

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MAURICE H. STANS, Secretary

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
ENVIRONMENTAL DATA SERVICE

STORM DATA

JANUARY 1969

Volume 11 No. 1



Asheville 1969

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

JANUARY 1969

| PLACE | DATE | TIME - LOCAL STANDARD | LENGTH OF PATH (MILES) | WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS) | NO. OF PERSONS | | ESTIMATED DAMAGE | | CHARACTER OF STORM |
|---|--------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|-------|---|
| | | | | | KILLED | INJURED | PROPERTY | CROPS | |
| Alabama N. Central, Alabama | 23 | 1630 | | | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3/4 to 1" Hail |
| Alaska | | | None reported | | | | | | |
| Arizona | | | None reported | | | | | | |
| Arkansas Northwest half of State | Late 22nd and early 23rd | Numerous wind storms occurred in scattered locations from the southwest and west to the northeast. | | | | | | | the 22nd and early on Howard, Polk and Clark and west to Craighead and Greene Counties |
| Russellville, Hector and Atkins - Pope County | 23 | 12:30 a. | | | | | 4 | | Wind |
| Paragould - Greene County | 23 | 3:00 a. | | | | | 4 | | Wind |
| California Fresno | 4 | 12:33 pm | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Funnel cloud |
| Fresno to SE | 4 | 4:02 pm | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Funnel cloud |
| Northwestern Calif. | 11-13 | Heavy rains resulted in local flooding on the Eel, Van Dusen, and Russian Rivers. Interstate 5 was closed by snow near the Oregon border. Power failures were caused by rain and wind. | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Heavy rain and snow |
| Most of California | 18-28 | Widespread, heavy rains caused major property damage and considerable loss of life. An estimated \$125,000,000 damage occurred in 7 counties adjoining the Los Angeles area, and major damage also occurred in the San Joaquin and Salinas Valleys. The U. S. Corps of Engineers estimates damage in the Central Valley at approximately \$10,000,000. At least 45 deaths are directly attributable to the storm; 20 drowned, 16 were buried in mud slides, and 3 more are missing presumed buried, 2 died of heart attacks while fighting mud, and 4 were crushed by falling trees. In addition, scores of persons died in traffic mishaps. During the storm at least 11 major streams were in flood. Hundreds of homes were damaged or destroyed by mud slides, and several bridges were washed out. A number of principal highways and some mainline railroads were closed for varying periods of time by flooding or mud slides, and utilities were disrupted in many areas. Several sewage disposal plants were damaged or destroyed. At least 9,000 persons were evacuated to safety. There was wind damage to marinas and boats in several areas. Sherman Island, a dike-protected agricultural area in excess of 10,000 acres, was covered with up to 20 feet of water when a section of the dike gave way. The passage of ocean vessels to island ports was curtailed for several days as a protection to other storm-weakened dikes in the delta. | | | 15 | 10 | 8 | 6 | Heavy rain |
| Bakersfield 12 E | 26 | 4:15 pm | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Funnel cloud |
| Colorado Eastern Slopes of Mountains | 7-8 | 6pm-8am | | | 2 | 25 | 6 | | Wind |
| Colorado (continued) | | | | | | | | | the same area a mobile home and a truck trailer were blown off the highway and demolished. At least 20 people in the Boulder area received light to serious injuries from flying debris, or from being blown into obstructions. |
| Western Slope | 25-29 | | | | | | 1 | 3 | Snow |
| Eastern Slopes of Mountains | 31 | 4-8am | | | | | 4 | | Wind |
| Connecticut Statewide | 29-31 | Eve, 29-AM 31 | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Glaze |
| Delaware Statewide | 9 | AM | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Glaze |
| New Castle and Kent Counties | 29 | AM, early PM | | | 0 | 189 | 5 | 0 | Glaze |
| Florida Miami | 4 | 12:30p | | | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | Thunderstorm |
| Tallahassee | 24 | 5:00-6:00p | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Hail |
| West Palm Beach (20 mi. SW) | 25 | 3:10p | | | | | | | Funnel aloft |
| Miami (13 mi. NW) | 25 | 3:45p | | | | | | | Funnel aloft |
| Georgia Northeast and North Central | 18-20 | | | | 0 | 0 | 5 | 4 | Heavy Rains |

See reference notes at end of table.

