



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 Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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ARKANSAS, Northwest

ARZ001>002-010>011 Benton - Carroll - Washington - Madison

03	2030CST				0	0			Ice Storm
04	0600CST								

An upper level system moving out of the desert southwest interacted with cold air in place across northwest Arkansas to produce freezing rain from the evening hours of December 3rd into the morning hours of December 4th. While roads remained mainly wet and few accidents occurred until the afternoon of the 4th when snow fell, ice formed on power lines and trees. This ice resulted in 14,400 homes and businesses to be without power at one time or another. The outages were less numerous across the western parts of Washington and Benton counties but became more widespread to the east near and into Carroll and Madison counties. A few of the communities hit the hardest were Bethel Heights, Lowell, Elkins, Wesley, Hindsville and Eureka Springs. The inclement weather caused school closings in Eureka Springs, Huntsville and Green Forrest.

ARZ001>002-010>011 Benton - Carroll - Washington - Madison

23	1200CST				0	0			Heavy Snow
24	1000CST								

Heavy snow began to fall across northwest Arkansas during the early afternoon hours of the 23rd in response to the approach of an upper level system moving out of the southern rockies into the southern plains. The snow fell at a rate of one to two inches an hour across Benton and Carroll counties and the northern part of Washington and Madison counties. The heavy snow caused roads to become slick and hazardous and several automobiles slid into ditches or into each other. The heavy snow also caused a few power outages including one that halted service to two hundred customers between Fayetteville and Elkins. The snow let up and stopped accumulating during the early evening hours with several location reporting 4 to 8 inches of snow. The snow started accumulating again during the early morning hours of the 24th before finally letting up for good later that morning. Another two to four inches accumulated during that time span. Some total snowfall reports for the 23rd and 24th included: 15 inches at Rockhouse, 12 inches at Berryville, 10 inches at Eureka Springs, 7 inches at Rogers, 7 inches at Bentonville, 6 inches at Huntsville, 6 inches at Springdale and 5 inches at Fayetteville.

Crawford County

Van Buren	30	1227CST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
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Crawford County

Rudy	30	1235CST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
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OKLAHOMA, Eastern

OKZ054>057-059>064 Osage - Washington - Nowata - Craig - Pawnee - Tulsa - Rogers - Mayes - Delaware - Creek

03	1600CST				0	0			Ice Storm
04	0430CST								

An upper level system moving out of the desert southwest into the southern plains interacted with cold air near the surface to produce freezing rain from the afternoon hours on December 3rd to the early morning hours on December 4th. The freezing rain resulted in ice on power lines and trees causing power outages. The power outages were the most widespread to the west and north of Tulsa in western Tulsa, northern Creek, Pawnee, Osage, Washington and Nowata counties. At one time 4,000 homes were without power in Sand Springs and 2,000 homes were without power in Bartlesville. The cities of Drumright, Skiatook and Nowata also experienced significant power outages. Isolated power outages occurred in the rural areas of Rogers, Craig, Mayes, Ottawa and Delaware counties. In addition to the power outages, many roads in the area became slick and hazardous. Several schools were closed on the 4th.



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OKLAHOMA, Eastern

Rogers County

8 NE Foyil	17	1930CST			0	0			Hail(0.88)
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Nickel size hail fell at Chelsea.

Craig County

Welch	17	1950CST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
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Craig County

White Oak	17	1955CST			0	0			Hail(1.00)
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Nowata County

10 E Lenapah	18	0018CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
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Thunderstorm winds estimated at 60 miles an hour blew down a large tree limb.

Craig County

7 N Welch	18	0035CST			0	0			Hail(1.25)
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Craig County

5 N Welch	18	0035CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
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Thunderstorm winds estimated at 60 miles an hour blew down several large tree limbs.

OKZ054>064-067>068

Osage - Washington - Nowata - Craig - Ottawa - Pawnee - Tulsa - Rogers - Mayes - Delaware - Creek - Wagoner - Cherokee

23		1000CST			0	0			Heavy Snow
24		1000CST							

An upper level system moved out of the southern rockies and across the southern plains including Oklahoma December 23rd and 24th. Rain began to fall during the morning of the 23rd and due to evaporational cooling and colder air filtering into the area from the north it began to change over to snow from west to east across the area from 10 am cst on. During the first few hours at any given location the snow fell at an inch or two per hour rate. Due to the heavy snow and temperatures dropping below freezing travel became extremely difficult. Numerous accidents were reported across northeast Oklahoma and several included injuries. One accident around midday on the 23rd resulted in a death about 8 miles east of Ponca City in Osage county. In addition to the difficult travel the snow caused some tree limbs to fall onto power lines producing a few power outages. As many as 13,000 customers in Owasso and eastern part of the city of Tulsa experienced an interruption of electric service. Four to five hundred customers scattered around Ottawa, Craig, Delaware and Mayes counties also suffered power outages. The snow began to taper off from west to east during the late afternoon and early evening hours of the 23rd. However, the snow began again during the late evening hours of the 23rd and the early morning hours of the 24th. This snow lasted into the morning hours of the 24th. Although the snow during the nighttime period was not as heavy as that during the previous afternoon another one to three inches of snow accumulated. Some snow accumulations from the storm include: 10 inches at Miami, 10 inches at South Coffeyville, 10 inches at Ralston, 9 inches at Bartlesville, 9 inches at Jay, 8 inches at Pawnee, 7 inches at Pawhuska, 7 inches at Tulsa, 6 inches at Drumright, 5 inches at Wagoner, 5 inches at Pryor and 5 inches at Tahlequah.

Mcintosh County

Vivian	30	1223CST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
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Mcintosh County

4 N Eufaula	30	1235CST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
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Mcintosh County

Checotah	30	1252CST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
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Muskogee County

1 E Braggs	30	1315CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G61)
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Thunderstorm winds estimated at 70 miles an hour blew down several trees at Camp Gruber.

Le Flore County

Rock Is	30	1500CST			0	0	50K		Thunderstorm Wind (G61)
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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

OKLAHOMA, Eastern

Thunderstorm winds estimated at 70 miles an hour destroyed a 24 unit metal storage facility.

Le Flore County

Loving

30 1510CST

0 0

Thunderstorm Wind (G52)

Thunderstorm winds estimated at 60 miles an hour blew down large tree limbs.