phone outages that occurred in nearly all parts of the State.								
<b>MICHIGAN</b>											
			None reported								
<b>MINNESOTA</b>											
Statewide except northwest	10-11	Evening and most of day			0	0	6	0		0	Heavy snow, wind
			Heavy snow ranged in depth from 4 to 13 inches blown about by 20 to 40 mph winds. Hardest hit was the southern tier of counties from Albert Lea west and the Duluth area. Blowing snow blocked roads with some secondary roads not opened until the 17th. Some drifts 16 feet high in southwest. Over 350 schools closed as school buses not able to operate. Three men died due to over exertion shovelling snow. Numerous unshovelled roofs collapsed with the added weight of this storm. Urban snow removal very costly, as much as \$15,000 an inch in larger urban areas.								
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>											
Pleasant Hill, Lowndes County	30	6:00 p									Hail
			Hail 1 inch in diameter, maximum 2 inches, covered 30% of a 3 square mile area.								
Pleasant Hill, Lowndes County	31	12:15 a	3	*1	0	1	5	2			Tornado
			Tornado touched down 3 times, moving from south to northwest. Two houses destroyed; 8 others and church damaged.								
<b>MISSOURI</b>											
Clarence Shelby County	11	Near Noon							4		Thunderstorm
			Hickory-nut size hail, covering the ground, and a narrow belt of damaging winds reported in a farm area south of Clarence. Wind damage to several farm buildings.								
Southwest City McDonald County	20								unknown		Thunderstorm
			Golf-ball size hail, covering the ground.								
<b>MONTANA</b>											
			None reported								
<b>NEBRASKA</b>											
Northeastern Nebraska	4				0	0	?	0			Blowing and drifting snow.
			Strong winds caused severe drifting of old and new snow, visibility reduced to zero at times. Four to six inches of new snow. Roads throughout northeastern Nebraska blocked by huge drifts. Outdoor activities ceased.								
Central and north-eastern Nebraska	10-13				0	0	?	0			Blowing and drifting snow.
			Strong winds caused severe drifting of old snow plus new snow in some areas. Roads blocked by huge drifts. Outside activities ceased. Lightning struck house in Omaha.								
Boyd and Holt Counties	23-24	Midnight-2 a.m.	spots	spots	0	0	4	0			Lightning
			City water tank, house, and other buildings struck in vicinities of Lynch, Colia and Emmet.								
<b>NEVADA</b>											
			None reported								

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					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
NEW HAMPSHIRE Coastal	6-8				0	0	5	0	Wind, tidal surge
	This area received fringe effects of a vast ocean storm that wreaked havoc to coastal areas farther south. A combination of wind-driven tidal surges and spring tides brought seas crashing over and damaging walls erected against them. Coastal lowlands were flooded and some road washouts were reported. Foundation of a beach front home was washed out.								
Most of state	12-13				0	1	5	0	Snow
	Storm yielded irregular amounts of snowfall ranging from less than 5 inches up to 20 inches. The lesser falls were mostly recorded in extreme southeastern and extreme southwestern sections, and parts of south-central portions. In much of southern and central sections the snow was of the heavy, wet variety that clung to and accumulated upon exposed surfaces. Trees and large limbs broke under the weight of the snow or were stretched down to near the surface. Many roads were blocked in this manner. In southeastern areas, the snow changed to deep slush that filled streets and covered walks. Power and phone outages occurred in all parts of the State, and lasted for up to 10 hours and longer in some communities. These services were the heaviest casualties of the storm. School sessions were widely cancelled. There were reports of a number of roofs caving in under the weight of snow. One person was injured by a falling tree limb.								
NEW JERSEY Entire coastline of State, including Delaware and Raritan Bays	6-8				21	Many	8	3	Wind storm with tidal surge
	A severe coastal storm, moving very slowly, combined with high tides on five consecutive occasions in a three-day period, wrought tremendous destruction to coastal installations. Hundreds of summer homes were demolished. The sand from beaches was washed away, changing the shoreline in many areas. Many new channels and inlets were cut in the shoreline. Highways were cut in many places, or buried under several feet of sand. A Navy destroyer, the MONSIEUR, was beached about a half mile north of Beach Haven after breaking its tow. The destroyer was unmanned and was being towed to Philadelphia from Bayonne Navy Yard. Loss of life from the storm includes 6 persons missing and presumed dead. Five of those six were aboard a fishing trawler off the New Jersey coast. Agricultural losses were chiefly due to flooding of around 1,000 acres in Cumberland County, on Delaware Bay.								