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| Hawaii Oahu | 2-3 | | | | 1 | 0 | ? | ? | Rain |
| | | | | | | | | | Heavy rains in mountains from cold front passage morning of 2nd, flooded drainage ditch near Pearl City drowning 12 year old boy. Rains later at night and on morning of 3rd, flooded streets, low-lying areas. Several persons evacuated from homes Ewa Beach-Waipahu area. Watercress crop cut 50 percent Waiawa area and fields badly flooded and eroded. |
| Barking Sands, Kauai | 5 | 10:44 a.-10:55 a. | | | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | Wind |
| | | | | | | | | | Windstorm of rare intensity associated with thunderstorm struck Pacific Missile Range with northwest gust measured 92 miles an hour at 10:44 a.m. Winds of near hurricane force lasted less than 10 minutes, of 40 miles an hour or more until shortly after 3 p.m. Two warehouses demolished, 3 mobile trailers tipped over, several others moved off foundations; 35 to 50 percent of trees uprooted, power lines cut by flying tin roofing, door-shaped cast-iron object, estimated weight 1,000 pounds, carried 500 yards. Damage estimated \$350,000. |
| West Kauai | 5 | Day | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | Rain, wind |
| | | | | | | | | | Very heavy rains associated with intense low pressure area fell in mountains. Kokee's 24-hour total of 34.10 inches ending 7:30 a.m., 6th, second greatest ever recorded in State. Rainfall intensity over 2-1/2 inches in 35 minutes at Kanaohuluhulu, 2.1 inches in 25 minutes at Millauea, 1.8 inches in 10 minutes at Power House Wainiha. Estimated \$10,000 damage from field erosion. Scattered wind damage to trees along west, southwest Kauai coast in conjunction with Barking Sands windstorm. |
| Eastern Oahu | 30 | 11 a.-Noon | | | 0 | 0 | ? | 4 | Rain, hail, wind |
| | | | | | | | | | Severe thunderstorm accompanied by hail at several areas from Kailua to Koko Head to Aiea Haina. Damage to truck crops by marble-size hail at Koko Head estimated \$15,000 to \$20,000. Rainfall intensity one inch in less than 10 minutes near Koko Head. Much lighter hail damage in Waimanalo. Scattered light wind damage to trees and garage roofs. |
| Idaho Statewide | 6-7 | | | | 1 | 6 | | | Snowstorm |
| | | | | | | | | | Heavy snow with wind, locally, reaching blizzard proportions, brought further closing of roads, overloads to buildings, causing widespread damage and outage of electrical power, telephones and normal scheduled transportation. Buildings in widely scattered areas were heavily damaged by wind and/or snow load. A 13-year old boy at Spirit Lake injured when a garage collapsed under weight of snow. |
| Statewide | 26 | | | | | | 6 | | Wind and Snowstorm |
| | | | | | | | | | Generally high winds 40-70 mph were reported throughout Idaho accompanied with drifting heavy snow. Trees were uprooted, utility poles downed, roads closed and traffic generally disrupted. |
| Illinois | | | | | | | | | None reported |
| Indiana Northern and central Indiana | 7-12 | | ? | ? | 0 | ? | 4 | 0 | Snow and ice |
| | | | | | | | | | Drifting snow clogged many roads on 7th. Freezing drizzle and rain on 8th glazed surfaces. Ice remained to 12th because of severe freezing temperatures. Snow to 20-inch depths in north and ice in central stopped bus travel and closed many schools. Large aircraft bypassed Indianapolis airport because of ice cover. In one day a Lafayette hospital reported 12 persons with bone fractures from falling on ice. High water in St. Joseph river caused by ice jams near Elkhart. |
| Washington, N.E. (Davies County) | 28 | ? | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Lightning |
| | | | | | | | | | Home, northeast of Washington, was destroyed by fire which resulted from lightning. Loss estimate \$16,000. |
| Iowa South and West Iowa | 5-6 | Night | | | | | 5 | | Ice Storm over northeast. |
| | | | | | | | | | Most of south and west Iowa, glazed snow over northeast. Numerous accidents attributed to storm. |
| Statewide | 14-15 | | | | | | 5 | | Ice Storm |
| | | | | | | | | | Slickest in years, nearly Statewide. Power and communication outages. Most schools closed. |
| Kansas Central, West Central portions | 8 | afternoon | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Wind |
| | | | | | | | | | Damage occurred locally in Ellis, Nees and Rush counties. |
| Southeast one-fourth | 29 | morning | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Ice |
| | | | | | | | | | Freezing precipitation resulted in damage to power and telephone lines over portions of southeast Kansas. Damage was heaviest in the Chanute and Pittsburg areas. At Pittsburg an accumulation of 3/4" to 1" of ice was reported on telephone and power lines. |
| Kentucky Caldwell County | 23 | 4:00 p. | 100** | 50 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | Tornado |
| | | | | | | | | | A funnel, sighted by at least three persons (located northeast, at the site of touchdown, and south of the site), touched down on the Littlepage farm about 6 miles south-southeast of Princeton. A tobacco barn was destroyed and another farm building was unroofed. Trees in the farmyard were uprooted. |
| Southwest | 23 | p. m. | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Wind, hail |
| | | | | | | | | | Numerous thunderstorms were responsible for strong winds and large hail at scattered locations in the counties of Caldwell, Hopkins, Christian, Todd, and Logan. Several barns were destroyed and several other farm buildings were damaged by high wind. In at least one area, in southern Hopkins County, some trees and utility lines were downed. About 4 p.m. a hailstorm moved from southwest to northeast in the southeastern portion of Caldwell County, along a path more than 3 miles long, and varying in width from 0.7 mile to 1.5 miles. Hail 1/2-inch to 3/4-inch in diameter piled as deep as 4 inches on some portions of the Hopkinsville Road; heavy rain preceded the hail. |
| Louisiana Plaquemines Parish | 28 | 2:50 p.m. | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Waterspouts |
| | | | | | | | | | Several waterspouts sighted over marshes west of Buras. No damage or injuries. |
| Maine State | 1 | | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Snow, wind |
| | | | | | | | | | Snow heavy inland, generally 5 to 15 inches, but tapering to a few inches along the coast where partly sleet, rain, or melting snow at times. Falling temperature near end of storm combined with high wind to produce blizzard or near-blizzard conditions in some areas of north. High drifts closed roads and stranded motorists. Large roof collapsed in Presque Isle from snow load. Many schools closed next day. |
| State | 7 | | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Rain, snow, glaze, wind |
| | | | | | | | | | Heavy rain along coast caused local street flooding. Glaze from freezing rain at times in coastal areas. Snowfall little or none along immediate coast but mostly 5 to 20 inches in interior. Transportation slowed or halted. Many schools closed. Considerable damage to utility lines from wind and snow loading on wires and limbs, with most effect in southern interior portion. |
| Central and south | 30-31 | | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Glaze |
| | | | | | | | | | Prolonged episode of freezing rain, most extensive on the 30th, glazed roads and surfaces with up to 4 inch of ice, and locally thicker. Roads very hazardous and transportation slowed or halted. Many minor vehicle accidents. Many schools closed. |
| Maryland Northern Portion | 8-9 | Late PM - AM | | | 0 | 5 | 4 | 0 | Glaze |
| | | | | | | | | | Freezing rain covered the area with a coating of ice. Many minor traffic accidents were reported. Among these were seven tractor-trailers that jackknifed on or near the JFM Highway over the Susquehanna River; fortunately there were no reports of serious injuries. Hospitals in Cumberland treated at least 5 persons who had fallen on the ice. |
| Upper Chesapeake Bay | 10-16 | | | | | | | | Ice |
| | | | | | | | | | For the second straight year ice was a problem in this area. Ice conditions were especially severe on the 12th and 13th. Ice thickness reached 8 to 10 inches with a maximum of 14 inches in a small area off Tolchester Beach. No deaths, injuries or unusual damage were reported. |
| Statewide, Including District of Columbia, except southern-most areas | 28-29 | Late PM - PM | | | 1 | 700 | 5 | 0 | Glaze |
| | | | | | | | | | Freezing rain and drizzle covered most of the state with a coating of ice, the season's worst, which sent hundreds of cars spinning off roads, injured more than 700 persons, immobilized police, fire, and emergency vehicles, closed schools and toll facilities, and brought normal business to a standstill. In Anne Arundel County, the police reported at least 58 traffic accidents. One traffic death, a drowning, occurred 7 miles north of Oakland, Garrett County when an automobile skidded off the road and plunged into a deep stream. |

