

# 2020 Annual Climate Summary

## Top 5 Events

Weather Forecast Office  
Albuquerque, NM  
Issued January 2, 2021 5:51 AM MDT



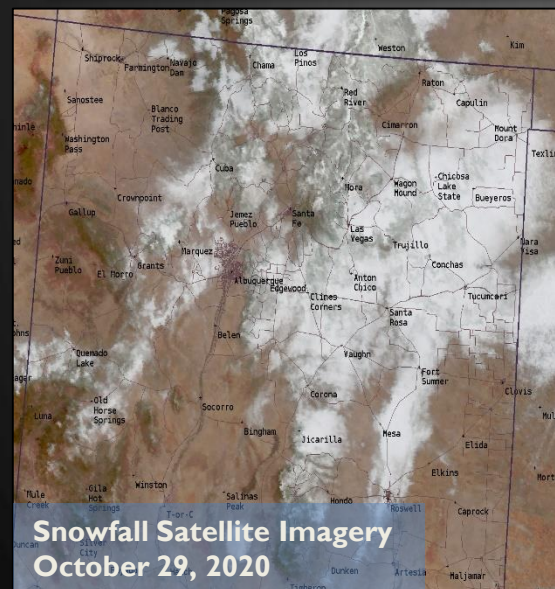
Ruidoso Snowfall  
February 11, 2020  
Courtesy of @DiscoverRuidoso

Downed Tree in ABQ City Park  
September 8, 2020  
Courtesy of Don Payason

Tijeras | April 13, 2020  
Courtesy of Jill Hankins-Bigley  
(Twitter)



Arroyo after Heavy Rainfall Near San Antonio, NM  
July 26, 2020 | Courtesy of Andy Sanchez(Facebook)





# 2020 Annual Climate Summary

## Top 5 Events: February Winter Storm ( February 10-12 )

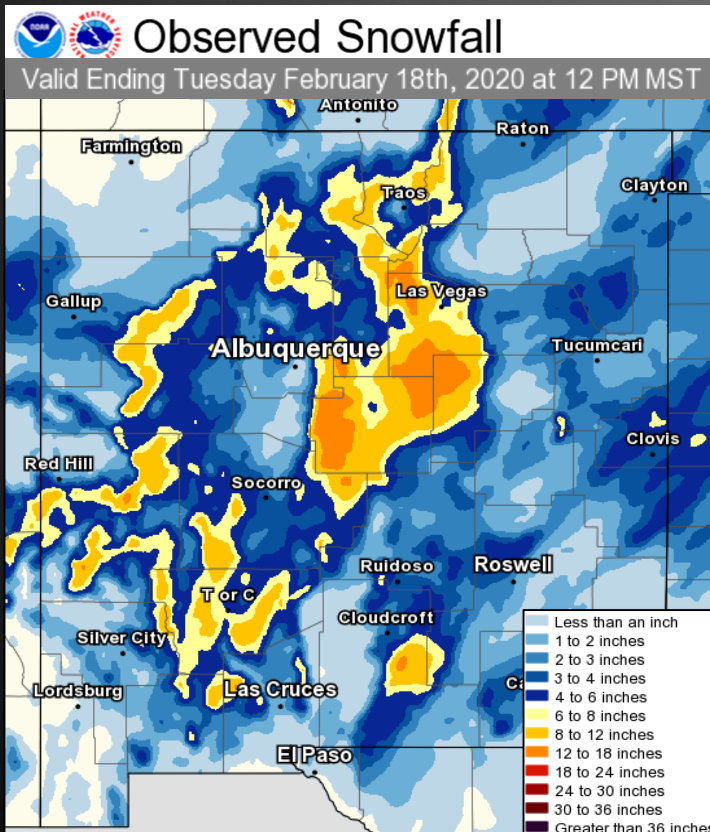
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A strong storm system trekked eastward from southern California toward the Land of Enchantment. Precipitation began over western New Mexico late on February 10<sup>th</sup>, while a backdoor cold front helped to further cool temperatures by the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>. Gap winds up to 50 mph were reported across the Albuquerque metro area.

Moderate to heavy snow fell along Interstate 40 near San Fidel, where three vehicular accidents and two roll-overs occurred. As depicted in the graphic below, the heaviest accumulations fell across the high terrain and within a corridor from the Sandia/Manzano Mts eastward into western San Miguel and Guadalupe counties.

