A strong cold front pushed through western and central North Dakota during the evening and nighttime hours of January 13 into the early morning of January 14. Damaging winds developed in the wake of the cold front as cold air pushed in. Some rain and snow showers also developed, which aided in strong winds aloft mixing down to the surface, especially over northwest North Dakota. Multiple occurrences of damage from the strong winds were reported. Many places had 80 mph wind gusts with the highest being 93 mph at the Williston Airport in Williams County.

A deep low pressure system that moved from Saskatchewan towards Ontario pushed a cold front through the Northern Plains. This led to strong northwest winds developing over the region, with the strongest winds occurring over northwest into central North Dakota. The strongest wind gust reported was 63 mph at the Minot Airport in Ward County.