



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



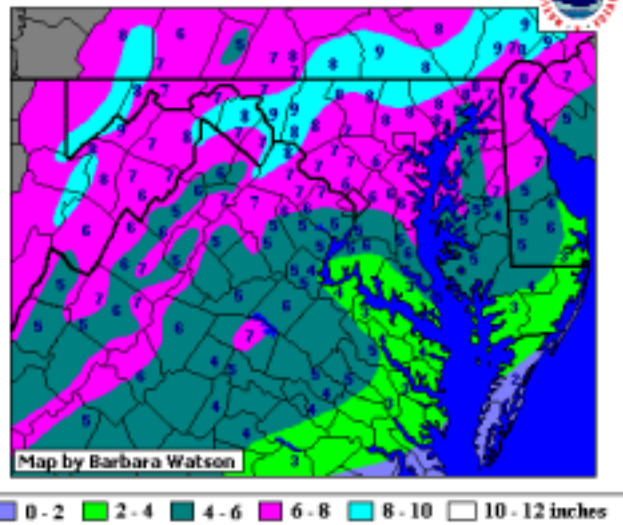
December 2002

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

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DCZ001	District Of Columbia	05	0000EST 1500EST		0	0			Winter Storm
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Storm Totals Dec. 5, 2002



Snow and sleet totals from December 5, 2002

Low pressure moved from North Carolina to the Delmarva Peninsula between midnight and 3 pm on the 5th. This storm produced accumulating snow across the region as it moved by. A total of 5 to 7 inches of snowfall was recorded across the Washington D.C. metropolitan area.

MARYLAND, Central

MDZ002>007-009>011- 013>014-016>018	Allegheny - Washington - Frederick - Carroll - Northern Baltimore - Harford - Montgomery - Howard - Southern Baltimore - Prince Georges - Anne Arundel - Charles - St. Mary'S - Calvert	05	0000EST 1500EST		0	0			Winter Storm
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December 2002

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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MARYLAND, Central

MDZ013>014

Prince Georges - Anne Arundel

11	0000EST 0900EST				0	0			Winter Weather/Mix
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Ice accumulation on trees and bushes in Jacksonville, Baltimore County (photo by Eric Lubenhusen)

An area of low pressure that tracked across the region on the 11th produced between 1 and 2 inches of rainfall. Unfortunately while rain was falling during the morning hours, ground temperatures were below freezing across Western and North Central Maryland. This caused the rain to freeze on contact with the ground and several locations reported ice accumulations between 1/4 to 1/2 inch. Roads and sidewalks became treacherous and numerous trees and power lines were downed by the heavy ice accumulations. Across Central and Western Maryland, 38,000 customers lost power as a direct result of the storm. In Frederick County, two men died from carbon monoxide poisoning in their Libertytown home. A gas-powered electric generator that was turned on in response to a 3 day power outage was blamed for the deaths. In Howard County, 22 people were treated in emergency rooms for slip and fall injuries related to the ice. In Anne Arundel County, 8 slip and fall injuries were reported. In Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties, ice accumulations were held to less than one quarter of an inch because temperatures rose above freezing by mid-morning. A few icy patches were reported on roads and sidewalks during the morning hours. In Baltimore and Harford counties, a combination of heavy rainfall and melting snow caused minor flooding on roads during the afternoon and evening of the 11th.

