

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2009

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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ARKANSAS, Northwest

(AR-Z001) BENTON, (AR-Z010) WASHINGTON, (AR-Z019) CRAWFORD, (AR-Z029) SEBASTIAN

12/24/09 18:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
12/25/09 06:00 CST	0	

A strong upper level low pressure system moved from the Southern Rockies across the Southern Plains on the 24th. Widespread precipitation developed as this system approached. Arctic air gradually spread into the region behind a strong cold front changing the rain to sleet and then quickly to snow over much of northwestern Arkansas by the afternoon hours. Periods of snow, some falling heavily at times through the afternoon and evening hours, resulted in four to six inches of snow over far northwestern Arkansas.

OKLAHOMA, Eastern

(OK-Z054) OSAGE, (OK-Z055) WASHINGTON, (OK-Z056) NOWATA, (OK-Z057) CRAIG, (OK-Z058) OTTAWA, (OK-Z059) PAWNEE, (OK-Z060) TULSA, (OK-Z061) ROGERS, (OK-Z062) MAYES, (OK-Z063) DELAWARE, (OK-Z064) CREEK, (OK-Z065) OKFUSKEE, (OK-Z066) OKMULGEE, (OK-Z067) WAGONER, (OK-Z068) CHEROKEE, (OK-Z070) MUSKOGEE, (OK-Z071) MCINTOSH, (OK-Z072) SEQUOYAH, (OK-Z073) PITTSBURG

12/24/09 10:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
12/25/09 06:00 CST	0	

A strong upper level low pressure system moved from the Southern Rockies across the Southern Plains on the 24th. Widespread precipitation developed as this system approached. Arctic air gradually spread into the region behind a strong cold front changing the rain to sleet over much of northeastern Oklahoma during the morning hours and then to snow during the afternoon. Many locations received between one half and one and a half inches of sleet over the northeastern portion of the state. Periods of heavy snow followed resulting in at least four inches of snow along and north of I-40. Heavier bands of snow between eight and twelve inches fell along a Pawnee to Pawhuska line and along an Okmulgee to Vinita line. Many roads were snow covered and closed across the region, including interstate highways and turnpikes. Numerous automobile accidents occurred during this storm as roads became treacherous. These accidents resulted in three (indirect) fatalities and numerous injuries. The Tulsa International Airport was also closed during the storm with numerous flights into and out of the airport cancelled. Very strong wind with frequent gusts above 35 mph caused very low visibility in blowing snow and near blizzard conditions. Snow drifts of several feet occurred across portions of northeastern Oklahoma.

A major disaster declaration was approved for 29 counties in Oklahoma to help with the \$18 million spent in response and recovery efforts as a result of this storm. The declaration included the following counties in eastern Oklahoma: Nowata, Craig, Ottawa, Tulsa, Rogers, Delaware, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Muskogee, and Sequoyah.