



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



April 2003

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Crops	Character of Storm
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LAKE HURON

LHZ442	Hbr Beach To Pt Sanilac Mi								
Richmondville to Port Sanilac	20	1525EST			0	0			Marine Hail (0.75)
LHZ463	Lh Hbr Beach To Pt Sanilac 5Nm Offshore To Intl Border								
Richmondville to Port Sanilac	20	1525EST			0	0			Marine Hail (0.75)
LHZ464	Lh Pt Sanilac To Pt Huron 5Nm Offshore To Intl Border								
Port Sanilac to Lexington	20	1525EST			0	0			Marine Hail (0.75)
LHZ443	Pt Sanilac To Pt Huron Mi								
Port Sanilac to Lexington	20	1525EST			0	0			Marine Hail (0.75)
LHZ464	Lh Pt Sanilac To Pt Huron 5Nm Offshore To Intl Border								
Port Huron	20	1630EST			0	0			Marine Tstm Wind (EG60)
LHZ443	Pt Sanilac To Pt Huron Mi								
Port Huron	20	1630EST			0	0			Marine Tstm Wind (EG60)
LHZ464	Lh Pt Sanilac To Pt Huron 5Nm Offshore To Intl Border								
Port Huron	20	1730EST			0	0			Marine Tstm Wind (EG48)
LHZ443	Pt Sanilac To Pt Huron Mi								
Port Huron	20	1730EST			0	0			Marine Tstm Wind (EG48)
LHZ442	Hbr Beach To Pt Sanilac Mi								
White Rock to Port Sanilac	20	1738EST			0	0			Marine Tstm Wind (EG50)
LHZ463	Lh Hbr Beach To Pt Sanilac 5Nm Offshore To Intl Border								
White Rock to Port Sanilac	20	1738EST			0	0			Marine Tstm Wind (EG50)

For more information on this event, please see Eastern Michigan storm data.

LAKE ST CLAIR

LCZ460	Lake St Clair (U.S. Portion)								
New Baltimore	20	1445EST			0	0			Marine Tstm Wind (EG38)
LCZ422	St Clair River								
City Of St. Clair	20	1633EST			0	0			Marine Tstm Wind (EG40)
LCZ423	Detroit River								
Grosse Ile	20	1655EST			0	0			Marine Tstm Wind (MG37)
LCZ460	Lake St Clair (U.S. Portion)								
New Baltimore	20	1705EST			0	0			Marine Tstm Wind (MG35)
LCZ422	St Clair River								
Algonac	20	1705EST			0	0			Marine Tstm Wind (MG35)
LCZ460	Lake St Clair (U.S. Portion)								
Metropolitan Beach	20	1710EST			0	0			Marine Tstm Wind (MG36)
LCZ422	St Clair River								
Marysville	20	1730EST			0	0			Marine Tstm Wind (EG50)

Please see Eastern Michigan for more information on this event.

MICHIGAN, East

MIZ047>049-053>055- 060>063-068>070	Midland - Bay - Huron - Saginaw - Tuscola - Sanilac - Shiawassee - Genesee - Lapeer - St. Clair - Livingston - Oakland - Macomb								
	03	2200EST			1	2	161.1M		Ice Storm
	05	0400EST							



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

MICHIGAN, East



A tree entangled in a power line falls onto a street in Romeo. Photo by Larry Sobczak, courtesy of the Romeo Observer.

