

2019 Annual Climate Summary

Top 5 Events

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM
Issued December 23, 2019 8:34 PM MDT



Los Alamos, NM
Jan 1, 2019
Courtesy of
@khammondnm

Winter in May – Moreno Valley
May 9-10, 2019
Courtesy of Mark Ronchetti



Dexter Tornado
March 12, 2019
Courtesy of Shani Pitzer



Near Logan
March 13, 2019



Dora, NM
May 27, 2019
Courtesy of Kerry Jones

Socorro, NM
November 28, 2019
Courtesy of Janus Zeal

2019 Annual Climate Summary

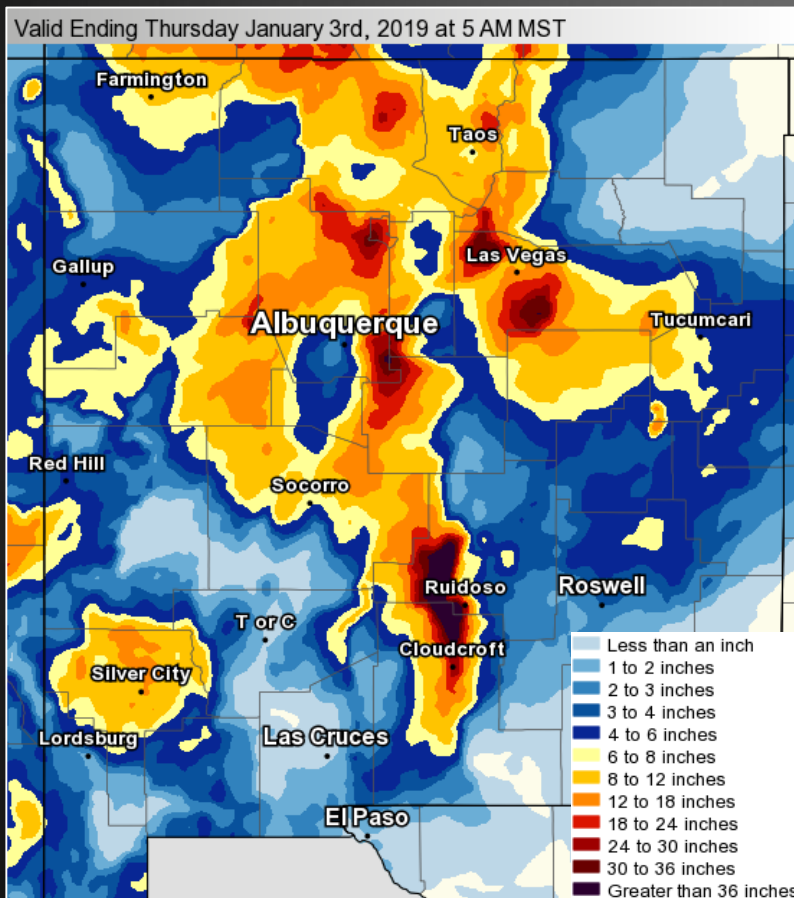
Top 5 Events: New Years Day Winter Storm (Ending January 1)

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Graphic below depicts snowfall totals including the Christmas 2018 and New Years 2019 storms



Station	Snowfall
Edgewood 11.4 SSW	39.7"
Tijeras 3.5 E	38.0"
Los Alamos 2.5 WSW	37.4"
Sandia Park 0.5 S	33.9"
Mountainair 2.2 N	27.1"
Sapello 5.1 WNW	23.2"
Glorieta 2.4 E	16.3"
Truchas 1.4 ESE	16.1"
Angel Fire 0.2 SSE	14.2"
Santa Fe	4.0-10.0"
Rio Rancho	6.0-9.0"
Albuquerque	2.0-10.0"



Los Alamos, NM | Jan 1, 2019
Courtesy of Twitter: @khammondnm



Very Cold

A third and final winter storm in a series impacted a large part of NM during the New Years holiday with widespread heavy snow, bitterly cold temperatures, and major travel impacts.

