

Ice Storm - February 21, 2013

A low pressure system moved slowly northeast from the southern Plains into western Missouri. A warm front extending east from the low pressure center lifted north across the Tennessee Valley. A large area of wintry precipitation developed ahead of the warm front.

Southeast Missouri: Damaging ice accumulations from one-quarter to one-half inch brought down tree limbs over most of southeast Missouri. The extreme southeast counties of New Madrid and Mississippi received only a trace to a tenth of an inch of ice, which accumulated mostly on elevated surfaces and lesser travelled roads. Short bursts of heavy sleet and freezing rain occurred in thunderstorms.

The heaviest ice accumulations and most widespread power outages occurred along and west of a line from Dexter (in Stoddard County) to Marble Hill (in Bollinger County). Roads were slick and very hazardous to the north and west of Sikeston in Scott County. Around Neelyville in Butler County, electrical transformers were exploding, and 15 to 20 foot tall trees were bending toward the ground. On the north side of Cape Girardeau, tree branches several inches in diameter were brought down. Accidents were reported on Interstate 55 in Cape Girardeau County.

Southern Illinois: The heaviest accumulations of sleet and freezing rain were over the Mississippi River counties, as well as an east to west band along Illinois Route 13 through the Harrisburg area. Those areas received one-half to one inch of sleet and/or about one-quarter inch of freezing rain.

Across the remainder of southern Illinois, sleet accumulations were less than one-half inch, and ice accumulations were under one-quarter inch. About one inch of sleet was reported at Carbondale, and three-quarters of an inch of sleet at Benton. One-quarter inch of icing was reported in Gallatin County. Roads were reported to be slick and very hazardous, mainly along and north of a line from Shawneetown to Harrisburg to Carbondale. Numerous accidents were reported in Gallatin and Franklin Counties. A brief period of heavy snow accumulated to a depth of about one-half to one inch along and west of a Mount Vernon to Carbondale line.