Location	Snowfall (in.)
Edgewood 4.4 W	14.0
Datil 2.0 W	9.8
Rociada 5.6 E	8.8
Truchas 1.4 ESE	7.5
Santa Fe 9.6 S	6.0
Magdalena 2.4 NE	6.0



Sedillo, NM | ©Cheryl Stephens | February 11

# 2020 Annual Climate Summary

## Top 5 Events: Late Season Winter Storm ( April 12-13 )

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### CoCoRaHS Snowfall Reports

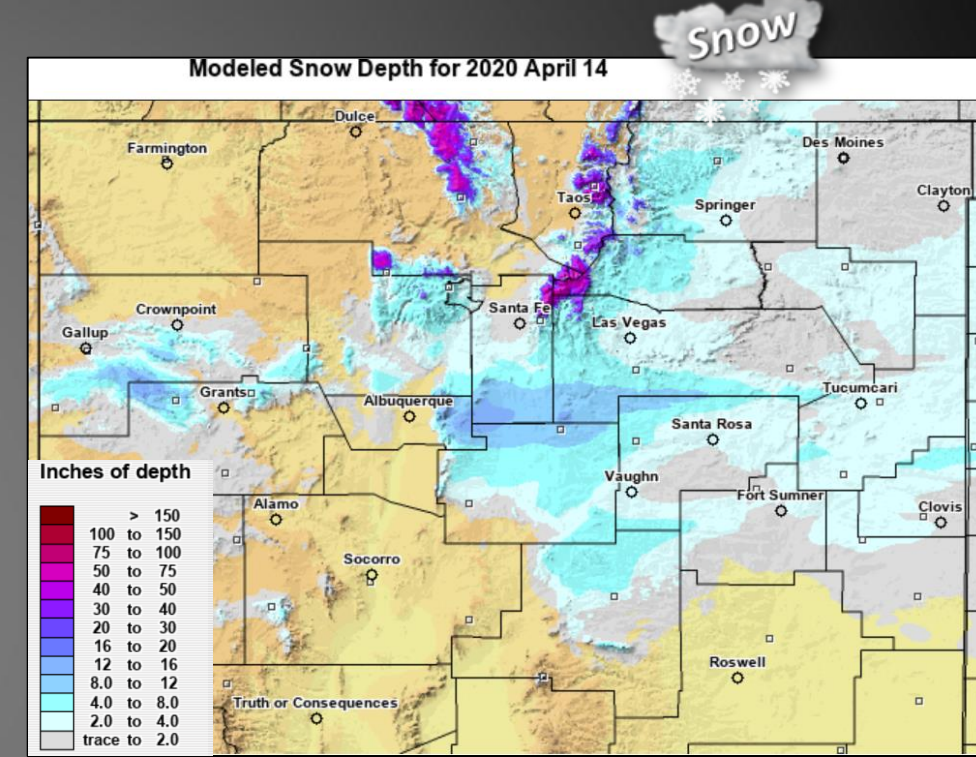
Station	Snowfall
Tijeras 5.1 E	10.0
Sandia Park	7.8
Edgewood 2.1 WNW	7.4
Sandia Park 4.7 ESE	7.0
Tijeras 3.5 E	7.0
Sandia Park 4.9 ESE	6.8
Edgewood 4.4 W	6.2
Cedar Crest	6.0
Edgewood 3.7 WSW	6.0
Truchas 1.4 ESE	5.8
Las Vegas 9.5 WSW	5.0
Edgewood 1.6 NW	5.0
Angel Fire 10.2 SSE	4.5
Ilfeld	4.0

An unseasonably cold storm system drifted east through the Desert Southwest while a potent backdoor cold front moved southwest through eastern New Mexico on April 12, 2020. A second storm system dove southward from the central Rockies on April 13.

With plenty of moisture and upslope flow in place across eastern New Mexico, this allowed snowfall to accumulate into the 3 to 6 inch range in the area from the Sandia and Manzano Mountains eastward to Clovis and Portales. Heavier amounts of 8 to 10 inches were reported near Edgewood and Sandia Park. Difficult driving conditions were reported along the Interstate 40 corridor. The image in the upper right shows the estimated snow depth on April 14, depicting the seasonal snowpack in the northern high terrain, and the fresh snow that fell in eastern New Mexico.

Meanwhile, the frigid nature of the arctic airmass led to record low maximum daytime temperatures and hard freezes overnight.

