

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR MARCH 1947

[The table hereunder contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list will appear in the United States Meteorological Yearbook]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Middle Hudson Valley, N. Y.	Mar. 1947 2	Late afternoon				Wind	Public utility lines badly broken; buildings unroofed; walls and windows blown in; some small buildings demolished and trees broken. Storm most severe from the Troy area to Hudson, N. Y.
New England Coast, Nantucket, Mass., to southern Maine.	2-3	4 a. m., 2d-3 p. m., 3d.		3	\$2,000,000	Northeast gale	10,000-ton freighter, <i>Oakley L. Alexander</i> was wrecked at High Head, Cape Elizabeth, Portland, Maine. Vessel total loss; crew saved. Along the New England coast several smaller craft were lost or seriously damaged; 3 fishermen drowned at sea or at points in the coastal area. Summer residences, breakwaters, and power lines at various points along the entire coast, from Nantucket, Mass., to southern Maine, damaged by wind and accompanying high seas. Damage was particularly severe at Hampton Beach and Portsmouth, N. H., and Nantucket, Mass. At the latter place damage was confined to inroads to the coast line.
Massachusetts, western portion, and Vermont, southern and central portions.	3-5					Heavy snow	Snow accumulated to an average depth of from 2 to 4 feet, with a maximum depth of from 6 to 6.5 feet in portions of the Berkshire and Green Mountain areas. Highway traffic in parts of these areas was either interrupted or abandoned. Several small communities were isolated from 2 to 4 days. Minor structural damage from weight of snow on roofs.
Acadia, Iberia, Iberville, and Vermillion Parishes, La.	12	8:30-10:30 p. m.		2	100,000-200,000	Tornado, high wind, hail, and flooding rains.	Tornado damage mostly in Abbeville, La., and vicinity. No details.
Louisiana, south-central and interior of southeastern portions.	12-13	P. m., of 12th-a. m. of 13th.			430,000	Excessive rains and flooding.	Considerable part of damage to crops and other property within a radius of 25 miles of Baton Rouge.
Mount Pleasant, Fla.	13	4:30-5:30 p. m.	300-500	0	15,000	Tornado, torrential rain, electrical.	Storm moved from west-southwest to east-northeast. Most of the damage to tobacco shades and barns, with some damage to tenant houses and other buildings.
Bluefield, Princeton, Athens, Petertown and Lindside, W. Va., and vicinities.	13-14	12 p. m.-3 a. m.	150		6,000	Wind	High winds from south to southeast. A parked small airplane at Princeton and one at Twin Gates damaged; roofs blown off; power and telephone lines blown down, causing slight interruption to service. Windows blown out and signs and awnings torn from their supports. Several towns directly across the State line in Virginia also affected.
Clearwater to Sarasota, Fla., Gulf Coast beaches.	19				50,000	Tidal wave and wind squall.	Newspapers describe this storm as "A 9-foot wall of water which swept in from the Gulf of Mexico." Roadways and beach cottage foundations undermined; fishing boats demolished or beached; water mains damaged; electric power and telephone services disrupted. Water subsided rapidly.
Kentucky, entire State.	23-24					High wind	Much damage to roofs, windows, wires, and trees. Damage not heavy; amount not estimated.
Wisconsin, entire southeastern portion.	24	P. m.				Snow, glaze, and wind.	2 to 5 inches of wet, clinging snow fell during the afternoon, freezing by night, with strong winds. Overloaded wires snapped. Poles down in places in Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Walworth Counties, interrupting power and communication services several hours. Icy roads snarled traffic, causing injuries to several persons. A falling tree damaged 3 automobiles and injured a person.
Indiana, northern and central portions.	24				50,000	Wind	General wind with scattered damage, mostly to trees, wires, and signs. House in Mishawaka unroofed.
Curwensville, Pa.	24					Thunderstorm	Transformer of power line hit by lightning.
Indiana, Pa.	24					do	Power service interrupted more than 2 hours.
Phillipsburg, Pa.	24-25					Thunderstorm and wind.	Electric and telephone wires snapped.
South Carolina.	24-25	Afternoon of 24th-late night of 25th.			13,000	Wind	High winds over the entire State on the afternoon of the 25th, with gusts approaching 80 miles per hour in the Spartanburg area. Damage, though widespread, was confined mainly to roofs, smokestacks, and loose installations.
Ohio, northeastern counties.	24-26	P. m. of 24th-part of 25th.		3		High winds and drifting snow.	Heavy damage to trees and wires. Buildings unroofed, windows broken, and signs down. Roads blocked by drifting snow for 2 days. Wind velocities unusually high, and barometer readings lowest on record in some localities.
West Virginia, entire State.	24-26	P. m. of 24th-p. m., of 26th.		2	100,000	do	Long, continued, high, southwest to northwest winds, with gusts estimated as high as 70 miles per hour, associated with intense low, the center of which passed northeastward through northwestern Ohio. The cold front raced eastward through the State during the night of the 24th-25th. Generally light to locally moderate damage throughout the northern and central portions of the State. Many power and telephone lines blown down; scores of buildings of various kinds removed from their foundations and badly damaged. Windows cracked or shattered; signs blown down; numerous trees damaged, some uprooted. 3 small parked airplanes at Clarksburg damaged, and 1 at Charlestown overturned. Float planes at Fairmont blown ashore and damaged; 2 light planes at Petersburg damaged; small planes wrecked just south of Laneville, W. Va.
Virginia.	25	10 a. m.-6 p. m.				Wind	Minor damage throughout State to roofs, trees, power lines, chimneys, barns, sheds, and timber.
Charleroi, Pa.	25					do	Damage to power and telephone service; many trees broken and uprooted.
Derry and Ebensburg, Pa.	25					do	Windows blown in, trees uprooted, buildings unroofed, large electric signs blown down, and power lines snapped.
Frostburg, Md.	25					do	Roof of small factory partly torn from building.
Galeton, Pa.	25					do	Damage to roofs.
Harrisburg, Pa.	25					do	Gusts up to 60 miles per hour recorded. 2 persons injured when struck by tile ripped loose by the wind. Many roofs blown off, windows smashed, and chimneys blown over; telephone poles ripped off, trees felled, and power lines damaged.
Johnstown, Pa.	25					do	Winds up to 73 miles per hour recorded. Many roofs blown off, trees uprooted, telephone and power lines down, and numerous windows blown out. Damage in thousands of dollars.
Latrobe, Pa.	25				5,000	Thunderstorm and wind.	A \$5,000 neon sign battered; plate glass windows loosened, and trees and poles blown over. Damage in thousands of dollars.
Philadelphia, Pa.	25					Wind	A 2-year-old girl critically injured when carried 12 feet to the pavement by wind.
Pittsburgh, Pa.	25					do	Many roofs blown off and plate glass windows shattered by high winds. Damage in millions of dollars.
Somerset, Pa.	25					do	Buildings and silos damaged.
Spring Grove, Pa.	25					do	Damage to roofs, wires, and buildings by gusts up to 60 miles per hour.
Uniontown, Pa.	25					do	Damage to power and telephone lines, roofs, and chimneys.
Vandergriff, Pa.	25			1		do	High tension wire blew down, killing a man. Many buildings unroofed and wires blown down. Damage in thousands of dollars.
Washington, Pa.	25					Thunderstorm and winds.	Buildings demolished, roofs lifted, power lines affected, and store windows shattered.
Wellsville, Pa.	25					Wind	Trees uprooted and shingles torn from a barn.
Westernport, Md.	25					do	Plate glass window blown in; parts of roofs blown off; trees blown down.

