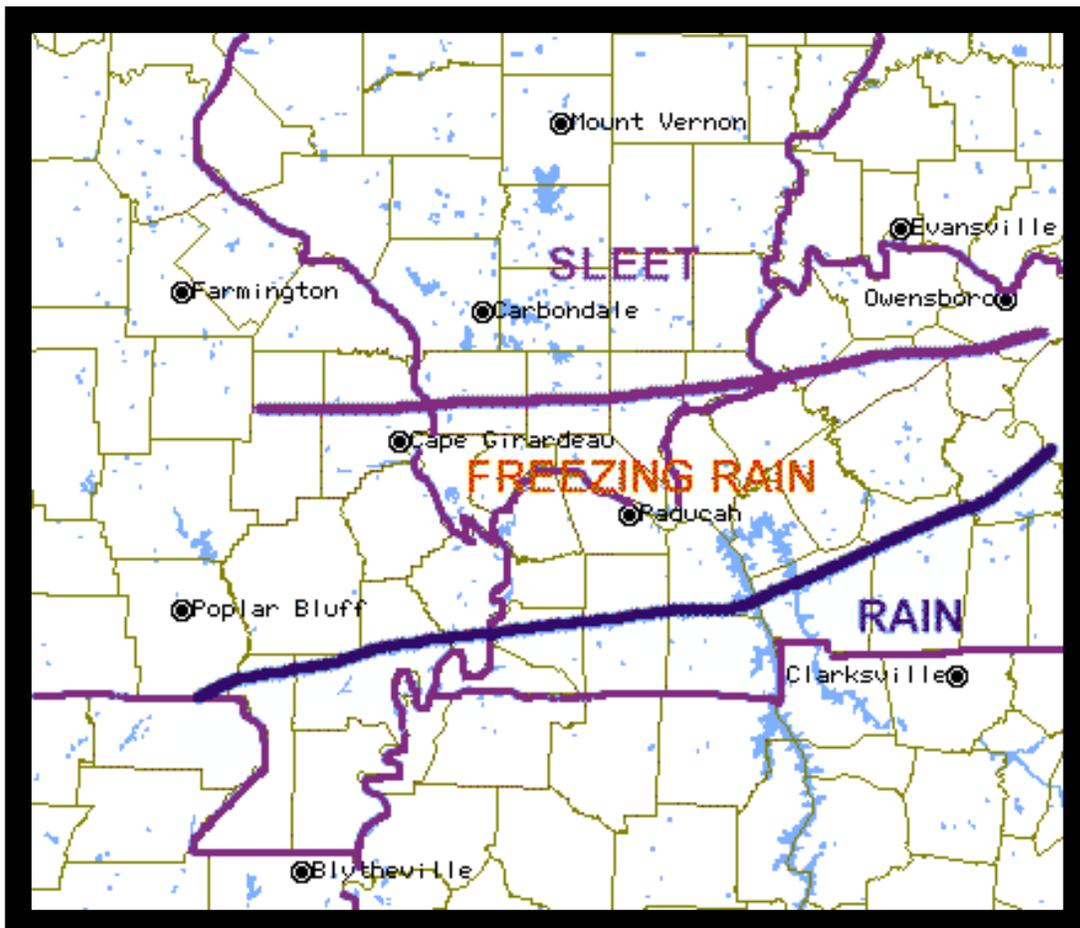


February 21, 2001 Winter Storm

A sleet and ice storm, accompanied by thunder and lightning, occurred during the evening hours. Around 1/4 inch of ice coated trees and power lines across much of southeast Missouri and western Kentucky. Sleet and snow was the main precipitation type over southern Illinois and southwest Indiana. Mainly rain fell closest to the Tennessee border.

A mixed bag of winter precipitation types, accompanied by thunder and lightning, fell during the evening of the 21st. In a narrow band from Poplar Bluff and Cape Girardeau through Paducah to Madisonville, the precipitation was mainly in the form of sleet and freezing rain. Ice accumulations were generally around 1/4 inch, with the most substantial icing west of the Mississippi River. North of Cape Girardeau, Paducah, and Madisonville, snow and sleet fell in the greatest quantities. Accumulations were anywhere from 1 to 4 inches. Around an inch fell at Evansville, and 1 to 2 inches of pure sleet was reported in Johnson County, IL, between Paducah and Carbondale. The highest reported snowfall was 4 inches in Perry County, IL. Along the Tennessee and Arkansas borders, including New Madrid, Fulton, and Murray, the precipitation was mainly rain. View map below for precipitation types.



The liquid equivalent of the precipitation was 0.90 to .97 inches at Paducah, Cape Girardeau, and Poplar Bluff. Evansville and Carbondale both reported exactly 0.25 inch liquid equivalent. North of Carbondale, precipitation was barely measurable. In the freezing rain area, temperatures were 31 to 32 degrees, so much of the rain ran off before it could freeze. Although some ice patches formed on roads, trees had the greatest ice accumulation. On the day following the storm, numerous schools were closed across southern Illinois and southeast Missouri. Schools were closed in Webster County, KY, and delayed in Pike County, IN.



