



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



March 1998

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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### WISCONSIN, Southeast

**WIZ046>047-056>058-062>063-067>068**      **Marquette - Green Lake - Sauk - Columbia - Dodge - Iowa - Dane - Lafayette - Green**

<b>08</b>	<b>0400CST</b>								
<b>09</b>	<b>0900CST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>				<b>Winter Storm</b>

A powerful winter storm, possessing near blizzard conditions, brought parts of southcentral and southeast Wisconsin to a standstill. The combination of heavy, wet snow, and northeast winds gusting to 40 to 50 mph, reduced visibilities occasionally to below 1/4 mile and created huge drifts of 8 to 15 feet in areas west and southwest of Madison (Dane Co.). Based on newspaper accounts, there were probably 800 motor vehicle accidents, dozens of toppled power lines, many school closings, and many road closures. Interstate 90/94 and State Highway 51 north of Madison were closed at the height of the storm during the afternoon and evening hours on the 30th. In addition, there were many airline flights and other commercial activities postponed or cancelled.

Specific snowfall totals include: 10.5 inches in northeast Iowa county and northcentral Dane Co.; 10.2 inches at Middleton (Dane Co.); 10 inches in northwest Lafayette, southern Sauk, and southern Columbia counties; 9 to 10 inches in the northern portions of Marquette and Green Lake counties; 7 to 8 inches in westcentral Dodge and northwest Green counties; and 7.3 inches at the Madison/Dane County Regional Airport.

The storm was the result of a "pan-handle hook" low pressure which traveled from southeast Colorado to northeast Texas and then recurved back through northwest Ohio. Copious amounts of Gulf of Mexico moisture were available for the storm (dewpoints in the middle 50s into southern Indiana).

**WIZ051>052-059>060-064>066-069>072**      **Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Washington - Ozaukee - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Rock - Walworth - Racine - Kenosha**

<b>08</b>	<b>1800CST</b>								
<b>09</b>	<b>1000CST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>215K</b>			<b>High Wind</b>

Powerful winds, gusting to 64 mph, raked parts of eastcentral and southeast Wisconsin, resulting in many cases of toppled trees and powerlines, as well as some structural damage. In addition, snow accumulations of 1 to 5 inches occurred. The high winds were part of the winter storm system which left 10 to 12 inches of snow over southwest, southcentral and central Wisconsin. In the city of Sheboygan, the winds blew over a 16 foot by 16 foot construction wall. In addition, large tree branches fell on a couple cars in Sheboygan. In Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Jefferson, Waukesha, and Milwaukee counties, about 6,000 customers were without electrical power after the high winds toppled large trees or tree branches onto power lines. In Hartford (Washington Co.), the high winds knocked large tree branches on to a home's roof and totaled a parked car. The high winds pushed large trees onto two homes in the Lake Geneva (Walworth Co.) area. One sustained moderate damage, while the other one had minor damage. There were many other reports of uprooted trees and downed power lines in Walworth county. In addition, the winds peeled a piece of plywood off a building in Deavan (Walworth Co.). It was the same story in Rock county with regards to trees and powerlines. A peak gust of 64 mph was registered at the Rock County Airport (JVL).

Racine and Kenosha counties appeared to suffer the wrath of the storm more so than other counties. Groaning winds (up to 58 mph on the Racine lakefront) combined with snow and sleet to bring down many trees and powerlines across the two counties. Nearly 34,000 customers were without electrical service or heat on the 9th. Some schools, factories, and government facilities were also closed. Huge waves of 10 to 12 feet pounded the lakeshore areas, resulting in beach/shoreline erosion. Also, large rocks and ice chunks were pushed by the waves onto nearby roads. The high winds even pushed a Racine police squad car sideways several feet on an icy road. At least 400 motor vehicle accidents were reported in these two counties due to the slippery roads. In downtown Racine, some siding on a 153 foot tall building was loosened by the winds, but no one was injured.



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### WISCONSIN, Southeast

**WIZ051-066-071>072      Fond Du Lac - Milwaukee - Racine - Kenosha**  
**26      0600CST      0      0      Record Warmth**  
**1900CST**

The combination of sunshine and dry southwest winds of 15 to 30 mph was enough to push temperatures to new record levels across parts of southeast and eastcentral Wisconsin. Milwaukee Mitchell Field peaked at 75 degrees, breaking the old daily record of 72 set in 1968. The city of Fond du Lac peaked at 72 degrees, breaking the old one of 70 set in 1968. Racine also set a new record of 76, while in Kenosha, a max of 74 broke the old record of 72. This was the first time this part of the state was in the 70s since October 13, 1997. In addition, Milwaukee set a new record high minimum of 57 at 0640 CST on the 26th, breaking the old record of 49 set back in 1945. Milwaukee also tied the record high minimum of 58 set in 1989 for the next day, March 27th.