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| | | | | | KILLED | INJURED | PROPERTY | CROPS | | |
| Massachusetts State | 1 | | | | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | Wind | |
| | Winds buffeted the state with velocities in gusts reaching 82 mph at Blue Hill in Milton and a reported 83 mph in Pocasset. Trees, signs, plate glass windows, etc., were damaged. Utility service was interrupted in many areas. Some 5000 homes were reported to be out of service, mostly in the Greater Boston area, for intervals up to 28 hours. Three, marooned on Tinker's Island by the storm, were rescued by Coast Guard helicopter. | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 7 | A.M. | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Rain, snow, lightning | |
| | Storm mostly as snow in western and as rain in eastern portion, but as rain and snow in parts of the northeast. The mixture caused much local flooding and slippery roads. Schools closed in some localities. At Littleton, at about 4 a.m., several bolts of unseasonable lightning caused minor damage. | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 24 | | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Rain | |
| | Heavy rain caused local flash flooding by mid-afternoon, affecting streets and cellars. Northshore communities hardest hit. | | | | | | | | | |
| State | 29-31 | | | | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | Glaze | |
| | Freezing rain, most serious on 30th, glazed all exposed surfaces and caused extremely hazardous travel. One injured in East Boston and one in Greenfield, slipping on ice. Many auto accidents during storm, with injuries common. Most ice buildups less than 1/2 inch, with little damage to utility lines. Many schools closed. | | | | | | | | | |
| Michigan Cadillac, Wexford County | 22 | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | Snow Accumulation |
| | Heavy seasonal snowfall and rain accumulated to collapse the main hangar roof at Cadillac's Municipal Airport. Total damage \$18,000 to the building and \$32,000 to ten planes which were inside. Other summer cottages in northern Michigan have suffered similar damages where snow accumulations have not been removed. | | | | | | | | | |
| Monroe, Monroe County | 25-26 | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | Flooding |
| | Ice jam formed at mouth of Raisin River backing up water until substantial flooding occurred in Monroe. Several families were evacuated as the water rose, backing up storm sewers and flooding basements. Mild temperatures, some rain and snow melt resulted in minor flooding on the Red Cedar, Grand, Thornapple and Huron Rivers, the last 10 days of January. | | | | | | | | | |
| Minnesota Entire State | 1st | | | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Wind and severe cold | |
| | Temperatures were 20 degrees below with moderate winds across Minnesota late on the 31st of December and early morning hours on the 1st. A Butterfield B NE, man was found frozen to death in his car. A Hancock man was hospitalized with frozen hands. | | | | | | | | | |
| Southern two-thirds of State | 5th-6th | | | | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Near blizzard | |
| | Snowfall of 2 to 4 inches, plus previous heavy snowfall, was whipped by strong winds of 30 to 35 mph, that blocked most roads late on the 5th and most of the 6th, closed most schools, except in larger cities on the 6th, stranded many motorists, halted some trains and caused power and telephone outages for short periods. Near Olivia the car of an elderly couple went off the road the afternoon of the 6th, the man froze to death on the road 1/2 mile from Olivia and his wife froze to death in the car. In Duluth a man was found dead from exposure on the 6th near First Street and Grand Avenue. | | | | | | | | | |
| Western and Southern two-thirds of State | 8th-9th | | | | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Severe blizzard | |
| | Snowfall late on the 7th and during the 8th of 1 to 2 inches across south, 4 to 5 inches across central and more than 6 inches in the north, plus the 10 to 25 inches of loose snow on the ground from previous snows were whipped by winds of 30 to 50 mph. Temperatures dropped to 5 below. This halted all forms of traffic in most areas from early on the 8th through mid-day on the 9th, closed all schools except in the larger cities on the 8th and 9th, stranded thousands of motorists (one thousand in St. Peter alone), 150 semi is halted at Albert Lea and Northington and caused power and telephone outages for short periods. Also minor damage to canopies and some store front windows. An Inner Grove Heights man was found dead of exposure on the 8th near 117th St. (Believed to have died 24 hours prior). | | | | | | | | | |
| Entire State except Northwest | 14th-16th | | | | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0 | Freezing rain, rain and snow | |
| | Late on the 14th to early on the 16th freezing rain mixed with snow and rain began in the west and moved northeast across the State. The freezing rain was intermittent and caused ice accumulations of 1 to 1-1/4 inches in the southeast and lesser amounts toward the northwest. Power and telephone outages were common, | | | | | | | | | |
| Minnesota (continued) | | | | | | | | | | |
| | but due to rain and temperatures rising above freezing the ice melted off most objects except streets and highways. This caused a rash of auto accidents, hampered or delayed all forms of transportation and closed many schools on the 16th in the southeast. Macouta - a greenhouse roof collapsed from the rain and snow and previous snows. Chaska - a man was found dead of exposure. (Believed to have died on the 16th). Redwood Falls - A man found dead from exposure on the 12th. | | | | | | | | | |
| Entire State | 23rd-24th | | | | 1 | 0 | ? | 0 | Blizzard and freezing rain | |
| | Intermittent freezing rain southern two-thirds of State on the 20th to 22nd then changed to snow late on the 22nd which continued through the 24th. Snowfalls were 3 to 6 inches in the southwest increasing to more than 12 inches in the northeast, less than 2 inches in the northwest and less than 1 inch in the southeast (which also had sleet and freezing rain). Blizzard conditions existed on the 23rd and 24th particularly in the west, central and south. The new snow and the 12 to 30 inches of snow on the ground was whipped by 30 to 45 mph winds with temperatures dropping below zero by the 24th. Most all transportation except in larger cities was halted for two days, all major roads were blocked at times and many remained blocked throughout the storm, some rural roads have been blocked from 3 to 4 weeks, stranded motorists were common in all areas, auto accidents during storm and after the storm were numerous because of a coating of ice on highways prior to the snowfall, most of the schools were closed in the blizzard areas. Jeffers man was found dead on the 24th from carbon monoxide poisoning when snow blocked the chimney of house. | | | | | | | | | |
| Entire State | 27th-29th | | | | 1 | 0 | ? | 0 | Snow and freezing rain | |
| | Winds of 15 to 30 mph coupled with snowfalls of 7 to 10 inches the 27th through the 29th across the State (the south and east central also had freezing rain) caused considerable drifting in the west, central and south. This blocked and/or delayed the opening of many blocked rural roads of previous storms, closed many schools, caused many accidents and made travel very dangerous in the freezing rain areas. Woman found dead from exposure on the 29th. | | | | | | | | | |
| State | 1st-31st | | | | ? | 0 | 0 | 0 | Snow, cold, wind and ice | |
| | Several persons have died from weather related accidents and heart attacks. Loss of life from auto accidents in the State are down due to decreased travel during snowstorms and reduced speeds due to icy and/or snow packed roads, however, minor accidents were so numerous that auto body shops had to turn down business. Winter blizzards have greatly reduced the pheasant population, some estimates as high as 90% in certain areas. The end of the month snow depths averaged 30 to 50 inches throughout the north central and northeast, this has caused deer starvation and also making them easy prey for wolves. Heavy snows blocking sunlight on some shallow lakes have decreased oxygen levels to a point where it has killed the fish in the lake. Water content of snow by the end of the month averages above 5 inches and is expected to cause spring flooding with the normal precipitation this spring. | | | | | | | | | |
| Mississippi Jefferson to Newton Counties | 23 | 5:25 AM | 120 | 20 to 1760 | 32 | 2k1 | 6 | 0 | Tornado, Hail | |
| | Radar at 4:19 AM indicated a strong thunderstorm cell increasing rapidly in Concordia Parish, 7 SE Jonesville, La.; this cell moved to the La.-Miss. border and at 4:45 AM was just SW Natchez. This cell then moved into Adams County, Mississippi and was followed across the State into Alabama. A tornado occurred in Mississippi along part of its path; a hook echo was tracked on radar for 1 hour 35 minutes from Hazlehurst, Copiah County to Morris, Scott County, where it could no longer be identified in the echo. A Delta Airlines aircraft (inbound) reported hook echo on its scope. | | | | | | | | | |
| | From an aerial survey damage was noted from a few miles SSE Fayette, Jefferson County to the vicinity of Newton, Newton County, a distance of about 120 miles. For about 2-1/2 hours the storm cut an almost continuous 100 mile swath generally 200-300 yards wide or less, beginning at 5:25 AM near Fayette and ending around 8:00 AM in Smith County about 10 SSE Forest. From there on little or no evidence appeared on the ground except for spotty areas of uprooted trees and other minor damage near Newton. The storm moved about 40 MPH from SW towards ENE (heading 70°) mostly through rural wooded areas and sparse settlements. With the exception of Hazlehurst, which has a population of 5000, the area the storm went through is composed mostly of very small communities with usually fairly wide spaces between buildings. Its path was at times serpentine and its width ranged from 50 or 60 feet up to a few places of 1/4 to 1/2 mile; at several places the tornado seemed to have squatted, scouring the path with trees felled in all directions while along the remainder of the route, trees laid in one or two directions, generally in the direction of the storm movement. Loss of life and greatest building damage occurred where it crossed residential areas. Most structural damage was to small rural frame buildings and farm buildings, feed lot sheds, and commercial chicken raising buildings. Total devastation exists where the storm struck. Debris from metal buildings could be seen several miles away from point of impact. In wooded areas, trees were twisted off or completely uprooted and tossed about like so much kindling. Extensive damage occurred to telephone and power lines; there were many broken poles. In some cases vehicles were blown from the road and from where they were parked at residences and deposited in the center of fields and the woods; in other cases they were mangled and strewn in the trees. Many persons saw the funnel, but most of them heard the tornado first. It was described by many as the sound of several freight trains or jet planes. Some of those who saw it described it as a dark, debris throwing cloud; but many described it being accompanied by a red, orange, or yellow light or glow (skies were cloudy and sunrise around 7:00AM). ADAMS | | | | | | | | | |

