

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2015

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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ILLINOIS, Northeast

(IL-Z003) WINNEBAGO, (IL-Z004) BOONE, (IL-Z006) LAKE, (IL-Z008) OGLE, (IL-Z010) LEE, (IL-Z011) DE KALB, (IL-Z012) KANE

02/01/15 00:00 CST	0	Blizzard
02/02/15 08:00 CST	0	

(IL-Z005) MCHENRY, (IL-Z013) DU PAGE, (IL-Z014) COOK, (IL-Z019) LA SALLE, (IL-Z020) KENDALL, (IL-Z021) GRUNDY, (IL-Z022) WILL, (IL-Z023) KANKAKEE, (IL-Z032) LIVINGSTON, (IL-Z033) IROQUOIS, (IL-Z039) FORD

02/01/15 00:00 CST	0	Heavy Snow
02/02/15 08:00 CST	0	

The 16.2 inches recorded at O'Hare just during the hours of February 1st (out of 19.3 inches total) were the most ever for any February day in Chicago. The 10.5 inches recorded on February 1st at Rockford (out of 11.9 inches total) ranked #2 all time for the date and #3 all time for any February day in Rockford. For the event as a whole, the 19.3 inches at O'Hare ranks as #5 out of all snow events in Chicago, while the 11.9 inches at Rockford ranks as #10 overall for that city.

Several ingredients came together to produce this significant snowfall total. A deepening center of low pressure lifting from the Southern Plains through the Ohio Valley pulled rich moisture out of the tropical Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico and wrapped it into cold Arctic air. Early in the event the relatively mild surface temperatures in the 30s kept snow-to-liquid ratios on the lower end of the spectrum, or close to 10-to-1. As the event progressed and colder air spread into the region, the snow evolved from wet and heavy to very light and fluffy as ratios eventually increased to 30-to-1 or higher. At O'Hare the liquid precipitation total of 0.87" on Sunday was a record for February 1st, exceeding the previous record of 0.77" measured during the Groundhog Day Blizzard of 2011.

A tightening pressure gradient around the low center as it moved from central Illinois into central Indiana also supported strong and gusty northeast winds later Sunday afternoon into the evening, producing a period of blizzard to near blizzard conditions with gusts over 35 mph and visibilities around 1/4 mile or less in many locations.

Some of the highest storm total snow reports include: 22.0 inches near Lincolnshire (Lake); 21.5 inches in Oak Lawn (Cook); 20.8 inches in Elmhurst (DuPage); 18.0 inches near Harvard (McHenry); 17.5 inches near Marseilles (La Salle); 16.8 inches west of Plainfield (Kendall); 16.8 inches in Batavia (Kane); 16.5 inches near Lockport (Will); 15.9 inches in DeKalb (DeKalb); 15.3 inches in Paw Paw (Lee); 15.2 inches in Morris (Grundy); 14.5 inches near Bourbonnais (Kankakee); 14.4 inches near Rockford (Winnebago); 14.0 inches in Rochelle (Ogle); 12.0 inches in Belvidere (Boone); 7.6 inches near Ashkum (Iroquois); 7.0 inches in Paxton (Ford); and 6.5 inches in Dwight (Livingston).

Some of the strongest wind measurements include: 52 mph near Waukegan; 49 mph near Shorewood; 44 mph at Rockford Airport; 44 mph at DuPage Airport; 43 mph at Aurora Airport; 43 mph at Paxton; and 40 mph near La Salle.

(IL-Z014) COOK

02/03/15 16:14 CST	1	Cold/Wind Chill
02/03/15 16:14 CST	0	

Direct Fatalities: M55??

Chicago officially reported a low temperature of 2°F on February 3rd. A man died from hypothermia due to cold exposure.

(IL-Z021) GRUNDY

02/14/15 10:00 CST	0.30M	Winter Weather
02/14/15 14:00 CST	0	

Winds gusting 40 to 50 mph combined with light snow resulted in white out conditions along a portion of Interstate 55 near Gardner, IL. Between 17 and 22 cars were involved in a pile-up. Twelve people were taken to hospitals, including two people with serious to life threatening injuries. The interstate was shut down for around four hours.

(IL-Z011) DE KALB, (IL-Z012) KANE, (IL-Z021) GRUNDY

02/19/15 05:00 CST	0	Extreme Cold/Wind Chill
02/19/15 08:30 CST	0	

Temperatures dropping in the double digits below zero coupled with a modest wind resulted in a few locations reaching wind chills below -30°F.

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(IL-Z014) COOK				
	02/25/15 16:00 CST		0	Heavy Snow
	02/26/15 15:00 CST		0	

A synoptic system brought 2 to 5 inches of snow across portions of northern Illinois, however semi-organized lake effect snow bands resulted in snow totals reaching 6 to 8 inches across portions of the Chicago metro area. Storm total snow reports include: estimated 8.0 inches at Hamlin Avenue and Division Street on the near west side of Chicago; measured 7.8 inches near Homewood; and 7.0 inches in South Holland.

INDIANA, Northwest

(IN-Z001) LAKE, (IN-Z010) NEWTON, (IN-Z011) JASPER				
	02/01/15 00:00 CST		0	Heavy Snow
	02/02/15 10:00 CST		0	
(IN-Z002) PORTER				
	02/01/15 00:00 CST		0	Blizzard
	02/02/15 10:00 CST		0	

Several ingredients came together to produce 10 to 15 inches of snowfall across northwest Indiana, with locally higher totals. A deepening center of low pressure lifting from the Southern Plains through the Ohio Valley pulled rich moisture out of the tropical Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico and wrapped it into cold Arctic air. Early in the event the relatively mild surface temperatures in the 30s kept snow-to-liquid ratios on the lower end of the spectrum, or close to 10-to-1. As the event progressed and colder air spread into the region, the snow evolved from wet and heavy to very light and fluffy as ratios eventually increased to 30-to-1 or higher.

A tightening pressure gradient around the low center as it moved from central Illinois into central Indiana also supported strong and gusty northeast winds later Sunday afternoon into the evening, producing a period of blizzard to near blizzard conditions with gusts over 35 mph and visibilities around 1/4 mile or less in many locations.

Some of the highest snowfall reports include: 17.0 inches near Hobard (Lake); 16.0 inches near Valparaiso (Porter); 13.5 inches near De Motte (Jasper); and 10.0 inches in Morocco (Newton).