

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2007

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
OKLAHOMA, Western, Central and Southeast				
(OK-Z008) KAY, (OK-Z010) WOODWARD, (OK-Z011) MAJOR, (OK-Z012) GARFIELD, (OK-Z013) NOBLE, (OK-Z015) DEWEY, (OK-Z016) CUSTER, (OK-Z017) BLAINE, (OK-Z018) KINGFISHER, (OK-Z019) LOGAN, (OK-Z020) PAYNE, (OK-Z021) BECKHAM, (OK-Z022) WASHITA, (OK-Z023) CADDO, (OK-Z024) CANADIAN, (OK-Z025) OKLAHOMA, (OK-Z026) LINCOLN, (OK-Z027) GRADY, (OK-Z028) MCCLAIN, (OK-Z029) CLEVELAND, (OK-Z030) POTTAWATOMIE, (OK-Z031) SEMINOLE, (OK-Z032) HUGHES, (OK-Z035) KIOWA, (OK-Z036) JACKSON, (OK-Z037) TILLMAN, (OK-Z038) COMANCHE, (OK-Z039) STEPHENS, (OK-Z040) GARVIN, (OK-Z042) PONTOTOC, (OK-Z044) COTTON				
	12/09/07 01:00 CST		0.15B	Ice Storm
	12/11/07 12:00 CST		0	

A devastating ice storm affected a large swath of Oklahoma beginning on the 9th and continuing through the 11th over parts of the area. The storm left behind a trail of severe damage to trees and power lines, which in turn led to the worst power outage in Oklahoma history (in terms of the number of people impacted). This was because the worst of the ice storm affected the urban corridor from near Lawton, to Oklahoma City, to Tulsa, and northeast into Missouri. The storm began with a strong cold front that moved through the northern half of Oklahoma on the 8th, and then moved south through the rest of the state during the day on the 9th. South of the front, an almost tropical airmass was in place with temperatures in the 60s and 70s. Showers and thunderstorms were ongoing over central and southwest Oklahoma early on the 9th, but were developing and moving above a layer of freezing air at the surface. However, as the cold front moved south, the cold air undercut the thunderstorms, which became the start of many waves of freezing showers and thunderstorms. The very moist airmass south of the front continued to move over top of the shallow cold airmass through 11th. This classic setup created one of the most costly ice storms in Oklahoma history. By the time the storm had ended, over one inch of ice had accumulated over a good portion of Oklahoma. The governor declared a State of Emergency for all 77 Oklahoma counties. At least 27 deaths were reported statewide, mainly due to hundreds of automobile accidents, although some were due to prolonged cold air exposure or carbon monoxide poisoning. Most of the December 12th morning flights in and out of Will Rogers World Airport were canceled because of icy runways. Tree, power line and power pole damage was widespread statewide, which resulted in hundreds of thousands without power. Some of the trees that had to be cut back or cut down altogether were over 100 years old. At the peak of the event, more than 641,000 electric customers were without power (the actual number of people was likely much larger). Due to the magnitude of the outage, electrical crews from dozens of states worked 12-hour shifts daily to restore power. Even with this huge relief effort, more than 150,000 residents were still without power one week later. Even city water and sewage plants were without power, making them unable to pump water for a short time. Fallen power lines created another hazard as the broken lines sparked structure fires. Fire departments responded to over 100 structure fires in all. Other fires were caused by portable heating sources inside the home. Schools, churches, and local businesses had to close, some for several days due to the power outages. Christmas parades and area sporting events had to be rescheduled or canceled all together. Final exams at area colleges were also postponed. The local economy took a huge hit as the ice storm hit during a key weekend for holiday sales. The pecan crop loss alone was estimated at \$25 million statewide. Shelters were opened across the state for people who did not have electricity, which many took advantage of. The storm cleanup was estimated to cost at least \$200 million statewide. Cities were expected to remove over 750,000 cubic yards of debris.

(OK-Z005) WOODS, (OK-Z006) ALFALFA, (OK-Z007) GRANT, (OK-Z010) WOODWARD, (OK-Z011) MAJOR, (OK-Z013) NOBLE				
	12/14/07 18:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	12/15/07 12:00 CST		0	
(OK-Z008) KAY, (OK-Z012) GARFIELD				
	12/15/07 00:00 CST		5K	Heavy Snow
	12/15/07 12:00 CST		0	

A strong upper level storm system dug southeast into the southern Rockies. A cold front moved south into the northern Oklahoma with temperatures falling into the upper 20s and lower 30s. Moisture moved north into this area as well, with precipitation developing during the day on the 14th. As the storm system approached and then moved over northern Oklahoma and southern Kansas, snow developed and covered areas along and north of Interstate 44. Although most locations reported less than two inches, isolated locations received three to four inches. Strong north winds created hazardous travel conditions, with near white-out conditions at times. Although not widespread, a few automobile accidents occurred with some minor injuries. Monetary damages were estimated.