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| | | | | | KILLED | INJURED | PROPERTY | CROPS | | | | | |
| Mississippi (continued) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | <p>COUNTY: At 4:50 AM radar indicated a strong echo approaching Natchez. When the Natchez police were telephoned at 5:10 AM they said that marble size hail had been reported by the public to the north of Natchez, but none had fallen in town. At 5:15 AM radar indicated a very strong echo increasing rapidly between Natchez and Fayette. The Natchez cooperative observer reported thunder and hail to the north of town. JEFFERSON COUNTY: When telephoned at 5:25 AM Fayette Police reported a thunderstorm in progress; it had begun about 5:00 AM with hail up to 1 inch in diameter, there was up to constant lightning, the winds gusting up to 40 MPH. The most damage was in a 1/4 mile area on Highway 28 6 SE Fayette. There a vacant house was blown away and part of roof torn off another; woman occupant reported hail fell 5:00AM, covered ground, and was size of an egg; there "was excessive thunder and unusual lightning...another building about 1/4 mile from me was destroyed...I didn't see the funnel." A Fayette man reported hail up to "as large as baseballs" damaging many automobiles and fell for about 5 minutes. Hail was reported in County Districts 2 and 3 over a 15-20 mile area where it covered ground; stones averaged 1/2 inch with largest 1-1/2 inches. Storm felled a tree on a truck just S of Fayette about 5:25 AM. Newspaper noted truck and trailer heading west was overturned by wind but no one injured, also "other damage was reported over the County." At 5:30 AM radar indicated the strong echo in the Fayette area was decreasing. An aerial flight indicated the tornado first set down a few miles south of Fayette (about 22 ENE Natchez); it continued on the ground causing mainly tree damage. CLATBORNE COUNTY: No reports of damage but newspaper reported residents in eastern part of the County noted "the roar of the wind, the flashing lightning and the falling of large hail stones..." COPIAH COUNTY: At 5:45 AM radar indicated a strong cell just west of Hazlehurst and indicated that at 6:10 AM rain and small hail were reported at Hazlehurst. At 6:16 AM radar showed a strong cell just west of Hazlehurst and indicated that the cell had persisted at strong or greater intensity for 2 hours. About 6:20 AM Highway Patrol car parked on south exit ramp U. S. 55, about 1 S Hazlehurst; the driver described the weather as "cloudy... it was very dark and the lightning and thunder seemed far away. It became very quiet. I heard a roaring that sounded like a train before the winds hit" at 6:25 AM. He told a reported "...and then... the glass shattered and rocks were going everywhere. When I looked up, I saw this big, black funnel cloud going over the hill (east towards Hazlehurst)." The blow lasted about 2 minutes and he was slightly injured. Starting near Highway 51, south of Hazlehurst, the storm completely flattened a 1/4 to 1/2 mile wide strip stretching several miles to the east. Here almost all the property was completely destroyed, while just 100 yards to either side homes and businesses were for the most part untouched. Survivors said an overwhelming roar and ominous darkness preceded the tornado, they saw no lightning but there had been some previous rain. A number of families lived near a lumber mill pond, some on a hill overlooking it; one family of 15 which occupied a 4-room frame building atop the bluff overlooking the pond had their house and most of the occupants blown some 70 yards into the pond along with other houses and people; in all 18 persons were dumped into the pond; afterwards the pond was drained to determine if any of the then missing people were in it. Some people in Hazlehurst reported heavy hail shortly after 6 AM possibly lasting up to 5 minutes. At the Parish High School, hail partly covered the ground, averaged 1/2 inch diameter with largest 3/4 inch, it fell for about 20-30 seconds and occurred about 1 minute before tornado came. The heaviest damaged area in the County was on the SW side of Hazlehurst where most of the damage was along the railroad tracks. East of Hazlehurst at Shady Grove, the tornado bore down hard again destroying several homes and buildings then skipped across the Pearl River. The tornado caused 11 deaths, some 140 persons injured, about 75 homes destroyed, some 100 damaged, and total losses have been estimated around \$900,000.00. SIMPSON COUNTY: As the tornado approached and crossed the Pearl River, a family in a home on the bank of the river, lay on the floor and were not injured; the tornado destroyed their home and a school bus parked in front of their home had its bus body blown away. The tornado moved about 6:50 to 7:00 AM to a few miles south of Harrisville which was the hardest hit section of the County, then to the Sun Springs community (NE of D'Lo), at about 7:15 AM crossed Highway 49 about 2-1/2 miles north of the Strong River Bridge, then through the St. John and nearby Bethany communities, remaining to the north of the Strong River. South of Harrisville a sturdy log farm house and barn were reduced to rubble; man and wife killed, their bodies found on hillsides behind where barn had been; a school bus parked in the yard was torn apart and its frame found across the road and the twisted body of the bus about 1/4 mile away. Family that lived about 100 feet away was not injured; man said, "I heard a big roar coming, the storm passed in about 2 minutes and the large plate glass window in the front of their home was blown out. At the W. W. Shorter Poultry Farm 5 chicken houses, (containing almost 93,000 young pullets), were tipped apart, a home destroyed and a man and wife killed. Down the road about 1-1/2 miles woman saw tornado coming, she opened a window, and as storm passed it moved house 6 feet. Shortly after 7 AM, the Drummonds home was destroyed, the bodies of 3 dead were found in the woods, and 2 others died in the hospital. A school bus was found picked up some children there and 50 yards away was making a turn off Highway 49 when toppled over by the winds and blown against a pine tree; all 14 students on board were injured, of these a girl and her 2 brothers had lived with their aunt in the Drummond home. On Highway 49 motorists pulled off the road and were able to see the funnel as it busted off pines several feet above the ground before and after it passed over the highway. Approximately 3/4 mile from the St. John Road a residence was wiped out and a woman found dead; the only standing remains was a wire fence. On the St. John