



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 1997

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

**09 0700EST
1600EST**

0 0

Winter Weather

The first city-wide winter weather event of the 1996/97 season spread a mix of snow, sleet, and freezing rain across the city during the daylight hours of the 9th. Before the precipitation ended, a crusty coating of 2 or 3 inches of snow and sleet had fallen.

The event was the result of subtropical moisture rapidly overrunning a dome of cold air, causing a period of moderate snow and sleet. A secondary wave of low pressure developed along the North Carolina coast, locking the low-level cold air in place over inland locations.

Precipitation had an immediate impact on the morning commute, causing numerous fender-benders and a several more serious accidents in the metropolitan area. One of the more notable accidents occurred in Southeast, where a 10-car pileup was noted on the 11th Street bridge.

The changeover to mixed precipitation, combined with widespread road treatments, allowed for a more benign evening commute. Residential roads remained treacherous until the following day, when afternoon temperatures rose well above freezing.

Late on the 10th and early on the 11th, a band of moderate snow developed along an arctic front, producing 1 to 2 inches across the city. There was negligible human impact with this event, since it occurred overnight on a weekend.

MARYLAND, Central

**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

**09 0630EST
1600EST**

0 0

Winter Weather

The first area-wide winter weather event of the 1996/97 season spread a mix of snow, sleet, and freezing rain across all of northern and western Maryland during the daylight hours of the 9th. Over the eastern Piedmont and coastal plain, 2 to 4 inches of snow and sleet fell before the changeover to freezing rain and rain.

The event was the result of subtropical moisture rapidly overrunning a dome of cold air, causing a period of moderate snow and sleet. A secondary wave of low pressure developed along the North Carolina coast, locking cold air in place over inland areas.

Precipitation had an immediate impact on the morning commute, causing numerous fender-benders and several accidents. In Anne Arundel Co (MDZ014), a Maryland State Highway Administration worker was struck by a vehicle while trying to aid another crash victim.

Fourteen of 23 school districts made early decisions to close (nearly all 14 districts were impacted by 2 or more inches of snow); only Montgomery Co (MDZ009) sent students to school on time. Three school buses were involved in accidents while travelling to their destinations; fortunately, there were no injuries.

Morning flights were delayed at Baltimore/Washington International Airport.

The changeover to mixed precipitation, combined with widespread road treatments, allowed for a more benign evening commute. Residential roads remained treacherous until the following day, when afternoon temperatures rose well above freezing.

Late on the 10th through early on the 11th, a band of moderate snow developed along an arctic front, producing 1 to 3 inches across much of the Piedmont through the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. There was negligible human impact with this event, since it occurred around midnight on a Saturday.

MDZ002>004

Allegheny - Washington - Frederick

**09 1100EST
1700EST**

0 0

Winter Storm

A winter storm spread a mix of snow, sleet, and freezing rain across portions of western Maryland during the daylight hours of the 9th. Three to 5 inches of snow and sleet fell over the western Piedmont and Potomac highlands before precipitation changed to freezing rain.

The event was the result of subtropical moisture rapidly overrunning a dome of cold air, causing a period of moderate snow and sleet. A secondary wave of low pressure developed along the North Carolina coast, locking cold air in place over inland areas.

Precipitation had an immediate impact on the morning commute, causing numerous fender-benders and several accidents. Two indirect deaths occurred in Washington Co (MDZ003) when a couple was killed near Hagerstown after their late-model sedan



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MARYLAND, Central

collided head-on with a pickup truck. A man was struck by a careening car in Cumberland (MDZ002) along federal highway 220. Another notable accident involved a Georgia-Pacific transport trailer and a trash hauler in Frederick Co (MDZ004). This accident briefly shut state route 85 when nearly 100 gallons of diesel fuel spilled into Ballenger Creek.

The changeover to mixed precipitation, combined with widespread road treatments, allowed for a more benign evening commute. Residential roads remained treacherous until the following day, when afternoon temperatures rose well above freezing.

MDZ002>003

Allegany - Washington

24	1200EST	0	0	Winter Weather
24	1900EST			

A band of light to moderate snow developed across the Potomac highlands during the early afternoon of the 24th, dropping a quick 1 to 3 inches of snow. Later that afternoon, some areas received additional sleet and freezing rain. Several accidents were reported in western Maryland, but no structural or agricultural damage was noted.

