



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



December 1997

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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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

NONE REPORTED.

MARYLAND, Central

MDZ004>005

Frederick - Carroll

**27 1600EST
2000EST**

0 0

Snow

Low pressure developed rapidly along the southeast U.S. coast and raced northeast off of Cape Hatteras. As the low moved north, bands of light to moderate wet snow accumulated between 2 and 3 inches across north central Maryland during the late afternoon and early evening of the 27th. Most of the snow accumulated on grassy surfaces; however, many secondary roads became slushy and/or snow covered for a time.

MDZ002>003

Allegany - Washington

**29 2000EST
30 0000EST**

0 0 2K

Winter Storm

MDZ004>006-009>010

Frederick - Carroll - Northern Baltimore - Montgomery - Howard

**29 2100EST
30 0100EST**

0 0

Winter Weather

A fast-moving and rapidly deepening low pressure system raced from the South Carolina coast to east of New Jersey in eight hours. An area of moderate to occasionally heavy snow developed over western North Carolina during the morning and raced through western Virginia and Maryland during the afternoon and early evening. Accumulations ranged from 5 to 9 inches between the Blue Ridge and the Allegheny Plateau. Higher mountainous terrain received between 6 and 11 inches. Additional light snow continued over the far western portion of Allegany Co (MDZ002) into New Year's Eve.

One person died from a heart attack while shoveling the snow in Hagerstown (MDZ003) on the 30th.

Blowing and drifting snow on the 30th created some travel headaches, but problems were minimal since the storm occurred during a period of low traffic between the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Still, numerous nuisance accidents were reported, mainly on the 30th, across western Maryland. Allegheny Power reported between 750 and 1000 customers were without power due to storm-related damage.

East of the Blue Ridge, a mix of snow and sleet accumulated between 1 and 4 inches, with values increasing with elevation. Minor travel problems were noted through the morning of the 30th. In the interior suburbs of Washington and Baltimore, accumulations were an inch or less.

VIRGINIA, North

**VAZ025>026-029-
038>042-050>051**

Augusta - Rockingham - Page - Greene - Madison - Rappahannock - Fauquier - Loudoun - Orange - Culpeper

**27 1100EST
1900EST**

0 0

Snow

Low pressure developed rapidly along the southeast U.S. coast and raced northeast to Cape Hatteras. As it moved north, bands of light to moderate wet snow accumulated between 2 and 3 inches across portions of the western Virginia piedmont and central Shenandoah Valley during the afternoon of the 27th. Isolated locations, mainly at higher elevations in Augusta and Rockingham (VAZ025>026) Counties, received between 4 and 5 inches. Most of the snow accumulated on grassy surfaces; however, many secondary roads became slushy and/or snow covered for a time. Dozens of minor accidents were reported, but injuries were few and minor.

**VAZ021-025>031-036-
040>041**

Highland - Augusta - Rockingham - Shenandoah - Frederick - Page - Warren - Clarke - Nelson - Rappahannock - Fauquier

**29 1800EST
30 0000EST**

0 0

Winter Storm

**VAZ037>039-042-050-
052>053**

Albemarle - Greene - Madison - Loudoun - Orange - Prince William - Fairfax

**29 1900EST
2200EST**

0 0

Winter Weather

A fast-moving and rapidly deepening low pressure system raced from the South Carolina coast to east of New Jersey in eight hours. An area of moderate to occasionally heavy snow developed over western North Carolina and raced through western Virginia during the afternoon and early evening. Accumulations ranged from 4 to 8 inches between the Blue Ridge and the Shenandoah Mountain range; between 8 and 14 inches in Highland County. Higher elevations throughout western Virginia



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December 1997

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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

VIRGINIA, North

received generally between 10 and 16 inches of snow.

Blowing and drifting snow on the 30th created some travel headaches, but problems were minimal since the storm occurred during a period of low traffic between the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Accidents were few and far between, due to a combination of advanced warning and event time (a Monday evening).

East of the Blue Ridge, a mix of snow and sleet accumulated between 1 and 4 inches, with values increasing with elevation. Minor travel problems were noted through the morning of the 30th. In the interior suburbs of Washington, DC, accumulations were generally an inch or less.

WEST VIRGINIA, East

WVZ052>053

Berkeley - Jefferson

27	1600EST 2000EST	0	0	Snow
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Low pressure developed rapidly along the southeast U.S. coast and raced northeast off Cape Hatteras. As the low moved north, bands of light to moderate wet snow accumulated around 1 or 2 inches across northeastern West Virginia during the late afternoon and early evening of the 27th. Most of the snow accumulated on grassy surfaces; however, many secondary roads became slushy and/or snow covered for a time. Five accidents were reported along Interstate 81 in eastern Berkeley Co (WVZ052); injuries were minor.

WVZ048>055

Grant - Mineral - Hampshire - Morgan - Berkeley - Jefferson - Pendleton - Hardy

29 30	1900EST 0000EST	0	0	Winter Storm
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A fast-moving and rapidly deepening low pressure system raced from the South Carolina coast to east of New Jersey in eight hours. An area of moderate to occasionally heavy snow developed over western North Carolina during the morning and raced through eastern West Virginia during the afternoon and early evening. Across the eastern panhandle, accumulations ranged from 5 to 9 inches. Heavier snow fell in the Potomac Highlands, with totals ranging from 9 to 13 inches. Higher mountainous terrain received up to 15 inches. Additional light snow continued over the far western portion of Grant, Mineral, and Pendleton Cos (WVZ048>049-054) into New Year's Eve.

Blowing and drifting snow on the 30th created some travel headaches, but problems were minimal. However, a notable accident occurred outside of Martinsburg (WVZ052) when a tractor-trailer flipped along Interstate 81. The storm occurred during a period of low traffic volume between the Christmas and New Year's holidays.