Road 2 women were killed where again, everything down to the ground was cleared off and thrown into the road and trees. Comparatively little livestock was lost in the County, except for chickens; almost everyone who had cattle mentioned how before the storm hit a place the cattle suddenly became excited and ran away from where they had been and were not killed. The tornado caused 12 deaths, some 65 persons injured, about 12 homes destroyed, some 28 damaged, and total losses have been estimated around \$560,000.00. RANKIN COUNTY: The tornado passed just to the south of Puckett. On Highway 13, near Puckett, a man was out milking, when he noticed the tornado coming he ran to his home, gathered up his wife and daughter still in their night-clothes into his automobile, started it, however as they went from their driveway onto Highway 13 the engine stalled and wouldn't start again. Less than 50 yards from their house the family jumped out of their car and huddled in a ditch along a road embankment some 4 or 5 feet high. The tornado badly damaged 2 hog barns on the farm, killing 4 of the about 800 hogs there; then took their 3-bedroom home off its foundation and at the same time picked up a nearby tenant house and scattered both and their household effects for several miles through the Strong River swamps. A nearly new pickup truck in their yard was carried and crushed about 1/4 mile northeastward; the car which the family had just left was lifted and slammed onto the road's west embankment on the opposite side of the highway from them; the woman was injured by a falling limb and they mentioned to others that during this time they thought for half-minute, or so they were going to suffocate because they couldn't get their breath. The twister then went over a small rise, swept down into a meadow and about 1/2 mile away near Highway 18 flattened 2 chicken houses that housed about 18,000 laying hens. Then it headed into the river swamp. There was damage to several other homes and many poultry places in the Puckett area; a home was destroyed at Rock Bluff, and damage was reported at County line. Some items were carried for many miles by the tornado; from the destroyed Thomas Ray Calhoun home, a deed of trust was recovered in lake, Scott County, and a check at 2N Decatur, Newton County. The tornado caused no deaths, 1 injury, and total losses have been estimated around \$75,000.00. SMITH COUNTY: The tornado crossed the Strong River to hit about 7:40 AM in the Sardis Community 6N White Oak. There some skipping took place. The Red Cross reported that in this community 8 persons killed, 17 injured, 12 homes destroyed, 4 house trailers destroyed, 15 farm buildings destroyed, a total of 30 families suffered a loss. The Smith family has lived in a valley just off the Trenton-Sardis road for four generations. Three houses were built in a cluster down in the valley. At the entrance to the valley a house sits atop a hill with a view of the whole area. There a man watched from the window of his carport as the tornado swept away two of the homes and flattened 6 chicken houses with capacity for 52,000 broilers, and a feed mill. There five members of the Smith family and a maid were killed. The Eugene Shows' home in the Sardis Community was destroyed, mother and son killed, father and 3 children injured; two nearby chicken houses demolished. In the Trenton community, damage occurred, a man was injured and his wife dead on arrival at Scott County Hospital. On the Lorena-Burns Road a house trailer was demolished, man was stunned, and heavy losses occurred to chicken houses that held 16,000 5-week-old chicks. Much timber damage was done in the County. In the Bienville National Forest alone, but including that part in Scott County, the U. S. Forest Service estimated 2-1/2 million feet of timber destroyed. In the County the tornado caused 9 deaths, some 35 persons injured, and total losses have been estimated at about 1/2 million dollars. SCOTT COUNTY: At 8:05 AM a tornado was reported 8 to 10 miles SSE of Forest in the Sherran Hills and Norris communities. From an aerial survey there was damage to about 10 SE Forest and from there on little or no evidence on the ground. At about this time and location the Jackson radar could no longer identify a hook in the echo. NEWTON COUNTY: At 8:20 AM a tornado was indicated by radar at 5 SW Newton. From an aerial survey there is little or no evidence of a tornado on the ground except for spotty areas of uprooted trees and other minor damage near Newton. KEMPER COUNTY: At 8:32 AM radar indicated a strong cell near DeKalb. No reports of damage have been received.</p> | | | |
| Chickasaw, Choctaw, Coahoma, Grenada, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe, Prentiss, Pontotoc, Smith, Tishomingo, Tunica, Union | | | | | | | | | | Heavy rain, Drought | | | |
| Missouri | | | | | | | | | | Senator announces 13 Counties eligible for Farmers Administration emergency loans because of crop damage in 1968 as a result of excessive rainfall followed by periods of severe drought. He said early fall freezes also had taken a toll on the crops. | | | |
| Montana | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Statewide | Month | | | | | | | | 1 | 7 | 4 | 0 | Cold and snow |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | Coldest January since 1950 over northern and eastern Montana. Second half of month was very cold with temperatures well below zero most of the time. Have recorded 380 consecutive hours below zero. Coldest reported -55° near Hinsdale on 25th. Record, or near record, January snowfall occurred except near the southern border. Several buildings collapsed in northwestern Montana from the heavy snow. Two homes in Abacoona were extensively damaged by a snowslide on 31st. Severe blizzards occurred on several days in the Flathead Valley. A 21 year old woman froze to death north of Venanda on the 19th. A Havre man, missing for two weeks, had not been found at the month's end. At least eight people died from asphyxiation resulting from overheated heating systems. Ice on the Flathead River destroyed a bridge near Dixon on the 1st. Ice jams on Warm Springs Creek closed Montana Highway 48 for a time. Ice jams in the Missouri River flooded several homes south of Cascade and closed U. S. 91 for seven days through the end of the month. |
| State-Western | 26 | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | Lightning |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | A line of thunderstorms moved across western Montana during the afternoon. Several power outages reported in several towns. Belmont ski-tow struck, outside of Helena. |

