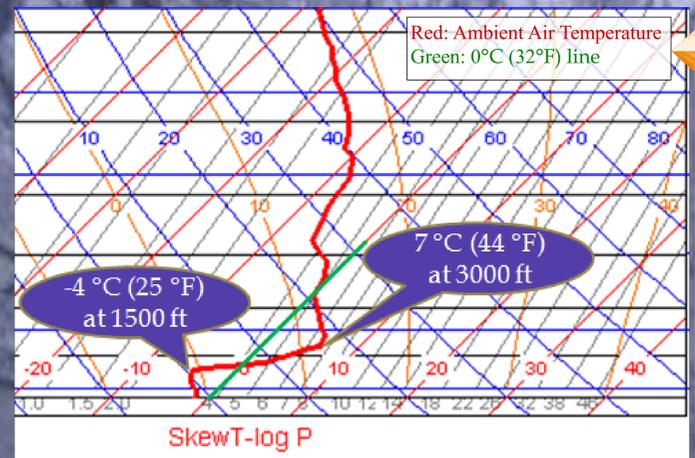
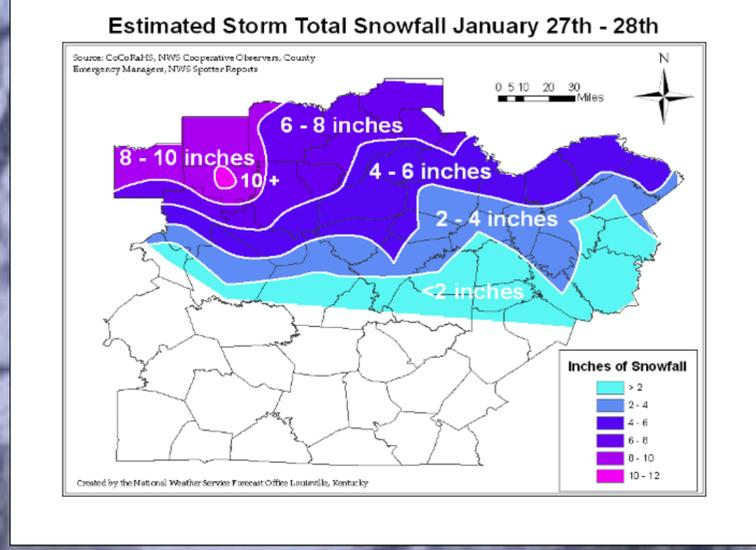


"The biggest natural disaster in modern Kentucky history"

- KY Gov. Steve Beshear

How It Happened

- * A wintry mix moved into central Kentucky and south central Indiana on the night of Monday, January 26. Precipitation began as light freezing rain, but changed to sleet and then snow overnight.
- * Six to ten inches of snow accumulated across south-central Indiana, and freezing rain continued over southern Kentucky.
- * On Tuesday the 27th, precipitation changed to freezing rain over southern Indiana and north central Kentucky, and to rain over south central Kentucky.
- * Ice over an inch thick was reported in many locations.
- * On Tuesday night, freezing rain and sleet continued over southern Indiana, freezing rain transitioned to rain over north central Kentucky, and rain, occasionally heavy, continued over south central Kentucky.
- * Minor, mainly river flooding developed in some spots by Wednesday the 28th, from the steady rain.

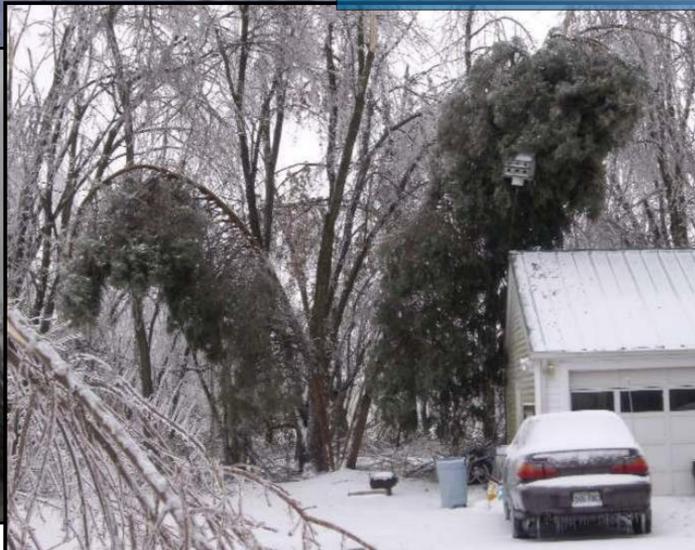


The image at left is of an atmospheric sounding.

