

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

C. R. SMITH, Secretary

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
ENVIRONMENTAL DATA SERVICE

STORM DATA

FEBRUARY 1968

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ASHEVILLE: 1968

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

FEBRUARY 1968

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			None reported						
Alaska			None reported						
Arizona									
40 (10 mi WNW)	13	12:28 p.			0	0	0	0	Funnel cloud
			Funnel cloud remained aloft and disappeared into cloud about five minutes after being sighted by pilot.						
Arkansas									
Ozark, Ark. Franklin County	1st	1:00 p.	1/2	40			4		Tornado
			A small tornado touched down in the north part of the city of Ozark at 1:00 P.M. and remained on the ground for no more than 10 minutes. Windows and one wall of the metal shop was destroyed at the Arkansas Valley Vocational Technical School.						
			Other minor wind damage was observed in northern Arkansas during the same afternoon at Oak Grove, Blue Eye, Rogers and Conway.						
California			None reported						
Colorado			None reported						
Connecticut			None reported						
Delaware									
State-wide	15-18						4		Unusually dry weather conditions
			Unusually dry condition of the earth cover, very low humidities and high winds were blamed by Delaware fire officials for this February's critical fire danger which was ranked as one of the worst on record. Many brush and woods fires were reported; several homes and farm buildings were damaged. While most of the damage to the above period, the critical fire danger continued until the 29th.						
Florida									
North Miami Beach	19	5:00a	4 1/2	100	0	21	6	0	Tornado
			A tornado struck a heavily populated area of North Miami Beach causing considerable damage but no deaths or serious injuries. The path of destruction was about a block wide and extended from Northwest 2nd Ave. and Northwest 161st Street eastnortheastward to Biscayne Bay near Northeast 183rd Street. The 21 injured required only emergency out-patient hospital treatment, mainly due to flying glass. The final damage estimate is near two million dollars not including shrubbery losses and damage to utilities. The statistics as determined from Red Cross and Insurance Reports follow: Dwellings; destroyed 2, major damage 12, minor damage 86, glass damage 100. Business Firms; destroyed 4, partially destroyed 40. Automobiles; destroyed 20, damaged 80. This list does not include several house trailers that were overturned.						
West Miami Springs, Dade County	19	5:15a	short narrow		0	0	4	0	Tornado
			Tornado struck just west of Miami International Airport. One horse was killed. Damage consisted of uprooted trees, a missing roof, and an overturned trailer.						
Central Florida	23	7:30a to 1:45p			0	0	0	0	Hail
			Hail reported at several locations in central Florida. Reports of hail with diameter 3/8 inch or greater are as follows: Mulberry, Polk County, 2 to 3 inches; Southeast Tampa, 1 1/2 inches; Polk City, Polk County, 1 1/2 inches; Picnic, Hillsborough County, 1 inch; Black Point, Hillsborough County, 3/4 inch; Tampa (3 miles south), 1 1/2 inches; Lakeland (5 miles south), golf ball size; Clair Mel City, Hillsborough County, 1 1/2 inch; Brandon, Hillsborough County, 1 inch. Although considerable damage might normally be expected from hail this large, no damage reports have been received.						
Pine Island, Lee County	23	Before 11:00a							Funnel aloft
Punta Gorda, Charlotte County	23	Before 11:00a							Funnel aloft
Miami Beach	23	11:33a							Waterspout
Manchula, Hardee County	23	11:40a							Funnel aloft
Punta Gorda (15 mi. north)	23	12:05p							Funnel aloft
La Belle, Henry County	23	2:30p							Funnels aloft (2)
Florida (continued)									
Boca Raton, Palm Beach County	23	3:00p	short narrow		0	0	2	0	Tornado