See reference notes at end of table.

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

JANUARY 1969

| PLACE | DATE | TIME - LOCAL STANDARD | LENGTH OF PATH (MILES) | WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS) | NO. OF PERSONS | | ESTIMATED DAMAGE | | CHARACTER OF STORM |
|--|--|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| | | | | | KILLED | INJURED | PROPERTY | CROPS | |
| Nebraska Central and Eastern Nebraska | 19-22 | | | | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | Glaze |
| | An extended period of fog and freezing drizzle ended with strong gusty winds on the 22nd that brought down telephone lines in many scattered areas in the eastern two-thirds of the State and power lines in two large areas. Power lines were down in a strip two counties wide from northwestern Lincoln and Grant counties eastward to northwestern Custer county and western Blaine County. The second strip was one county wide extending from eastern Frontier county northeastward to northwestern Buffalo county. Ice accumulated on lines in amounts ranging from one to three inches in diameter. Poles in excess of 1000 were down. Power was out ranging from several days to a week and a half. Wind whipped snow, and below zero temperatures following the glaze, added to hardships and slowed restoration of lines. | | | | | | | | |
| Nevada Nye and Clark Counties | 26-27 | | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | Wind and storm |
| | Weekend storm tipped over trailers, toppled large signs, broke windows in Tonopah area of Nye County while in Clark County the heavy rains which accompanied the storm washed out an earthen dam at Bunkerville and damaged roads and farms in Las Vegas area. In addition numerous auto accidents were attributable to the storm. | | | | | | | | |
| New Hampshire State | 1 | | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Wind, snow |
| | New snowfall variable but mostly 1 to 10 inches, mostly ending by noon but falling temperatures and continued high winds with blowing snow in afternoon caused blizzard or near-blizzard conditions in some areas. High drifts also hampered traffic. Wind damage to trees, utilities, signs, etc. | | | | | | | | |
| North | 7 | | | | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | Snow |
| | Mostly 5 to 20 inches snowfall caused hazardous roads and slowed transportation. | | | | | | | | |
| Southeast | 24 | | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Rain |
| | Heavy rain caused local flash flooding by mid-afternoon, affecting streets and cellars. Several areas in Hampton were flooded. | | | | | | | | |
| State | 30-31 | | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Glaze |
| | A freezing rain episode, most extensive on 30th, iced all surfaces, with local deposits 1/2 inch or more thick. Roads very hazardous, with some highway accidents. Many activities curtailed. Trees and branches broken by ice. | | | | | | | | |
| New Jersey Central and northern counties | 9 AM | | | | ? | ? | 4 | | Glaze |
| | Freezing rain in the early morning hours left the streets and highways in a dangerous condition, with numerous minor accidents over two-thirds of the State. No serious injuries were reported. | | | | | | | | |
| Entire State | 29 AM | | | | ? | ? | 5 | | Glaze |
| | Freezing rain which began in the very early morning hours continued for several hours. Highways, streets and sidewalks were ice coated to such an extent that many schools were closed. Hundreds of auto accidents were reported, and there were many injuries from falls, some of which were serious. | | | | | | | | |
| New Mexico White Sands Missile Range | 8 Day | | | | | | 4 | | Wind |
| | Wind to 72 mph at headquarters and record gusts to 99 mph at site 7 miles east-southeast. Damage to 14 buildings, mainly windows and roofs, estimated at \$20,000. | | | | | | | | |
| New York Great Lakes Counties | 1-11 | | | | | | | | Snow squalls |
| | An eleven-day period of recurring heavy snow squalls in the Great Lakes snowbelt. Principle storm periods and yields of snow were as follows: 2-3rd snowfall 20 to 33 inches in Cattaraugus, Chautauque and Oswego Counties, and 10 to 15 inches widespread in other portions of snow belt; 7-8th from 17 inches in Cattaraugus County, 6 to 10 inches Buffalo area and decreasing amounts eastward along Lake Ontario; 10-11th, most severe in terms of area covered by heavy snow and accompanied by high winds. Snow yields of 10 to 20 inches were general throughout snowbelt and ranged up to 25 inches Erie County and 33 inches in Oswego County. Total snowfall for 11-day period generally 25 to 50 inches in snowbelt but ranging up to 75 inches at Mallory, Oswego County. Widespread school closing during period. Deep snow and blowing snow made highway travel very difficult and noticeably slowed economic activity through the affected areas. | | | | | | | | |
| New York (continued) Oswego, Oswego County | 24 | 7:00 p.m. | | | | | | 2 | Lightning |
| | Unusual occurrence of damaging lightning during mid-winter. Bolt struck church building, causing minor fire, and garage where structural damage resulted. Flashes of lightning caused photo electric cells to turn off street lights in parts of city. | | | | | | | | |
| Southern half | 29-30 | | | | | | | | Freezing rain |
| | Light freezing rain affected wide areas of the State, except the Adirondacks and northern valleys, on the 29th and continuing in some eastern sections on 30th. Accumulations of ice were too light to cause any significant damage to utility lines, trees, etc. However, a thin coat on highways, airport runways made surface travel very hazardous from the Finger Lakes to the Hudson Valley and New York City area. Traffic greatly slowed with many skidding accidents in New York City and metropolitan areas of Syracuse, Utica-Rome, Albany, etc. Widespread closure of schools, especially central and east central counties. Iced sidewalks resulted in many injuries from falls. | | | | | | | | |
| North Carolina Mountains and Western Piedmont | 6-7 | Aftn & night | | | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | Glazing |
| | A light but treacherous coating of ice and snow caused serious traffic problems over a large area. Direct damage by weather was light but hundreds of related automobile wrecks occurred. Several cars skidded off bridges and at least one woman was drowned as a result. Light damage to power and communications lines in a few areas. Schools closed several counties for one day. Some businesses lost working time. | | | | | | | | |
| Mountains and Western Piedmont | 27-29 | | | | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | Glazing |
| | Intermittent light freezing rain over a three day period again caused traffic problems over a similar area. Many accidents, but relatively few injuries and no known fatalities. In some areas enough ice accumulated on trees and overhead lines to cause some breakage. Schools closed one or more days in at least three mountain counties. Some loss due to closing of business establishments. | | | | | | | | |
| North Dakota Entire State | 5 | All day | | | | | ? | | Freezing rain and drizzle |
| | Freezing rain or drizzle over all of state left roads icy and treacherous for several days. Exposed objects covered with ice up to 1/2 inch thick. Some schools closed 6th and 7th in southwest and south central due to icy roads. | | | | | | | | |
| Entire State | 8 | All day | | | | | | | Blizzard |
| | Northwesterly 35 mph winds and 1 to 3 inch snowfall combined to produce zero visibility and considerable drifting which disrupted transportation. Farm roads, particularly in southeast, badly plugged. Many schools in state closed and social events cancelled. Wind during blizzard drove snow into the ice which had formed on the roads on the 5th greatly improving walking and driving conditions after the blizzard subsided. | | | | | | | | |
| Entire State | 22-24 | | | | 2 | ? | ? | | Blizzard |
| | Blizzard conditions began in west on 22nd before finally subsiding late evening of 24th. Snowfalls of 1 to 5 inches during blizzard and northwesterly 35 mph winds reduced visibilities to zero at times all 3 days. Auto, train, plane and bus traffic paralyzed and foot traffic minimized. Most schools and many business places closed. Two men died of exposure as temperatures dropped to around 25 degrees below zero at some locations. | | | | | | | | |
| Ohio State | 6, 8-9, 15, 24, 28 | | | | 1 | hun- | ? | | Freezing rain |
| | Freezing rain caused hundreds of accidents and school closings during January 1969. Storms of the 6th, 8th-9th, and 28th were widespread within the State while freezing rains on the 15th and 24th were confined to northwest and/or west central areas. At least 1 death was attributed to icy conditions in Seneca County on the 28th. While local authorities reported that ambulances were lined up at hospital emergency entrances and that emergency rooms were crowded with ice accident victims no count is available which gives total injuries attributed to the January 1969 ice storms. | | | | | | | | |
| State | 28, 29, 30 | | | | 0 | 1 | ? | | Heavy rain and flooding |
| | A series of storms on the 28th, 29th, and 30th dumped up to 3 inches of rain on portions of central, southeast and southwest areas. Nearly half of the State received more than 2 inches of rain during this 3-day period. Most remaining areas reported rainfalls exceeding 1.25 inches. Because of the frozen ground, only a small portion of the rain on the 28th penetrated the top-soil and as a result there was considerable runoff. The runoff and warming which occurred from the 28th-30th broke up the ice on all streams and rivers. In a few cases ice | | | | | | | | |