NEW MEXICO (eastern plains counties)	23-24	PM 23rd through AM 24th			0	0	4		Windstorm
	The eastern plains counties of New Mexico were hit by high winds with gusts to 75 m.p.h. Friday evening March 23 which continued into Saturday the 24th in many places. Extensive damage to roofs, signs, and canopies occurred in Raton, Colfax County. In Hobbs, Lea County, considerable damage to roofs and plate glass was reported. A large barn in the Artesia area was almost completely demolished, and in Lovington, Lea County, a trailer was overturned and badly damaged.								
NEW YORK Coastal sections, extending from the New York City area throughout Long Island to Montauk Point	6-8				0	0	7		Unprecedented tidal and wave destruction, high winds, heavy rains and extensive tidal flooding
	A great Atlantic storm was centered off the Maryland-Delaware coast during the period. The extensive intensifying storm finally encompassed much of the North Atlantic and caused destructive winds, tides and waves over much of the Atlantic seaboard from southern New England to Florida. The gale to hurricane force north-east winds from this great storm pushed the ocean waters on-shore during at least five successive high tides in an unprecedented manner. On top of the near-record tides was repeated wave action of Heights between 20 and 30 feet. Great and unprecedented damage was done to barrier dunes, beaches and all types of shore installations. Damage was greatest on the south shores of Richmond, Brooklyn and Queens Boroughs in New York City and along the barrier beaches of Nassau and Suffolk counties, eastward to Montauk Point. One hundred or more houses were swept into the sea. Many hundreds of buildings suffered water and structural damages. Streets and highways, utility lines and boats were severely damaged or wiped out. Much of the area lost its barrier dunes and beaches and left further inland properties exposed to future storms. Property damage expected to be well up in code 7.								
Eastern New York	12				0	0	5		Heavy rains, wet snow, high winds
	An intense storm developed over the central states and moved into the Great Lakes region with a secondary coastal storm forming near Hatteras. The storm produced heavy flooding rains, heavy wet snow in the east-central counties and Adirondacks and scattered areas of destructive winds. In the New York City area heavy rain caused widespread flooding, high winds and high tides contributed to widespread destruction. Several homes were washed away on Fire Island. Damaging winds and flooding occurred over many sections of south-eastern New York State including such areas as Middletown, Kingston, Avon Park, Poestandill, Taborton, Hoosick Falls and Norwich. Many sections of the Adirondacks and northeastern New York suffered damages from heavy wet snow with depths up to near one foot. Com-								
NEW YORK									communications and power were interrupted, travel was at a standstill and school closed. Flooding was unusually severe in the Norwich area. In the Copake area 31 homes were damaged by high winds. One man died while pumping water from a flooded cellar in Tonkers.
NORTH CAROLINA Western North Carolina	3-9				0	12	4	0	Snow
	Snow fell daily over the Mountains for a one week period. Many schools closed and business in general slowed down. Damage mainly in form of traffic accidents and communication line breakage; injuries mostly from traffic accidents and falls.								
Northern Coast	6-8				2	25	7	0	Wind, Tides, Waves
	Large and persistent low pressure storm caused greater alteration of coast line from Hatteras northward than any previous known storm, including hurricanes. Miles of protective dunes destroyed and several break-throughs entirely across Outer Banks from Ocean to Sound. Completely new inlet 200 yards wide dividing Hatteras Island in two parts will require bridging. Miles of paved highway destroyed by washing out or buried in several feet of sand. Hundreds of beach homes destroyed or damaged, hundreds of autos submerged in water or buried in sand. Many residents evacuated by helicopter. Two elderly persons died from excitement and exposure due to rigors of the storm. Ship broke in two 100 miles off Hatteras with one person lost. Most of damage due to high water and pounding surf. Highest recorded wind gusts near 70 miles per hour, lowest barometer 29.20 inches at Nags Head. Highest tides about ten feet above mean low water with seas of about 20 ft. height. Number persons injured estimated.								