VIRGINIA, North

VAZ026-029>031-036>040-042-050>057

Rockingham - Page - Warren - Clarke - Nelson - Albemarle - Greene - Madison - Rappahannock - Loudoun - Orange - Culpeper - Prince William - Fairfax - Arlington - Stafford - Spotsylvania - King George

09	0600EST	0	0	Winter Weather
	1600EST			

The first area-wide winter weather event of the 1996/97 season spread a mix of snow, sleet, and freezing rain across all of northern and western Virginia during the daylight hours of the 9th. From the Piedmont through the coastal plain, 2 to 4 inches of snow and sleet fell before the changeover to rain and freezing rain. Several school jurisdictions closed prior to the event.

The event was the result of subtropical moisture rapidly overrunning a dome of cold air, causing a period of moderate snow and sleet. A secondary wave of low pressure developed along the North Carolina coast, locking the low-level cold air in place over inland locations.

Precipitation had an immediate impact on the morning commute, causing numerous fender-benders and several more serious accidents. A serious accident occurred in Arlington Co (VAZ054) when a tractor-trailer flipped over an exit ramp on interstate 395 near Washington, DC.

The changeover to mixed precipitation, combined with widespread road treatments, allowed for a somewhat more benign evening commute. Residential roads remained treacherous until the following day, when afternoon temperatures rose well above freezing.

Late on the 10th and early on the 11th, a band of moderate snow developed along an arctic front, producing 1 to 3 inches across much of northern Virginia from the Blue Ridge east. There was negligible human impact with this event, since it occurred overnight on a weekend.

VAZ021-025-027>028-041

Highland - Augusta - Shenandoah - Frederick - Fauquier

09	0900EST	0	0	Winter Storm
	1600EST			

A winter storm spread a mix of snow, sleet, and freezing rain across all of northern and western Virginia during the daylight hours of the 9th. From the Blue Ridge to points west, between 3 and 5 inches of snow fell before precipitation changed to mixed sleet and freezing rain. Many area schools closed prior to the storm.

The event was the result of subtropical moisture rapidly overrunning a dome of cold air, causing a period of moderate snow and sleet. A secondary wave of low pressure developed along the North Carolina coast, locking the low-level cold air in place over inland locations.

Precipitation had an immediate impact on the morning commute, causing numerous fender-benders and several more serious accidents. A serious accident occurred in the northern Shenandoah Valley, when a tractor trailer jackknifed along interstate 81, closing the highway for at least an hour.

The changeover to mixed precipitation, combined with widespread road treatments, allowed for a somewhat more benign evening commute. Residential roads remained treacherous until the following day, when afternoon temperatures rose well above freezing.

VAZ021

Highland

24	1200EST	0	0	Winter Weather
	1900EST			

A band of light to moderate snow, followed by freezing rain, caused several accidents and slippery roads across Highland Co during the afternoon of the 24th. Countywide accumulations were around 2 inches, with a coating of freezing rain on top. No damage was reported.



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

WEST VIRGINIA, East

WVZ048>049-054>055	Grant - Mineral - Pendleton - Hardy								
	09	0700EST 1600EST			0	0			Winter Weather
	Subtropical moisture, rapidly overrunning a dome of cold air, produced an area of 1 to 3 inches of snow across portions of the Potomac highlands during the daylight hours of the 9th.								
WVZ050>053	Hampshire - Morgan - Berkeley - Jefferson								
	09	1100EST 1600EST			0	0			Winter Storm
	Subtropical moisture, rapidly overrunning a dome of cold air, produced a swath of 4 to 5 inches of snow and sleet over the eastern panhandle of West Virginia during the daylight hours of the 9th. A secondary wave of low pressure developed along the North Carolina coast, locking subfreezing air in place.								
	Although some freezing rain fell towards the end of the event, no damage was noted.								
WVZ048>052-054>055	Grant - Mineral - Hampshire - Morgan - Berkeley - Pendleton - Hardy								
	24	1200EST 1900EST			0	0			Winter Weather
	A band of light to moderate snow developed across the Potomac highlands during the early afternoon of the 24th, dropping a quick 1 to 2 inches of snow, with isolated areas receiving 3 inches. Later that afternoon, some areas received additional sleet and freezing rain. Some accidents were reported in eastern West Virginia, but no structural or agricultural damage was noted. Several school districts closed early.								