National Weather Service
Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena

February 1996

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

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DCZ001 **District Of Columbia**

03 **0200EST** **0** **0** **Heavy Snow**
0600EST

The continuation of a strong upper-level jet streak, combined with additional mid-level dynamics, generated surface low pressure over central Georgia by evening on the 2nd. As the low moved to near Cape Hatteras overnight, moderate to heavy snow overspread the District of Columbia, mainly between midnight and 0400EST on the 3rd. The initial surge of jet streak energy earlier on the 2nd produced 2 to 3 inches citywide, causing only a few snags in the morning rush. The second, more intense system dumped 5 to 6 inches, leaving a citywide total of 7 to 9 inches.

Circulation around the surface low allowed arctic air to pour into the area during the heaviest snowfall. Much of the snow fell at temperatures below 20 degrees, making it powdery. The 5 to 6 additional inches were cleared by the next afternoon on the main arteries, with residential streets remaining snow covered throughout the weekend.

The storm's exit allowed the coldest air of the season to follow. Daytime temperatures on the 4th remained in the mid teens, with wind chills ranging from 15 to 25 degrees below zero. Light winds and clear skies, combined with relatively deep snow, allowed temperatures to plummet to near zero by dawn on the 5th.

DCZ001 **District Of Columbia**

16 **1000EST** **0** **0** **Heavy Snow**
1700EST

A strong "Alberta Clipper", diving southeast from the upper midwest into the deep south, linked up with subtropical moisture lurking along the southeast U.S. coast to develop a classic nor'easter, which moved from northeast South Carolina to off the Virginia Capes during the day on the 16th. As the area of low pressure intensified, it wrapped Atlantic moisture well to the west, where modified arctic air was pouring in from southern Canada.

The result was the fourth storm of 6 inches or greater this season for the city. Snow totals across the city ranged from 7 to 10 inches, bringing seasonal totals in excess of 4 feet to the northwest section of town. Officially, the seasonal total (measured at Washington National airport), 40.8 inches, broke the previous record for the site by 0.4 inches - with yet another calendar month of winter remaining. For long-term city records, maintained since 1887, the 40.8 inches ranked 5th - with the legendary winter of 1898/99 still far ahead at 54.4 inches.

MARYLAND, Central

MDZ013-016>018 **Prince Georges - Charles - St. Mary'S - Calvert**

02 **0500EST** **0** **0** **Heavy Snow**
1200EST

A vigorous upper-level jet streak induced low-level lifting of warm moist air over a stationary arctic front which extended from Tidewater Virginia through the Tennessee Valley early on the 2nd. This strong low-level lift produced a 75 mile-wide band of heavy snow which extended from Maryland's lower eastern shore through the extreme southern Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC. The northernmost extent of 4 inch accumulations ran from southern Anne Arundel (MDZ014) through central Prince Georges (MDZ013) counties. The heaviest snows were in a narrow band from southern Charles Co (MDZ016) through southern Calvert Co (MDZ018). Accumulations in these areas ranged from 8 to 13 inches, with snowfall rates as high as 3 inches per hour during the peak of the event.

MDZ002>007-009>011-013>014-016>018 **Allegany - Washington - Frederick - Carroll - Northern Baltimore - Harford - Montgomery - Howard - Southern Baltimore - Prince Georges - Anne Arundel - Charles - St. Mary'S - Calvert**

02 **2300EST** **0** **0** **Heavy Snow**
03 **1200EST**

The continuation of a strong upper-level jet streak, combined with additional mid-level dynamics, generated surface low pressure over central Georgia by evening on the 2nd. As the low moved to near Cape Hatteras overnight, a broad area of heavy snow overspread all of Maryland west of the Chesapeake Bay. Areas that were hit with 4 to 13 inches of snow during an early-morning event received an additional 4 to 6 inches, leaving most of lower southern Maryland with a grand total of 12 to 18 inches. Farther north, from the Potomac Highlands through the western suburbs of Baltimore and Washington, between 6 and 9 inches fell.

Circulation around the surface system allowed arctic air to pour into the area during the heaviest snowfall. Much of the snow fell at temperatures below 20 degrees, making it powdery. The 6 to 9 inches were cleared by the next afternoon, but problems remained in lower southern Maryland, where snow removal (rather than plowing) was required.