An arctic frontal boundary moved south of the state by the morning of April 3, 2003. This front dropped temperatures to the freezing mark generally along and north of a Brighton to St Clair Shores line. Then, a series of low pressure systems moved across the front. This allowed very warm and moist air to lift north overtop of the sub-freezing temperatures near the ground. The first wave of precipitation moved across eastern Michigan late in the evening on April 3rd and continued through the morning of April 4th. Thunderstorms brought heavy freezing rain to the area during this time period. Spotter reports indicated up to 3 inches of freezing rain occurred in some places. Sleet was also reported across much of the Saginaw Valley. By the afternoon of April 4th, ice accumulations of one quarter to three quarters of an inch were reported across the area. The Saginaw Valley even had one to two inches of sleet accumulations in addition to the ice. After a break in the precipitation during the afternoon of the 4th, a second round of thunderstorms brought freezing rain and sleet to the area during the evening of April 4th, finally ending early in the morning of April 5th. By the morning of the 5th, ice accumulations ranged from one half to one inch. Sleet had also accumulated up to two inches in and around Flint and the Saginaw Valley. Since the road and ground surfaces were warmed due to very warm weather the later half of March, most of the ice accumulations occurred on elevated surfaces, like trees and power lines.

The ice accumulations led to considerable tree damage and widespread power outages across the entire area. Locations hardest hit, with around an inch of ice reported on the trees, were across northern Oakland County, northern Macomb County, and throughout Lapeer, St Clair, Sanilac and Huron counties. In these areas, the tree damage was so severe that dozens of roads were blocked by trees and damage occurred to hundreds of homes, businesses and automobiles as tree limbs, or in many cases large trees themselves, were brought to the ground under the weight of the ice. It was estimated that 450,000 homes and businesses lost power during the storm. In fact nearly 50,000 people were without power for up to a week as persistent cold temperatures keep the heavy ice on the trees for 4 days after the storm. Crews came from four different states to help local utility companies restore power and remove hundreds of broken tree branches away from power lines. A 74-year old man in Troy (Oakland County) was killed when he was struck in the head by a falling tree branch (direct). Three other people died due to carbon monoxide poisoning as a result of poorly ventilated generators (indirect). Two woman were injured in Orion (Oakland County) when a large tree fell onto the car they were in (direct). Five house fires were said to have started by electrical lines being brought down onto the homes. Hundreds of traffic accidents were reported during the storm as well, most of which were in the Saginaw Valley where sleet had sickened the roadways. An estimated two dozen people were injured in traffic accidents (indirect). A 59-year old Bay county man died when his car slid into a ditch filled with water (indirect). A 47-year old Deerfield Township (Lapeer County) man was also killed when he fell from a 40-foot tall bucket truck trying to trim an ice covered tree limb before it fell onto his house (indirect). Statements were made by several long-time residents that this was the worst ice storm to hit the area since the 1970s. M730U



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MICHIGAN, East

MIZ069>070

Oakland - Macomb

07	1000EST 2000EST				0	0			Heavy Snow
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A storm system passed across the northern Ohio Valley during the day of the 7th. This produced an area of snowfall across the metro Detroit region. The heaviest snow fell across Oakland and Macomb counties, where snowfall of 5 to 7 inches was measured. The rest of the Detroit area received four inches or less. Some of the highest snowfall totals include; 6.5 inches in Royal Oak (Oakland County), 6.5 inches in Troy (Oakland County), and 6.2 inches in Richmond (Macomb County). The snowfall led to dozens of traffic accident across the metro area. This snowfall also exacerbated the cleanup efforts from an earlier ice storm in Oakland and Macomb counties.

Oakland County

4 E White Lake	20	1345EST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
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Washtenaw County

3 N Ypsilanti	20	1405EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG60)
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Spotters reported 9 to 12 inch diameter tree limbs blown down in thunderstorm winds.

Wayne County

Redford	20	1415EST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
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Oakland County

Farmington	20	1423EST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
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Oakland County

Southfield	20	1430EST			0	0			Hail(0.88)
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Macomb County

Utica	20	1440EST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
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Macomb County

Armada	20	1452EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG50)
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Spotters reported 6 inch diameter tree limbs blown down in thunderstorm winds.

Sanilac County

Lexington	20	1525EST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
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St. Clair County

Port Huron	20	1530EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG51)
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A 60 MPH wind gust was measured by the Coast Guard.

Livingston County

2 SW Pinckney	20	1545EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG50)
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Trained weather spotters reported that thunderstorm winds blew several trees down.