**Bobcat Pass**  
**April 13, 2020**  
**Courtesy of NMDOT**



### I-40 @ Clines Corners

4/13/2020 12:05 AM MTZ



**Very Cold**

Location	Record Low Max Temp for April 13 <sup>th</sup> (F)
Clayton Municipal Air Park	27
Las Vegas Municipal Airport	27
Ruidoso Sierra Blanca Regional Airport	39
Santa Fe County Municipal Airport	32
Tucumcari Municipal Airport	35



# 2020 Annual Climate Summary

## Top 5 Events: July Severe and Flash Flood Events ( July 24-26 )

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A strong plume of monsoon moisture migrated northward into New Mexico and set the stage for slow-moving thunderstorms and localized flash flooding during the July 24-26<sup>th</sup> period. A severe microburst produced wind gusts of 68 mph at the Roswell Airport on Friday. The winds downed power lines/poles, damaged roofs, fences and trees in the area. Meanwhile, flash flooding was reported near Lemitar that washed a truck into an arroyo. Fortunately, no injuries were reported.

High pressure drifted over West Texas beginning July 25<sup>th</sup>. This kept the threat for slow-moving storms to track across areas with previously saturated soils. Impressive rainfall amounts of 3-5" were reported for Saturday and Sunday at various locations across Socorro County. Flash flooding around San Antonio resulted in the closure of U.S. Highway 380. Bloomfield and Aztec also experienced local flash flooding, including minor damage to homes and several road closures.

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, strong thunderstorms near the New Mexico/Arizona border produced a brief funnel cloud near El Malpais National Monument.

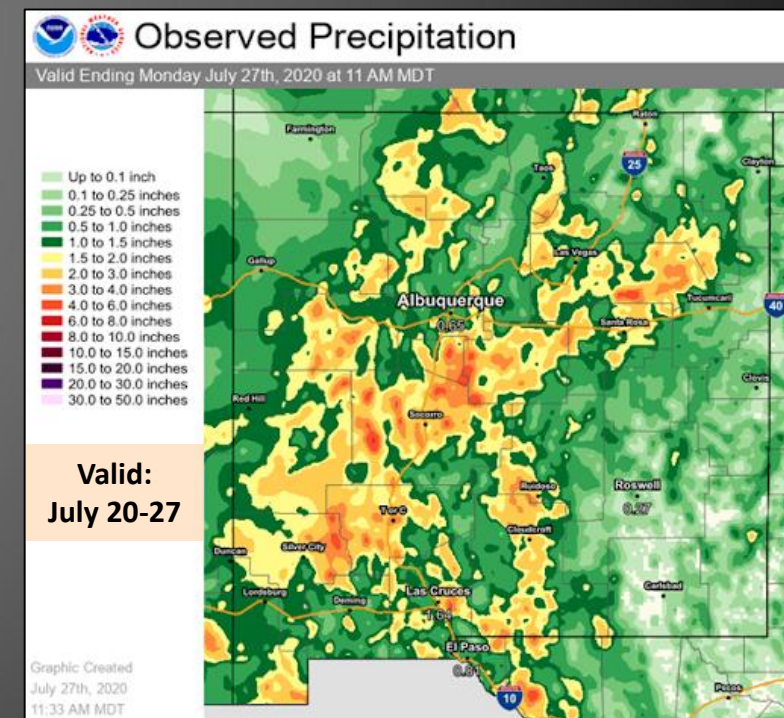
Station	July 20-27 Precip
Ruidoso 1.4 SSW	3.02
Capitan 4.3 WSW	2.77
Los Lunas 3.5 E	2.64
Nogal 4.6 SSE	2.55
Chama 12.9 SE	2.34
San Antonio 7.4 ESE	2.17
Los Lunas 3.3 ESE	2.11
Belen 9.3 E	2.06
Albuquerque 9.3 NW	2.02



El Malpais Funnel Cloud  
July 26, 2020  
Courtesy of Ryan Lundquist  
(Twitter)



Wind Damage to Power Lines  
along East Hobson Road in  
Roswell, NM | July 25, 2020  
Courtesy of Jim Tucker





