



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 1996

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

NORTH DAKOTA, Central and West

NDZ001>053

Divide - Burke - Renville - Bottineau - Rolette - Towner - Cavalier - Pembina - Williams - Mountrail - Ward - Mchenry - Pierce - Benson - Ramsey - Walsh - Mckenzie - Dunn - Mercer - Oliver - Mclean - Sheridan - Wells - Eddy - Foster - Nelson - Grand Forks - Griggs - Steele - Traill - Golden Valley - Billings - Stark - Morton - Burleigh - Kidder - Stutsman - Barnes - Cass - Slope - Hettinger - Grant - Bowman - Adams - Sioux - Emmons - Logan - La Moure - Ransom - McIntosh - Dickey - Sargent - Richland

17	0430CST				0	0			Blizzard
18	1300CST								

A strong low pressure center located over the central plains combined with strong arctic high pressure moving south out of Canada to bring blizzard conditions to North Dakota. Snowfall amounts range from 8 inches at Williston in the northwest to 20 inches at Wahpeton in the southeast. Fargo and Bismarck set new records for 24 hr. snowfall, receiving 18 and 7.9 inches respectively. Winds gusting to 55 mph created 3 to 5 foot drifts in the central, while drifts up to 10 feet were found in the east. Law enforcement officials advised no travel and closed I-29 in North Dakota, I-94 from Bismarck to Fargo, and US Highway 2 from Grand Forks to Devils Lake. Many people who did not heed the travel warnings got stranded for several hours on the interstate and state highways. Fortunately no deaths were reported. Many schools and businesses closed on the 17th and did not re-open until a few days later. With temperatures dropping to 10 to 20 degrees below zero, wind chills varied from 60 to 80 below zero, snow removal was hampered with hydraulic and cooling systems freezing on snow plows. In Finley (Steele Co.) the water in the water tower froze. In Grafton (Walsh Co.), firemen had trouble fighting a fire due to the water freezing in the hoses before it could be applied to the fire. Mail service was disrupted statewide for the 17th and 18th. The cold also caused several water main breaks and minor power outages.

NDZ050

Mcintosh

26	0001CST				1	0			Extreme Windchill
	2359CST								

An 84 year old Lehr man died of exposure when he went to visit the grave of his wife. The man was found 1 mile from his house. Temperatures that day were around 20 below, and wind chills were estimated to be around 60 below. The man was not wearing a coat or gloves when he was found. M84OU

NDZ035

Burleigh

29	1200CST				1	0			Extreme Windchill
	1800CST								

A 57 year old Bismarck man died from a heart attack while operating a snow blower. The day before the man died, the Bismarck area received 5 inches of snow. On the day he died, high temperatures were in the teens below zero with wind chills from 40 to 60 below. M57OU