MDZ002>006-013

Allegany - Washington - Frederick - Carroll - Northern Baltimore - Prince Georges

24	1600EST				0	0			Winter Storm
25	1800EST								

MDZ007-009>011-014

Harford - Montgomery - Howard - Southern Baltimore - Anne Arundel

24	1600EST				0	0			Winter Weather/Mix
25	1300EST								

Low pressure passed directly over the region between the evening of the 24th and midday on the 25th. This system brought mainly snow to Western and North Central Maryland. A mixed bag of precipitation including snow, sleet, and freezing drizzle was reported in the Washington D.C. and Baltimore suburbs. The largest snowfall totals occurred near the Pennsylvania border where between 6 and 8 inches was reported. Two to 4 inches of snow fell in Southern Frederick, Southern Carroll, Central Baltimore, Harford, Howard, and Northern Montgomery Counties. Patchy ice on roads from a period of freezing drizzle was blamed for dozens of traffic accidents in Montgomery County. In Northern Prince George's and Northern Anne Arundel counties, in addition to Baltimore City, 1 to 2 inches of snow was recorded. The amount of snow that fell from this storm was enough to give the region an official



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MARYLAND, Central

"White Christmas". According to historical records for Baltimore, measurable snowfall has only occurred 6% of the time on December 25th. In addition, Baltimore only has a 13% chance of having snow on the ground on the 25th. Winds increased to 20 to 30 mph with gusts to 45 MPH after the low passed by on the afternoon of the 25th. Isolated power outages and downed trees were reported.

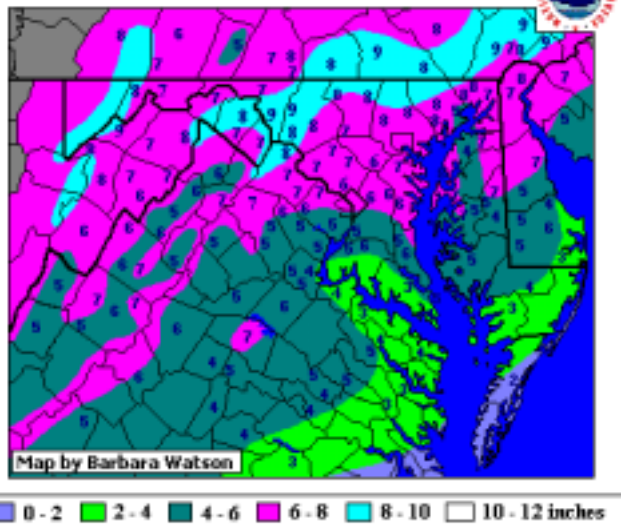
VIRGINIA, North

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

05 0000EST 0 0 Winter Storm
 1500EST

Storm Totals Dec. 5, 2002



Snow and sleet accumulation map from December 5, 2002

Low pressure moved from North Carolina to the Delmarva Peninsula between midnight and 3 pm on the 5th. This storm produced accumulating snowfall across the entire region as it moved by. Across the Central Piedmont and Fredericksburg area, freezing rain and sleet was mixed in with the snow. The snow and sleet accumulations ranged from 4 to 6 inches in this area. Along the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Central Shenandoah Valley, snowfall accumulations ranged from 5 to 7 inches. Across the Northern Shenandoah Valley and Northern Virginia, snowfall totals between 5 and 8 inches were reported.

VAZ021-025>031-036>042-050>053-055>057

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

07 0000EST 0 0 Extreme Cold/Wind Chill
 0900EST

Long standing low temperature records were set on the morning of the 7th as a fresh snow pack, calm winds, and clear skies allowed temperatures to plummet around 20 to 30 degrees below normal overnight. At Dulles International Airport at 7:25 AM the temperature fell to 1 degree above zero. This smashed the previous record of 18 degrees set in 1977. Other low temperatures recorded across Northern Virginia include 12 degrees in Fredericksburg and Manassas, 8 in Charlottesville and Great Falls (Fairfax Co.), zero in Edinburg (Shenandoah Co.) and at Shenandoah Valley Airport (Augusta Co.), 1 below at Lincoln (Loudoun Co.) and Winchester (Frederick Co.), and 4 below at the National Weather Service Office in Sterling (Loudoun Co.). At Washington Reagan National Airport, the low temperature only fell to 18 degrees due to the urban heat island effect. The record low for December 7th is 10 degrees set in 1882.



