

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2018

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

(AL-Z023) TUSCALOOSA, (AL-Z024) JEFFERSON

01/16/18 12:00 CST	0	Drought
01/31/18 23:59 CST	0	

Below normal rainfall over portions of west central Alabama during December 2017 continued into January 2018, resulting in worsening drought conditions this area.

(AL-Z029) RANDOLPH, (AL-Z037) TALLAPOOSA, (AL-Z038) CHAMBERS, (AL-Z040) DALLAS, (AL-Z041) AUTAUGA, (AL-Z042) LOWNDES, (AL-Z043) ELMORE, (AL-Z044) MONTGOMERY, (AL-Z045) MACON, (AL-Z046) BULLOCK, (AL-Z047) LEE, (AL-Z048) RUSSELL

01/16/18 18:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
01/17/18 05:00 CST	0	

During the morning of January 16th, a band of light snow moved into Northwest Alabama, and then progressed southward towards the I-20 corridor during the afternoon as it trended toward a weakened state. Due to limited moisture content, snowfall amounts were less than one inch for areas along and north of I-20. An upstream 500mb trough continued to dig southward, with a lobe of energy and associated swath of higher moisture content that would move across the southern portions of Central Alabama, especially along the I-85 corridor. For these areas, between two and four inches of snow fell during the evening of January 16th and into the early-morning hours of the 17th.

(AL-Z015) WALKER, (AL-Z017) BLOUNT, (AL-Z018) ETOWAH, (AL-Z019) CALHOUN, (AL-Z020) CHEROKEE, (AL-Z022) PICKENS, (AL-Z025) SHELBY, (AL-Z026) ST. CLAIR, (AL-Z027) TALLADEGA, (AL-Z034) BIBB, (AL-Z045) MACON, (AL-Z046) BULLOCK, (AL-Z048) RUSSELL, (AL-Z049) PIKE, (AL-Z050) BARBOUR

01/23/18 12:00 CST	0	Drought
01/31/18 23:59 CST	0	

Monthly rainfall totals one-third of normal in January brought worsening drought conditions across all of Central Alabama. The driest areas were along the I-20 corridor and across the southeast counties.

ALABAMA, North

(AL-Z001) LAUDERDALE, (AL-Z002) COLBERT, (AL-Z003) FRANKLIN, (AL-Z004) LAWRENCE, (AL-Z005) LIMESTONE, (AL-Z006) MADISON, (AL-Z007) MORGAN, (AL-Z008) MARSHALL, (AL-Z009) JACKSON, (AL-Z010) DEKALB, (AL-Z016) CULLMAN

01/01/18 00:00 CST	0	Cold/Wind Chill
01/02/18 09:00 CST	0	

A bitterly cold air mass overspread the Tennessee Valley on the morning of the 1st into the 2nd. North winds of 10 to 20 mph at times combined with very cold temperatures in the single digits and teens to produce wind chills of zero to 10 below.

(AL-Z006) MADISON, (AL-Z009) JACKSON, (AL-Z010) DEKALB

01/08/18 02:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
01/08/18 11:00 CST	0	

Light freezing rain produced ice accumulations of one tenth of an inch or less in northeast Alabama. The ice caused hazardous travel conditions.

(AL-Z001) LAUDERDALE, (AL-Z002) COLBERT, (AL-Z003) FRANKLIN, (AL-Z004) LAWRENCE, (AL-Z005) LIMESTONE, (AL-Z006) MADISON, (AL-Z007) MORGAN, (AL-Z008) MARSHALL, (AL-Z009) JACKSON, (AL-Z010) DEKALB, (AL-Z016) CULLMAN

01/16/18 05:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
01/16/18 18:00 CST	0	

An Arctic front brought a couple of bands of light snow to north Alabama during the morning into the mid afternoon hours of the 16th.

