

= February 1969 nor'easter =

The February 1969 nor'easter was a severe winter storm that affected the Mid @-@ Atlantic and New England regions of the United States between February 8 and February 10 . The nor'easter developed on February 8 , and as it moved towards the northeast , intensifying to become a powerful storm . The system dropped paralyzing snowfall , often exceeding 20 in (51 cm) . New York City bore the brunt of the storm , suffering extensive disruption . Thousands of travelers became stranded on roads and in airports . Overall , at least 94 people lost their lives to the storm . Following the event , the mayor of New York , John Lindsay , was criticized for failing to respond to the snowstorm adequately . Some areas of the city remained uncleared for over a week after the storm , and city schools were closed for several days .

= = Synoptic history = =

An area of low pressure moved generally eastward from Oklahoma and produced heavy rains from Missouri to Ohio on February 8 . By February 9 , it had reached Kentucky . A new , secondary low pressure system formed over Georgia along the warm front associated with the primary low . As the secondary low matured along the U.S. East Coast , the initial center weakened rapidly , and heavy rainfall developed over the Carolinas in association with the new low . Mixed precipitation soon spread across the Mid @-@ Atlantic States , and heavy snow began to fall from New Jersey northward by 1200 UTC on February 9 .

The primary low dissipated , and the secondary low continued to intensify as it moved northeastward from the North Carolina coast to Long Island . Its forward motion slowed substantially , leading to increased precipitation totals over land . By 0000 UTC on February 10 , the storm deepened to 970 millibars , having strengthened 32 millibars in an 18 @-@ hour period . At 1200 UTC , it was situated off Cape Cod , still an intense cyclone . On February 11 , the storm moved out of the region .

= = Impact = =

The storm produced paralyzing snowfall from New Jersey through most of New England . Forecasts severely underestimated the duration of the storm , often predicting just a chance of snow . The highest totals ? often exceeding 42 in (110 cm) ? were reported in the Bangor , Maine area with Lewiston , Maine topping 32 in (81 cm) . Lesser accumulations up to 20 in (51 cm) ? occurred in areas south to western Connecticut , Massachusetts , southern Vermont , northern Rhode Island , and eastern New Hampshire . Lighter snowfall extended as far south as central Virginia , and as far west as Indiana . The snow was accompanied by high winds , in some areas reaching 45 mph (72 km / h) . Heavy snow and gale warnings were declared across the region . Tides along the coast ran 2 to 3 ft (0 @.@ 61 to 0 @.@ 91 m) above normal during the storm .

New York City was struck particularly hard by the storm . It is estimated that 42 people perished , and several hundred more people were injured . The storm disrupted the city for days , and forced schools to close . Streets throughout Queens became impassable ; mail service , buses , taxis , delivery vehicles , and trash collection were all disrupted . Thousands of motorists became trapped on the New York State Thruway . A snow emergency was issued in the city , and the Long Island Rail Road suspended all service at the time . The snowstorm left approximately 6 @,@ 000 travelers stranded at Kennedy Airport . They slept on chairs and floors . Over 1 @,@ 000 vehicles were stalled or abandoned on the Tappan Zee Bridge ; most of these were removed within a day .

Overall , at least 94 deaths were attributed to the storm . Throughout the region , the lack of delivery trucks also led to a shortage of food staples such as milk and bread .

= = Aftermath = =

Following the storm , then @-@ mayor John Lindsay was criticized for not dealing with the snow

adequately . Portions of the city remained unplowed a week after the nor 'easter , leading the mayor into " political misfortune " . Lindsay 's visit to Queens was poorly received , and his limousine had trouble driving through the streets of Rego Park . The mayor was booed by residents of Kew Gardens Hills . The storm became known as the " Lindsay Snowstorm " , and created a political crisis ; as a result , Lindsay lost the Republican primary for the next mayoral election . Lindsay was able to win the mayoral election by running on a third @-@ party ticket , but he was politically weakened by the crisis .

The storm also had an economic impact . The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and American Stock Exchange (AMEX) closed as a result of the storm . It was the first time in history that the NYSE closed for a full day due to the weather , and the first time since 1918 that AMEX had done so . All commodity exchanges in New York City and the National Association of Securities Dealers also closed .