



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



February 1998

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Injured	Property Damage	Crops	Character of Storm
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NORTH DAKOTA, Central and West

NDZ001>005-009>013-017>021-031>034-040-042>045 Divide - Burke - Renville - Bottineau - Rolette - Williams - Mountrail - Ward - Mchenry - Pierce - Mckenzie - Dunn - Mercer - Oliver - Mclean - Golden Valley - Billings - Stark - Morton - Slope - Grant - Bowman - Adams - Sioux

25	1600CST	0	5	200K	Blizzard
28	2300CST				

The first major winter storm to hit North Dakota in the 97/98 winter season waited until the last few days of February. A Colorado low pressure system brought a three day blizzard to western and north central North Dakota. Five injuries were reported and all were due to vehicular accidents in blowing snow and poor visibilities. Icy power lines combined with wind gusts over 45 mph dropped power poles in many counties. Numerous power outages were reported from Dickinson to Williston to Minot to Bottineau, especially in rural areas. One estimate had 3,500 rural electric customers without power at one time. Some areas near Newtown, Sherwood, Mohall and Landsford were without power for 70 hours. The strong winds caused 20 foot snow drifts in Beach which stranded 200 truck drivers and numerous other travellers. Interstates and highways were blocked due to snow and low visibilities. An estimated 100 people had to be rescued by emergency response officials during the storm. Blizzard warnings were in effect for 60 hours. Most schools and businesses were closed during this storm. The highest snowfall report was 29 inches in Westhope, other reports included 23 inches in Minot, 18 inches in Williston, and 15 inches in Dickinson. Lightning was reported with the snow in Minot on Wednesday, February 25.