

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2012

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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IOWA, Northeast

(IA-Z008) MITCHELL, (IA-Z009) HOWARD, (IA-Z018) FLOYD

12/01/12 00:00 CST	0	Drought
12/31/12 23:59 CST	0	

Despite snowfall amounts that averaged 10 to 15 inches across northeast Iowa during December, no changes in the drought conditions occurred. Severe to extreme drought conditions continued to plague Floyd, Howard and Mitchell Counties.

(IA-Z008) MITCHELL, (IA-Z009) HOWARD, (IA-Z010) WINNESHIEK, (IA-Z011) ALLAMAKEE, (IA-Z018) FLOYD, (IA-Z019) CHICKASAW, (IA-Z029) FAYETTE, (IA-Z030) CLAYTON

12/20/12 06:00 CST	75K	Blizzard
12/20/12 14:30 CST	0	

A strong area of low pressure moved out of the Central Plains into Illinois and the Great Lakes region on December 19th and 20th. As this storm moved by, it produced a period of blizzard conditions during the morning and afternoon of the 20th as sustained north winds of 25 to 35 mph with higher gusts created poor visibility from falling and blowing snow. Impacts from the blizzard included closed roads, trapped vehicles, power outages, region wide school closings on the 20th with some schools remaining closed on the 21st or started 2 hours late. The accumulating snow first started moving into the region during the middle of the evening on the 19th with accumulations reaching winter storm criteria of 6 inches between midnight and 6 a.m. on the 20th. The highest reported snow total was 15.2 inches in Strawberry Point (Clayton County). National Guard troops were activated across the state to help rescue stranded drivers. The Iowa Dept. of Transportation stated that travel was not advised across the majority of the state from 8 p.m. Wednesday, December 19th through Thursday the 20th. A tow ban was also in place for much of the state during the storm.

MINNESOTA, Southeast

(MN-Z079) WABASHA, (MN-Z086) DODGE, (MN-Z087) OLMSTED, (MN-Z088) WINONA, (MN-Z094) MOWER, (MN-Z095) FILLMORE

12/01/12 00:00 CST	0	Drought
12/31/12 23:59 CST	0	

Despite snowfall amounts between 10 and 20 inches across southeast Minnesota during December, no changes in the drought conditions occurred. Severe to extreme drought conditions continued to plague Dodge, Fillmore, Mower, Olmsted, Wabasha and Winona Counties. Minnesota State Department of Natural Resources experts say the drought began affecting some wildlife. Several beaver lodges were empty because water levels had dropped significantly likely causing the beavers to move to a larger lake or pond. The drought has reduced available food for many animals, including black bears.

(MN-Z087) OLMSTED

12/02/12 06:00 CST	20K	Dense Fog
12/02/12 21:00 CST	0	

Two occupants of a small aircraft sustained minor injuries when the pilot missed a runway at the Rochester International airport when attempting to land, causing the plane to come down in a plowed field. The plane bounced in the field, flipped end-over-end before coming to a rest upside down. The automated weather observing equipment at the Rochester airport reported visibilities of a quarter mile or less on Sunday December 2nd from around 6 a.m. through about 9 p.m.

(MN-Z079) WABASHA, (MN-Z088) WINONA, (MN-Z096) HOUSTON

12/09/12 02:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
12/09/12 21:00 CST	0	

Portions of southeast Minnesota received between 6 and 10 inches of snow on Sunday, December 9th as the first winter storm of the season impacted the area. The snow developed across the region during the early morning hours of the 9th as an area of low pressure moved east across Minnesota toward Wisconsin. Heavy snow fell for a period during the afternoon of the 9th before ending as some freezing drizzle as the area of low pressure departed the region. The highest reported snowfall total was 10.2 inches near Reads Landing (Wabasha County).

