

= Great Storm of 1975 =

The Great Storm of 1975 ( also known as the Super Bowl Blizzard , Minnesota 's Storm of the Century , or the Tornado Outbreak of January , 1975 ) was an intense storm system that impacted a large portion of the Central and Southeast United States from January 9 to January 12 , 1975 . The storm produced 45 tornadoes in the Southeast U.S. resulting in 12 fatalities , while later dropping over 2 feet ( 61 cm ) of snow and killing 58 people in the Midwest . This storm remains one of the worst blizzards to ever strike parts of the Midwest , as well as one of the largest January tornado outbreaks on record in the United States .

= = Meteorological synopsis = =

The storm originated over the Pacific Ocean and crashed into the Northwest Pacific coast with damaging gale @-@ force winds on January 8 , 1975 . By January 9 it had cleared the Rocky Mountains and began to redevelop and strengthen . At the same time , Arctic air was being drawn southward from Canada into the Great Plains , and large amounts of warm tropical air from the Gulf of Mexico were being pulled northward into much of the eastern U.S. The storm was a classic Panhandle Hook which moved from Colorado into Oklahoma before turning northward towards the Upper Midwest . It produced record low barometric pressure readings in the Midwest , with the pressure falling to an estimated 28 @. @ 38 in ( 961 mb ) just north of the Minnesota border in Canada .

= = Tornado outbreak = =

= = = Tornado summary event = = =

An unusual feature of this outbreak was that daytime heating , typically a key ingredient in the formation of tornadoes , had very little impact on their development . Rather , as the storm system pulled out into the central plains , strong thunderstorms and tornadoes quickly began to form despite the late hours . The first two tornadoes in the outbreak touched down after 10 : 00 p.m. CST on January 9 in Oklahoma and Louisiana . From there the progression of the twisters shifted eastward through the overnight and early morning hours , setting the stage for what would turn out to be a record setting day on January 10 . Texas saw five tornadoes between 1 : 30 a.m. ? 3 : 30 a.m. , one tornado touched down in Arkansas at 6 : 00 a.m. , Louisiana saw seven tornadoes between 5 : 30 a.m. ? 8 : 00 a.m. ( killing one person ) , Mississippi had five tornadoes between 8 : 15 a.m. ? 10 : 00 a.m. ( killing nine ) , and Illinois and Indiana each experienced three lunch @-@ hour tornadoes . The tornadic line of storms then shifted into Alabama ( killing one ) and Florida during the afternoon and evening hours .

Mississippi and Alabama were the two states hardest hit by this outbreak . Alabama saw the most twisters of any state with 13 , but Mississippi saw the largest and deadliest tornado . An F4 tornado that tore through Pike , Lincoln , Lawrence , and Simpson Counties at 8 : 14 a.m. killed nine people and injured over 200 ; severely damaging 38 blocks in the town of McComb . The 39 tornadoes that touched down on January 10 marked the most active tornadic day in January in U.S. history at that time . The 52 tornadoes that touched down during January 1975 also set a U.S. record for the most tornadoes during that month . Both of these records were eventually broken in January of 1999 .

After a calm day on January 11 , four more tornadoes touched down in Florida and Georgia on January 12 , killing one person in Florida . By the time the outbreak was done it had produced 45 tornadoes , killed 12 people , injured 377 and caused \$ 42 million in damages .

= = Confirmed tornadoes = =

== January 9 event ==

=== January 10 event ===

== January 12 event ==

== Blizzard ==

As the storm system began to move northeastward out of Oklahoma , the cool air behind pulled down behind the system interacted with the moisture being pulled northward to produce snow over a large part of the Midwest . The snow began falling on Friday , January 10 and continued for the next two days . Snowfall of a foot ( 30 @. @ 5 cm ) or more was common from Nebraska to Minnesota , with a high amount of 27 inches ( 69 cm ) in Riverton , Minnesota . The heaviest snow fell to the west of the low pressure center , which tracked from northeast Iowa through central Minnesota up to Lake Superior . Sustained winds of 30 ? 50 mph ( 48 ? 80 km / h ) with gusts from 70 ? 90 mph ( 113 ? 145 km / h ) produced snowdrifts up to 20 feet ( 6 m ) in some locations . Some roads were closed for up to 11 days .

Sioux Falls , South Dakota saw visibilities of below 1 ? 4 mile ( 0 @. @ 4 km ) for 24 straight hours , and just east of Sioux Falls a 2 @, @ 000 @- @ foot ( 610 m ) broadcast tower collapsed under the storm 's fury . In Willmar , Minnesota , 168 passengers were trapped in a stranded train for hours , unable to walk to shelter because of dangerously low wind chill values . In Omaha , Nebraska a foot ( 31 cm ) of snow fell , Sioux Falls saw 7 inches ( 18 cm ) , Duluth , Minnesota saw 8 inches ( 20 cm ) , and International Falls , Minnesota saw 24 inches ( 61 cm ) .

Record low pressures were recorded in communities in Nebraska , Minnesota , Illinois , and Wisconsin , with a low of 28 @. @ 55 in ( 966 @. @ 8 mb ) in Duluth , Minnesota . In all , approximately 58 people died from effects of the blizzard and over 100 @, @ 000 farm animals were lost . The combination of snowfall totals , wind velocities , and cold temperatures made this one of the most severe blizzards the Upper Midwest has experienced .

== Record events ==

This storm system had , in part , a large effect on the weather in the entire eastern half of the country . A number of different weather records ( at the time ) were set during the four days of this storm , especially in daily high temperatures , wind gusts , low barometric pressure readings , and number of tornadoes .

== Daily high temperatures ==

=== January 10 ===

Chicago , Illinois : 60 ° F ( 15 @. @ 6 ° C )  
Indianapolis , Indiana : 62 ° F ( 16 @. @ 7 ° C )  
Louisville , Kentucky : 66 ° F ( 18 @. @ 9 ° C )  
South Bend , Indiana : 61 ° F ( 16 @. @ 1 ° C )

=== January 11 ===

New York City , New York : 65 ° F ( 18 @. @ 3 ° C )  
Providence , Rhode Island : 61 ° F ( 16 @. @ 1 ° C )

Washington DC : 75 ° F ( 23 @. @ 9 ° C )

= = = Low pressure measurements = = =

Duluth , Minnesota : 28 @. @ 55 in ( 966 @. @ 8 mb )

Minneapolis , Minnesota : 28 @. @ 62 in ( 969 @. @ 2 mb )

Rochester , Minnesota : 28 @. @ 67 in ( 970 @. @ 9 mb )

Milwaukee , Wisconsin : 28 @. @ 86 in ( 977 @. @ 3 mb )

Rockford , Illinois : 28 @. @ 87 in ( 977 @. @ 6 mb )

St. Louis , Missouri : 28 @. @ 93 in ( 979 @. @ 7 mb )

= = = Tornadoes = = =

Most tornadoes on one day in January : 39

Most tornadoes in the United States during January : 52