Very cold air was already in place across the state behind the second storm that exited the area after Christmas. The heaviest snow fell in the northern mountains. In fact, the Jemez Mountains picked up 36" just west of Los Alamos. Bitterly cold air in place along with snow and blowing snow resulted in major travel problems with several road closures. Fatal accidents were reported on U.S. 550 and Interstate 40 in the Albuquerque area along with roughly 66 injury accidents in the city. Frigid temperatures also resulted in damage to 40 schools in the Albuquerque area of which 25 experienced serious flood damage. Low temperatures on the day after New Years were the coldest since 2013 with many areas reporting readings below zero.

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Top 5 Events: Bomb Cyclone (March 12-13)

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What has been commonly referred to as a "bomb cyclone" is scientifically known as explosive cyclogenesis. The term cyclogenesis means the development or strengthening of an area of low pressure within the atmosphere, resulting in the formation of a cyclone (or storm system).

This storm was a state-wide event that saw impacts ranging from toppled trains, high profile vehicles, and major damage to homes in Dexter, NM. Fortunately, no fatalities were reported; only non-life threatening injuries.



Dexter Tornado Damage

On March 13, an organized line of severe thunderstorms, also known as a "squall line" moved across the state. This line of strong to severe storms crossed Chaves County, producing the Dexter tornado. These storms also produced pea to quarter size hail as well as strong gusts of wind.

Tornado Rating: EF-2

Estimated Peak Winds: 111-135 mph

More Details on this Event: [Hyperlink](#)

Las Vegas Wind Damage
Courtesy of City of Las Vegas

Location	Wind Gust (mph)
Oscuro	82
Cannon AFB	79
Clines Corners	79
Wagon Mound	78
Vaughn	72

While sustained winds of 40 - 50 mph are not unheard of across eastern NM, the duration of these high winds (lasted for several hours on March 13) was quite historic and damaging.



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Top 5 Events: Late Spring Winter Storm (May 9-10)