Very thin bands of heavy snow continued into early Sunday morning (the 4th) along the immediate western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, producing as much as 9 additional inches in southeastern Calvert (MDZ018) and northeastern St Mary's (MDZ017) Cos. Storm totals in these areas were as high as 2 feet.

The storm's exit ushered the coldest air in two years into the region. Daytime temperatures on the 4th remained below 20 degrees, with wind chills ranging from 10 to 20 degrees below zero. Light winds and clear skies, combined with deep snow cover, allowed

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MARYLAND, Central

temperatures to fall well below zero by dawn on the 5th at most locations. Low temperature records were set on two consecutive calendar days at Baltimore/Washington International Airport (MDZ014), with 8 degrees late on the 4th and 1 degree below zero early on the 5th.

MDZ005>007-009>011-013>014-016>018 — **Carroll - Northern Baltimore - Harford - Montgomery - Howard - Southern Baltimore - Prince Georges - Anne Arundel - Charles - St. Mary'S - Calvert**

16	**1000EST 1900EST**	**0**	**0**			**Heavy Snow**

A strong "Alberta Clipper", diving southeast from the upper midwest into the deep south, linked up with subtropical moisture lurking along the southeast U.S. coast to develop a classic nor'easter, which moved from northeast South Carolina to off the Virginia Capes during the day on the 16th. As the area of low pressure intensified, it wrapped Atlantic moisture well to the west, where modified arctic air was pouring in from southern Canada.

The result was an area of heavy snow across all of eastern Maryland during the morning and early afternoon. The heaviest snowfall was noted along the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, where between 10 and 13 inches fell. Over the immediate suburbs of Washington and Baltimore, 7 to 11 inches fell, with lesser amounts (4 to 6 inches) over areas of north central Maryland.

The snowfall added to the already remarkable seasonal totals. At Baltimore/Washington International Airport (MDZ014), the additional 9.8 inches brought the 1995/96 total to 55.1 inches, breaking the all-time record of 51.8 inches, set over 30 years prior, by 3.3 inches. The record was shattered with still an entire calendar month of winter remaining. Farther south, in Hollywood (MDZ017), the all-time record, dating back nearly a century, was nearly tied as the snow total reached 53.2 inches. The standing record of 54.7 inches was set during the legendary winter of 1898/99, known for it's infamous February blizzard.

MDZ005>006-010>011-014 — **Carroll - Northern Baltimore - Howard - Southern Baltimore - Anne Arundel**

24	**1030EST 1430EST**	**0**	**0**	**75K**		**High Wind (G52)**

Gradient winds of 25 to 35 mph, with gusts to 60 mph, which occurred between an intense storm over the Canadian Maritimes and a strong high pressure ridge over the southeast U.S., produced minor damage and power outages in the Baltimore metropolitan region. Baltimore Gas and Electric reported over 22,000 customers without power during the peak winds. Most of the outages were the result of large limbs or trees which bent onto power lines.

The wind gusts also knocked down small trees, and tore aluminum siding off a few homes over the northern and western suburbs.

VIRGINIA, North

VAZ025-036>039-051-055>057 — **Augusta - Nelson - Albemarle - Greene - Madison - Culpeper - Stafford - Spotsylvania - King George**

02	**0500EST 1100EST**	**0**	**0**			**Heavy Snow**

A vigorous upper level jet streak induced low-level lifting of warm moist air over a stationary arctic front extending from Tidewater Virginia through the Tennessee Valley early on the 2nd, producing a 75 mile-wide band of heavy snow which extended from the central piedmont through the Northern Neck region. The northward extent of the 4-inch line crossed extreme southern Fairfax Co, southeastern Prince William Co, and the southeast third of Fauquier Co. The heaviest snows fell in a narrow band from northern Albemarle Co through King George Co. Accumulations in these areas ranged from 8 to 13 inches, and snowfall rates were as high as 3 inches per hour.

VAZ021-025>031-036>042-050>057 — **Highland - Augusta - Rockingham - Shenandoah - Frederick - Page - Warren - Clarke - Nelson - Albemarle - Greene - Madison - Rappahannock - Fauquier - Loudoun - Orange - Culpeper - Prince William - Fairfax - Arlington - Stafford - Spotsylvania - King George**

02 03	**2200EST 0800EST**	**0**	**0**			**Heavy Snow**

The continuation of a strong upper-level jet streak, combined with additional mid-level dynamics, generated surface low pressure over central Georgia by evening on the 2nd. As the low moved to near Cape Hatteras overnight, a broad area of heavy snow overspread all of northern Virginia. Areas that received 4 to 13 inches during an early morning event (on the 2nd) picked up an additional 4 to 6 inches, leaving most areas from the central piedmont through the northern neck with a grand total of 12 to 18 inches. Farther north, from the Shenandoah Valley through the western suburbs of Washington, DC, 6 to 9 inches fell.

