



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



February 1997

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

DCZ001	District Of Columbia	08	1600EST 2000EST		0	0	10K		Heavy Snow
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A winter storm dumped 3 to 6 inches of heavy, wet snow across the District of Columbia during the afternoon of the 8th. Initially, the snow was mixed with sleet and fell at temperatures several degrees above freezing, limiting accumulation to a few grassy areas. However, by mid to late afternoon, temperatures fell to around freezing, and accumulations piled up rapidly during a brief period of heavy snowfall. Observed snowfall ranged from just over 3 inches downtown to nearly 6 inches along the Montgomery Co, Maryland line. The snow, which clung to everything, was aesthetically pleasing. However, the weight of the snow snapped numerous tree limbs and knocked others onto utility lines. At the peak of the storm, over 2000 Maryland and District PEPCO customers were without electricity. Otherwise, public impact was minimal since the storm occurred on a Saturday.

The storm resulted from the interaction of the subtropical jet stream, which provided a strong energy impulse to aid lifting relatively warm and humid air, with the polar jet stream, which provided enough low-level cold air to maintain wet snow rather than rain.

MARYLAND, Central

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	08	1300EST 2000EST		0	0	10K		Heavy Snow
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A winter storm dumped 4 to 8 inches of heavy, wet snow across all of central and northern Maryland on the 8th. Highest totals were observed in the northern and western suburbs of Washington and Baltimore, as well as in Allegany Co above 2000 feet. Antecedent warm weather, combined with air temperatures at or just above freezing during the event, allowed roads to remain generally wet. However, icy spots developed late that afternoon and evening as temperatures fell well below freezing. The snow, which clung to everything, was aesthetically pleasing. However, the weight of the snow snapped numerous tree limbs and knocked others onto utility lines. At the peak of the storm, over 2000 Maryland and District PEPCO customers in the Washington metropolitan region were without electricity. Otherwise, public impact was minimal since the storm occurred on a Saturday.

The storm resulted from the interaction of the subtropical jet stream, which provided a strong energy impulse to aid in lifting relatively warm humid air, with the polar jet stream, which provided enough low-level cold air to maintain wet snow rather than rain.

MDZ002>007-009>011	Allegany - Washington - Frederick - Carroll - Northern Baltimore - Harford - Montgomery - Howard - Southern Baltimore	13 14	2200EST 0900EST		0	0			Winter Weather
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A fast-moving upper level disturbance dropped a quick 1 to 2 inches of snow, with spots over extreme western Allegany Co (MDZ002) receiving 3 inches. The snow was followed by a brief period of freezing rain and drizzle, causing numerous slippery roads during the early morning commute on the 14th. The ice accretion was 1/8 inch or less; no damage to trees or lines was reported. Traffic accidents were reduced since many school districts were closed and other residents took the day (a Valentine's Day Friday) off.

MDZ002>005	Allegany - Washington - Frederick - Carroll	27	1300EST 1600EST		0	0	15K		Gusty Winds
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Southerly wind gusts between 45 and 52 mph caused sporadic damage across portions of the northern tier of Maryland. In Hagerstown (MDZ003), a rubber and particle board roof was lifted from an apartment building; the heavier asphalt roof underneath was unharmed. Six small brush fires were ignited by the winds in northern Maryland and eastern West Virginia. The warm winds pushed maximum temperatures into the lower 80s, setting records for the date.

MDZ014	Anne Arundel	27	1300EST 1530EST		0	0	15K		High Wind (G52)
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Southerly winds, gusting to approximately 60 mph, caused scattered minor to moderate damage at residences in Pasadena, Maryland, during the mid to late afternoon. Several homes sustained exterior damage, including stripped siding, gutters, and shutters. Scattered trees and large limbs were also downed.

At a "yacht yard" in "Annapolis, gusty winds blew one large boat off its stand, causing a domino effect which damaged three nearby boats. A catamaran was flipped near the mouth of the Magothy River when a mast broke. The two men on board were uninjured. Estimated wind gusts were 45 mph. Baltimore Gas and Electric reported just over 2000 customers without power during the afternoon.



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

VIRGINIA, North

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

08	0800EST				0	0	25K		Heavy Snow
	2000EST								

A winter storm dumped 4 to 8 inches of heavy, wet snow across all of northern and western Virginia on the 8th. Highest totals were observed above 2500 feet, with other local maxima in the Shenandoah Valley and the western suburbs of Washington, DC. Antecedent warm weather, combined with air temperatures at or just above freezing during the event, allowed roads to remain generally wet. However, icy spots developed late that afternoon and evening as temperatures fell well below freezing. The snow, which clung to everything, was aesthetically pleasing. However, the weight of the snow snapped numerous tree limbs and knocked others onto utility lines. At the peak of the storm, over 10,000 Virginia Power customers in the Washington metropolitan area alone were without electricity. Otherwise, public impact was minimal since the storm occurred on a Saturday.

The storm resulted from the interaction of the subtropical jet stream, which provided a strong energy impulse to aid in lifting relatively warm humid air, with the polar jet stream, which provided enough low-level cold air to maintain wet snow rather than rain.

VAZ021-025>031-
036>042-050>054

Highland - Augusta - Rockingham - Shenandoah - Frederick - Page - Warren - Clarke - Nelson - Albemarle - Greene - Madison - Rappahannock - Fauquier - Loudoun - Orange - Culpeper - Prince William - Fairfax - Arlington

13	2000EST				0	0			Winter Weather
14	0900EST								

A fast-moving upper level disturbance dropped a quick 1 to 3 inches of snow, followed by a brief period of freezing rain and drizzle, causing numerous slippery roads during the early morning commute on the 14th. Highest average snow totals were along the northern Blue Ridge. Isolated locations above 2000 feet received up to 5 inches. The ice accretion was 1/8 inch or less; no damage to trees or power lines was reported. Traffic accidents were reduced since many school districts were closed and other residents took the day (a Valentine's Day Friday) off.

WEST VIRGINIA, East

WVZ048>055

Grant - Mineral - Hampshire - Morgan - Berkeley - Jefferson - Pendleton - Hardy

08	1000EST				0	0			Heavy Snow
	1800EST								

A winter storm dumped 4 to 8 inches of heavy, wet snow across all of eastern West Virginia on the 8th. Highest totals were observed at locations above 2000 feet in the Potomac Highlands. Antecedent warm weather, combined with air temperatures at or just above freezing during the event, allowed roads to remain generally wet. However, icy spots developed late that afternoon and evening as temperatures fell well below freezing. The snow, which clung to everything, was aesthetically pleasing. {However, the weight of the snow snapped numerous tree limbs and knocked others onto utility lines...wait for clips?} Otherwise, public impact was minimal since the storm occurred on a Saturday.

The storm resulted from the interaction of the subtropical jet stream, which provided a strong energy impulse to aid in lifting relatively warm humid air, with the polar jet stream, which provided enough low-level cold air to maintain wet snow rather than rain.

WVZ048>055

Grant - Mineral - Hampshire - Morgan - Berkeley - Jefferson - Pendleton - Hardy

13	2000EST				0	0			Winter Weather
14	0900EST								

A fast-moving upper level disturbance dropped a quick 1 to 2 inches of snow, with spots over the Allegheny Highlands receiving 3 inches. The snow was followed by a brief period of freezing rain and drizzle, causing numerous slippery roads during the early morning commute on the 14th. The ice accretion was 1/8 inch or less; no damage to trees or lines was reported. Traffic accidents were reduced since many school districts were closed and other residents took the day (A Valentine's Day Friday) off.