Snow Storm
November 24th, 2004

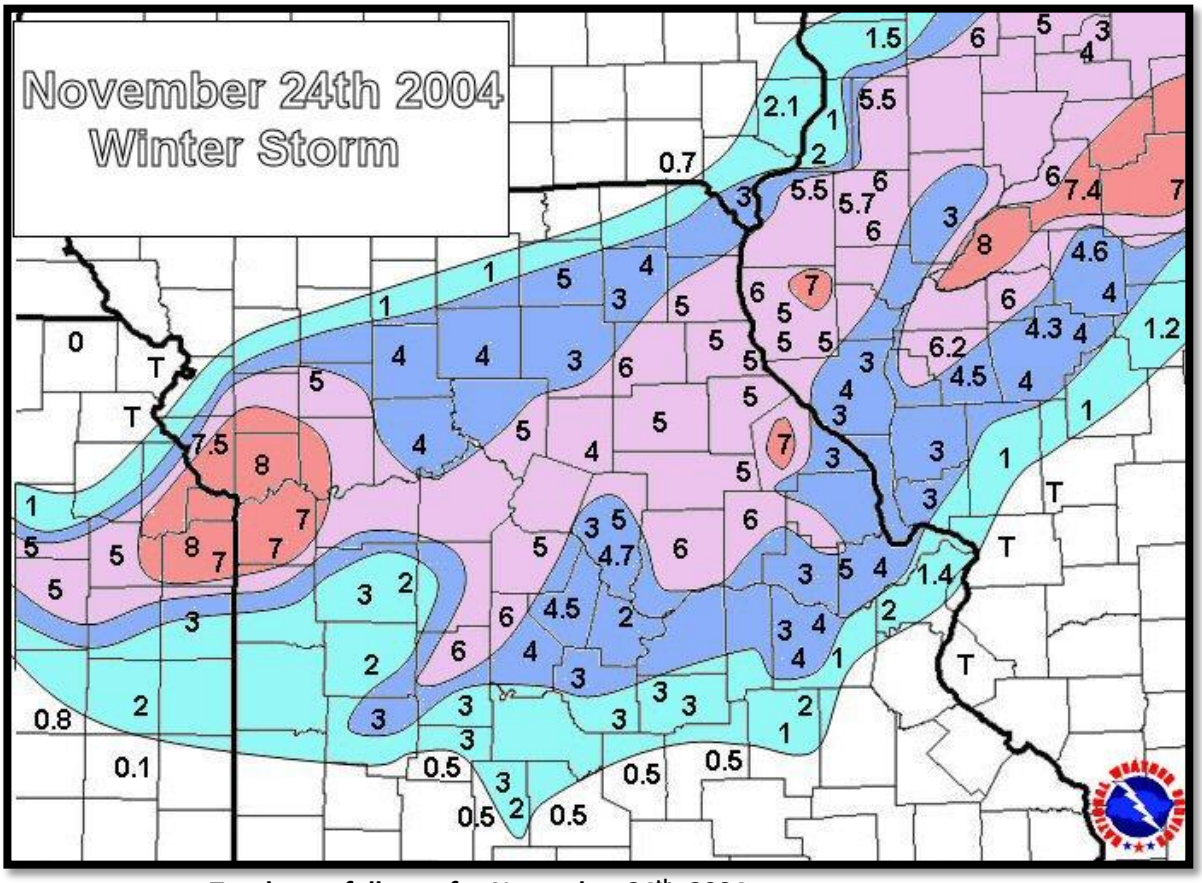
St. Louis

Overview

First Winter Storm of the Season Hits the Bi-State Area

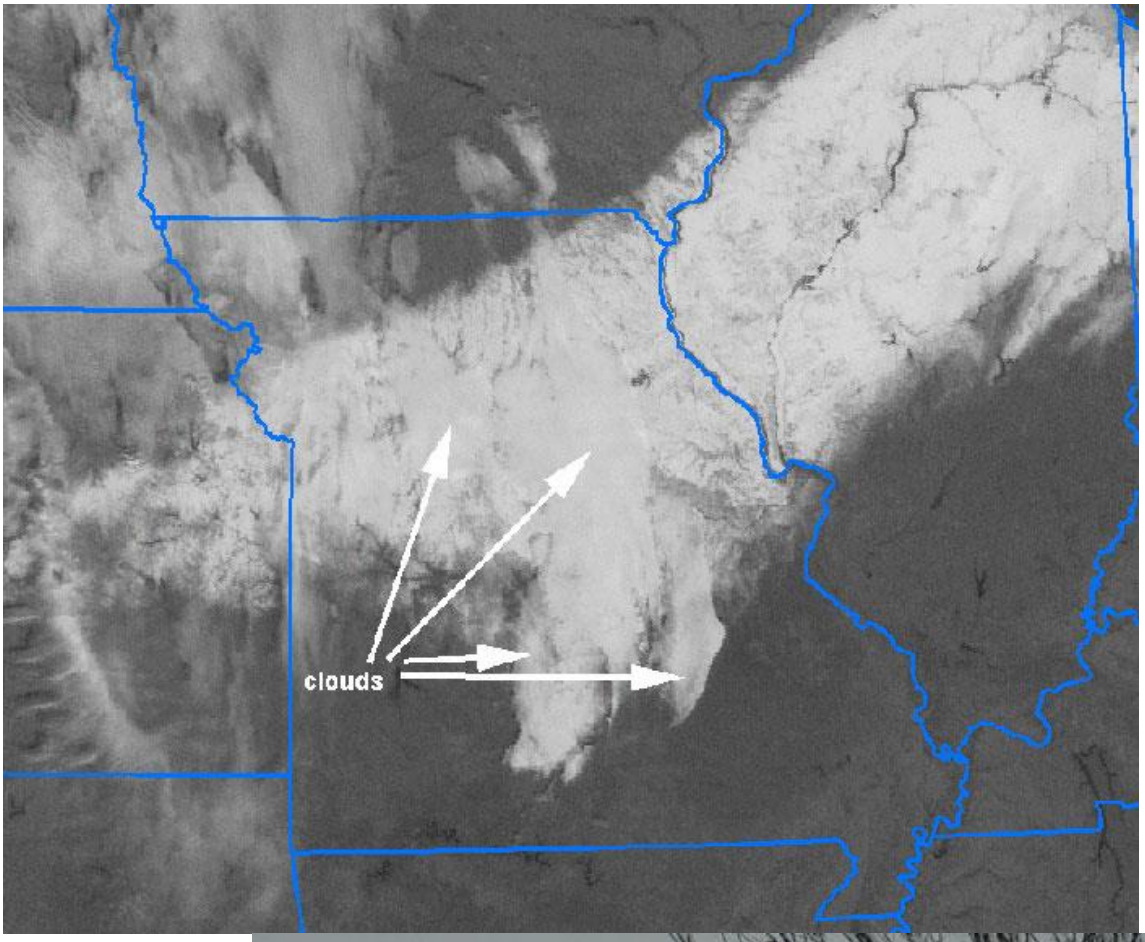
The first winter storm of the season affected the Mississippi River Valley, resulting in a band of moderate to heavy snow from east-central Kansas into the southern Great Lakes. Rain spread across the area on Tuesday as the storm system moved through the Southern Plains. The rain then changed to snow from northwest to southeast as the storm center moved across the Lower Mississippi River Valley pulling much colder air southeastward. There were several reports of thunder accompanying the heavy snow in the Kansas City area, and also in the region between Quincy and Springfield, Illinois.

The main impact of the storm system for the bi-state area began early on the 24th when the rain changed to snow around dawn across central and northeast Missouri. The changeover continued to migrate southeastward as the morning progressed with the transition to snow occurring between 10:00 am and 11:00 am in western portions of the St. Louis metropolitan area. The changeover from rain to snow was also rather abrupt, followed quickly by moderate to heavy snow. Despite the initially warm ground temperatures in the upper 40s to lower 50s, the intense snowfall rates of 2 to 3 inches per hour resulted in rapid cooling of the ground and quick accumulation of the snowfall. Area roadways went from wet, to slushy, to snow covered within an hour, resulting in numerous traffic accidents. Interstate 70 was closed for a period of time between St. Louis and Columbia. The snow ended over southwest and south central Illinois early Wednesday evening as the storm system exited into the Ohio Valley.



Total snowfall map for November 24th, 2004 snow storm.

Snow Photos



The satellite image on the following morning (11/25) shows the area covered by the snow band. There are a few mid clouds (marked) obscuring the ground, but for the most part the snow field is clearly visible.

This was the view out a National Weather Service window around 1 PM on the afternoon of November 24th, 2004. The flakes where big and wet and accumulated rapidly in spite of the warm air and ground temperatures.

Any questions regarding this event review should be address to w-lsx.webmaster@noaa.gov