Interior Northeastern North Carolina	21	5-7 pm			1	0	4	0	Hail, Wind, Electrical
	Numerous thunderstorms associated with moving low pressure storm caused hail up to 1/2 inch in diameter and minor wind damage in local areas scattered over one-fourth of the State. Man killed by lightning inside cabin in Halifax County.								
NORTH CAROLINA					None reported				
OHIO					None reported				
OKLAHOMA Valliant, McCurtain County	20	12:35 p.			0	0	4	0	High southwest winds
	High southwest winds extensively damaged two barns on adjacent farms; one smoke house was destroyed, and one large tree was blown down.								
Langley Area, Mayes County	20	5:30 p.-6:00 p.			0	0	0	0	Hail
	Thunderstorm moved northeastward across the area with hailstones from 1.5 to 2 inches in diameter falling at Grand River Dam, which is located 1 mile east of Langley.								
Cimarron, Texas County	24	7:00 a.-6:45 p.			0	0	5	0	High winds, rain and snow
	Rains turned to wet, heavy snow in extreme western Panhandle with up to 6 inches of snow closing roads west of Boise City. High winds up to 50 MPH lashed the area mid-morning with phone and power outages lasting 12 to 48 hours. Tri-County Electric Cooperative reported 500 utility poles down with all east-west lines out.								
Wilburton, Latimer County	24	4:08 p.			0	0	0	0	Funnel cloud
	Funnel cloud was reported 10 miles northwest of Wilburton by Civil Defense. Not reported reaching the ground.								
Choctaw County	24	4:55 p.-5:05 p.			0	0	0	0	Hail
	Heavy hail was reported 7 miles west and also 3.5 miles north of Hugo at 4:55 p. while half-inch hail beginning at 5:00 p. covered the ground at Sawyer with hail stones up to 1.5 inches beginning to fall at 5:05 p.								
Kingston, Marshall County	30	9:30 a.			0	0	4	0	Lightning
	Lightning struck the main stable at the Texoma Riding Academy located 5 miles east of Kingston in Texoma State Park. The stable was completely destroyed by fire with horses led to safety.								
OREGON					None reported				

See reference notes at end of table.

# STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

MARCH 1962

PLACE	DATE	TIME	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>									
State-wide	6	All Day			2	5			Snow, Wind, and Rain
	The entire State was belted by a wind-driven mixture of heavy rain and snow. The 12 to 18 inches of snow which fell in the south-central and southwestern counties, and the 14 to 22 inches of snow in parts of north-central counties, were piled into high drifts by the 50 to 70 mph wind gusts, closing many roads and paralyzing a number of communities for 24 to 48 hours. Several roofs collapsed under the weight of the water-laden snow, while wind damage to roofs, utility lines, signboards, and trees was widespread. In Ephrata the storm caused a short circuit of high tension wires which exploded a circuit-breaker at the borough light plant injuring two employees.								
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>									
	None reported								
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>									
Coastal Sections	6-7	Entire Period			0	0	6	0	Tide and Wind
	Four successive high tides, 2-4 feet above normal, with gale force winds and gusts to 30 mph in southern sections of the mainland and hurricane winds with gusts to 80 mph on Block Island, combined with surging waves to batter seawalls and destroy beaches as a great storm moved eastward in the Atlantic well south of Rhode Island. Strongest winds occurred on March 6, and highest tides on the morning of March 7. Considerable flooding in Newport, South Kingstown, Bristol, Barrington and Warren. Many piers and boats damaged. Heavy waterfront sand erosion and some property damage with 3-5 feet of sand being stripped from beaches between Point Judith and the Pawcatuck River.								
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>									
Allendale, Hampton, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Berkeley and Georgetown Counties.	2-3	Afternoon on 2nd to morning on 3rd			0	0	5	5	Ice storm
	One of the most severe on record. There was damage to timber, shrubs, electric lines and poles. Highway driving was hazardous.								