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VIRGINIA, North

VAZ021-025>031-036>042-051>053 Highland - Augusta - Rockingham - Shenandoah - Frederick - Page - Warren - Clarke - Nelson - Albemarle - Greene - Madison - Rappahannock - Fauquier - Loudoun - Culpeper - Prince William - Fairfax

11	0000EST 1200EST				0	0			Ice Storm
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VAZ050-055>056 Orange - Stafford - Spotsylvania

11	0000EST 0900EST				0	0			Winter Weather/Mix
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View of a country road on the Virginia/West Virginia border on the morning of December 11, 2002 (photo by Mark Clausen)

An area of low pressure that tracked across the region on the 11th produced between 1 and 2 inches of rainfall. Unfortunately while rain was falling during the morning hours, ground temperatures were below freezing across much of Northern Virginia. This caused the rain to freeze on contact with the ground and several locations reported significant ice accumulations. Across the Potomac Highlands, the Northern and Central Shenandoah Valley, the Central Foothills, and the Northern Virginia D.C. suburbs, ice accumulations ranged from 1/4 to 1/2 inch. Roads and sidewalks became treacherous and numerous trees and power lines were downed by the heavy ice accumulations. Around 149,000 customers across the northern half of Virginia lost power as a direct result of the storm. In Orange, Spotsylvania, and Stafford counties, ice accumulations of a trace to 1/8 of an inch were reported before temperatures rose above freezing by mid-morning. Icy spots were reported on roads and sidewalks through noon.

VAZ021-025>031-040>042-052>053 Highland - Augusta - Rockingham - Shenandoah - Frederick - Page - Warren - Clarke - Rappahannock - Fauquier - Loudoun - Prince William - Fairfax

24	1600EST				0	0			Winter Weather/Mix
25	1500EST								

Low pressure passed directly over the region between the evening of the 24th and midday on the 25th. This system brought a mixed bag of precipitation including snow, sleet, rain, and freezing drizzle. The largest snowfall totals occurred in the Northern Shenandoah Valley and across the Northern Virginia suburbs of D.C. where between 2 and 4 inches was reported. Across the Central Shenandoah Valley, freezing drizzle and rain were the primary weather types. Patchy ice was reported on roads and sidewalks. Only a slushy inch of snow and sleet was reported. The amount of snow that fell from this storm was enough to give the region an official "White Christmas". According to Washington D.C. historical records, measurable snowfall has only occurred 6% of the time on December 25th. In addition, Northern Virginia only has a 13% chance of having snow on the ground on the 25th. Winds increased to 20 to 30 mph with gusts to 45 MPH after the low passed by on the afternoon of the 25th. Isolated power outages and downed trees were reported.



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WEST VIRGINIA, East



View of a country road on the Virginia/West Virginia border on the morning of December 11, 2002 (photo by Mark Clausen)

An area of low pressure that tracked across the region on the 11th produced between 1 and 2 inches of rainfall. Unfortunately while rain was falling during the morning hours, ground temperatures were below freezing across the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. This caused the rain to freeze on contact with the ground and several locations reported ice accumulations between 1/4 to 1/2 inch. Roads and sidewalks became treacherous and numerous trees and power lines were downed by the heavy ice accumulations. Nearly 8,500 customers in Berkeley and Jefferson counties lost power as a direct result of the storm. A few severe slip and fall injuries were reported during the ice storm in Berkeley County.

WVZ048>055

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

24 1600EST
25 1800EST

0 0

Winter Weather/Mix

Low pressure tracked just southeast of the area between the evening of the 24th and midday on the 25th. This system dropped snow across the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia which resulted in a relatively rare "White Christmas". Snowfall totals ranged from 3 to 8 inches, with the heaviest amounts falling around the ridge line of the Allegheny Mountains. Winds increased to 20 to 30 mph with gusts to 45 MPH after the low passed by on the afternoon of the 25th. Isolated power outages and downed trees were reported.