



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 2005

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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ILLINOIS, Northwest

ILZ002

Stephenson

22	0500CST 0800CST				0	0	5K		Heavy Snow
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9 inches of snow

A fast moving winter storm moved east from the Northern Plains and into the Ohio Valley bringing some snow to the area. The heaviest snow of 6 inches or more fell in Northwest Illinois with lesser amounts across Eastern Iowa. A trop fold down to 550 mb associated with the storm produced very strong winds across Eastern Iowa. Sustained winds of 26 to 35 knots (30 to 40 mph) with gusts to over 44 knots (50 mph) were common which created blizzard conditions in the pre dawn hours and during the morning commute across much of Northeast and East Central Iowa. A peak wind gust of 56 knots (64 mph) was recorded at Vinton in Benton County. Law enforcement and broadcast media reported whiteout conditions on highway 13 in Linn and Delaware counties and U.S. 30 west of Cedar Rapids. Several county sheriff offices issued emergency alerts to media outlets indicating that travel was not recommended in their county. In Jones County Iowa, several highway crews radioed in reports of zero visibility and being stopped because they had no idea where they were located. Numerous accidents occurred including a 20 car pile up at mile marker 280 on westbound Interstate 80 at 0814 CST. While traffic was stopped and being rerouted onto U.S. 6, an indirect fatality occurred at 1040 CST at mile marker 286 on westbound Interstate 80 when a 19 year old man ran into a semi in whiteout conditions.

IOWA, East Central and Southeast

IAZ040>042

Buchanan - Delaware - Dubuque

01	1857CST 2144CST				0	0	15K		Ice Storm
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A warm front moving north through Iowa sent warm air over a surface based arctic airmass and produced ice accumulations of one quarter to one third inch across Buchanan, Delaware, and Dubuque counties. The KDBQ ASOS recorded a combination of freezing rain and sleet that melted down to 0.39 inches of water equivalent. The impact of the ice was lessened by warmer air and thunderstorms moving into the area by midnight.

IAZ063-066-068-076-078-087

Iowa - Clinton - Scott - Keokuk - Louisa - Jefferson

03	0600CST 1239CST				0	0	30K		Ice Storm
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A storm system passing south of the area pulled warm air over a shallow arctic surface layer producing widespread freezing rain. The worst of the ice generally fell between 0600 and 1200 CST. Ice accumulations of one quarter inch were common across Eastern Iowa. Many areas in Eastern Iowa and Northern Illinois reported ice accumulations of 0.2 inches. This was the second ice storm to hit the area in 3 days. Very little damage occurred due to the fact that winds did not become overly strong. Law enforcement noted that although there were many accidents, there were not as many as expected.

IAZ077>078-087>089-098>099

Washington - Louisa - Jefferson - Henry - Des Moines - Van Buren - Lee

04 05	2300CST 1500CST				0	0	70K		Ice Storm
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IOWA, East Central and Southeast

IAZ040>042-051>054-063>064-066-076 Buchanan - Delaware - Dubuque - Benton - Linn - Jones - Jackson - Iowa - Johnson - Clinton - Keokuk

05	1700CST								
06	0800CST				0	0	120K		Heavy Snow

The biggest winter storm of the season affected Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri from the evening of 4 January to the morning of 6 January. A series of low pressure areas tracked from the Central and Southern Plains up through the Ohio Valley while arctic high pressure remained over the Northern Plains. The dominate mechanism for the precipitation was isentropic lift and came in two waves; the first during the evening of 4 January to the pre-dawn hours of 5 January. A lull in the heavier precipitation occurred during the morning of 5 January with the second round beginning in earnest by mid-day and continuing into the pre-dawn hours of 6 January. Shallow arctic air south of Interstate 80 resulted in a significant ice storm with mainly snow north of Interstate 80. Winds during the storm were generally 10 to 20 mph with some gusts in the 20 to 25 mph range.

For some areas it was the largest storm (snow wise) in the past 3 to 6 years. In Delaware County Iowa, 6 people were indirectly injured near Manchester when their van slid into a ditch on U.S. 20. In Mt. Vernon, Iowa, part of a building collapsed due to the weight of the snow. For the Tipton Iowa School District it was the first time in memory that 4 consecutive days of school were missed due to winter weather. This was due to 2 other ice events that occurred on 3 and 4 January.

The axis of the heavy snow ran from around Ames to near Waterloo, Iowa. Snowfall amounts of 10+ inches were common in this band and as far south as U.S. 30. Heavier snow amounts included 15 inches in Buchanan County at Jesup, 13 inches at Edgewood in Delaware County, 13 inches at Dyersville in Dubuque County, 13 inches in Galena and Warren in Jo Daviess County Illinois, and 12 inches in Cedar Rapids (Linn County) and Scotch Grove (Jones County)

South of the heavy snow band were snow amounts of 3 to 8 inches that mixed with sleet or freezing rain but ice accumulations were generally less than 0.25 inch. Snow amounts tapered off to 3 inches or less south of a Hedrick, Iowa to Princeton, Illinois line.

Significant icing occurred south of a Hedrick, Iowa to Princeton, Illinois line due to a shallow surface layer of arctic air. Ice accumulations ranged from 0.25 to 0.80 inches with unofficial amounts of around 1 inch. Some of the heavier ice accumulations; 0.75 inches at Salem in Henry County Iowa, and Columbus Junction in Louisa County Iowa. Ice accumulations of 0.25 to 0.75 inches were common across Van Buren, Washington, Lee, Des Moines, and Jefferson Counties in Iowa; Mercer, Henderson, Warren, Hancock, McDonough, Southern Henry, Bureau, and Putnam Counties in Illinois. Across Clark and Scotland Counties in Northeast Missouri, ice accumulations of up to 0.50 inch were common.

IAZ052

Linn									
10	1915CST				0	0	10K		Winter Weather/Mix
	2100CST								

Ice covered roads with numerous accidents.

Warm air flowing over an arctic surface layer produced a mixture of freezing rain and some sleet across parts of Eastern Iowa. In Linn county, Interstate 380 was closed in several spots. In one location, two semi trucks collided that closed the southbound lanes for 2.5 hours.

IAZ040>041-051>053-065-068 Buchanan - Delaware - Benton - Linn - Jones - Cedar - Scott

22	0219CST								
	1045CST				0	0	40K		Blizzard

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IOWA, East Central and Southeast

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MISSOURI, Northeast

MOZ009>010

Scotland - Clark

04	2200CST	0	0	20K	Ice Storm
05	1500CST				

The biggest winter storm of the season affected Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri from the evening of 4 January to the morning of 6 January. A series of low pressure areas tracked from the Central and Southern Plains up through the Ohio Valley while arctic high pressure remained over the Northern Plains. The dominate mechanism for the precipitation was isentropic lift and came in two waves; the first during the evening of 4 January to the pre-dawn hours of 5 January. A lull in the heavier precipitation occurred during the morning of 5 January with the second round beginning in earnest by mid-day and continuing into the pre-dawn hours of 6 January. Shallow arctic air south of Interstate 80 resulted in a significant ice storm with mainly snow north of Interstate 80. Winds during the storm were generally 10 to 20 mph with some gusts in the 20 to 25 mph range.

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