

NOVEMBER 1976

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STORM DATA



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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION / ENVIRONMENTAL DATA SERVICE / NATIONAL CLIMATIC CENTER ASHEVILLE, N.C.

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

NOVEMBER 1976

PLACE	DATE	LOCAL TIME - STANDARD	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
ALABAMA Northern Counties	5				0	0	0	5	Hard Freeze
		Hard freeze of immature cotton bolls caused damage to cotton crop in northern counties. Crops in Madison and Limestone Counties were hardest hit.							
ALASKA Waters south of central Aleutians	11				18	15	7	0	Strong wind and high seas.
		A powerful North Pacific storm developed south of the central Aleutians during the second week of the month. The 486 foot lumber carrier "Carnelian-1" sunk on the morning of November 11 about 700 miles south of Adak; 18 of the 33 crew were lost. Winds were about 50 knots and seas 35 feet; the sea water temperature was near 55°F.							
Cordova	12				0	1	4	0	Wind.
		A storm moving northward through the western Gulf of Alaska caused strong gusts to southeast wind in Cordova on November 12. Peak winds were 40 to 45 knots at the airport late in the afternoon. Winds at the lake, just east of the city, were estimated at 70 to 80 knots. A mobile home at the lake was blown over, injuring the occupant.							
Southcentral Alaska	26-30				1	5	5	0	Heavy snow and rain; wind.
		A strong flow of subtropical maritime air from an area just east of Hawaii straight northward to the Kenai Peninsula developed by the 26th of the month and persisted through the 30th. Strong winds gusting to 70 knots in the foothills of the Chugach Mountains caused power outages in Anchorage on the 28th. Gradual warming and heavy precipitation occurred over most of southcentral Alaska during the period. Streams in the Anchorage and Seward areas crested near bankfull on the 30th after being high for 4 days. Heavy snow slides blocked Thompson Pass - just north of Valdez on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline - on the morning of the 30th. Heavy rain in the Palmer area resulted in a mudslide down Pioneer Peak on the evening of the 30th; the slide took one life and destroyed 2 dwellings. Another mudslide occurred on the night of the 30th across the tracks of the Alaska Railroad 12 miles north of Talksetna. A southbound freight train inadvertently plowed into the slide on the following afternoon. 5 diesel engines and 9 cars were derailed - some of them nosing into the Susitna River; 5 crew members suffered minor injuries.							
ARIZONA Parker Yuma County	26	Night			0	0	5	0	Wind, Dust
		Winds gusting to 65 m.p.h. caused considerable damage to homes and other property in the area. Several large trees were uprooted and blown onto houses. A number of power lines were blown down as well as billboards, numerous smaller signs and fences. The most serious damage was at Bluewater Marina where winds caused metal cabanas along the river to collapse and be blown about. One large section crashed into two vehicles. One was occupied, but fortunately no one was injured. Parts were also blown onto power lines entangling the wires.							
ARKANSAS					NONE REPORTED				
CALIFORNIA NORTHERN & CENTRAL					NONE REPORTED				
CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN Ventura County & South	28-29				0	unk	6	0	High winds
		more than 40 boats were either damaged or destroyed due to high winds from Santa Cruz to Anacapa Island. Power was out for over 16,000 business and residents in the Los Angeles Department Of Power area. These were due to power lines being blown down. In the Norcp area numerous trees were felled and windows were blown out of stoop fronts.							
COLORADO Eastern foothills of Rocky Mountains	11-12	all day to morning			0	16	?	0	Snow and icing
		Snow and freezing drizzle caused icing on bridges, overpasses, and on some main roads. A number of minor accidents occurred in Loveland, Fort Collins and Greeley. Roads to Estes Park were icy and slick. Numerous minor accidents occurred in Denver, where some elevated expressways were closed late afternoon Thursday. Six injuries were reported due to automobile accidents on slick roads in Colorado Springs. Ten injuries were reported in the Pueblo area.							