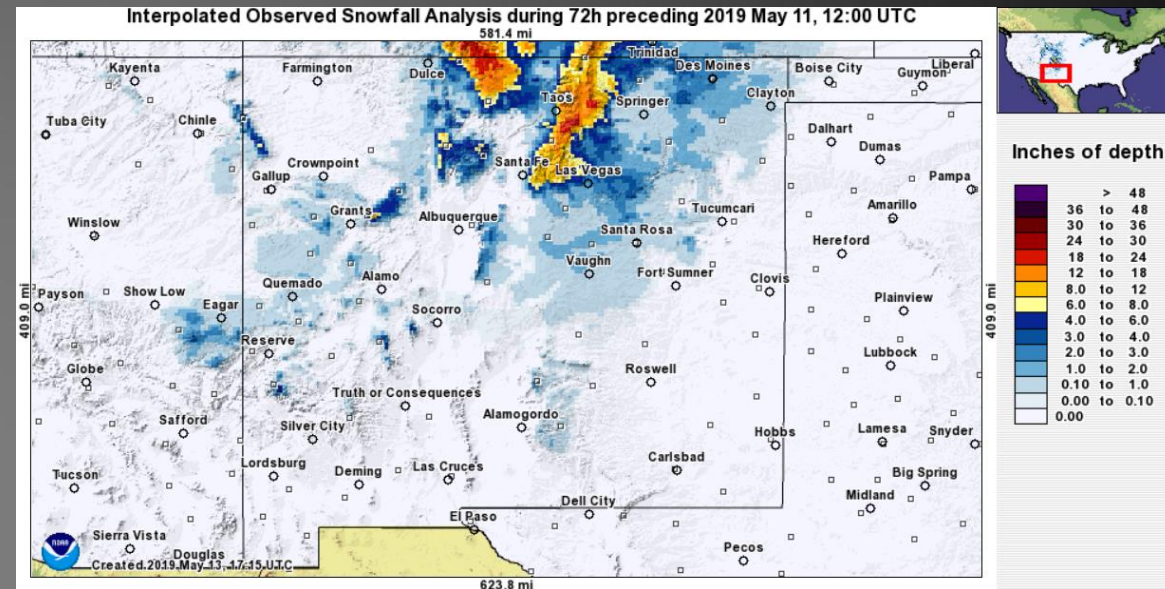
CoCoRaHS Snowfall Reports

Station	Snowfall
Angel Fire 0.2 SSE	19.0"
Taos 11.3 ESE	17.0"
Arroyo Seco 8 NE	17.0"
Eagle Nest	10.0"
Canon Plaza 11 NNW	10.0"
Rociada 8 SW	10.0"
Canjilon 7 E	8.0"
Tererro 6 WNW	6.0"
Llano Largo 5 SSE	6.0"
Chama	4.3"
Shady Brook 9 ENE	4.0"
Cuba 9 E	4.0"
Chama 5 NW	4.0"
Red River	4.0"
Arroyo Seco 1 E	3.3"
Jemez Springs 12 NNW	3.0"

An unseasonably cold upper level low pressure system drifted east through the Desert Southwest while a potent back door cold front moved southwest through eastern New Mexico on May 8-10, 2019.

Rain and high terrain snow spread east across northern New Mexico with heavy wet snow accumulations above 9,000 feet. One to two inches of snow around Taos was able to bring several large cottonwood trees down with even some damage to one home. The east slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains were pounded with eight to 20 inches of wet snow. Travel impacts were limited despite heavy snowfall in the high terrain.

Temperatures were even cold enough to support snowfall along the Interstate 25 corridor from Raton to Las Vegas and Santa Fe where one to two inches of wet snow fell. Folks along the east slopes of the Sandia Mountains also picked up a couple inches of wet snow on grassy and elevated surfaces.



Angel Fire
 May 9, 2019
 Courtesy of Spencer Harmon



Bobcat Pass
 May 9, 2019
 Courtesy of NMDOT

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Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM



Top 5 Events: Dora Tornado (May 26)

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A potent storm system impacted New Mexico, bringing several types of hazardous weather. This included downburst winds along the Continental Divide through the Rio Grande Valley and central mountain chain. Several areas experienced wind gusts in excess of 60 mph. Meanwhile, a sharp dryline setup over eastern NM with large hail, high winds, and tornados reported. A supercell thunderstorm moved through Union County during the late afternoon and produced at least two tornadoes and three inch hail. Several more tornadoes developed farther south, including a spectacular wedge tornado near Dora, NM. The graphic below is a quick summary of where the greatest tornado impacts were felt.



KYLE RUSSELL

Tornado near Dora, NM
Courtesy of Kyle Russell

SEVERE WEATHER STRIKES EASTERN NEW MEXICO

TORNADO DAMAGE 2 SE DORA

TORNADO 1

IMPACTED: 8 WSW CLAYTON
TO 5 NW CLAYTON

TORNADO 2

IMPACTED: 20 E ELKINS
TO 1 SW PEP

TORNADO 3

IMPACTED: 2 ESE DORA
TO 8 S ARCH

PHOTO BY KERRY JONES



3" Hail Southwest of Clayton, NM
Courtesy of Bret Henderickson

2019 Annual Climate Summary

Top 5 Events: Thanksgiving Winter Storm (November 27-28)