Coastal South Carolina	7-9				1	0	5	0	Wind storm and tides
	The Great Atlantic Coast Storm of March 5-9, 1962 did limited damage in this state. Damage was mainly in the form of tidal flooding and beach erosion. Some beach cottages were destroyed, others damaged. All beaches suffered from loss of sand.								
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>									
Statewide	3-5				1	0	0	0	Near Blizzard
	Snow, strong winds produced blizzard conditions, blocked roads. Farmer froze to death walking home from labor during storm.								
Statewide	11-13				1	0	0	0	Near Blizzard
	Fourth consecutive weekend storm of snow, strong wind, blowing and drifting snow, blocked roads, and isolated travelers. Storm most severe eastern half of state. State highway worker slipped on icy, snow-blocked highway east edge of Aberdeen (12th) while halting traffic; held from injury.								
<b>TENNESSEE</b>									
Obion, Gibson, Weakley, and Henry Counties	21	11:15-12:00 p.			0	0	4	0	Wind
	During severe thunderstorms occurring as a cold front moved across the area, high winds caused widespread damage most of which was minor. A few farm buildings were destroyed. Other damage was to roofs, windows, television antennas, trees, telephone and power lines.								
Nashville, Davidson County	29	Afternoon			0	3	3	0	Wind
	Three small houses were toppled off post supports during strong winds. Three women received minor injuries.								
Near Decatur, Maigs County	31	Early morning			0	1	2	0	Lightning
	Lightning struck a wellhouse outside a farmhouse and apparently followed water lines to the kitchen. A woman was knocked unconscious from her chair and her feet were badly burned.								
<b>TEXAS</b>									
North Central	1-2				0	0	0	7	Severe freeze
	Four weeks of summer-like weather ended with a severe freeze February 27-March 4. When the norther hit, the peach, pear, and plum stages ranged from swelling buds through full blooms. Lowest temperatures in North Central ranged from 4 to 12 degrees on March 1, and from 15 to 20 degrees in the Hill Country. Complete fruit kill occurred in many areas of the State. Plum loss was estimated at \$3 million and peach loss at \$2 million. The lowest temperature in the state occurred at Follitt, -3 degrees, on February 28, and Rio Grande City reported 29 degrees on March 2. Some losses occurred to shorn goats and newborn kids in Plateau counties, and to watermelons in South Texas.								
<b>TEXAS (Cont'd)</b>									
DeKalb Bowie County	8	7:15 p-7:30 p	1/2	100	0	0	4	0	Tornado
	Two homes, and several barns and outbuildings severely damaged. The roaring sound from the tornado, described as similar to that of a jet plane or large truck was heard by Cooperative Weather Observer, 3/4 mile away. The storm moved from W to E. No hail fell.								
3 NE Dublin Brazos County	20	9:30 a-9:45 a	1/2	67	0	0	4	0	Tornado
	Two farm homes and several barns and sheds severely damaged. Storm moved from NW to SE.								
Red River County	20	11:25 a							Funnels aloft
	Pilot reported "numerous funnel clouds, not mature."								
West Texas	23-24				0	0	?	?	Wind, dust
	A severe dust storm reduced visibility to near zero in many sections of West Texas, as wind reached 60 to 85 mph in gusts. Levelland radio station KLVF measured gusts of 85 mph. El Paso recorded a "fastest mile" of 61 mph, and Midland reported gusts to 61 mph. Damage was mostly to signs blown down, roofs, and utility lines. Cotton trailers were overturned and damaged at Seminole. Utility lines blown down at Alton and Midland. The roof of a cafe blown off at Pecos, and an oil pipe pulling rig blown over at Andrews. Big Spring reported 78 mph gusts, and the worst dust storm since 1955. The dust was carried deep into South Texas.								
Fort Bend County	24	12:05 p							Funnel aloft
	Reported by public 20 WSW Houston, Texas.								