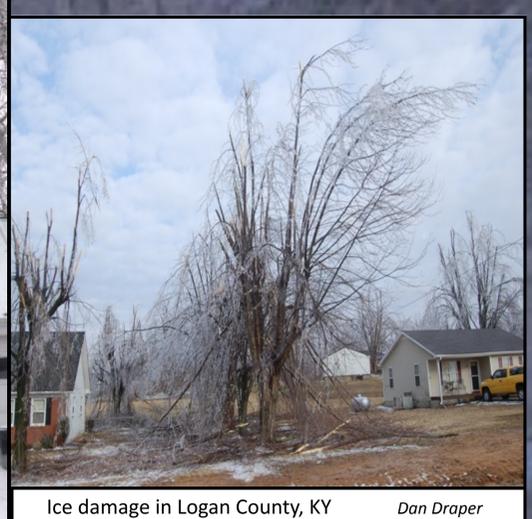
An atmospheric sounding is a vertical temperature profile of the air from the surface to about the top of the troposphere. Normally temperature **decreases** with height as one goes up in the atmosphere, but as shown in this sounding the air actually **warmed** with height in low levels. This pattern often produces ice because as snow falls from above it melts in the warm, above freezing layer of air and then refreezes into ice when it reaches the colder air near the surface.



Ice thickness in Buffalo, KY Steve Webb



Trees bend under the weight of the ice in Clarkson, KY Scotty Gore



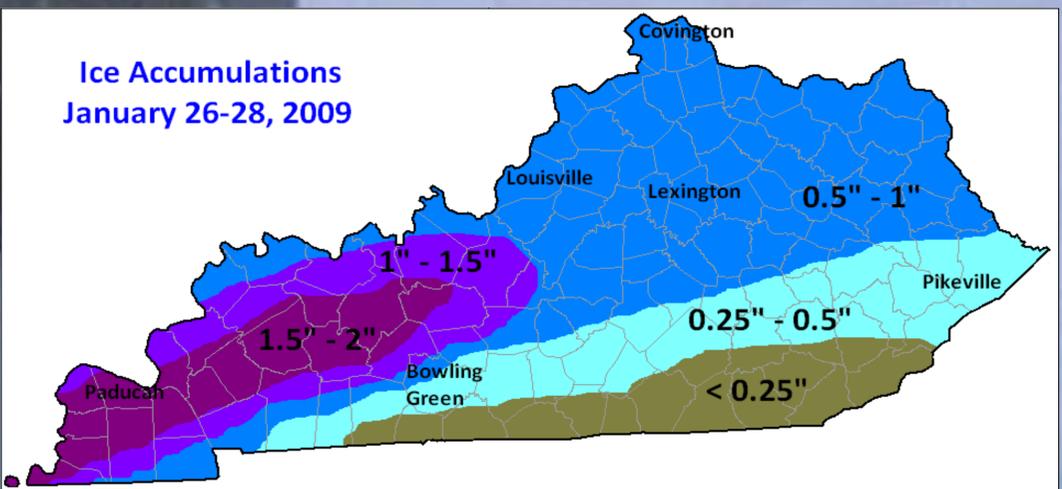
Ice damage in Logan County, KY Dan Draper

Aftermath

- * 609,000 homes and businesses without power across the state
- * 205,000 people lost power in the Louisville metropolitan area
- * 69 schools lost power in Louisville area
- * Area school systems were closed for an entire week
- * Kentucky's largest ever power outage
- * Took up to 10 days to get electricity restored



Truck off the road in Millport, IN Hack Albertson



Scene from Louisville Mike Howard



www.weather.gov/louisville

Poster by August Veron and Joseph L. Wilkins

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