See reference notes at end of table.

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

JANUARY 1969

| PLACE | DATE | TIME - LOCAL STANDARD | LENGTH OF PATH (MILES) | WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS) | NO. OF PERSONS | | ESTIMATED DAMAGE | | CHARACTER OF STORM |
|--|---|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|-------|--|
| | | | | | KILLED | INJURED | PROPERTY | CROPS | |
| Ohio (continued) State | Jams resulted in locally severe flooding. Road closings were especially common in the western half of the State. In Henry County, 25 families near Napoleon were forced to leave their homes on the 29th as an ice jam caused the Maumee River to rise nearly 9 feet above flood stage. After the ice jam broke on the 30th, the water receded 1.5 feet in 10 minutes. The Blanchard River rose to 3 feet above flood stage and caused some minor flooding in Hancock County. At Montpelier, the St. Josephs River | | | | | | | | |
| State | 28, 29, 30 | | | | | | | | |
| | was nearly 5 feet above flood stage but caused only minor damage. Twenty to twenty-five families were evacuated along the Big Walnut Creek near Columbus. The Great and Little Miami Rivers exceeded flood stages at only a few locations. Minor flooding was also reported on the Hocking River and along some tributaries of the Scioto River. Further details concerning the flooding conditions discussed above are contained in this month's ESSA publication "Climatological Data, National Summary". | | | | | | | | |
| Oklahoma Tulsa, Tulsa County | 8 | About 1:30p. | 7 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | Wind |
| | Four workmen were injured atop the roof of the 12-story Blue Cross-Blue Shield Center in Tulsa when northerly winds collapsed a 20-foot-high form wall under construction. Winds reported at the Tulsa Weather Bureau Airport Office at 1:55 p.m. showed northerly wind averaging 18 MPH with gusts up to 30 MPH. | | | | | | | | |
| Most of State | 15-22 | All Days to Noon on 22nd | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Fog |
| | Reoccurring fog blanketed most of the State during the week which lowered visibility to a mile or so. Heavy fog occurred much of the time and lowered visibility to a few hundred feet. Cancelled or rerouted commercial airline flights either stranded or inconvenienced many passengers. The fog was also a contributing factor in many automobile accidents during the period. | | | | | | | | |
| Most of State | 27-31 | All Days | | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Fog and glaze |
| | Foggy, drizzly weather statewide slowed travel with visibility lowered to zero at times. Some scheduled airline flights were cancelled. Freezing rain on the 28th, 29th, and 31st glazed numerous streets, bridges, and highways causing hazardous travel and contributed to numerous automobile accidents in the northwestern two-thirds of the State. | | | | | | | | |
| Tahlequah, Cherokee County | 29 | About 9:12a. | 1 | 1 1/4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Wind |
| | Moderate thunderstorms moved northeastward across the Tahlequah area where they produced strong, straight winds. Most damage occurred at the south side of the city where a barn was blown down near the Union Grade School. The front door of an auto body shop was blown in and then the wind lifted off the flat roof and sailed it 150 yards to the east. The roof of a rural home was also damaged and a fence and tree were blown over. | | | | | | | | |
| LeFlore and McCurtain Counties | 29-30 | 1:00p., 29th-7:00a., 30th | 80 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Rain |
| | Heavy rains of 4 to 6 inches fell across McCurtain County and the southern third of LeFlore County. The wettest area occurred in the mountains of central McCurtain County where Carnasaw Tower received 6.03 inches during the storm. | | | | | | | | |
| Oregon Northern Border | 1-3 | Most of 3 days | | | 0 | several | 5 | 3 | Low Temperatures, Snow and Freezing Rain |
| | Very cold temperatures over much of State, particularly along northern border. Cold air mass over northern interior and moving through Columbia Gorge into western Oregon caused prolonged freezing rain along state's northern border from Blue Mountains to Willamette Valley. In lower Willamette Valley and Columbia Gorge this formed crust over heavy snows including drifts 6-8 feet deep in some areas created very dangerous driving conditions. Columbia Gorge Highway was closed to all traffic until 9:00 P.M. on 1st. In outlying areas travel was practically impossible for several days. Even walking was very difficult. Hundreds of water pipes in both homes and industrial buildings froze and burst. At least one large building and several smaller ones collapsed under combined weight of ice and snow. | | | | | | | | |
| West of Cascades | 7 | Most of day | | | 0 | several | 5 | 3 | Snow, Wind, Rain |
| | In parts of Rogue Basin and over most of State's mountain passes blizzard conditions made driving extremely hazardous. Number of auto accidents due to slick roads, poor visibility. Mostly rain | | | | | | | | |
| Oregon (continued) | Willamette Valley and coastal areas. Several tributaries to lower Willamette went over their banks. A few homes were flooded in Portland area and residents had to be evacuated. Combination of freezing and thawing together with substantial rain caused a number of slides. Dozens of roads were closed along coast and Willamette Valley when either buried by mud and rock or sections of roadbeds slipped away. A number of schools closed by roads made impassable by mud or high water. | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Border | 11-12 | Most of 2 days | | | 0 | several | 4 | 4 | Snow, Wind |
| | Substantial snows fell from Blue Mountains to coast. On 11th blizzard conditions on Mount Hood backed up traffic on west side for 18 miles. Many schools were closed when roads still remained impassable on the 15th. Considerable damage to orchards in Hood River Valley as trees broke down under snow loads. Widespread power outages in northwest Oregon as snow laden trees fell across lines. | | | | | | | | |
| Most of State | 15 | All day | | | 0 | Few | 4 | 1 | Snow |
| | Substantial snows fell over most of State. In Coast Range depths built up to 3-4 feet. Driving conditions very hazardous, particularly in mountains. Number of schools closed for 1-3 days in Rogue Basin and northwest Oregon. | | | | | | | | |
| Western and Central Oregon | 21-23 | Most of 3 days | | | 0 | Few | 5 | 4 | Snow, Low Temperatures |
| | Temperatures dropped sharply over most of State. Moderate to heavy snow fell in many areas. Depths of several inches reported along much of Oregon's coast where normal annual total less than 2 inches. Practically every county west of Cascades and most in central Oregon had numerous school closures. Telephone service was cut all across south central Oregon as lines came down under their own snow loads or by trees falling across them. Several buildings were knocked down by snow with heavy damage to both buildings and contents. | | | | | | | | |
| Western Oregon and Columbia Basin counties | 25-30 | Through-out period | | | 0 | Many | 6 | 5 | Snow |
| | Record breaking snows in Lane, Douglas and Coos counties and most coastal areas north of Coos County. Snowfalls of 2-3 feet at valley floor and sea level elevations and considerably more at higher elevations broke all previous records. In Eugene a depth of 34 inches was reached on the 30th. All traffic through those areas was practically halted. More than 200 farm buildings and 10-15 large industrial buildings collapsed under weight of snow destroying or badly damaging both buildings and contents. More than 100,000 broiler chickens were killed as were several head of livestock when buildings came down. Tens of thousands of sheep on open pastures were trapped, with deep snows preventing surface hauling of feed to them. Helicopters were used to drop feed with only partial success. Since this was the peak of the lambing season, many thousands of young lambs born in the snow perished. Loggings and mill operations were halted for several days. Thousands of telephone and power customers were without service for period of several hours to several days. Several of the State's main arterial highways and hundreds of county roads were closed by deep drifts. Three counties and parts of several others declared disaster areas. No actual death due directly to storm, but several from heart attacks attributed indirectly to it. | | | | | | | | |
| Near Medford | 29 | 1155 | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Funnel Cloud |
| | Funnel cloud observed but did not apparently touch ground or cause any damage. | | | | | | | | |
| Pacific Samoa Islands | 12-13 | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Hurricane |
| | Tropical depression 600 miles northwest Pago Pago on 8th moved erratically south with increasing intensity passing about 20 miles east Wallis Island on afternoon of 12th and 230 miles west Pago Pago near midnight the 12th with sustained winds of over 75 miles an hour near center. Peak gust of 72 miles an hour and lowest pressure of 29.125 inches recorded at Weather Bureau Office, Pago Pago. Damage to tree limbs, power lines, banana trees, breadfruit, termed light. | | | | | | | | |
| Kwajalein Atoll | 17 | Early Morning | | | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | Tropical Storm |
| | Tropical storm Phyllis detected about 100 miles north-northwest of Majuro on evening of 17th (Majuro local time) moved west-northwest through northern Kwajalein Atoll early morning of 17th (Kwajalein local time) with sustained winds 70 miles an hour near center. Peak gust 67 miles an hour at Weather Bureau Office at about 5 a.m. on 17th and gusts 60 to 95 miles an hour at Roi Namur. Total damage, almost all of it on Kwajalein Island, estimated near \$425,000 (including post-storm cleanup), about half to marine facilities (piers, harbor piers) and shorelines (sea walls, beach erosion), and remainder to buildings (mainly roofs) and installations. One person seriously injured by flying debris on Meck Island, about 20 miles north of Kwajalein Island. | | | | | | | | |

See reference notes at end of table.

