

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR SEPTEMBER 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
Port Neches, Jefferson Co., Tex.	1	4:45 p. m.	1,150		\$5,200	Wind	Principal damage to utility lines.
St. Joseph and Marshall Cos., Ind.	1	Afternoon			100,000	Wind and hail	Buildings damaged; trees and wires down.
Medina County, Ohio	1	8 p. m.	175	0	50,000	Tornado	Moved from northwest; path 15 miles long. Corn damaged, poultry killed, automobiles smashed, 3 barns destroyed, and roller skating rink wrecked.
Burgettstown, Pa.	2	2:15 a. m.	100	2	100,000	do	20 persons injured; 5 homes destroyed, 15 other homes damaged. Several commercial buildings, a machine shop, and a lumber yard destroyed. Telephone and electric power disrupted. Path 10 miles long.
Hawley, Pa.	2	Morning				Electrical	Lightning killed 8 cows, 1 horse, and a few chickens.
New England, southern and central.	2	All day		1	20,000,000	Thunderstorms	A series of storms. In a few restricted localities damage was greater than in hurricanes of 1938 and 1944. In Windham County, Conn., near Danielson, a "twister" was reported about 2 p. m., but no evidence showed tornadic character. Storm from south-southeast in path 75 feet wide and 3 miles long. It completely destroyed a large barn and 400-foot chicken house in village of Mashentuck. "Cone-shaped" clouds with evidence of circular and vertical movement seen about 11:20 a. m., near Brockton and South Easton, Mass. Storm from southwest. In Brockton, residences, barns, and small business plants unroofed; fires caused by lightning. Storm from southwest. Damage also quite heavy at Melrose, Mass., and Derry, N. H. Many trees broken and uprooted. A silo and corn crib blown over.
Coleman, Md.	4	P. m.				Wind, thunderstorm, and hail.	
Jackson County, Ohio	5	2:45 p. m.	110			Wind, rain, hail, and lightning.	Hail damage to roofs, cars, and crops moderate; corn, beans, and gardens damaged by wind and rain. Basements flooded: 4 inches of rain in about 2 hours. Public utility lines damaged by wind and lightning.
Gallia County, Ohio	5	5 p. m.	440	0		Tornado	Moved from north; path 1 mile. 2 silos blown down; 2 barns partly unroofed; trees blown down; smaller streams overflowed and roads flooded; some hail damage to corn and tobacco.
Springfield, Clark Co., Ohio	5				3,000	Lightning	Lightning struck church.
Hawley, Pa.	5					Electrical	Lightning struck and burned a barn and contents.
Hyde, Sully, Hughes, Potter, Faulk Cos., S. Dak.	5-6				2,000,000	Fire	Prairie fire covering 500 square miles, destroyed stacked hay, hayland, farm buildings, and fences, and killed some livestock and poultry.
Cameron, S. C.	8	Early evening			6,000	Lightning	Fire from lightning burned a barn and destroyed contents, including 6 mules and 500 bushels of wheat.
Miner County, S. Dak.	8	do				High wind, rain, and lightning.	Wrecked several farm buildings and flattened corn fields.
Hibbing and Virginia, Minn., and vicinities.	9-10				208,000	Thunderstorms	Several buildings unroofed or otherwise damaged; power and communication lines down; trees uprooted. A barn destroyed by fire after being struck by lightning. Heavy rains flooded streets, basements, and main floors of many homes and business establishments, open-pit iron mines, roads, highways, and farm lands; railroad tracks and a bridge washed out; much soil erosion occurred; growing crops damaged. An unofficial measurement of 8.60 in. of rain in about 5 hours was reported from Hibbing, Minn.
Swift, Kandiyohi, Renville, Hennepin, and Goodhue Cos., Minn.	10	3-7:40 p. m.	880	1	40,000	do	Several barns and outbuildings demolished or damaged; roof of railroad car and large electric sign torn away; farm machinery and automobiles damaged; poles and wires down; trees uprooted; 3 persons injured; livestock killed.
Owatonna, Minn.	11	A. m.			42,000	Electrical	Barn at the Owatonna State School entirely destroyed by fire after being struck by lightning; 21 head of cattle perished and others received serious burns.
Reedy, W. Va., and vicinity	11	4-6 p. m.				Heavy rain and lightning.	Streets, cellars, garages and gardens flooded. One house struck by lightning slightly damaged.
Tahlequah, Okla.	11	P. m.		1		Electrical	Light service disrupted.
West Palm Beach, Fla.	13	Afternoon		0	0	Tornado	Funnel cloud observed but did not reach ground.
Meridian, Miss.	14					Thunderstorm	Considerable damage to fairgrounds; grandstand unroofed; storm attended by light hail.
Somerset, Pa.	14				25,000	Electrical	A barn struck by lightning and burned.
Clarksville Red River Co., Tex.	15	1 a. m.	11		1,500	Wind	Damage to plate glass windows, awnings, and utility lines.
Newport, Tenn.	15	2 p. m.			10,000	Electrical	1 home and 1 barn destroyed by lightning.
Meadville, Pa.	15	3 p. m.			15,000	do	Lightning struck and burned a large barn and contents.
Stratford, Conn.	15	3:55 p. m.		1		Wind	1 workman killed when a large section of roof was ripped off by a sudden gust of wind; velocity at Bridgeport Airport, 74 m. p. h. Struck by lightning, a large barn and contents burned.
Ghent, N. Y.	15	P. m.				Electrical	
Gaffney, S. C.	15	During night		1		Lightning	
Philadelphia, Pa.	16			1		Electrical	
Florida, southern portion	17	About 8 a. m.-midnight.		11	31,800,000	Hurricane	The center of storm went inland at Fort Lauderdale about 11:30 a. m., moved westward across the State at about 10 m. p. h., and passed to the Gulf just north of Naples around 10 p. m. The highest wind recorded by a reliable instrument, 155 m. p. h., at Hillsboro Light, near Pompano, at 12:56 p. m., on 17th; lowest pressure, 27.97 inches at 11:25 a. m. same date and place, very close to north edge of calm center. Rains of 6 to over 8 inches on top of completely saturated and partly flooded country, resulted in great and extensive flooding of rich farm lands and pastures. Red Cross sheltered over 40,000 people, evacuated from dangerous locations. 6 additional deaths by indirect causes, i. e. accidents, electrocutions, etc.; 186 injured. Homes destroyed, 205; seriously damaged, 10,543. Damage is estimated as follows: Property, \$10,500,000; crops (including 6,000,000 boxes of citrus), \$10,000,000; trees and shrubbery, \$2,000,000; highways, bridges, and city streets, \$2,500,000; piers, docks, seawalls, bulkheads, and a few small craft, \$3,000,000; power and communications, \$1,500,000; cost of clean-up and removal of debris, \$2,000,000. Cuban fishing vessel, "Antonio Cerdedo," sank off Fort Myers with loss of 7 of crew. More details will appear in the annual summary of hurricanes, Monthly Weather Review, December 1947.
Eden Valley, Wyo.	18	3 p. m.	14		30,100	Hail	Approximately \$30,000 damage to growing crops, principally small grain; \$100 damage to buildings. Hailstones ranged in size from walnuts to hens' eggs.
Apalachicola, Fla.	19	12:30 a. m.	85	2	250,000	Tornado	Tornado passed through residential section; demolished 27 houses, partly demolished 31 houses, and uprooted numerous trees. 15 persons seriously injured, and 85 received minor injuries.

