

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2011

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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### ILLINOIS, Northeast

(IL-Z003) WINNEBAGO, (IL-Z004) BOONE, (IL-Z005) MCHENRY, (IL-Z006) LAKE, (IL-Z008) OGLE, (IL-Z010) LEE, (IL-Z011) DE KALB, (IL-Z012) KANE, (IL-Z013) DU PAGE, (IL-Z014) COOK, (IL-Z019) LA SALLE, (IL-Z020) KENDALL, (IL-Z021) GRUNDY, (IL-Z022) WILL, (IL-Z023) KANKAKEE, (IL-Z032) LIVINGSTON, (IL-Z033) IROQUOIS, (IL-Z039) FORD

02/01/11 07:00 CST	2	0.53M	Blizzard
02/02/11 12:00 CST		0	

Direct Fatalities: M44OU, M69OU

A powerful and enormous winter storm moved across northern Illinois with blizzard conditions across much of the area which paralyzed the region. Light snow began falling across parts of northern Illinois during the morning hours of February 1st but the heavy snow associated with the main storm system spread north across central Illinois during the late morning hours of February 1st and then across northern Illinois by early afternoon. This snow quickly reduced visibilities to less than a mile and grew heavier by the evening rush hour, when several inches of snow had already accumulated. Winds also steadily increased during the afternoon hours with heavy snow and low visibilities creating blizzard conditions during the evening hours and lasting into the morning hours of February 2nd.

Thousands of motorists and their vehicles became stranded during the evening hours as conditions deteriorated and snow quickly accumulated. The National Guard was activated to assist stranded motorists traveling on interstates but large sections of interstates, including Interstate 80 and Interstate 39 were eventually closed. Many communities began assisting stranded motorists using plow trucks and many police officers began riding with plow truck drivers to respond to emergency calls because their cars were getting stuck in the snow. Many communities also had plow trucks escort ambulances and fire trucks. Other rescue personnel used snowmobiles to respond to emergency calls.

On Lake Shore Drive in downtown Chicago, a bus became stuck in the snow, which caused traffic to quickly back up in the northbound lanes. As heavy snow continued to fall, combined with winds gusting as high as 55 mph, an estimated 1,000 vehicles became stuck in deep snow and deeper snow drifts. By mid evening, most of the motorists stuck on Lake Shore Drive needed to be rescued and evacuated by emergency personnel. Over 200 motorists became stranded in Lake County with 30 cars stranded when a truck jackknifed near Route 45 and Illinois Highway 173. About 60 vehicles were stranded along a stretch of Route 47 in Kane County. Between 80 and 100 motorists were stranded along Busse Road in Elk Grove Village. Over 300 motorists needed assistance in Winnebago County, including 66 vehicles stuck in the snow. An additional 78 motorists needed assistance in Rockford, with 52 being stranded. Over 40 vehicles were found in ditches or left unoccupied in Boone County.

During the height of the storm from the evening of February 1st into the morning of February 2nd, many communities pulled their plow trucks off the roads out of concern for the safety of their drivers. Many communities declared roads closed to traffic with little hope of a rescue for anyone who ventured out into the blizzard and needed help. Whether roads were officially closed or not, most were impassible.

The high winds also blew down tree limbs and power lines causing numerous power outages. A building in Rochelle burned to the ground during the height of the blizzard but the cause was not known. The roof of a large indoor golf dome south of Frankfort was significantly damaged by the heavy snow. A piece of the roof blew off of Wrigley Field. A portion of a garden center roof collapsed under the weight of heavy snow in Naperville. Part of the roof of a church collapsed on Washington Boulevard in Chicago. On Sunday February 13th, a 10 foot section of brickwork on the parapet along the roof of a building collapsed on Westmore Avenue in Lombard. Heavy snow and ice slid into the parapet and knocked it down.

Snowfall removal costs including overtime for drivers, independent or private snow removal, was in the millions of dollars, per county. Many communities were seeking reimbursement of some of their costs from FEMA. Mail delivery and garbage collection was postponed in many areas on February 2nd.

Some of the highest snowfall totals from the blizzard include 21.1 inches five miles northwest of McHenry; 20.9 inches three miles southwest of Chicago Midway Airport; 20.8 inches two miles north of Spring Grove; 20.6 inches six miles northwest of St. Charles; 20.0 inches at Chicago O'Hare Airport; 20.0 inches in Antioch; 20.0 inches one mile west of Beach Park; 20.0 inches one mile northwest of Ottawa; 20.0 inches six miles west northwest of Marseilles; 19.0 inches five miles west of Hoffman Estates; 19.0 inches in Park Forest; 18.0 inches in Elk Grove Village; 18.0 inches two miles north of Waukegan; 18.0 inches in Sheridan; 18.0 inches in Paw Paw; 17.9 inches in Naperville; 17.7 inches in Oak Brook; 17.5 inches in Lake Zurich; 17.3 inches in Alsip; 17.1 inches Genoa; 17.0 inches Barrington; 17.0 inches in Elburn; 17.0 inches Lisle; 17.0 inches in Homer Glen; 17.0 inches in Joliet; 16.5 inches five miles west of Watseka; 16.3 inches at the National Weather Service in Romeoville; 16.0 inches in Chatsworth; 16.0 inches in Dwight; 16.0 inches in Chicago Ridge; 15.7 inches in DeKalb; 15.3 inches in Hebron; 15.3 inches near Pontiac; 15.0 inches two miles east northeast of Geneva; 15.0 inches three miles north of Byron; 15.0 inches in Piper City and 14.0 inches at Rockford Airport.