Livingston County

1 NW Pinckney	20	1550EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG50)
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Law enforcement reported several trees blown down in thunderstorm winds.

Washtenaw County

Chelsea	20	1600EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
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Spotters reported that 8 to 10 inch diameter tree limbs were blown down in thunderstorm winds.

Washtenaw County

3 NW Saline	20	1600EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (MG58)
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A trained weather spotter reported a 67 MPH thunderstorm wind gust.

Livingston County

4 SE Brighton	20	1607EST			0	0	50K		Lightning
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Lightning struck an electrical pole at the rear of a house and set a portion of the garage on fire



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MICHIGAN, East

Livingston County

1 E Brighton **20** **1610EST** **0** **0** **25K** **Thunderstorm Wind (EG65)**
The newspaper reported that thunderstorm winds blew a mobile home off of its foundation.

Washtenaw County

3 N Ypsilanti **20** **1615EST** **0** **0** **Thunderstorm Wind (EG50)**
Trained spotters reported several 9 inch diameter tree limbs blown down in thunderstorm winds.

Wayne County

Sumpter **20** **1615EST** **0** **0** **Thunderstorm Wind (EG51)**
A trained spotter estimated a thunderstorm wind gust of 60 MPH.

Oakland County

Milford **20** **1620EST** **0** **0** **Thunderstorm Wind (EG51)**
A trained spotter estimated thunderstorm wind gusts at 60 MPH.

Oakland County

Highland **20** **1623EST** **0** **0** **Hail(1.00)**

Oakland County

Highland **20** **1623EST** **0** **0** **Thunderstorm Wind (EG51)**
A trained weather spotter reported several trees blown down in thunderstorm winds.

Oakland County

4 E White Lake **20** **1625EST** **0** **0** **Thunderstorm Wind (MG50)**
A 58 MPH thunderstorm wind gust was measured at the National Weather Service Office

Wayne County

Detroit **20** **1643EST** **0** **0** **Thunderstorm Wind (EG50)**
Detroit Edison reported numerous tree branches blown down onto wires on the Detroit/Redford border

Macomb County

3 N Utica **20** **1710EST** **0** **0** **Thunderstorm Wind (MG50)**
A 59 MPH thunderstorm wind gust was measured by a storm spotter.

Macomb County

Armada **20** **1711EST** **0** **0** **Thunderstorm Wind (EG50)**
A spotter reported that thunderstorm winds blew down numerous large tree limbs.

Lapeer County

1 W Hadley **20** **1715EST** **0** **0** **1K** **Thunderstorm Wind (EG50)**
Lapeer County Central Dispatch reported numerous trees and power lines blown down in thunderstorm winds

Sanilac County

Snover **20** **1738EST** **0** **0** **1K** **Thunderstorm Wind (EG55)**
It was reported that thunderstorm winds blew down a large tree. The tree fell onto a propane tank

A strong cold front moved through the Great Lakes region during the evening of April 20th. Very warm and humid air pushed into the region ahead of this front. This triggered widespread thunderstorms during the afternoon, some of which produced severe wind gusts and large hail. A much stronger line of thunderstorms then passed through the region during the early evening hours. This line of thunderstorms accompanied the passage of the cold front. The strongest of these storms occurred south and east of an Owosso to Bad Axe line, many of which were accompanied by severe wind gusts. An estimated 10,000 homes and businesses reportedly lost power during the storms. Thunderstorm winds were also responsible for blowing down a 200-foot electricity tower in Ontario, Canada, just across the St Clair River from Marysville. The tower fell onto the river. This led to a major backup of ships on the St Clair River waterways.



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MICHIGAN, East

Macomb County

2 NE Chesterfield

26

1300EST

0

0

20K

Wildfire

A grass fire burned half of a square mile between 24 Mile and Sugarbush roads in Chesterfield Township. No homes were damaged, but a barn was burned on Sugarbush Road.