			A small tornado touched down near the Dixie Highway in North Boca Raton overturning a southbound truck. The tornado continued eastward wrecking several billboards and lifted skyward just east of Federal Highway.						
Georgia									
Northern Third	29				0	2	4	0	Snow
			Heavy snowfall over north Georgia brought accumulations ranging from 2 - 3 inches in the Atlanta-Athens area up to 12 inches in parts of the extreme north. Electrical and telephone service was interrupted in many areas and numerous schools were closed. Most secondary roads were closed and major highways were hazardous for several hours. Auto accidents and falls caused several injuries. Snow or sleet also occurred in parts of the State on the 8th, 15th-16th and 21st-22th but caused little or no damage. Savannah received a record 3 1/2 inches of snow on the 8th, and both Columbus and Macon reported snow or sleet on 8 days during the month.						
Hawaii									
Kahoolawe Island	14	8:00 p.			0	0	0	0	Waterspout
			Aircraft reported waterspout approximately 5 miles southeast of Kahoolawe.						
Kaneohe, Oahu	15	9:00 a.-9:30 a.			0	0	0	0	Waterspouts
			Two outbreaks of short-lived waterspouts observed rolling sea surface 1/2 to 2 miles from Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, Oahu during period of numerous rainshowers and southwest winds gusting to 45 miles an hour. First group of 3 or 4 spouts sighted to south moving west to east. Second group of 2 or 3 spouts sighted to west moving southeast to northwest. Lowest 200 to 300 feet of spouts discernible against dark background of vegetation, but tops obscured by heavy rainshowers. Spouts may have been topographically induced by winds blowing across crests or through passes of Koolau Mountains to southwest.						
Islands	15-18				0	0	0	0	Wind, rain, surf
			Strong southwest winds ahead of slowly-moving cold front did scattered damage to trees, structures and crops. On 16th, roofs lifted from 2 houses in Kaneohe area, and numerous power interruptions along Oahu's eastern coast. Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station recorded gust of 62 miles an hour from southwest at 3:44 a.m. Wind-blown surf rolled into Kona Hilton Hotel at Kona, Hawaii about 4:00 a.m. of 16th for third time in 2 months, but no damage reported. On 18th, heavy surf sank \$8,000 boat in Keauhou Bay, on Hawaii's Kona coast.						
Honolulu, Oahu	24	11:24 a.-5:29 p.			0	0	0	0	Waterspouts, funnel clouds
			Funnel cloud, associated with towering cumulus and heavy rainshower, sighted moving slowly north or northeast approximately 1-1/2 miles south of Koko Head, Oahu at 11:24 a.m. Rotary motion and evidence of down-draft observed near funnel, which extended halfway to ocean from cloud base. Funnel dissipated at 11:26 a.m. Stationary waterspout approximately 8 miles south of station observed by Weather Bureau personnel 2:35 p.m. to 2:41 p.m. Extended nearly perpendicular from parent cloud, but no precipitation noted. Second spout about 10 miles south-southeast of station at 2:50 p.m. was accompanied by two funnel clouds and by rainshowers falling from cumulus clouds with bases at 1,500 feet and tops at 8,000 feet. Spout dissipated at 3:01 p.m. and funnel clouds at 3:08 p.m. Stirring of sea surface observed during both occurrences. Aircraft reported another waterspout approximately 14 miles southeast of Weather Bureau office at 5:29 p.m. No further details available.						
Kailua Bay, Kona, Hawaii	26	Early Morning			0	0	5	0	Surf
			Forty three-foot, \$90,000 fishing boat destroyed on rocks after wind-whipped surf snapped moorings.						
Kaena Point, Lanai	28	5:45 p.			0	0	0	0	Waterspouts
			Aircraft reported 2 waterspouts off Kaena Point, Lanai. No further details available.						
Idaho									None reported
Illinois									No report received by printing deadline
Indiana									None reported
Iowa									None reported