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Light snow fell across parts of northern Illinois on January 31st. Storm total amounts over the three day period from January 31st to February 2nd included 24.2 inches one and half miles west of Beach Park; 23.0 inches in Antioch; 21.7 inches three miles southwest of Chicago Midway Airport; 21.2 inches at Chicago O'Hare Airport; 17.1 inches at the National Weather Service office in Romeoville and 17.1 inches at Rockford Airport.

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**(IL-Z014) COOK**

	02/03/11 20:00 CST	1	0	Cold/Wind Chill
	02/04/11 09:00 CST		0	

Direct Fatalities: M80PH

By the morning of February 3rd, temperatures dropped below zero in many areas except downtown Chicago where temperatures were in the single digits. Many areas across north central Illinois measured temperatures between 10 below and 15 below zero. The morning of February 4th was slightly warmer, but still cold with temperatures mainly in the single digits. An 80 year old Chicago man died from cold exposure on February 4th.

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**(IL-Z003) WINNEBAGO**

	02/10/11 07:00 CST		0	Extreme Cold/Wind Chill
	02/10/11 09:00 CST		0	

Very cold air spread across the area on February 8th and persisted into the morning hours of February 11th. Low temperatures dropped below zero at most locations with the exception of downtown Chicago, which dropped to 1 degree above zero on the morning of February 10th. Low temperatures dropped to 20 below zero at many locations across north central Illinois on the morning of February 10th. These temperatures combined with southwest winds of 5 to 10 mph produced even colder wind chill values between 25 below and 30 below zero.

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**(IL-Z014) COOK**

	02/20/11 18:00 CST	1	0	Cold/Wind Chill
	02/21/11 09:00 CST		0	

Direct Fatalities: M70PH

A 70 year old Chicago man died in his home from hypothermia due to cold exposure. Low temperatures were in the lower to middle 20s.

### INDIANA, Northwest

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**(IN-Z001) LAKE, (IN-Z002) PORTER, (IN-Z010) NEWTON, (IN-Z011) JASPER, (IN-Z019) BENTON**

	02/01/11 12:00 EST		0	Blizzard
	02/02/11 11:00 EST		0	

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**(IN-Z001) LAKE, (IN-Z002) PORTER, (IN-Z010) NEWTON, (IN-Z011) JASPER, (IN-Z019) BENTON**

	02/01/11 12:00 CST		0.10M	Blizzard
	02/02/11 17:00 CST		0	

A powerful and enormous winter storm moved across northwest Indiana with blizzard conditions across much of the area which paralyzed the region. Heavy snow began falling during the early afternoon. This snow quickly reduced visibilities to less than a mile and grew heavier by the evening rush hour, when several inches of snow had already accumulated. Winds also steadily increased during the afternoon hours with heavy snow and low visibilities creating blizzard conditions during the evening hours and lasting into the afternoon hours of February 2nd.

Hundreds of motorists and their vehicles became stranded during the evening hours as conditions deteriorated and snow quickly accumulated. Many communities began assisting stranded motorists using plow trucks and many police officers began riding with plow truck drivers to respond to emergency calls because their cars were getting stuck in the snow. Many communities also had plow trucks escort ambulances and fire trucks. Other rescue personnel used snowmobiles to respond to emergency calls.

During the height of the storm from the evening of February 1st into the morning of February 2nd, many communities pulled their plow trucks off the roads out of concern for the safety of their drivers. Many communities declared roads closed to traffic with little hope of

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a rescue for anyone who ventured out into the blizzard and needed help. Whether roads were officially closed or not, most were impassible.

The high winds also blew down tree limbs and power lines causing numerous power outages. The roof of a steel company collapsed in Griffith due to the heavy snow. Mail delivery and garbage collection was postponed in many areas on February 2nd.

Some of the highest snowfall totals included 20.8 inches in Highland; 20.4 inches two miles west southwest of Schererville; 19.7 inches one mile southwest of DeMotte; 19.5 inches one mile east southeast of Portage; 19.0 inches two miles west southwest of Crown Point; 18.9 inches four miles northeast of Hebron; 17.0 inches four miles east of Chesterton; 15.3 inches in Lowell; 13.6 inches two miles northwest of Valparaiso and 10.4 inches in Rensselaer.