Rocky Mountains east of Continental Divide	26	all day			0	0	?	0	Blowing snow, ice
		Pacific moisture overrunning arctic front brought generally 2 to 4 inches of snowfall over the mountains and foothills east of the Continental Divide. Multiple vehicle accidents occurred during morning in the Denver area as visibility dropped to near zero in blowing snow. One pileup at intersection of Interstate Highways 25 and 70 involved 8 vehicles. Fifty accidents were reported in Pueblo county, with only minor damage and no injuries. In southeast Colorado, 1 to 3 inches of snow fell and winds were in excess of 65 MPH.							
CONNECTICUT Bethlehem	5	2:30 to 3:30 pm			0	0	4	0	Lightning
		A lightning barrage blasted six houses. One home was severely burned out.							
Wolcott	5	Aftn			0	0	3	0	Lightning
		Lightning blew "the corner of a house scattering parts 60 ft.!" It pierced a metal fireplace in the house making a 3/4 inch hole and ignited a brush fire outside.							
DELAWARE					NONE REPORTED				
FLORIDA BROWARD COUNTY	4	923 AM EST			0	0	0	0	WATERSPOUT
		A PILOT REPORTED A WATERSPOUT ABOUT 25 MILES SOUTHEAST OF FT. LAUDERDALE.							
GEORGIA					NONE REPORTED				
HAWAII 20 mi. NW Keahole Airport, Hawaii	2	8:20a.							Waterspouts
N and W shores of Islands	11-13	11/11p.-13/13noon			0	?	4	0	High Surf
		Very intense and large storm that sank log-carrying freighter about 800 miles northeast of Midway Island about noon of 11th killing 19 crewmen and later causing high surf in State formed about 500 miles southeast of Tokyo, Japan in frontal zone where Typhoon Louise recurved into and initiated low development. Storm deepened to at least 944 mbs central pressure near 47N 178W at 2p. of 9th. Ships in south semicircle of storm out to at least 700 miles from center reported 50 to 65 kts wind speeds and 25 to 35 foot swell heights for more than day as storm moved eastward. Highest estimated surf height to 30 feet reported at Sunset Beach, Oahu between 7a. and 10a. of 12th. No deaths or serious injuries reported and damages amounted to less than \$20,000. On Kauai, 2 campers at isolated Hanakapiai Beach in tent at night swept back up beach by surf but injuries not known. Water swept over roads at Ahini, Wainiha Bay and Hanapepe Army and road clipped at Kekaha. On Oahu, minor damages of about \$5,000 to 4 homes at Sunset Beach. On Maui, Baldwin and Hookipa Parks inundated and home destroyed at Maliko Bay. On Hawaii, 2 homes swept off foundations at Miiolii, South Kona and surf swept onto property of 2 ocean-front hotels in Kona.							
N and NW shores of Islands	25	early morn to afternoon			0	0	?	0	High Surf
		40 to 50 kts wind speeds out to 500 miles in southwest quadrant of storm centered about 900 miles north northwest of Islands moving eastward generated swells 25 to 30 feet high aimed toward State. Maximum surf height of 20 feet at Sunset Beach, Oahu reported near noon of 25th.							
IDAHO					NONE REPORTED				
ILLINOIS					NONE REPORTED				
INDIANA					NONE REPORTED				
IOWA					NONE REPORTED				
KANSAS Butler County	21	Afternoon			1	0	0	0	Wind
		A gust of wind caused a mobile home to capsize on a man while he was installing it on a lot. No damaging winds were reported in the area.							
KENTUCKY					NONE REPORTED				
LOUISIANA State	28-29				2	0	?	5	Cold Wave and Freezing Rain
		An early and unusually cold winter storm brought record-breaking temperatures to the entire state. The minimum of 16 degrees at Shreveport and Calhoun on the 29th was the lowest ever recorded in November since the stations were established. Readings in the twenties were common across the southern portion of the state.							
		Two to three inch rain turned to freezing rain then sleet and caused many highways and a few schools to be closed. Numerous auto accidents occurred.							
		Two hunters died from exposure to the wet cold and strong winds. Donald S. Buchert, 20, of Covington died in the marsh near Madisonville in St. Tammany Parish. Michael Frick, 21, of Alexandria, froze to death in a duck blind on Catahoula Lake.							
		The freezing temperatures also damaged the partially harvested sugarcane crop.							