<b>Dane County</b>									
<b>Madison</b>									
	<b>30</b>	<b>0600CST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>Urban/Sml Stream Fld</b>
	<b>31</b>	<b>1200CST</b>							
<b>Green County</b>									
<b>Monticello</b>									
	<b>30</b>	<b>0600CST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>Urban/Sml Stream Fld</b>
	<b>31</b>	<b>1200CST</b>							
<b>Iowa County</b>									
<b>Dodgeville</b>									
	<b>30</b>	<b>0600CST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10K</b>		<b>Urban/Sml Stream Fld</b>
	<b>31</b>	<b>1200CST</b>							
<b>Lafayette County</b>									
<b>Calamine</b>									
	<b>30</b>	<b>0600CST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>Urban/Sml Stream Fld</b>
	<b>31</b>	<b>1200CST</b>							
<b>Sauk County</b>									
<b>1 NE Hillpt to</b>									
<b>4 E Baraboo</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0600CST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>Urban/Sml Stream Fld</b>
	<b>31</b>	<b>1200CST</b>							
<b>Sheboygan County</b>									
<b>4 N Johnsonville to</b>									
<b>Sheboygan</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0600CST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>Urban/Sml Stream Fld</b>
	<b>31</b>	<b>1200CST</b>							
<b>Sheboygan County</b>									
<b>1 NW Elkhart Lake</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1810CST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>Hail (1.00)</b>
<b>Sheboygan County</b>									
<b>1.3 S Hingham</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1815CST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>Hail (0.75)</b>
<b>Washington County</b>									
<b>Kewaskum</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1818CST</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>Hail (1.00)</b>

A series of showers and thunderstorms dumped heavy rains and small hail (1/4 to 1/2 inch in diameter) on already saturated soils over southcentral, southeast, and eastcentral Wisconsin, resulting in scattered reports of urban and small stream flooding. Most of the storms occurred between 1500CST and 2345CST on the 30th. The storms became severe when they deposited large hail at a couple locations in Sheboygan county, and one in Washington county.

The flooding wasn't serious, but it did cause an inconvenience for many people. Rainfall totals between 0600CST on the 30th to 0600CST on the 31st were about 4 inches north of Johnsonville (Sheboygan Co.), 3.8 inches in Baraboo (Sauk Co.), 3.7 inches in Dodgeville (Iowa Co.), 3.6 inches in Portage (Columbia Co.), 3.5 inches in Sheboygan (Sheboygan Co.), 3.4 inches in Wisconsin Dells (Columbia Co.), 3.1 inches in Fond du Lac (Fond du Lac Co.), and 3.03 inches in Madison (Dane Co.). Totals of 2 to 3 inches fell over the southeast counties between Milwaukee and Kenosha.

Madison (Dane Co.) police reported minor urban street flooding and brief, scattered power outages during the evening of March 30th as thunderstorms rolled through the city. Lowlands flooded east of Monticello (Green Co.) as the Little Sugar river left its banks. Some homes and one business in Monticello reported minor flooding in basements. Some roads in Dodgeville (Iowa Co.) were impassable as water filled area streets. A couple gravel roads near Dodgeville had washouts due to the flooding waters. Observed rainfall rates were as much as 1 inch in 10 minutes in southwest Iowa county near Livingston. The ground was covered white with small hail in the Dodgeville area. Rising waters on the Pecatonica River in Lafayette county resulted in the closure of Ferndale Rd. north of Calamine, and County H near Blanchardville. West of Rock Springs (Sauk Co.), some roads were closed due to high water levels at the junction of Narrows Creek and the Baraboo River. Lowland flooding was reported along much of Narrows Creek and along the Baraboo River from Reedsburg (Sauk Co.) to east of the city of Baraboo. Manhole covers "popped"



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### WISCONSIN, Southeast

in Baraboo. A few motorists got stuck in high waters on Highway 154 west of Rock Springs. At Lakeland College north of Johnsonville (Sheboygan Co.), the heavy rains flooded the campus wastewater treatment building, submerged the pumps and motors and causing the entire system to shut down. This then resulted in a sewage backup problem, and classes were cancelled for one day. On the west side of the city of Sheboygan, up to 7 inches of water covered some roads.

Many of the mainstem rivers and other streams in southcentral, southeast, and eastcentral Wisconsin rose to bankfull levels or exceeded them by 1 to 3 feet due to the March 30-31 heavy rains on top of saturated soils. Although flooding was rated as minor, water levels remained at or near flood stage from the end of March through much of April. In fact, at some scattered spots, water levels remained high until May 11th!