See reference notes at end of table.

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					KILLED	INURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
Kansas									
Shawnee County	1	Midnight of 31-1	?	?	0	0	2	0	Hail
			Diameter of hail was 1/2 inch in southwestern portion of Topeka.						
Kentucky			None reported						
Louisiana									
Ouachita Parish	1	5:45 p.m.			0	0	4	0	Tornado
			Funnel touched down at Louisiana Training Institute, south of Monroe, destroying two buildings (beef cattle barn and athletic scoreboard and stand) damaging two gymnasias, kitchen, and several cottages. School bus lifted from road and carried 30 feet through air, landing off side of road.						
Beauregard Parish	1	5:50 p.m.			0	0	3	0	Tornado
			Small funnel 3 miles south of DeRidder in open area damaged electric lines and uprooted trees.						
North and Central Louisiana	14-15				0	2	?	0	Glaze
			Sleet and freezing rain, with some light snow laid over many bridges and overpasses across the northwestern quarter of Louisiana as a cold front moved through the area. Some sleet reported as far south as Marksville and Old River Lock.						
Statewide	21-23				1	?	?	0	Cold and snow, sleet and freezing rain
			Some sleet, snow and/or freezing rain reported in northern Parishes on 21st. Main storm began during night of 22nd-23rd covering most of state, with heaviest amounts over an area 50 to 100 miles wide cutting across central part of state. Colfax had 6 inches, Belah F.T. and Gorum F.T. 5 inches, Alexandria, Clinton, Greensburg, Natchitoches, Urania, Sikes 4 inches. Roads and bridges iced over as far south as Lake Charles and Donaldsonville, and traces of snow were reported at New Orleans, Schriever, Gueydan, and Hackberry. Schools closed in many parishes. First measurable snow at numerous places in southern half of state since 1960. Roads hazardous all areas, but relatively few accidents reported. Fatality in Acadia Parish traffic accident.						
Maine									
Lewiston-Auburn	10	P.M.			0	0	0	0	Snow
			A brief but unusually rapid snowfall had a paralyzing effect on traffic. Numerous accidents occurred in a monstrous traffic jam that linked these cities. About four inches of snow fell in a two-hour period. Side streets as well were cluttered with stalled vehicles.						
State	17-18				0	0	4	0	Wind
			Strong, gusty wind caused many incidents of local damage, mostly of minor nature.						
Maryland									
All counties except western Allegany and Garrett Counties	15-18						5		Unusually dry weather conditions
			Unusually dry condition of the earth cover, very low humidities and high winds were blamed by Maryland fire officials for this February's critical fire danger. Maryland Department of Forests and Parks reported this month as having the most critical fire danger of any February since records began in 1906. A snow cover through most of the month protected western Allegany and Garrett Counties. While most of the damage was confined to the above period, the critical fire danger continued until the 29th. Several homes and a number of farm buildings were destroyed. Among the homes destroyed was one located at Hanover, Maryland where police estimated the loss at \$19,000. A total of 179 forest fires and damage to 528 acres were reported by Maryland Department of Forests and Parks.						
Massachusetts									
Outer Cape Cod and Islands	8				0	0	4	0	Wind, snow
			Area was struck by edge of a violent northeast storm at sea. Wind gusted to 80 mph and produced 10-ft. waves in Nantucket Sound. An 80 ft. scalloper was driven aground in Nantucket Harbor. Snowfall accumulated up to five inches, producing hazardous driving conditions. Schools closed. Steamship and air transportation from Nantucket was cut off. A small plane at Barnstable Airport in Hyannis was flipped over by wind. Minor local wind damages elsewhere in eastern Massachusetts.						
Eastern portion	10				0	0	0	0	Snow, icy roads
			Blowing snowfall that accumulated to average depths of 2 to 4 inches formed icy surfaces on roads. Travel became extremely hazardous. Numerous accidents occurred.						
Massachusetts (continued)									
State	17	P.M.			1	4	5	0	Wind
			Strong, gusty winds caused local damage in most parts of state. Sections of buildings under construction were flattened in Methuen, Roxbury, and South Weymouth. Other buildings were damaged. Debris from a Roxbury building injured a motorist. A barn in Palmer was seriously damaged. Roofing damages reported in Nahant. Plate glass windows were broken in Boston and many other cities. Wind also caused an auto accident in Acushnet, injuring two, and one in Palmer, injuring one and killing one. Local utility outages.						
State	29		Snow and wind continued into March 1 and will be reported in March bulletin.						
Michigan									
Southern Michigan	1-2	AM-PM			0	0	?	0	Rain-Flooding
			Heavy rain, one to two inches with isolated areas of two and one-half inches, combined with snowmelt to produce some flooding on most streams in southern Michigan. Flood damage included washed-out roadbeds, burst pond dams and flooded basements. The normally tranquil streams rose rapidly and boats were needed to evacuate some families in Port Huron area.						
Minnesota									
NW Division	16				0	0	4	0	Blizzard
			Not much snow, but northerly winds up to 50 m.p.h. forced school closures through the area. Several cars apparently blown in ditch near Crookston.						
NW Division	28				0	0	4	0	Blizzard
			The second blizzard of the month moved through the area with winds up to 55 m.p.h. Schools closed, and at Kennedy 400 basketball fans were forced to remain in the high school gym until the storm was over.						
Mississippi									
Central and Southern Mississippi	23				0	0	?	0	Heavy Snow
			Snow accumulated on ground over nearly all Central and Southern Mississippi. State Highway Patrol reported depths of 1" as far north as Shdon, Leflore County. Schools closed generally from Warren through Lauderdale Counties and southward to Pearl River through George Counties. Highway Patrol issued hazardous driving conditions for State "particularly south of Highway 80." In some areas freezing rain before snow started made tree limbs heavy and they fell on power lines disrupting service. Coastal Counties reported light snow, the first in several years; interior Counties reported depths mostly 1-4 inches with a few Counties having places with 5 or 6 inch depths. ADAMS COUNTY: Mississippi River Bridge (Natchez-Vidalia) closed. FOREST COUNTY: The weight of snow and ice ruined or damaged thousands of pine trees, mostly those under 9-10 years of age, some had roots pulled out of the ground. Snow amounts reported up to 5" in Hattiesburg area.						
Missouri			None reported						
Montana			None reported						
Nebraska			None reported						
Nevada			None reported						
New Hampshire									
Southern and central	1, 2				0	0	0	0	Glaze
			Freezing rain at a number of locations on both dates.						
State	17-18				0	0	4	0	Wind
			Strong, gusty wind caused many incidents of local damage, mostly of minor nature.						
New Jersey			None reported						
New Mexico									
Otero County	27	12:20 p.							Funnel cloud
			Pilot reported funnel cloud aloft extending to about 2,000 feet above the ground, 20 miles west of Pilon.						

See reference notes at end of table.

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					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS								KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS		

- ° 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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