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					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
MAINE			NONE	REPORTED					
MARYLAND & D.C. Garrett and Allegany Counties	7-8				0		0		Snow
	Snow beginning the evening of the 7th and continuing to the morning of the 8th, brought a five-inch total over Garrett County and two to four inches over Allegany County. Slippery roads resulted in a rash of traffic accidents, with one minor injury occurring in one of the mishaps.								
Frederick County	10	5:30a-8:30a			0		0		Glaze
	Light rain froze and resulted in many accidents, with two minor injuries, on Route 34C near Jefferson.								
	Note: November 1976, with an average temperature of 43 degrees, tied with November 1917 for the second coldest on record in Washington, D.C. (The all-time coldest month of November was set in 1880 with the average Washington temperature measured at 40.2 degrees.) Oddly enough, one year earlier saw November 1975 as the mildest November on record in the Washington area.								
MASSACHUSETTS West Springfield	5	After and Eve			0	0	4	0	Wind
	Strong wind gusts lifted a 40 foot house trailer and dashed it to the ground. At a shopping center 30 ft. plate glass was blown in and two trailer trucks were blown over.								
MICHIGAN Grandville, Kent Co.	2	morning			0	2	2		winds
	Winds dislodged a rafter of a partially completed building causing the roof to collapse on two workers.								
Antrim, Otsego, Crawford, Kalkaska, Van Buren, Cass and Berrien Cos.	3-4	evening morning			0	0	4		Heavy wet snow
	Falling tree branches tore down power lines causing 47000 homes and businesses to lose power. Hardest hit were areas of western Ostego and southwestern Van Buren counties where up to 12 inches of snow fell.								
An area from Mackinaw City to Indian River, Cheboygan Co.	28	3p-7p			0	2	4		Blizzard
	Twelve inches of snow in two hours and visibilities of less than 50 feet caused a 15-car pile up on Michigan Interstate-75.								
MINNESOTA			NONE	REPORTED					
MISSISSIPPI Entire State	28	Most of Day			0	0	?	?	Ice Storm
	Rain turned to freezing rain and sleet and a few snow flurries over Northern Mississippi on the morning of November 28th and gradually spread southward over the remainder of the state during the day. Roads and bridges became iced over in all but extreme southeast sections by late that night. Power outages were widely scattered from ice on lines and fallen tree limbs and many schools across the State were closed on the 29th due to hazardous roadways causing a rash of minor automobile accidents.								
MISSOURI	NO STORM DATA REPORT RECEIVED FOR THIS STATE								
MONTANA			NONE	REPORTED					
NEBRASKA			NONE	REPORTED					
NEVADA			NONE	REPORTED					
NEW HAMPSHIRE Statewide	10	Morning				8			Snowstorm
	The first significant snow of the winter (3 - 5") caused slippery roads contributing to many storm related accidents and injuries.								