(OK-Z004) HARPER, (OK-Z009) ELLIS, (OK-Z010) WOODWARD, (OK-Z015) DEWEY, (OK-Z017) BLAINE, (OK-Z018) KINGFISHER, (OK-Z019) LOGAN, (OK-Z020) PAYNE, (OK-Z023) CADDO, (OK-Z024) CANADIAN, (OK-Z025) OKLAHOMA, (OK-Z026) LINCOLN, (OK-Z028) MCCLAIN, (OK-Z029) CLEVELAND, (OK-Z040) GARVIN				
	12/22/07 10:00 CST		27K	Winter Weather
	12/22/07 17:00 CST		0	
(OK-Z005) WOODS, (OK-Z006) ALFALFA, (OK-Z007) GRANT, (OK-Z008) KAY, (OK-Z011) MAJOR, (OK-Z012) GARFIELD, (OK-Z013) NOBLE				
	12/22/07 12:00 CST		24K	Heavy Snow
	12/22/07 18:00 CST		0	

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A quick moving upper level wave entered western Oklahoma during the morning hours and quickly moved east through the state during the late morning and afternoon hours. A quick burst of heavy snow accompanied the storm system. Due to the quick movement of the system, most locations received one to two inches of snowfall. However, some areas did report upwards of 4 to 6 inches of snowfall. A few automobile accidents occurred as a result of the snowfall, with minor injuries. Monetary damages were estimated.

(OK-Z005) WOODS, (OK-Z006) ALFALFA, (OK-Z007) GRANT, (OK-Z008) KAY, (OK-Z010) WOODWARD, (OK-Z011) MAJOR, (OK-Z012) GARFIELD, (OK-Z013) NOBLE, (OK-Z015) DEWEY, (OK-Z018) KINGFISHER, (OK-Z019) LOGAN

12/27/07 18:00 CST	3K	Winter Weather
12/28/07 06:00 CST	0	

Surface low pressure developed and moved over the Red River region of Oklahoma and pushed east into southeast Oklahoma. Precipitation developed north of this low pressure during the late evening of the 27th and early morning of the 28th. Sufficient cold air was in place that a variety of winter weather moved over the northern half of Oklahoma. Mostly snow fell over the northern third to fourth of Oklahoma, with a wide swath of one to three inches accumulating. Minimal travel impact occurred with minor injuries. Monetary damages were estimated.

(OK-Z026) LINCOLN, (OK-Z029) CLEVELAND, (OK-Z032) HUGHES, (OK-Z040) GARVIN, (OK-Z042) PONTOTOC

12/26/07 11:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
12/26/07 16:00 CST	0	

(OK-Z030) POTTAWATOMIE, (OK-Z031) SEMINOLE

12/26/07 11:00 CST	4K	Heavy Snow
12/26/07 16:00 CST	0	

Another in a series of quick moving upper level systems moved through Oklahoma as residents packed shopping malls the day after Christmas. This system was similar to the one that passed through the region several days earlier, with a quick burst of moderate to heavy snow. Snowfall totals were generally one to three inches, and these occurred mainly over central Oklahoma. However, isolated locations in Seminole and Pottawatomie counties received four to six inches. Due to the time of day that the precipitation occurred, several accidents occurred, but few injuries were reported. Monetary damages were estimated.

(OK-Z021) BECKHAM

12/08/07 23:30 CST	10K	Winter Weather
12/09/07 00:30 CST	0	

Below freezing temperatures were in place over the northwest third of Oklahoma. Weak lift over the area resulted in light freezing drizzle, which created isolated slick spots on area roadways. Unfortunately, some of the accidents resulted in injuries and fatalities.

TEXAS, Western North

(TX-Z085) WILBARGER, (TX-Z086) WICHITA

12/09/07 11:00 CST	25K	Ice Storm
12/10/07 18:00 CST	0	

A powerful ice storm affected parts of western north Texas beginning on the 9th and continuing through the 10th. A cold front with below freezing temperatures moved through area during the morning hours of the 9th. At the same time, showers and thunderstorms were developing as a strong upper level storm system moved toward the area. The thunderstorms moving over sub-freezing air resulted in slick spots on bridges and other elevated surfaces. Also, tree limbs were downed as they could not support the weight of the ice accumulation. The freezing line pushed north into southern Oklahoma late in the day on the 10th. No accidents were reported on area roadways.