# 2020 Annual Climate Summary

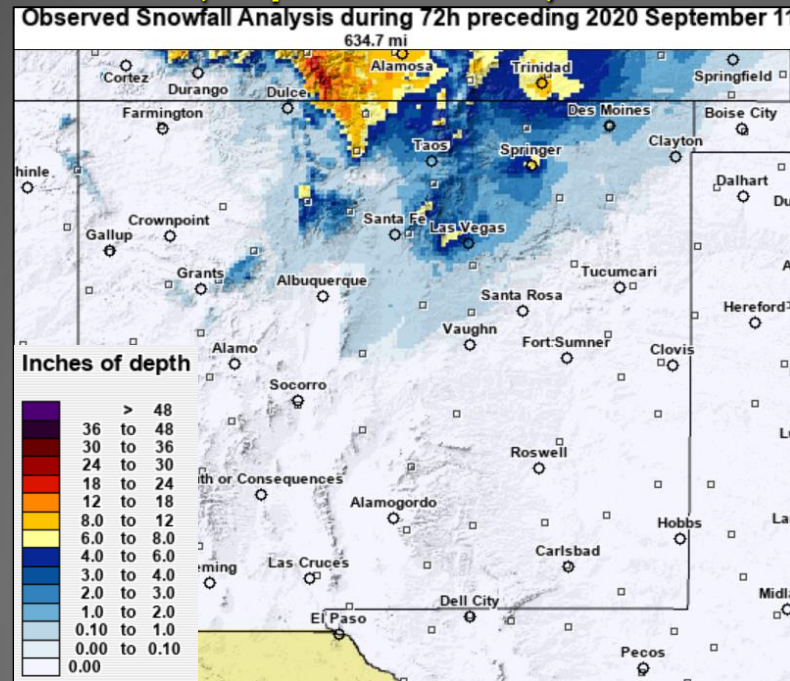
## Top 5 Events: From One Extreme to Another (September 6-9)

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Station	Snowfall
Springer	5.0
Chama 12.3 SSE	4.0
Chama 12.9 SE	3.6
Angel Fire 10.2 SSE	3.5
Raton 1.0 N	3.5
Chacon 2.3 ENE	3.4
Springer 11.7 W	3.3
Arroyo Hondo 4.8 WSW	3.1
Angel Fire	3.0
Ocate 3.7 W	3.0
Truchas 1.4 ESE	2.9
Sapello 5.1 WNW	2.5

Station	Record Low Max Temp Sept 9th (F)
Albuquerque Int'l Airport	47
Clayton Air Park	39
Clovis Municipal Airport	42
Farmington Regional Airport	54
Roswell Industrial Air Park	47
Ruidoso Sierra Blanca Regional Airport	36
Taos Municipal Airport	43
Tucumcari Municipal Airport	45



Wind Damage at Jefferson MS – Albuquerque  
September 8, 2020 | Courtesy of Brian Guyer



Record-breaking heat over Labor Day weekend turned quickly into heavy snowfall, strong winds, and cold temperatures as a powerful storm system made its way southward over the Rocky Mountains.

**Winds:** Travel impacts were noted on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> near Roswell as U.S. Highway 285 was briefly closed due to blowing dust. In addition, damaging winds impacted the Sandia / Manzano Mountains and the Rio Grande Valley on the same day, where widespread 70 to 90 mph gusts were reported! The Sunport clocked 71 mph wind gusts (the strongest canyon winds since 1987), while a peak gust of 89 mph was reported at the Sandia Peak Tramway. Roof damage was observed across the metro area, along with downed trees, power lines and fences. In fact, thousands of residents were left without power for three days following the event!

**Snowfall:** Totals ranged from 2-6 inches across the northern mountains to 1-2 inches across the lower elevations. The last storm to bring snow to northern New Mexico this early in the season was Sept. 17, 1971!

**Cold:** Record minimum and maximum temperatures were set across the area, literally a few days following the record highs!



# 2020 Annual Climate Summary

## Top 5 Events: Historic October Winter Storm (October 25-28)

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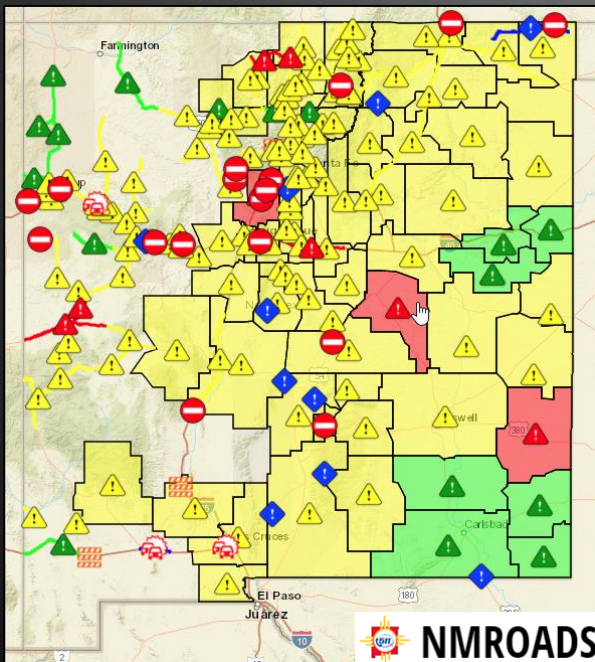


A robust Pacific storm brought yet another round of extreme weather to much of northern and central NM in late October, with record-breaking snowfall, record highs followed by record cold, and damaging winds.

