

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2016

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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NORTH DAKOTA, Central and West

(ND-Z004) BOTTINEAU, (ND-Z005) ROLETTE, (ND-Z012) MCHENRY, (ND-Z013) PIERCE, (ND-Z023) WELLS, (ND-Z025) FOSTER

12/05/16 13:00 CST	0	Heavy Snow
12/06/16 00:00 CST	0	

(ND-Z001) DIVIDE, (ND-Z002) BURKE, (ND-Z003) RENVILLE, (ND-Z004) BOTTINEAU, (ND-Z005) ROLETTE, (ND-Z009) WILLIAMS, (ND-Z010) MOUNTRAIL, (ND-Z011) WARD, (ND-Z012) MCHENRY, (ND-Z013) PIERCE, (ND-Z017) MCKENZIE, (ND-Z018) DUNN, (ND-Z019) MERCER, (ND-Z020) OLIVER, (ND-Z021) MCLEAN, (ND-Z022) SHERIDAN, (ND-Z023) WELLS, (ND-Z025) FOSTER, (ND-Z031) GOLDEN VALLEY, (ND-Z032) BILLINGS, (ND-Z033) STARK, (ND-Z034) MORTON, (ND-Z035) BURLEIGH, (ND-Z036) KIDDER, (ND-Z037) STUTSMAN, (ND-Z045) SIOUX, (ND-Z046) EMMONS, (ND-Z047) LOGAN, (ND-Z048) LA MOURE, (ND-Z050) MCINTOSH, (ND-Z051) DICKEY

12/05/16 16:00 CST	0	Blizzard
12/07/16 05:00 CST	0	

A strong upper level trough deepened over North Dakota before closing off and nearly stalling, which was poorly projected by forecast models until the day of the event, while a strong cold front swept through the region. Snow began to fall over many portions of North Dakota on the morning of December 5, with several inches of accumulation noted by mid-day over many locations. As the cold front swept through, winds greatly increased from northwest to southeast with visibility rapidly deteriorating as wind gusts increased to around 50 mph over much of the area. Many roads across the region were closed or blocked. Falling snow started to taper off very gradually from west to east on December 6, though strong winds continued to bring widespread blowing snow and blizzard conditions to many locations. By the late evening of December 6 conditions had improved in western North Dakota. The blizzard continued over much of the central part of the state and the James River Valley into the morning of December 7. Multiple days passed before some roads, particularly in and near the upper James River Valley, were opened.

(ND-Z048) LA MOURE, (ND-Z050) MCINTOSH, (ND-Z051) DICKEY

12/25/16 09:00 CST	2M	Ice Storm
12/26/16 00:00 CST	0	

(ND-Z001) DIVIDE, (ND-Z002) BURKE, (ND-Z003) RENVILLE, (ND-Z004) BOTTINEAU, (ND-Z005) ROLETTE, (ND-Z009) WILLIAMS, (ND-Z010) MOUNTRAIL, (ND-Z011) WARD, (ND-Z012) MCHENRY, (ND-Z013) PIERCE, (ND-Z017) MCKENZIE, (ND-Z018) DUNN, (ND-Z019) MERCER, (ND-Z020) OLIVER, (ND-Z021) MCLEAN, (ND-Z022) SHERIDAN, (ND-Z023) WELLS, (ND-Z025) FOSTER, (ND-Z031) GOLDEN VALLEY, (ND-Z032) BILLINGS, (ND-Z033) STARK, (ND-Z034) MORTON, (ND-Z035) BURLEIGH, (ND-Z036) KIDDER, (ND-Z037) STUTSMAN, (ND-Z040) SLOPE, (ND-Z041) HETTINGER, (ND-Z042) GRANT, (ND-Z043) BOWMAN, (ND-Z044) ADAMS, (ND-Z045) SIOUX, (ND-Z046) EMMONS, (ND-Z047) LOGAN, (ND-Z048) LA MOURE, (ND-Z050) MCINTOSH, (ND-Z051) DICKEY

12/25/16 12:00 CST	0	Blizzard
12/26/16 14:00 CST	0	

A potent upper level wave moved from the eastern shores of Russia, across the Pacific, and into the western United States where it strengthened into a potent storm which lifted into the Northern Plains. Snow developed over western and central North Dakota during the early portion of December 25, while freezing rain developed in the warmer air over the southern James River Valley. Cold air wrapped into the system through the day which lead to strong winds and a widespread blizzard. Most roads were closed or blocked throughout the state of North Dakota by the morning of December 26. Over the southern James River Valley where freezing rain fell, widespread power outages occurred as many power poles broke, including primary and secondary feeds. Some smaller communities went without power until December 29.