



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



March 2002

| Location | Date | Time Local/ Standard | Path Length (Miles) | Path Width (Yards) | Number of Persons Killed | Injured | Estimated Damage Property | Crops | Character of Storm |
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|-------|--------------------|
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|-------|--------------------|

WISCONSIN, Southeast

WIZ046>047-051>052-056>060-062>072 **Marquette - Green Lake - Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Sauk - Columbia - Dodge - Washington - Ozaukee - Iowa - Dane - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Lafayette - Green - Rock - Walworth - Racine - Kenosha**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|
| 02 | 0000CST 2200CST | 0 | 0 | 5K | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Heavy Snow |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|

Heavy snow, ranging from 7 to 11 inches in depth, fell over south-central and southeast Wisconsin. Most of the inclement weather occurred on March 2nd, although preceding light snow started at about 1900CST on March 1st, and some residual blowing and drifting snow persisted until about 0600CST on March 3rd. This was the only widespread heavy snow event of the 2001-02 winter season to affect southern Wisconsin. Accumulating snows during this event came in two waves...one during the overnight hours ending about 0700CST on March 2nd, and the other one lasting from about 1200CST to 2100CST on March 2nd. In between the two waves, some mixed precipitation, consisting of snow, sleet, and freezing rain, was observed southeast of a line from Janesville (Rock Co.) to Port Washington (Ozaukee Co.). In general, surface winds initially were out of the northeast at 10 to 20 mph, but backed to the northwest at 15 to 25 mph (occasional gusts to 30 to 35 mph) during the last half of this heavy snow event. Surface temperatures were generally in the 20s, but readings briefly rose to the lower 30s over the counties of Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, and Walworth in between the snow waves. Near-blizzard conditions were noted west of Madison in the counties of Sauk, Iowa, and Lafayette during the 2nd half of the heavy snow event due to the winds and falling snow, with visibilities occasionally reduced to 1/4 to 1/2 mile. Numerous indoor and outdoor activities across south-central and southeast were cancelled, and many airplane flights were delayed or cancelled. Based on newspaper accounts, at least 300 to 400 vehicle accidents occurred. Towing service owners were quoted as saying "People are running into poles, curbs, and each other." At least a dozen people needed hospital treatment due to injuries sustained in vehicle accidents (indirectly-related to this heavy snow event)

Specifically, Milwaukee Mitchell Field (Milwaukee Co.) measured 11.0 of snow for the entire event, with 9.4 inches falling on March 2nd (a new daily record snowfall amount for March 2nd). Elsewhere, notable amounts include: Elkhorn (Walworth Co.) - 11 inches, Fond du Lac (Fond du Lac Co.) - 10.5 inches, Sauk City (Sauk Co.) - 10 inches, Richfield (Washington Co.) - 9.6 inches, Sun Prairie (Dane Co.) - 9.5 inches, Argyle (Lafayette Co.) - 9.5 inches, Eagle (Waukesha Co.) - 9.2 inches, and 9 inches at Milton (Rock Co.), Palmyra (Jefferson Co.), Twin Lakes (Kenosha Co), Westfield (Marquette Co.), Juneau (Dodge Co.), and Fredonia (Ozaukee Co.). Snowdrifts were reported to be 2 to 3 feet deep, especially in exposed, rural areas. Synoptically, the responsible low pressure moved from central Oklahoma to extreme southeast Wisconsin and then on to lower Michigan. In the wake of this heavy snow event, clear skies and light winds combined with the fresh snow cover to allow temperatures to drop below zero over much of south-central and southeast Wisconsin (for the 1st time since February 2001) during the overnight hours of March 3rd into March 4, 2002.

Washington County

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|
| Jackson | 08 | 1751CST | 0 | 0 | 5K | 0 | 0 | 0 | Lightning |
|----------------|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|

Lightning hit a home's satellite dish and sent a current into the home, resulting in damage to a computer system and all major appliances and household wiring.

Rock County

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|
| Janesville | 09 | 0122CST | 0 | 0 | 30K | 0 | 0 | 0 | Lightning |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|

Rock County

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|
| 3.5 E Emerald Grove | 09 | 0125CST | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Thunderstorm Wind (G52) |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|

Walworth County

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|
| 2 NE La Grange | 09 | 0138CST | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Hail(0.75) |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|

Washington County

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|
| 2 N Colgate | 09 | 0200CST | 0 | 0 | 25K | 0 | 0 | 0 | Lightning |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



March 2002

| Location | Date | Time Local/ Standard | Path Length (Miles) | Path Width (Yards) | Number of Persons Killed | Injured | Property Damage | Crops | Character of Storm |
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|

WISCONSIN, Southeast

Scattered severe thunderstorms affected parts of Rock and Walworth counties. The fast-moving storms generated damaging winds estimated to at least 52 knots (60 mph) in eastern Rock County, resulting in toppled large trees. Large hail was noted in northern Walworth County. A lightning strike ignited a fire that severely burned a home's garage in Janesville. North of Colgate (Washington Co.) a lightning strike caused extensive damage to appliances and electrical service in at least 3 homes.

**WIZ051>052-065-
069>070-072**

Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Waukesha - Rock - Walworth - Kenosha

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------|----------|------------|------------------|
| 09 | 1000CST 2359CST | 0 | 0 | 73K | High Wind |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------|----------|------------|------------------|

High winds raked part of south-central and southeast Wisconsin for about 14 hours with gusts of 50 to 56 knots (58 to 64 mph). The area from the Town of Taycheedah (Fond du Lac Co.) to Greenbush (Sheboygan Co.) reported toppled trees and power lines. In the city of Janesville (Rock Co.) a powerful gust toppled a restaurant sign onto power lines, resulting in a loss of electricity for 1 hour. In the city of Delevan, the powerful winds pushed a tree onto power pole and nearby garage. In the city of Kenosha, the high winds knocked bricks from a church bell tower, causing police to close off the local area. Measured peak wind gusts from trained spotters were 56 knots (64 mph) three miles south of the city of Waukesha (Waukesha Co.), and 50 knots (58 mph) in the Town of Taycheedah. Other notable peak gusts were: 49 knots (56 mph) at the Sheboygan Airport (Sheboygan Co.) and Kenosha Airport (Kenosha Co.) , 48 knots (55 mph) in Lake Geneva (Walworth Co.), 47 knots (54 mph) at a location 2 miles southwest of the city of Fond du Lac (Fond du Lac Co.), and 46 knots (53 mph) at the Brodhead Airport (Green Co.). Most other locations in south-central and southeast Wisconsin experienced peak gusts in the 35 to 45 knot range (40 to 52 mph). Interestingly, the peak wind gusts (generally from the west) tended to occur with some of the more intense scattered snow showers, indicating that atmospheric mixing of higher-momentum air down to the surface was taking place in/near the snow showers. Temperatures were in the 25 to 30 degree range during the afternoon hours of the 9th. There were scattered reports of some trees pushed over from several of the counties surrounding the named counties in this high wind event. Altogether, about 2500 customers in south-central and southeast Wisconsin lost electrical power due to toppled power lines. Synoptically, a low pressure over eastern Colorado on March 8th moved to southeastern Kansas and deepened to 992 millibars (29.29 inches), and then tracked to Lake Superior by mid-day on the 9th with a central pressure of 988 millibars (29.18 inches). High winds were observed over northern Iowa and much of Minnesota as well.