1 1/2 S Van Alstyne Grayson County	24	1:30 p-2:00 p	7	33	0	0	3	0	2 Tornadoes
	A tornado dipped down to a plowed field, then proceeded to a farm home where it ripped the linoleum off the kitchen floor, lifted a woman about 3 feet in the air, then let her down to the floor. The funnel filled the house with dirt, blew off some shingles from the roof, and blew down a big signboard. The tornado ascended again into the air, passed over U. S. Highway 75, moving eastward, then touched ground again, where it lifted the roof off a large barn, scattered sheet iron in all directions and tore off one side of a shed. The tornado then lifted again and dissipated into the clouds. Two funnels were observed to touch ground, but there is no report of any damage from the second. Rain fell about 1:20 p.m. Then the rain stopped, the sun came out, hail fell with the sun shining, then the tornado struck. Hail averaged 1/2 inch diameter with a few stones 1 1/2 inches in diameter.								
Mineola Wood County	24	3:30 p-3:35 p	1/2	100	0	8	6	0	Tornado, funnel aloft
	A tornado formed over the southwest section of Mineola and moved northeasterly, touching ground in the downtown section. More than 50 homes and businesses and more than 70 automobiles were damaged or destroyed. Miraculously, only 8 persons were injured, and none seriously. Fifty persons were in a super market when the tornado removed the entire roof of the building and sent it crashing down on the automobiles in the parking lot. The tornado funnel passed over a theatre containing 85 children, with only minor damage to the building, and none to the occupants. One 2-story frame house was picked up and moved 8 feet. A police squad car in the west part of town saw the funnel form, and radiated the police station which sounded the siren warning. This quick action was credited with saving many lives. The squad car was carried about 75 feet through the air by the tornado. Witness saw two funnels form; the first one retreating back into the clouds without touching ground. In the immediate area of damage there was no hail, not even any rain; however, residents in West Mineola did report heavy hail. Noise of tornado described by many witnesses as that of a low flying, large jet plane.								
Pearless Hopkins County	24	3:30 p-4:00 p	2	300	0	0	4	0	Tornado
	Tornado caused minor damage to houses or barns on 7 farms in Pearless Community, 12 miles NW of Sulphur Springs. One farm home was moved about 9 feet off its foundation. The storm moved from SW to NE.								
Swan Community Smith County	24	4:20 p	short narrow	0	0	5	0	0	Tornado
	A small tornado destroyed a brick plant at the Swan Community south of Lindale. An eye witness described the funnel as "mostly in the air," and "sounding like a plane."								
Pittsburg Camp County	24	5:00 p	short narrow	0	0	4	0	0	Tornado
	A small tornado skipped around the outskirts of the town causing extensive damage to barns, outhouses, and timber. Most of the damage was in rural area about 1 mile south of Pittsburg. Tree damage marked the path of the tornado as it moved in a north-easterly direction. Two cows killed and several others were injured by flying debris.								
Near Lindale Smith County	24	afternoon	?	?	0	0	0	0	Tornado
	Touched ground in open country.								
Tyler Smith County	24	afternoon	short narrow	0	0	?	0	0	Tornado
	Small tornado dipped down on the northern part of Tyler unroofing a cotton gin and a garden center building. Other minor damage occurred to a few trees and roofs. One automobile was badly damaged when an uprooted tree crashed lengthwise across the vehicle.								

See reference notes at end of table.

# STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

MARCH 1962

PLACE	DATE	TIME	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
TEXAS (Cont'd)									
Ogburn Community Wood County	24	afternoon	?	100	0	0	4	0	Tornado
	A tornado touched ground 4 times in the Ogburn Community about 11 miles SE of Wimbombro, unroofing one house, pushing another off its foundation, ripping a wall of a new brick house, uprooting trees, and blowing away 2 barns and a number of small outbuildings. This tornado may have formed from the same parent thunderstorm as the Minocla tornado.								
Near Iufkin Angelina County	24	6:05 p	**500	17	0	0	3	0	Tornado
	A small tornado touched ground about 1/2 mile from Iufkin, destroying a barn, and tearing large limbs off trees near their tops. The storm moved from SW to NE.								
Port Arthur Jefferson County	31	1:29 a			0	0	4	0	Wind
	Thunderstorm winds damaged several buildings at two widely separated sections of Pleasure Island. Heaviest damage was at the Go-Kart track and Rolfe firing range next to it. A large portable building holding firing range equipment was tumbled over a six-foot chain link fence and demolished, leaving a small 4 by 6 foot shed untouched within 10 feet of it.								