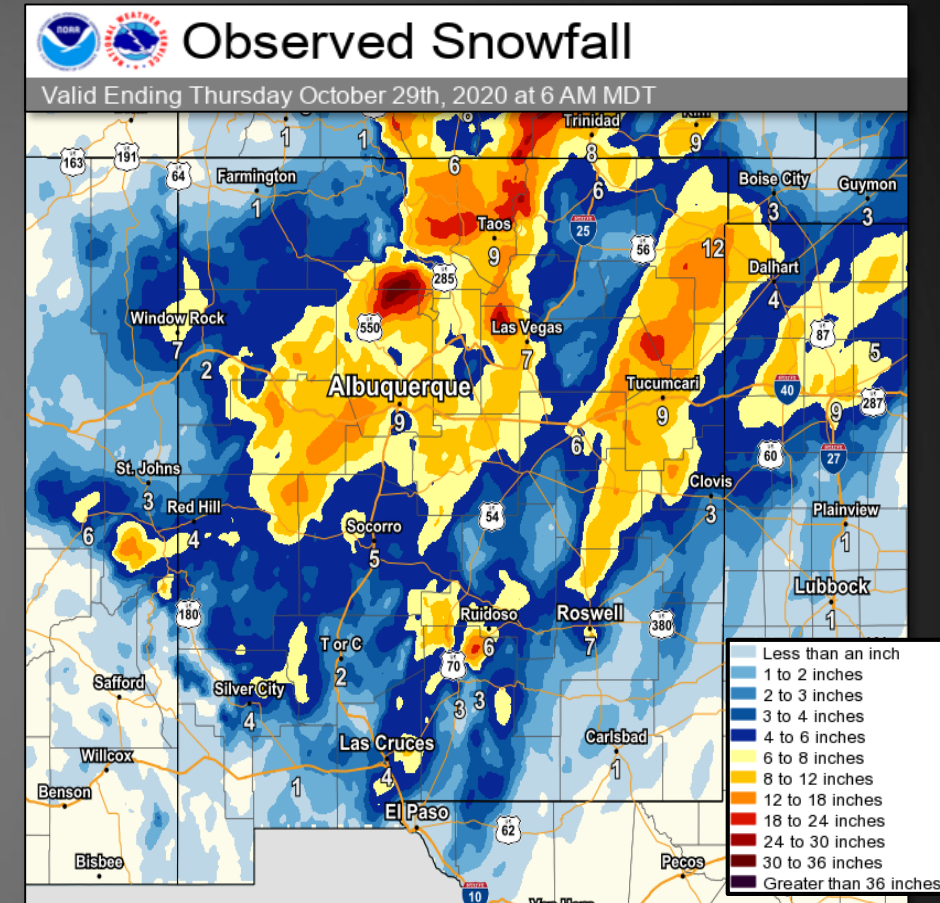
**Wind:** On October 25<sup>th</sup>, a peak wind gust of 71 mph was reported with virga near Farmington. On the same day, a 30-inch diameter tree and several power lines were toppled near Ruidoso.

**Snowfall:** A rare Blizzard Warning was issued for parts of northeast NM on the morning of October 28<sup>th</sup> with numerous reports of deep snow drifts and impossible travel conditions. Snow totals approached two feet in the northern high terrain, an impressive 8 to 12 inches in the ABQ metro area, and widespread 6 to 12 inches across the eastern plains. Snow drifts of one to four feet were reported in Union, Harding, Quay and eastern San Miguel counties due to the heavy snow and strong winds. This resulted in the closure of U.S. Highway 56.

**Sizzling to Freezing:** Record high temps (in the 90s at Roswell) on October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> were replaced with record cold just a few days later. In fact, highs were 15 to 25 degrees colder than previously held records for October 26<sup>th</sup>. For example, the max reading at Tucumcari was 28 degrees, shattering the record of 50 degrees.



Map of Road Closures and Travel Impacts  
October 27, 2020 | Courtesy of NM Roads



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