A powerful cold front steamed through the region around sunrise dropping temperatures 20 degrees in less than half an hour. Temperatures fell from the mid 50s into the teens within a few hours and into the single digits below zero that night. 1 to 3 inches of freezing rain, sleet, and snow fell and caused icy roads and disruption of electrical power. Most Schools canceled classes or dismissed early. Many others had trouble getting home with icy roads and difficulty just getting into there cars due to doors and door locks being iced over. Glaze was so thick that Muscatine Postmaster Dyann Roby said "most of the 35 collection boxes were frozen shut"; however other mail services continued.

A winter storm system moving northeast over the Mississippi river brought nearly 10 inches of snow to portions of east central Iowa. Significant travel problems occurred due to a layer of glaze which came down first and was then covered by 2 to 3 inches of snow. 20 to 30 mph winds caused blowing and drifting and limited visibilities.

A powerful cold front steamed through the region around sunrise dropping temperatures 20 degrees in less than half an hour. Temperatures fell from the mid 50s into the teens within a few hours and into the single digits below zero that night. Near "white-out" conditions occurred with 3-6 inches of snow. The greatest snowfall occurred across central Iowa with lesser amounts toward the Mississippi. Strong winds throughout the day dropped wind chill temperatures into the 40 to 50 below zero range.

The heavy, blowing, and drifting snow caused most schools to close with many businesses and shopping malls closing early. Surprisingly few accidents occurred on the 18th "because with all the cancellations many people have been staying in", said Sgt. Craig Lihs of the Iowa City Police Dept.
IOWA, East Central and Southeast

Iowa, with snowfall diminishing to 3-6 inches near the Mississippi river. Schools were cancelled due to extreme blowing and drifting of snow. During the afternoon and evening winds of 20 to 30 mph became even stronger and the Winter Storm Warning was upgraded to a Blizzard Warning for many Iowa counties. Numerous motorists were stranded on highways and interstates and a State of Emergency was declared, by the Governor. The State of Emergency mobilized National Guard units to assist local Law Enforcement in the rescue of stranded motorists.

In Cedar Rapids this Winter Storm was followed by a 3 day clean up. This effort was estimated by Don Thomas, the Cedar Rapids Commissioner of Streets, to have cost $100,000 and required 60 persons to work around the clock.

Schools were either closed early or cancelled on this Friday the 26th, and despite massive clean up efforts, most schools remained closed on Monday. Those schools that did try to go on the 26th experienced significant problems. In Mount Vernon, schools were on a delayed start. The buses where then sent out but as the weather continued to worsen, the decision was made to cancel school. So before the buses made it to school they were returning children to their homes. One bus, after cancellation, about 845 am slid off the snowy road into the ditch. No children were injured and a second bus was sent out to take them home.

Iowa State Climatologist, Harry Hillaker, called this the worst blizzard for central Iowa since April 8-9th 1973.

Cedar Rapids was hard hit by the blizzard and a three day, round the clock, clean up effort followed after the blizzard. Don Thomas, the Cedar Rapids Commissioner of Streets, estimated the cost of the clean up at $100,000.

WISCONSIN, Extreme Southwest

NONE REPORTED.