UTAH									
VERMONT Statewide	12-13					0	0	5	0
	Snow, wind, flooding Storm yielded irregular amounts of snowfall ranging from about 5 to 18 inches. Generally, the greater totals fell over higher elevations. The lesser amounts were of the heavy wet type of snowfall that clung to and accumulated upon exposed surfaces. Trees and large limbs broke under the weight, taking down power and phone lines. In other cases, tree limbs were borne down to press against power lines causing short circuits. These broken lines and power and phone service outages and interruptions were the major casualties of the storm. Some principal highways and many secondary roads became impassable. Cars were abandoned where stalled on streets and highways. The unusual heaviness of the snow made clearance and removal exceptionally difficult. Heavy snowfall accumulation on roofs collapsed several buildings. School sessions were cancelled. Melting temperatures during the 13th caused slushy conditions in the afternoon. Gale winds, exceeding 50 mph, caused much damage and buried roads in drifts. At Rutland Airport cars were blown off roads. A wind storm, locally known as a "shirshire" did widespread and rather extensive damage in Bennington County. Gusts to 81 mph were unofficially reported. The main single casualty was the side and sections of the roof of a two-story brick factory. The building fell on a utility pole, splitting it in two. Other damage consisted of falling trees and limbs, downing wires and structures. A major failure was a break in toll lines going north when trees fell on open lines outside of Arlington. Local flooding and road washouts in some sections were reported. One person died of heart seizure while trying to force open a door against the wind.								
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS									
VIRGINIA, except extreme Southeastern portion	4-5	Aftn. & all day			2	?	?	0	Heavy snowstorm
	Heavy, wet snow ranging from 2 inches in southeastern counties up to between 2 and 3 feet in central Virginia disrupted most normal activities in the state. Widespread disruption of power and communication facilities resulted where weight of the snow broke power and telephone lines, and also caused trees to fall on the lines. Many areas in the state were without electricity (and heat) for from 6 hours upwards to 4 days. Transportation facilities were inoperative for many hours due to blocked roads; for the first time in history all 3 primary north-south routes were closed for hours during the same night. In several areas in Northern Virginia post office deliveries were cancelled. Most schools in the state were closed due to lack of transportation or lack of heat and electricity.								
Eastern Shore and Tidewater Areas	5-7-8				4	?	8	0	Extra tropical coastal storm-tide and wave action.
	The combination of the long fetch of strong onshore winds and the "spring tides" caused greater wave and surf damage and tidal flooding than any other coastal storm of recent record. The islands Chincoteague and Assateague were completely covered with water and more than 1000 residents were evacuated by military helicopters. Hundreds of homes on the beaches were totally destroyed and thousands were damaged; many residents were evacuated by boats and amphibious equipment. The fishing pier at Virginia Beach was destroyed and the largest pile driver in the world (a one and one half million dollar machine) was turned over on its side in deep water. Hampton Roads Harbor experienced the highest tide on record for an extra tropical storm, that of 5.6 feet above normal, which was less than a foot below the record tide during a hurricane in 1933. All Eastern Shore and Tidewater region was declared a disaster area by the Governor. Removal of sand by waves and tide has in many cases changed the configuration of the shore line.								
Rockingham, Lee, Scott, Hand, Tazewell and Wise Counties	9	All day			0	?	?	0	Heavy snowstorm
	Second heavy snow in a week with from 3 to 8 inches reported. Red Cross declared Rockingham County a disaster area as more than 100 families were cut off from food and supplies for almost a week. Most secondary roads still blocked from both storms.								

PLACE	DATE	TIME	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
Washington									No report received by printing deadline.
WEST VIRGINIA									
Greenbrier County	21	2:30 p.	1-2				5		Tornado
	A funnel cloud formed and reformed four times not reaching the ground all times however. Storm duration reported three minutes crossing from just north of Lewisburg limits, through town to Little Sulphur and disturbing on Caldwell Hill. Damage included trees, utility lines, houses and larger buildings including some of Greenbrier Military School and the Lewisburg High School barracks.								
WISCONSIN									None reported
WYOMING									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 \$5,000,000
- 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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