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

JANUARY 1969

| PLACE | DATE | TIME - LOCAL STANDARD | LENGTH OF PATH (MILES) | WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS) | NO. OF PERSONS | | ESTIMATED DAMAGE | | CHARACTER OF STORM |
|---|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|-------|--|
| | | | | | KILLED | INJURED | PROPERTY | CROPS | |
| Pennsylvania Allentown | 23 | Night | | | | | 2 | | Lightning |
| | | | | | | | | | Lightning felled a 34,500 volt transmission line, interrupting electrical service for some 500 residents for almost an hour. |
| Southeastern Counties | 29 | Day | | | 58 | 4 | | | Freezing Rain |
| | | | | | | | | | Hospitals reported 95 persons injured in Lancaster and 23 in Harrisburg from falls on icy streets. Damages from numerous auto accidents resulting from slippery roadways totaled more than \$6,000. In two separate accidents autos slid into gasoline pumps starting fires which caused an estimated \$1,000 damage in each instance. |
| Puerto Rico North Coast | 26 | Afternoon | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Heavy Rains |
| | | | | | | | | | Heavy rains caused flooding along most of the north coastal sections of the island during the passage of a fast moving frontal system during the late afternoon. A total of 4.98 inches of rain was recorded at the San Juan International Airport for the 24 hour period on the 26th but most of this fell within about 6 hours from about 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Most of the property damage was to homes and furnishings as some urbanizations in the San Juan area had water to waist height. Civil Defense evacuated families from areas of Ceiba, Rio Piedras and Cataño. Land slides blocked the access road to El Yunque and other main roads along the north coast were flooded causing heavy traffic tie ups. |
| Rhode Island Statewide | 29-30 | Eve 29- eve 30 | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Glaze |
| | | | | | | | | | Storm began as snow but turned to freezing rain and then gradually to rain beginning first in the south. Heavy glazing of roads, trees and power lines occurred. Several accidents with some injuries and one death resulted. |
| South Carolina | | | None reported | | | | | | |
| South Dakota | | | See data at end of table | | | | | | |
| Tennessee Northeast Tennessee | 3 | | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Snow |
| | | | | | | | | | Snow caused widespread hazardous driving during evening and night hours. Snow depths varied from 1 to 3 inches along northern counties; heaviest in northeast mountain areas. Traces of snow reported in west state area. Light scattered minor damage due mostly to downed utility lines. |
| North Central | 6 | a.m. | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Snow, glaze, freezing rain. |
| | | | | | | | | | Snow, freezing rain was reported over north central counties. Snow depths varied from traces to 2 inches. Ice accumulation less than 1/16 inch thickness. No serious direct damage was reported. |
| Memphis, Shelby County | 8 | p.m. | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Wind |
| | | | | | | | | | Gusty winds to 60 mph ahead of cold front toppled large trees, broke windows and disrupted power services in various parts of the city. |
| Chattanooga, Hamilton County | 18-20 | | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Rain |
| | | | | | | | | | Heavy rains over a three-day period caused major washout on Highway 157 on Lookout Mountain. |
| Memphis, Shelby County | 23 | 3:30 a.m. | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Hail |
| | | | | | | | | | Several reports of light hail were received but no damage of consequence has been reported. |
| Stewart County | 23 | 4:05 p.m. | | | 0 | 3 | 5 | 0 | Small tornado |
| | | | | | | | | | The destruction of five horses and ten tobacco barns, ten miles west of Dover along State Highway 120, indicated tornadic action. Very little rain but loud noise heard. The storm moved from southwest to northeast. Total damage was estimated at \$75,000. |
| Most of State | 26-27 | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Snow |
| | | | | | | | | | The first general snowfall of 1968-1969 winter season yielded irregular amounts ranging from traces in southwest to 2 to 6 inches in most central and eastern areas with amounts increasing to 7 inches in Chattanooga area. No serious direct damage was reported but numerous traffic accidents occurred on slippery roads. Schools closed one or more days in many cases. |
| Northwest Counties | 30-31 | | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Heavy rain |
| | | | | | | | | | Twenty-four hour rainfall totals of three and one-half inches in northwest Tennessee caused local flooding of low areas, low-lying highways and streets flooded, and some roads damaged. Small streams either flooded banks or approached flood stage. |
| Texas | | | None reported | | | | | | |
| Utah Northwest portion of state | 21 thru 29 | period | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | Damaging winds |
| | | | | | | | | | This was one of the windiest January periods in the history of the state. The damaging winds were reported throughout most of the period. On the 21st gusts to 100 miles per hour were reported at Stansbury by The Magnuson Project and damage to homes in Centerville was reported. On the 22nd winds did damage to buildings and signs in northern Davis County and southern Weber County in excess of 5,000 dollars. On the 26th winds in excess of 100 miles per hour were reported by the Treasure Mountain Ski Resort with damage to homes and vegetation along the Wasatch front. On the 29th blizzard conditions developed at the Point of the Mountain with near zero visibility. Numerous property damage accidents occurred with over 150 cars stranded at one period. |
| Vermont State | 1 | | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Wind, snow |
| | | | | | | | | | Though new snowfall was mostly only 1 to 5 inches, and mostly ended by noon, strong winds caused blowing snow and drifting snow to continue in the afternoon, which, with falling temperatures, brought blizzard or near-blizzard conditions to some areas. Transportation slowed or halted. Many roads blocked or reduced to one lane by drifts. Many cases of mostly minor damage to trees, signs, etc. |
| State | 7 | | | | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | Snow |
| | | | | | | | | | Mostly 5 to 15 inches snowfall, for heaviest of the month; transportation slowed and hazardous. |
| State | 29-31 | | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Glaze |
| | | | | | | | | | Freezing rain episode, mostly on 30th, iced all exposed surfaces, with local deposits 1/2 inch thick. Roads extremely slippery, with many activities and school sessions cancelled. All schools and many businesses closed in Chittenden Co., where this was the worst storm so far in winter. Trees and branches broken by ice. |
| Virgin Islands St. Croix | 26 | 8:00 p. | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Wind, Hail & Rain |
| | | | | | | | | | An unusual hail, wind and rain storm struck St. Croix on Sunday evening and concentrated most of its force on the eastern end of the island around the Cotton Valley and Teague Bay area. The Alexander Hamilton Airport tower reported winds up to forty knots in gusts but further to the east a privately owned anemometer broke with a reading of 90 mph. Hailstones ranging from a half inch to one and a half inches in diameter were reported. The hail ruined many gardens and the wind carried away a number of power lines, damaged beached boats and blew out some windows and doors as well as several walls in private beach homes. Some streets and homes were flooded by the heavy rains. No deaths or injuries were reported. |
| Virginia West and North areas of the state | 20,21 | | | | | | | | Glaze |
| | | | | | | | | | The storm produced freezing rain and sleet which later turned into snow in northern Shenandoah Valley and into rain at lower elevations. Locations at higher elevations received the major ice accumulation with extensive damage to trees. A combination of ice and fallen trees caused considerable utility failures and stopped or delayed transportation, especially on secondary and mountain roads. Schools were closed in many counties due to hazardous driving conditions. One mountain inn without power had to turn away more than 100 guests, an Air Force installation on a mountain was partially isolated, radio and television stations experienced broadcasting problems due to ice accumulation on their towers. |
| West and North areas of the state | 28-29 | | | | | | | | Glaze |
| | | | | | | | | | Freezing rain and sleet reported in many localities with a few schools closed and temporary inconvenience due to icy highways. |
| Washington West of Cascades | 3-10 | | | | | | 6 | | Rain |
| | | | | | | | | | Runoff from melting snow and heavy precipitation associated with Pacific weather systems moving inland resulted in several rivers in western Washington rising to near or above flood stage. An ice jam in Nooksack River resulted in flood water reaching a depth of 2 to 6 feet in the city of Marietta. Many families were evacuated. Mud slides occurred in numerous areas, damaging residences, highways, railroads and other property. |
| Entire State | 31 | | | | | | 5 | | Snow and wind |
| | | | | | | | | | Strong winds and heavy snowfall associated with a Pacific weather system caused snow slides in mountains blocking all highway passes over the Cascades. In eastern Washington, highways were blocked by drifting snow and some communities were isolated. Several buildings were damaged by wind and weight of snow. |

See reference notes at end of table.

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

JANUARY 1969

| PLACE | DATE | TIME - LOCAL STANDARD | LENGTH OF PATH (MILES) | WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS) | NO. OF PERSONS | | ESTIMATED ¹ DAMAGE | | CHARACTER OF STORM |
|--|-----------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------|-------------------------------|-------|--|
| | | | | | KILLED | INJURED | PROPERTY | CROPS | |
| West Virginia Parsons, Tucker County | 19 | Evening | | | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | Flood about one mile south of Parsons, diverted water into a charcoal briquette plant of the Kingsford Company. Flood waters climbed three feet in one hour. The water in the plant finally reached a depth of four feet and caused an estimated \$500,000 damages. The ice jam, up to 20 feet high on the stream, was finally broken with dynamite on January 22. |
| Wisconsin State | 8-9 | | | | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | Snow Heavy snow loads on roofs cause numerous buildings to collapse throughout northwestern two thirds of state. |
| State | 15-16 | | | | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | Glass Extensive glaze throughout state damages utility wires. |
| Wyoming | | | | None reported | | | | | |
| South Dakota Eastern part | Many Days | | | | | | | | Blowing snow and freezing rain Heavy snow carry over from December plus considerable snow during month and one of the windiest Januaries of record resulted in many days of blowing snow. There were also many days of freezing rain. The heaviest freezing rain occurred on the 22nd and 27th. The above conditions caused numerous days when transportation was at a near standstill due to blocked roads and closed airports. Many school closings were reported in the area during month and other activities were curtailed. Many times roads were opened with snow plows and soon afterwards blowing snow would close them again. Some of the country roads went long periods without being opened resulting in hardships for the farmers. Days of blowing snow were reported as follows: Aberdeen-8, 19, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 31; Huron-8, 12, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31; Sioux Falls-2, 8, 9, 19, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 31. Days of freezing rain were reported as follows: Aberdeen-5, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22; Huron-5, 6, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; Sioux Falls-4, 5, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27. |

° Includes crop damage.
 C Crop damage.
 * Miles instead of yards.
 ** Yards instead of miles.
 † Storm damages are placed in categories varying from 1 to 9 as follows:
 1 Less than \$50
 2 \$50 to \$500
 3 \$500 to \$5,000
 4 \$5,000 to \$50,000
 5 \$50,000 to \$500,000
 6 \$500,000 to \$5,000,000
 7 \$5,000,000 to \$50,000,000
 8 \$50,000,000 to \$500,000,000
 9 \$500,000,000 to \$5,000,000,000.

Note: This publication contains our best information on storms but, due to the difficulties inherent in collection of this type of data, it is not all-inclusive. Delayed data and corrections will be carried in the June and December issues of this publication.

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USCOMM-ESSA-Asheville, N. C. -3/3/69-1150