NEW JERSEY	NO STORM DATA REPORT RECEIVED FOR THIS STATE								
NEW MEXICO MOST OF THE STATE EAST OF CONTINENTAL DIVIDE	27-29	CONTINUOUS			0	0	6	0	BLIZZARD, SNOW, COLD
	SEVERE COLD SPREAD SOUTHWARD OVER THE STATE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, LEAVING 4 TO 10 INCHES OF SNOW MOST AREAS FROM THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE EASTWARD. BLIZZARD CONDITIONS CAUSED EXTENSIVE BLOWING AND DRIFTING OF SNOW AND SEVERELY HAMPERED HIGHWAY TRAVEL. IN ALBUQUERQUE WINDS GUSTED TO 45 KNOTS WITH TEMPERATURES 12 ABOVE ZERO. SNOWFALL ENDED BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, BUT RECORD COLD SET IN ALBUQUERQUE MINIMUM OF -7 ON NOVEMBER 29 WAS LOWEST EVER SO EARLY IN WINTER. TWENTY-ONE DEGREES BELOW ZERO WAS REPORTED IN ESPANOLA, RIO ARRIBA COUNTY. PRINCIPAL DAMAGE OCCURRED BETWEEN ALBUQUERQUE AND ESPANOLA AND RESULTED FROM FROZEN PIPES AND RESULTANT WATER DAMAGE AND FROM INADEQUATE FUEL SUPPLIES DUE TO FROZEN VALVES AND REGULATORS. MANY SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES CLOSED THROUGH MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29.								
NEW YORK COASTAL	NO STORM DATA REPORT RECEIVED FOR THIS AREA								
NEW YORK CENTRAL	NONE REPORTED								
NEW YORK WESTERN	29-30				3	?	?	0	Snowstorm
Seven Westernmost Counties	Lake-effect snowstorm off Lake Erie nearly paralyzed activities in portions of the 7 westernmost Counties. Snowfall ranged from 6-10 inches most areas to over 4 feet in Southern Erie County. On the 30th Buffalo Airport got 19 inches. Some snowbelt areas received up to 4 inches an hour. New York State Thruway closed night of 29th and 400 travelers were stranded in Ripley, 150 in Silver Creek, and 100 in Fredonia. All were housed in schools or other public buildings. Deaths of 3 elderly people were due to heart attacks shoveling snow or driving in whiteouts. Numerous minor traffic accidents occurred with some minor injuries. Most schools, businesses, and government offices closed.								
NORTH CAROLINA	NONE REPORTED								
NORTH DAKOTA	NO STORM DATA REPORT RECEIVED FOR THIS STATE								
OHIO	NO STORM DATA REPORT RECEIVED FOR THIS STATE								
OKLAHOMA	NONE REPORTED								
OREGON	NONE REPORTED								
PACIFIC	NONE REPORTED								
PENNSYLVANIA EASTERN Luzerne, Carbon and Schuylkill Counties	29	7 AM to 4 PM			0	0	1	0	Snow
	Snow fell over all of Eastern Pennsylvania with accumulations of 1 to 3 inches over the northern half. The biggest problem seemed to be in Luzerne, Carbon and Schuylkill counties where many minor traffic accidents occurred and one man died from a heart attack while shoveling snow.								
PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN	NO STORM DATA REPORT RECEIVED FOR THIS AREA								
PUERTO RICO	NONE REPORTED								
RHODE ISLAND	NONE REPORTED								
SOUTH CAROLINA	NONE REPORTED								
SOUTH DAKOTA	NONE REPORTED								
TENNESSEE	NONE REPORTED								

