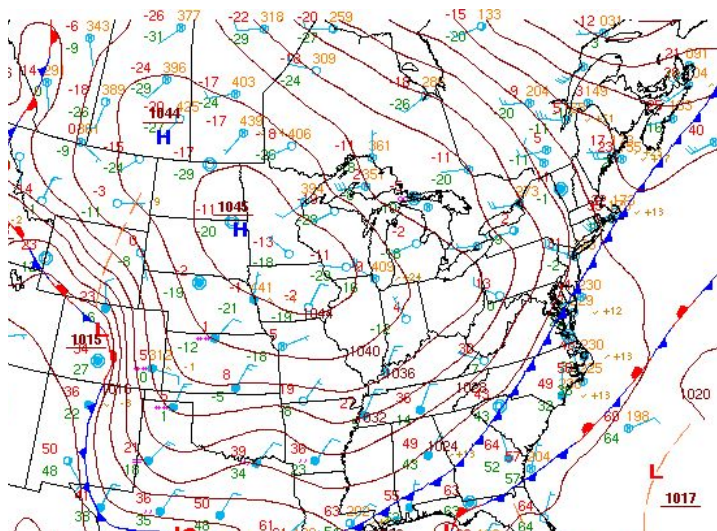




January 23-24, 2026 Arctic Outbreak

Coldest Air In Several Years In Southern Wisconsin

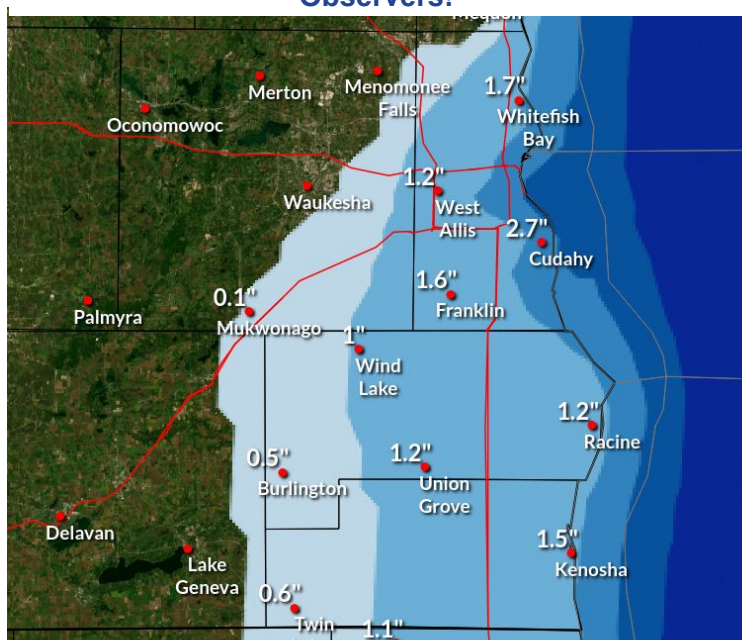
Event Overview: An outbreak of Arctic air brought frigid temperatures and wind chills to southern Wisconsin from January 23-24, 2026. The coldest conditions occurred on the morning of January 23, when brisk winds combined with air temperatures in the negative teens to create widespread wind chills between 35 and 45 degrees below zero. Bitterly cold conditions continued into the morning of January 24, when widespread wind chills between 25 and 35 below were reported across southern Wisconsin. The conditions prompted Extreme Cold Warnings and Cold Weather Advisories. For most, the dangerously low temperatures and wind chills on the morning of January 23 were the coldest seen in several years! As the Arctic outbreak was concluding, lake effect snow brought between 1 to 3 inches of snow accumulation to parts of Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha Counties on the morning of January 25.



6 PM CST 1/23 surface analysis. Courtesy of the Weather Prediction Center

Event Setup: An Arctic cold front moved through southern Wisconsin on the afternoon of January 22, allowing a bitterly cold air mass from northern Canada to filter into the region. Arctic high pressure gradually built in behind the departed Arctic front from the evening of January 22 through morning of January 24, with breezy northwest winds combining with the arriving frigid air to support dangerously cold wind chills by the morning of January 23. Winds gradually tapered into the morning of January 24 as Arctic high pressure crossed the state. The high shifted east of the region by January 25, with northeast winds allowing for lake effect snow development over western Lake Michigan.

January 25 Snow Accumulations - Thank You Observers!



Lowest Wind Chill Reports (Morning of January 23):

Fond du Lac Airport	-46 F
Darlington	-46 F
Sheboygan Co Airport	-45 F
Brigham (Iowa Co)	-44 F
Waukesha Airport	-43 F
Lost Lake (Dodge Co)	-43 F
Milwaukee Mitchell Airport	-42 F
Juneau	-42 F
Racine Batten Airport	-42 F
Dane Co Regional Airport	-41 F
Pardeeville	-41 F
Pleasant Prairie	-41 F
Dells-Baraboo Airport	-41 F
Lone Rock	-41 F
Middleton	-40 F
Janesville	-40 F
Watertown	-40 F
Reedsburg	-40 F

