= December 2000 nor 'easter =

The December 2000 nor 'easter was a significant winter storm that impacted the Mid @-@ Atlantic and New England regions of the United States around the end of the month . It began as an Alberta clipper that moved southeastward through the central United States and weakened over the Ohio Valley . However , it redeveloped off the coast of North Carolina and moved northward as it intensified . It moved into central Long Island and eventually tracked northward into New England . The storm dropped heavy precipitation throughout the Northeast , especially in northern New Jersey and eastern New York , where snowfall often exceeded 2 ft (0 @.@ 61 m) . Even so , as it struck on a weekend , its effects were generally minor and mostly limited to travel delays , traffic accidents , and business closures .

= = Synoptic history = =

The storm developed as an Alberta clipper @-@ type low pressure area that moved southeastward across the Great Plains and Midwest . Throughout North Dakota , Minnesota and Iowa , moderate snowfall accompanied the system . After weakening over the Ohio Valley , the storm redeveloped off the coast of North Carolina . In the days preceding the event , a cyclone over eastern Canada circulated cold air southward . Computer models indicated the potential for a major storm up to seven days in advance ; however , initially , certain forecasts suggested that a separate storm over the southern U.S. would merge with the clipper . Instead , this feature moved out to sea .

As the secondary storm began to intensify offshore , precipitation rapidly expanded and tracked northward towards southern Virginia , eastern Maryland and Delaware , largely in the form of freezing rain , ice , and snow . From 0200 UTC on December 30 to 1200 UTC , the cyclone intensified by 13 mbar , and continued to deepen for several more hours . Snowfall reached southern New Jersey between 0600 and 0800 UTC , and New York City at around 1000 UTC . Thundersnow developed within heavy bands in some areas . The significant snow was characterized by a sharp western cutoff ; for example , in Chester County , accumulations ranged from around 6 inches in the far eastern parts of the county to only an inch along its western border with Lancaster County .

While located off the New Jersey coast , the storm stopped strengthening and slowly moved northward . The center was situated near central Long Island at 2100 UTC . Across eastern Long Island and parts of eastern New England , snow mixed with and , in some cases , changed over to rain . The surface low had moved into eastern Connecticut by early on December 31 . As it continued to head northeastward , a new center of low pressure developed near Boston and moved towards coastal Maine . The storm system had abated by January 1 .

= = Impact = =

The storm produced moderate to heavy snowfall from eastern Pennsylvania through New Jersey , New York , and New England , extending as far north as Maine . As much as 30 in (0 @.@ 76 m) fell west of the New York City metropolitan region , which generally reported 10 to 16 in (0 @.@ 25 to 0 @.@ 41 m) of snow , making it the biggest snowstorm at the time since the North American blizzard of 1996 . Washington , D.C. and Baltimore recorded little or no snowfall , while 10 in (25 cm) impacted Philadelphia . Eastern New York , especially the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains , western Connecticut , western and central Massachusetts , Vermont , New Hampshire and Maine also picked up heavy snowfall . Eastern New England received up to 1 ft (0 @.@ 30 m) before dry air from the south reduced the duration of the snow .

About 30 flights were canceled at the Philadelphia International Airport , and the city declared a snow emergency . Amtrak canceled Metroliner service along the northeast corridor from Washington , D.C. to New York City . Numerous businesses throughout eastern Pennsylvania closed on December 30 , although because the storm struck on a weekend , the number of traffic accidents was fairly low .

In New Jersey , increasing winds caused blowing and drifting of the snow and led to near @-@ blizzard conditions . Behind the storm , very cold and gusty weather lingered . New Jersey Transit shut down bus service in northern portions of the state , and rail lines had 20 @-@ minute delays . Most injuries in the state were related to physical strain while shoveling , snow blower accidents or slips and falls . As the snowfall was of a light nature , few trees limbs and electrical wires were downed by the storm . GPU Energy reported only around 5 @,@ 500 power outages . A countywide state of emergency was declared in Sussex County , as vehicles were sliding off roadways . Several other traffic accidents and delays were reported throughout the state , and in Somerset County , a few roads were closed due to the snow . A Red Cross shelter was opened for residents of a Spotswood trailer park .

In New York State , the heaviest snow peaked at 29 in (0 @.@ 74 m) in Platte Cove , Greene County . Despite 50 flight cancellations at the Albany International Airport and several traffic accidents , no major damage or injuries were reported . Although heavy snow fell in the state , no major damage was reported in Connecticut . In Massachusetts and Rhode Island , high winds , gusting to as high as 50 mph (80 km / h) buffeted the coast .