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TEXAS NORTHERN	13				0	?	?	?	Snowstorm
	<p>The earliest heavy snowfall on record covered most of North Texas in a coat of white several weeks before the average first freeze occurs in the area. The snow climaxed several months of well below normal temperatures in North Texas. Snow was reported as far south as a Waco-Tyler line although it turned to rain in those cities by evening. Snow amounts were mostly in the 3 to 6 inch range with official amounts of 5 inches at Abilene and the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. The snow melted rapidly on Sunday and Monday, doing little or no harm to agricultural interests. Most ranchers and farmers felt the snow was beneficial. A number of minor accidents were caused by slick roads, but no deaths were attributed to the early winter weather.</p>								
TEXAS SOUTHERN Hill Country of South Central Texas	13	All day	-	-	0	0	?	C	Freeze, ice pellets, snow
	<p>An early Arctic outbreak produced freezing temperatures over the Texas Hill Country. Traveler's Advisories for considerable ice on roads and bridges were issued, and intermittent snow and ice pellets continued falling into the night.</p>								
South Texas	28	Early morning	-	-	0	0	?	C	Freeze, glaze ice
	<p>An intense Arctic outbreak pushed southward across the state and into Mexico setting record minimum temperatures throughout the area. Glaze ice covered much of northwestern sections of South Texas producing hazardous driving conditions during the early morning hours. Some minor damage to crops occurred. The ice melted during the afternoon.</p>								
TEXAS WESTERN West Texas Counties	12 & 13	9:00 AM - 11:00 PM	All of West Texas		1	5	?	0	Snowstorm
	<p>An early season snowfall occurred in West Texas Friday and Saturday November 12th and 13th 1976. The snow fell in a large arc from El Paso across far West Texas, through the South Plains and into the east-central Texas Panhandle. During this period, El Paso recorded 6.0 inches of snow and Lubbock recorded 5.4 inches with amounts of from 7.0 to 10.5 inches occurring in the area between these two locations, and with amounts of 7.0 inches reported in the counties immediately east and northeast of Lubbock County. Hard-packed snow and ice made roads and highways treacherous across the area. A woman was killed and four others seriously injured in a two-car collision near Seagraves. One man in the El Paso area was seriously injured and lost his leg. He was directing traffic around his stalled car when both he and his car were struck by another vehicle. Numerous other minor collisions some with minor injuries were reported. Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma bus lines out of Lubbock cancelled Friday night runs and many were delayed on Saturday. A number of Friday night football games were cancelled outright or postponed as many roads were reported "slick as glass".</p>								
West Texas Counties	27 & 28	1 AM - 10 AM	All of West Texas		0	0	?	0	Snowstorm
	<p>Snow began to fall shortly after midnight around 10 AM on Sunday morning the 28th. Five to seven inches of snow fell in the mountains of southwest Texas decreasing northeastward to two to four inches in the Texas South Plains and one to two inches in the Texas Panhandle. Numerous minor automobile accidents were reported; dollar damage unknown. High winds on Transmountain Road in El Paso blew down a wall at the Wilderness Park Museum. Amount of damage unknown.</p>								
UTAH									NONE REPORTED
VERMONT									NONE REPORTED
VIRGINIA Rocky Mount, Franklin County	8	All Day			0	0	3	0	Wind
	<p>Small section of brick and cinder block wall, of school under construction, collapsed under winds estimated to be gusting up to 60 mph.</p>								
West Central and Southwest portions	11-12				0	0	0	0	Snow
	<p>Snow beginning before midnight of the 11th continued into the morning of the 12th. Over the extreme western counties, from Highland and Augusta to Bland and Pulaski, from 5 to 7 inches of snow was reported. Snow-laden branches snapped and fell onto power lines over Scott and Smyth Counties, causing power interruptions.</p>								
Central	12	Morning			0	0	0	0	Wet Snow
	<p>Snow in the Richmond area totaled around two inches, but the main problem was due to broken tree branches. Rain changed to snow around 3 a.m. and wet snow accumulating on trees caused limbs to break and fall onto power lines. Some 13,000 power company customers were affected.</p> <p>Note: November 1976 turned out to be one of the coldest, if not the coldest, Novembers on record for the state. The Weather Service Office at Richmond recorded an average temperature for the month of 42.7 degrees, just 0.4 degree warmer than the all-time lowest November average of 42.3 degrees in that city, set back in 1910. Lynchburg, with an average of 40.8 degrees, equalled the all-time coldest November recorded back in 1872.</p>								
VIRGIN ISLANDS									NONE REPORTED
WASHINGTON									NO STORM DATA REPORT RECEIVED FOR THIS STATE
WEST VIRGINIA Statewide	Month				0	0	0	0	Unusual cold.
	<p>Unusually cold weather prevailed across the state. Average monthly temperatures were near or below record cold levels.</p> <p>Charleston's average November temperature was 37.6 F degrees. The previous record was 41.4 F set in 1951. Beckley reported 34.3 F, coldest since the station opened in 1951. Huntington's monthly mean was 6.2 F degrees below normal. Elkins' monthly average was 32.5 F or 8.2 F degrees below normal. Only one year was colder, 32.4 F in 1901.</p>								
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 Million
 - 7 \$5 Million to \$50 Million
 - 8 \$50 Million to \$500 Million
 - 9 \$500 Million to \$5 Billion

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

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