(MN-Z079) WABASHA, (MN-Z086) DODGE, (MN-Z087) OLMSTED, (MN-Z088) WINONA, (MN-Z094) MOWER, (MN-Z095) FILLMORE, (MN-Z096) HOUSTON

12/19/12 21:30 CST	2.50K	Winter Storm
12/20/12 19:00 CST	0	

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A strong area of low pressure moved out of the Central Plains into Illinois and the Great Lakes region on December 19th and 20th. As this storm moved by, it dumped between 5 and 10 inches of snow on southeast Minnesota and produced wind gusts in excess of 40 mph. The winds created blowing and drifting snow that prompted schools to close Thursday the 20th with some remaining closed Friday the 21st or utilized 2 hour delays. The highest reported snow total was 9.7 inches in Minnesota City (Winona County). National Guard troops were activated across the state to help rescue stranded drivers. Several highways were closed because of accidents, including U.S. 61, U.S. 14 and Interstate 90.

WISCONSIN, Southwest

(WI-Z017) TAYLOR, (WI-Z032) BUFFALO, (WI-Z033) TREMPPEALEAU, (WI-Z061) GRANT

12/01/12 00:00 CST	0	Drought
12/31/12 23:59 CST	0	

Despite snowfall amounts between 15 and 20 inches across western Wisconsin during December, no changes in the drought conditions occurred. Severe drought conditions continued to plague Buffalo, Grant, Taylor, and Trempealeau Counties. Wisconsin state agricultural officials indicated more than 20% of the Christmas tree farms across the state sustained drought damage. The central sands regions in central Wisconsin were hit hard where state inspectors found that 40% or more of the trees died.

(WI-Z017) TAYLOR, (WI-Z029) CLARK, (WI-Z032) BUFFALO, (WI-Z033) TREMPPEALEAU, (WI-Z034) JACKSON, (WI-Z041) LA CROSSE, (WI-Z042) MONROE

12/09/12 03:10 CST	0	Winter Storm
12/10/12 01:30 CST	0	

Portions of western Wisconsin received between 6 and 10 inches of snow on Sunday, December 9th as the first winter storm of the season impacted the area. The snow developed across the region during the early morning hours of the 9th as an area of low pressure moved east across Minnesota toward Wisconsin. Heavy snow fell for a period during the afternoon of the 9th before ending as some freezing drizzle as the area of low pressure departed the region. The highest reported snowfall total was 10.8 inches in Osseo (Trempealeau County).

(WI-Z017) TAYLOR, (WI-Z029) CLARK, (WI-Z032) BUFFALO, (WI-Z033) TREMPPEALEAU, (WI-Z034) JACKSON, (WI-Z041) LA CROSSE, (WI-Z042) MONROE, (WI-Z053) VERNON

12/19/12 23:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
12/20/12 20:00 CST	0	

(WI-Z043) JUNEAU, (WI-Z044) ADAMS, (WI-Z054) CRAWFORD, (WI-Z055) RICHLAND, (WI-Z061) GRANT

12/20/12 08:30 CST	0	Blizzard
12/20/12 17:00 CST	0	

A strong area of low pressure moved out of the Central Plains into Illinois and the Great Lakes region on December 19th and 20th. As this storm moved by, it produced a period of blizzard conditions during the morning and afternoon of the 20th as sustained north winds of 25 to 35 mph with higher gusts created poor visibility from falling and blowing snow. Impacts from the blizzard included closed roads, trapped vehicles, power outages, region wide school closings on the 20th with some schools remaining closed on the 21st or started 2 hours late. The accumulating snow started in southwest Wisconsin during the middle of the evening on the 19th and did not reach north central Wisconsin until the early morning hours of the 20th. Accumulations reached winter storm criteria of 6 inches between midnight and 7 a.m. on the 20th. Two bands of heavy snow, with accumulations of 10 or more inches, occurred. The first was from Grant County northeast through Richland County into the southern sections of Adams and Juneau Counties. The second was across northern Buffalo and Trempealeau Counties into northwest Jackson and southwest Clark Counties. The highest reported snow total in the southern band was 14.5 inches in Sinsinawa (Grant County) with 15.0 inches in the northern band just west of Whitehall (Trempealeau County). The Governor issued an executive order declaring a state of emergency before the storm hit. This placed the state emergency management, National Guard, State Patrol and other state and county agencies on high alert. National Guard troops were used to help rescue stranded drivers. Commercial flights in and out of the La Crosse Municipal Airport were canceled through the evening of the 20th. University of Wisconsin-La Crosse officials kept residence halls open an extra day before the Christmas break to house stranded students.