(AL-Z001) LAUDERDALE, (AL-Z002) COLBERT, (AL-Z003) FRANKLIN, (AL-Z004) LAWRENCE, (AL-Z005) LIMESTONE, (AL-Z006) MADISON, (AL-Z007) MORGAN, (AL-Z008) MARSHALL, (AL-Z009) JACKSON, (AL-Z010) DEKALB, (AL-Z016) CULLMAN

01/16/18 20:00 CST	0	Cold/Wind Chill
01/17/18 11:00 CST	0	

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(AL-Z009) JACKSON, (AL-Z010) DEKALB				
	01/17/18 05:00 CST		0	Extreme Cold/Wind Chill
	01/17/18 09:00 CST		0	

Temperatures falling into the lower teens combined with north winds lowered wind chills into the zero to 10 below zero range for most areas during the early morning hours of the 17th. After sunrise, north winds increased in northeast Alabama with sustained winds of 10-20 mph and gusts over 30 mph. This resulted in wind chills dropping into the 10 to 15 below zero range for a few hours.

ALABAMA, Southeast

(AL-Z065) COFFEE, (AL-Z066) DALE, (AL-Z067) HENRY, (AL-Z068) GENEVA, (AL-Z069) HOUSTON				
	01/16/18 00:00 EST		0	Drought
	01/31/18 23:59 EST		0	

D2 drought conditions spread across southeast Alabama during the week of 1/16/18 and continued into February.

(AL-Z065) COFFEE, (AL-Z066) DALE, (AL-Z067) HENRY, (AL-Z068) GENEVA, (AL-Z069) HOUSTON				
	01/17/18 03:00 EST		0	Winter Weather
	01/17/18 07:00 EST		0	

Snow and sleet fell across the tri-state area on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 with some areas in southeast Alabama receiving around an inch of snow and sleet. This was the second winter weather event for the tri-state area in two weeks! Unlike the previous event on January 3 where the snow/sleet/freezing rain impacted the Florida Big Bend and south central GA, the Wiregrass region of Southeast Alabama, Southwestern Georgia, and portions of the Florida Panhandle received the frozen precipitation during this event. Another key difference with this event that were the warm temperatures during the lead up to the event, which affected the breadth of storm impacts across affected areas. Bitter cold air was already in place several days in advance across the region leading up to the January 3rd event, yielding greater impacts on both road and elevated surfaces alike. Above average highs remained in place region-wide January 7-12, with highs near 70 degrees and overnight lows remaining above freezing. Highs in the 50s and 60s were common in the immediate days leading up to January 17th. This period of warm weather limited impacts to elevated surfaces, such as bridges and overpasses, across the western half of the area where the precipitation band and cold air were coupled. A warm nose above the surface across the Florida Big Bend and extreme southern Georgia prevented a changeover from rain to wintry precipitation, before dry air eroded the precipitation band away over the Suwanee Valley. Bitter cold set in across the entire region thereafter, subjecting people to dangerous wind chills and a hard freeze on the night of the 17th. Cold overnight lows persisted on the 18th before a quick warmup trend commenced for the end of the week and into the weekend.

ALABAMA, Southwest

(AL-Z052) WASHINGTON, (AL-Z053) CLARKE, (AL-Z054) WILCOX, (AL-Z057) BUTLER, (AL-Z058) CRENSHAW				
	01/16/18 21:00 CST		0	Winter Storm
	01/17/18 06:00 CST		0	

(AL-Z055) MONROE, (AL-Z056) CONECUH, (AL-Z060) COVINGTON, (AL-Z261) MOBILE INLAND, (AL-Z262) BALDWIN INLAND, (AL-Z263) MOBILE CENTRAL, (AL-Z264) BALDWIN CENTRAL, (AL-Z266) BALDWIN COASTAL				
	01/16/18 22:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	01/18/18 04:00 CST		0	

Another winter weather event occurred across the area on the 16th into the 17th across the Gulf Coast. This marks only the 2nd time in recorded history that two measurable snow events occurred in one winter in Mobile. With low temperatures in the 20s, the winter accumulation resulted in very hazardous traveling conditions, particularly over bridges and overpasses. Several roads were closed throughout the area, including the I-10 Bayway over Mobile Bay.