



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



March 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
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DCZ001

District Of Columbia

**08 0600EST
0700EST** **0** **0** **Heavy Snow**

Low-level lift of residual moisture, induced by favorable circulation underneath an upper-level jet streak, squeezed out a narrow band of heavy snow immediately behind an arctic front. Four to five inches of snow fell in the District, beginning at around midnight on the 8th. Washington/National airport received 3.8 inches, bringing the official snow total to 46.0 inches. This became the city's second highest seasonal snowfall on record, with only the 1898/99 total (54.4 inches) above. At the airport, the 46.0 inches exceeded the previous record by 5.6 inches.

Average city-wide snowfall for the season was roughly 51 inches - somewhat closer to the all-time record of 1898/99. The March 8th snowfall was followed by the coldest air this late in winter since March 14th and 15th, 1993.

MARYLAND, Central

MDZ007-013>014

Harford - Prince Georges - Anne Arundel

**02 0700EST
0800EST** **0** **0** **Heavy Snow**

A low pressure system, moving quickly up the eastern seaboard, produced a 3 to 5 hour burst of heavy snow over east central Maryland during the early morning of the 2nd. A small area of 4 inch accumulation occurred in northern Prince Georges (MDZ013) and eastern Anne Arundel (MDZ014) Cos, with up to 6 inches in portions of Harford Co (MDZ007).

The snow, falling with calm winds, consisted of large flakes which piled up rapidly. A week of above normal temperatures preceded the snow, warming concrete and asphalt surfaces well above freezing. Hence, this snow accumulated mainly on trees, power line, grass surfaces, and automobiles.

MDZ006-011-014

Northern Baltimore - Southern Baltimore - Anne Arundel

**03 1200EST
1400EST** **0** **0** **30K** **High Wind (G52)**

Northwest winds gusted to 60 mph behind a strong cold front in the immediate Baltimore metropolitan area. The winds caused minor roof shingle damage in northern Anne Arundel Co (MDZ014).

MDZ004>007-009>011-013

Frederick - Carroll - Northern Baltimore - Harford - Montgomery - Howard - Southern Baltimore - Prince Georges

**08 0500EST
0700EST** **0** **0** **Heavy Snow**

Low-level lift of residual moisture, induced by favorable circulation underneath an upper-level jet streak, squeezed out a narrow band of heavy snow immediately behind an arctic front. Four to five inches fell in an 8-hour period across central and northern Maryland as temperatures fell through the 20s and northwest winds gusted over 25 mph. The snow was followed by the coldest air this late in winter since March 14th through 15th, 1993.

One fatality occurred in an automobile accident near Westminster (MDZ005) when a vehicle crossed the median and struck a van. The driver of the car was killed.

At Baltimore/Washington International Airport (MDZ014), the snow continued piling on to records set earlier in the winter. The seasonal total reached 62.5 inches - a full 18.1 inches higher than the previous record set in 1966/67. Seasonal snow amounts in the region as of the 8th roughly ranged from 54 to 64 inches, rivalling values achieved during the noteworthy winter of 1898/99.

In Hollywood, Maryland (St Mary's Co), the 2.3 inches of snow brought totals to 59.2 inches, exceeding the record of 55.0 set in 1898/99.

MDZ005>006-010>011-014

Carroll - Northern Baltimore - Howard - Southern Baltimore - Anne Arundel

**19 1500EST
1800EST** **0** **6** **75K** **High Wind (G52)**

Deep low pressure moving up the Ohio Valley produced gusty east winds which blew down trees and limbs, some onto power lines. Undoubtedly, moist ground contributed to the damage. Most of the damage occurred in Baltimore City (MDZ011), where larger buildings likely induced localized severe (greater than 58 mph) gusts. One of these gusts blew down a plywood walkway in downtown Baltimore, injuring 6 persons. Baltimore Gas and Electric (BG&E) reported over 22,000 customers were without power at the height of the storm.

MDZ003>006

Washington - Frederick - Carroll - Northern Baltimore

**29 0400EST
0700EST** **0** **0** **150K** **Ice Storm**

A strong surface high pressure area over New England pushed a shallow layer of subfreezing air into the northern tier of Maryland late on the 28th. An inverted trough of low pressure west of the Appalachians promoted overrunning of warm moist air, which



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MARYLAND, Central

eventually produced light to moderate precipitation. Most of the precipitation fell as light rain on the 28th. However, temperatures between 500 and 2000 feet were as low as 28°F during the evening of the 28th. A band of moderate rain moved through early on the 29th, freezing on contact with surfaces in this layer.

Numerous trees and power lines were knocked down at these elevations in north central Maryland early on the 29th. BG&E reported over 35,000 customers without power during the entire event, with the most affected areas in Carroll Co (MDZ005) early on the 29th. Potomac Edison reported an additional 3300 customers without power in Mt Airy (southern Carroll Co). Ice accretions generally ranged from 1/4 to 3/4".

VIRGINIA, North

VAZ052>054

Prince William - Fairfax - Arlington

08	0500EST 0700EST	0	0					Heavy Snow
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Low-level lift of residual moisture, induced by favorable circulation underneath an upper-level jet streak, squeezed out a narrow band of heavy snow immediately behind an arctic front. Four to five inches fell in an 8-hour period across the southern and western suburbs of Washington DC as temperatures fell through the 20s and northwest winds gusted over 25 mph. The snow was followed by the coldest air this late in winter since March 14th through 15th, 1993. Temperatures fell below 10°F at several locations over and west of the Blue Ridge.

The snow contributed to a major accident along Interstate 95 in Prince William Co (VAZ052) around midnight on the 8th (just as the precipitation began); 20 vehicles were involved, but no serious injuries were reported.

Record snowfall totals continued to soar. At Washington/Dulles International Airport (VAZ042), the total of 58.7 inches surpassed the previous record by 6.9 inches. Charlottesville (VAZ037) added enough snow (3 inches) to surpass their all-time record by 1.6 inches (54.7 inches; previous record 53.1 inches in 1961/62).

**Frederick County
Winchester**

19	2100EST 2300EST	0	0					Flash Flood
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Over two inches of rain fell on saturated soil in the northern Shenandoah Valley during the evening of the 20th, causing localized flash flooding near Winchester. Several roads were closed in town and at points north and south of town.

VAZ021-025>026

Highland - Augusta - Rockingham

28 29	0900EST 0500EST	0	0	75K				Ice Storm
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A strong surface high pressure area over New England pushed a shallow layer of subfreezing air into the Shenandoah Valley early on the 28th. An inverted trough of low pressure west of the Appalachians promoted overrunning of warm moist air, which eventually produced light to moderate precipitation. The precipitation fell as rain higher than 2000 feet and below 500 feet above mean sea level; between 500 and 2000 feet, where temperatures were as low as 28°F, the precipitation froze on contact.

Numerous trees and power lines were knocked down at these elevations in the western Shenandoah Valley, mainly during the late evening of the 28th and early morning of the 29th. Problems began, however, during the morning of the 28th. Virginia Power and Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative reported over 3000 customers without power. Fifty automobile accidents were reported by Augusta Co (VAZ025) authorities, both during the morning and evening of the 28th.

WEST VIRGINIA, East

NONE REPORTED.