See footnote at end of table.

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR MARCH, 1947—Continued

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Baltimore, Md., and vicinity.	Mar. 1947 25-26	4:30 a. m., of 25th-8 p. m., of 26th.	-----	-----	-----	Wind-----	Large plate glass windows broken; signs torn off; streets littered with broken tree branches and other debris. 2 barges overturned in the Patapsco River. Damage not estimated.
Benton Harbor, Mich.-----	25-26	6:30 p. m., of 25th-7:10 p. m., of 26th.	1 200	-----	\$10,000- 15,000	Rain, snow, and wind.	Traffic blocked in most sections of the State, closing schools, isolating towns, and causing damage to vehicles and a loss of milk that could not be marketed. Actual storm damage not great, but losses due to storm great. Damage to signs and roofs; cooperative observer's shelter blown over. Damage estimated from wind alone; path 200 miles long.
Curwensville, Pa.-----	25-26	-----	-----	-----	-----	Wind-----	Trees uprooted; power lines down; chimneys blown off, and buildings unroofed.
Spring, Pa.-----	25-26	-----	-----	-----	-----	do.	Trees uprooted and buildings unroofed.
Pensacola, Fla.-----	30	3:15-3:45 a. m.	-----	-----	20,000	Wind, hail, and rain.	Storm covered a large area in the northern portion of the city, with wind velocities estimated at 60 miles per hour. Maximum wind velocity recorded at the Weather Bureau Office was 26 miles per hour, while at the Naval Air Station gusts of about 50 miles an hour were recorded. At the Weather Bureau Office rainfall of 0.75 inch fell during the 5-minute period, 3:25 to 3:30 a. m. Hail was heavy in the northeastern section of the city, with hailstones up to 3/4-inch in diameter accumulating on the ground to a depth of from 2 to 4 inches.
Ocala, Fla.-----	30	5:30 p. m.-----	1 1-2	-----	5,000	Wind, hail, rain, electrical.	Roofs on several houses damaged; tree blown down; plate glass windows broken; billboards and signs down.

1 Miles instead of yards.