Circulation around the surface system allowed arctic air to pour into the area during the heaviest snowfall. Much of the snow fell at temperatures below 20 degrees, making it powdery. The 6 to 9 inches were cleared from main arteries by the next afternoon, but side streets remained snow covered.

The storm's exit ushered the coldest air in two years into the region. Daytime temperatures on the 4th remained below 20 degrees,

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VIRGINIA, North

with wind chill values ranging from 10 to 20 below zero. Light winds and clear skies, combined with relatively deep snow cover, allowed temperatures to fall to as low as 18 degrees below zero over portions of the western piedmont and northern Shenandoah Valley by dawn on the 5th. Records were set on consecutive mornings at Dulles International Airport (VAZ042, eastern section), with 10 degrees below zero on the 5th and 9 below on the 6th.

VAZ021-025-036>037-041>042-050>057 — **Highland - Augusta - Nelson - Albemarle - Fauquier - Loudoun - Orange - Culpeper - Prince William - Fairfax - Arlington - Stafford - Spotsylvania - King George**

16	**0800EST 1700EST**	**0**	**0**		**Heavy Snow**

A strong "Alberta Clipper", diving southeast from the upper midwest into the deep south, linked up with subtropical moisture lurking along the southeast U.S. coast to develop a classic nor'easter, which moved from northeast South Carolina to off the Virginia Capes during the day on the 16th. As the area of low pressure intensified, it wrapped Atlantic moisture well to the west, where modified arctic air was pouring in from southern Canada.

The result was a thin band of heavy snow which extended from southwest Virginia through the upper eastern shore of Maryland. The heaviest snow fell from the immediate southern suburbs of Washington, DC, through the northern neck. In these areas, 7 to 10 inches fell. Over the central Shenandoah Valley and the western highlands, 4 to 7 inches fell.

The snowfall toppled several seasonal records across the region. This storm brought winter of 1995/96 snow totals to generally 4 to 6 feet. The all-time record at Dulles International Airport (VAZ042) was shattered, as the seasonal total of 53.4 inches bested the previous record (set during the winter of 1966/67) by a whopping 9 inches, with still one full month of winter remaining.

WEST VIRGINIA, East

WVZ048>055 — **Grant - Mineral - Hampshire - Morgan - Berkeley - Jefferson - Pendleton - Hardy**

02 03	**2300EST 0500EST**	**0**	**0**		**Heavy Snow**

The continuation of a strong upper-level jet streak, combined with additional mid-level dynamics, generated surface low pressure over central Georgia by evening on the 2nd. As the low moved to near Cape Hatteras overnight, a broad area of heavy snow overspread eastern West Virginia for a short period during the late evening and early morning hours of the 2nd/3rd. Accumulations ranged from 4 to 7 inches, with some higher elevations reporting as much as 10 inches.

The storm ushered in the coldest temperatures in two years. High temperatures on the 4th ranged from 8 to 15 degrees above zero, with wind chills 15 to 25 below zero. By dawn on the 5th, light winds and a moderate snow pack allowed temperatures to fall to as low as 15 to 20 below in sheltered valley locations.

WVZ054 — **Pendleton**

16	**0900EST 1400EST**	**0**	**0**		**Heavy Snow**

A strong "Alberta Clipper", diving southeast from the upper midwest into the deep south, linked up with subtropical moisture lurking along the southeast U.S. coast to develop a classic nor'easter, which moved from northeast South Carolina to off the Virginia Capes during the day on the 16th. As the area of low pressure intensified, it wrapped Atlantic moisture well to the west, where modified arctic air was pouring in from southern Canada.

Enough Atlantic moisture was lifted by the mountains to produce 4 to 5 inches of snow during a short period in the morning over the lowlands, with greater amounts in the highlands, of Pendleton Co. The snowfall continued the remarkable winter of 1995/96, bringing seasonal totals in excess of 5 feet to some areas (much greater at the highest western peaks).