



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



November 2001

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

MARYLAND, Central

Harford County

Aberdeen Proving Grn	06 17	0000EST 2359EST			0	0			Wild/Forest Fire
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Ammunition testing started a large blaze at Aberdeen Proving Ground which consumed 1100 acres over a two week period.

Allegany County

Westernport	06 08	1300EST 2359EST			0	0			Wild/Forest Fire
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A wildfire burned 400 acres of steep terrain on the edge of Westernport.

Allegany County

5 NW Cumberland	08 11	0000EST 2359EST			0	0			Wild/Forest Fire
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Over 500 acres of steep wooded terrain burned in a wildfire on Little Allegheny Mountain northwest of Cumberland.

Washington County

3 N Clear Spg	09 11	0000EST 2359EST			0	0			Wild/Forest Fire
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A fire at Indian Springs Wildlife Management Area north of Clear Spring burned 615 acres

The lack of rainfall during the fall of 2001 created a buildup of dry fuels such as leaves, branches, and brush on forest floors, which resulted in high fire danger. Because of the dry conditions, an ember from an unattended fire, a discarded cigarette, a spark from machinery or a rifle, or lightning could easily start a fire. Due to the high fire danger, the governor of Maryland instituted a statewide outdoor burning ban between November 9th and December 11th. Even with precautions in place, several wildfires broke out during the month of November. Statewide, 456 fires burned 2800 acres during the fall season. Gusty winds caused a few fires to rapidly spread out of control and consume hundreds of acres.

In Harford County, testing of artillery shells and small weapons on Aberdeen Proving Ground sparked several small fires on the morning of the 5th. The small fires, fanned by up to 40 MPH wind gusts, eventually combined into one large fire which spread into a wooded area north of Romney Creek. The fire burned for over two weeks and consumed 1100 acres before it could be extinguished.

In Washington County, a wildfire broke out at the Indian Springs Wildlife Management Area about 3 miles north of Clear Spring on November 9th. High winds caused the fire to grow from 15 acres to 400 acres within 24 hours. Flames up to 15 feet high forced firefighters to evacuate the area on the 10th. The fire was finally contained on the evening of the 11th after burning 615 acres.

In Allegany County, two separate fires burned over 900 acres of woodland. The first fire began around midday on the 6th about 1/2 mile southeast of Westernport. Gusty winds pushed the fire rapidly up a steep hill away from the town located along George's Creek. The fire raged for two days and scorched 400 acres. Part of Route 135 was closed by heavy smoke and 26 firefighters were treated for minor burns or smoke inhalation. The second fire burned over 500 acres on the south flank of Little Allegheny Mountain about 5 miles northwest of Cumberland. This fire was located in the Portertown area of the Green Ridge State Forest where steep terrain hindered firefighting efforts. The fire which began on the 8th reached within 2 miles of the Pennsylvania border before it was brought under control on the 11th.

Montgomery County

Germantown	25	1535EST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
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Dime sized hail fell.



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MARYLAND, Central

Montgomery County

Gaithersburg	25	1537EST			0	0			Hail(0.88)
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Pea to nickel sized hail was reported.

Montgomery County

Montgomery Vlg	25	1545EST			0	0			Hail(0.90)
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Robin egg sized hail fell.

Montgomery County

Brookeville	25	1550EST			0	0			Hail(1.75)
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Golfball sized hail fell.

A thunderstorm with large hail moved across Montgomery County between 3 and 4 PM on the 25th. In Germantown, dime sized hail was reported. In Gaithersburg, pea to nickel sized hail fell. In Montgomery Village, hail the size of robin eggs was reported. The largest hail fell in Brookeville where stones the size of golfballs were seen.

VIRGINIA, North

Albemarle County

Southwest Portion	18	0000EST			0	0			Wild/Forest Fire
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21 2359EST

A wildfire which started along Route 633 northwest of Coveseville burned 1100 acres.

Page County

Southwest Portion	19	1800EST			0	0			Wild/Forest Fire
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28 2359EST

A wildfire burned 1000 acres on Dovel Mountain. Two Shenandoah Gap homes were damaged.

The lack of rainfall during the fall of 2001 created a buildup of dry fuels such as leaves, branches, and brush on forest floors, which resulted in high fire danger. Because of the dry conditions, an ember from an unattended fire, a discarded cigarette, a spark from machinery or a rifle, or lightning could easily start a fire. Due to the high fire danger, the governor of Virginia instituted a statewide outdoor burning ban between October 15th and December 11th. Even with precautions in place, several wildfires broke out during the month of November. Statewide, 999 fires burned 10,909 acres during the fall season. Gusty winds caused a few fires to rapidly spread out of control and consume hundreds of acres.

In Page County, a brush fire which started on Dovel Mountain on the 19th burned around 1000 acres before being brought under control on the 28th. Gusty winds turned the 15 acre "Hickory Run" fire into an 850 acre inferno within 24 hours which resulted in the evacuation of the Shenandoah Gap development. On the evening of the 19th, one home was burned to the ground in the development and another sustained significant fire damage. Twenty five other homes in the community were spared by the firefighter's efforts. A smaller fire burned in the Lucas Hollow area nearby on the 21st. Rapid response kept the fire from expanding beyond 50 acres and it was contained the same day.

In Albemarle County, a large "ground based" fire began along Route 633 northwest of Coveseville on the 18th, most likely sparked by a discarded cigarette. The fire burned up Heard Mountain and led to the closure of Heard Mountain Road. It burned a total of 1100 acres before being brought under control on the 21st.