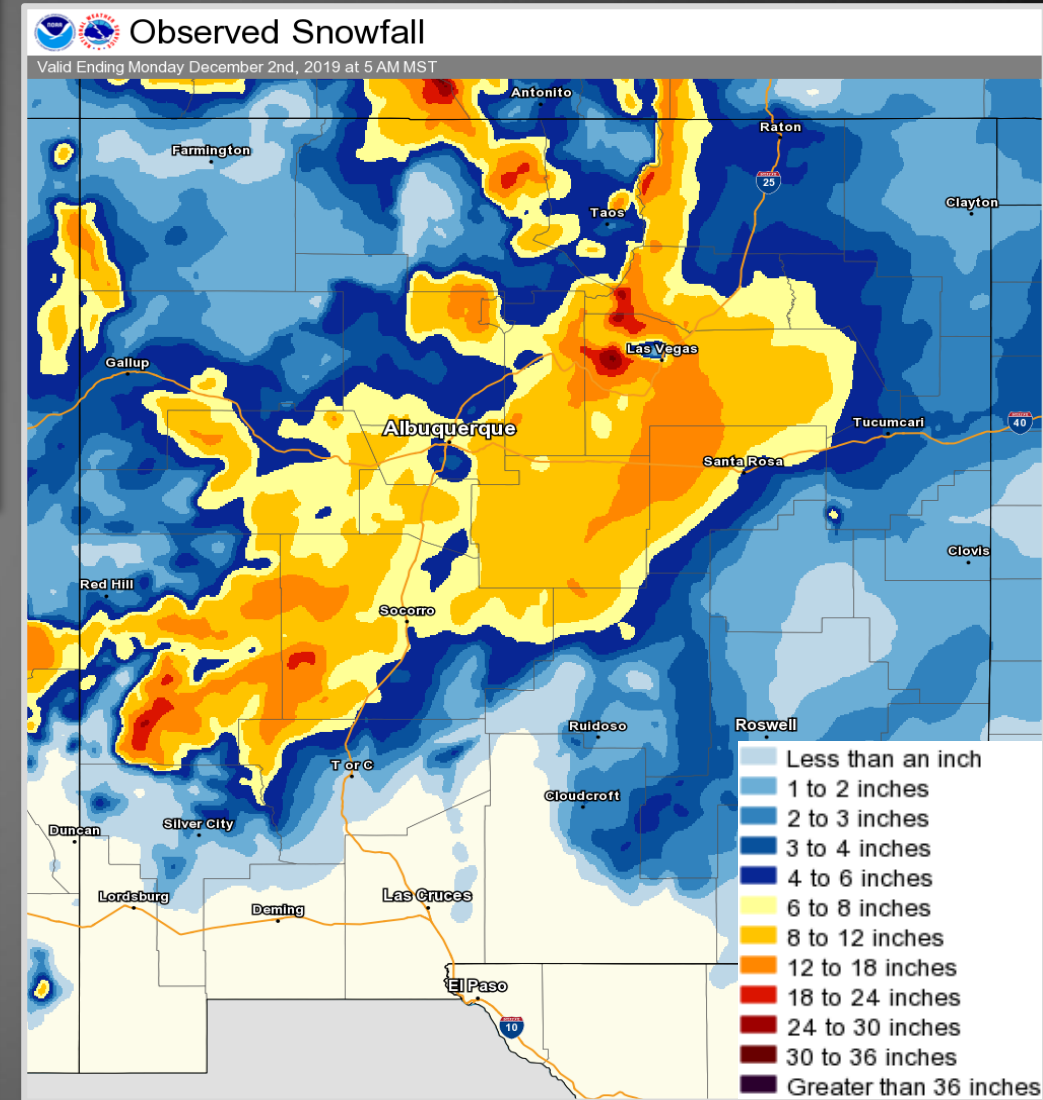
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Abundant subtropical moisture ahead of a Pacific system impacted the state Wednesday evening into Thanksgiving Day. With cold air already in place in central and northern NM, much of the precipitation fell in the form of snow, sleet and freezing rain. This resulted in widespread hazardous travel on the busiest travel day of the year. Another system on its heels swept west to east across the state, bringing additional snow to the high terrain.



Santa Fe, NM
November 28, 2019
Courtesy of @kirakita



Tres Piedras, NM
November 29, 2019
Courtesy of Mike Lewinski

Station	Snowfall (in.)
Sedillo 1 S	12.0
Sandia Park	10.4
Glorieta 2 E	9.5
Santa Fe 6 SSE	8.0
ABQ: Academy and Tramway	8.0
Valencia 1 E	7.8
ABQ: McMahon and Universe	7.0