See footnote at end of table.

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR SEPTEMBER 1947—Continued

[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
McClusky, N. Dak.	19	7:30 a. m., C. S. T.	2,000	-----	\$50,000	Hail	Many roofs and car tops damaged and windows broken; hail size of hens' eggs.
Donaldson, Minn.	19	10 a. m.	440	-----	6,000	do	Considerable damage to automobile tops and roofs of buildings; many windows broken. Some poultry killed; 1 person injured.
Louisiana, entire State	19	All day	-----	12	24,000,000	Hurricane	This storm, which crossed southern Florida on the 17th, moved inland over southeastern Louisiana during the forenoon of the 19th, with the eye passing northwestward over Baton Rouge from about 2 p. m. to 2:20 p. m., C. S. T. Eye approximately 30 miles in diameter. Lowest pressure observed in eye, 28.61 inches at New Orleans City Office. Highest 1-minute velocity observed at Moisant Airport near New Orleans was 98 m. p. h., just before employees ran to safety in nearby buildings when part of the roof of the Administration Building gave way; wind estimated to have reached 110 m. p. h., with gusts to 125 m. p. h. A storm wave 10 to 12 feet above normal high tide swept across the Louisiana coast. Greater portion of damage over Louisiana and Mississippi apparently due to water. 95 persons injured. Red Cross figures on damages are as follows for Louisiana (mostly south-east coast): Homes destroyed, 396, damaged, 4,111; barns destroyed, 8, damaged, 17; business buildings, etc. destroyed, 458, damaged, 1,767. Additional damage estimated as follows: Cotton \$3,750,000; truck \$300,000; rice \$300,000; pecans \$150,000; citrus \$500,000; timber \$1,000,000; communications and power lines, etc., \$2,000,000; homes, barns, other buildings, \$16,000,000. More details will appear in the annual summary of hurricanes, Monthly Weather Review, December 1947.
Miss., south of 33° latitude, mostly coastal.	19	All day	-----	22	28,438,000	Hurricane	654 people injured. The Red Cross reports damages to buildings, etc., as follows: Homes destroyed, 524, damaged, 7,557; barns destroyed, 125, damaged, 402; business and other buildings destroyed, 291, damaged, 560; boats destroyed, 42, damaged, 168. Damage estimated as follows: cotton \$400,000; truck \$75,000; pecans \$725,000; tung nuts \$75,000; corn \$725,000; timber \$1,000,000; communications and power lines, etc., \$4,000,000; railroad tracks and bridges \$1,250,000; homes, barns, other buildings, etc. \$15,188,000. More details will appear in the annual summary of hurricanes, Monthly Weather Review, December 1947.
Harrisburg, Pa.	21	2 a. m.	-----	-----	-----	Thunderstorm	Strong winds snapped branches of trees and shrubbery.
Maxwell Ferry, Winn Parish, La.	21	Early morning	-----	-----	-----	Severe thunderstorm	Severe thunderstorm struck Maxwell Ferry, damaging several houses and barns, and uprooting and breaking considerable timber.
Ohio, entire State	21	Evening	-----	-----	-----	Wind	Considerable damage to wires, trees, telephone poles, signs, etc.
Penn Line, Pa.	21	-----	-----	-----	-----	Thunderstorm	Strong winds blew down trees, electric and phone wires.
Western, central, and northern New York.	21-22	-----	-----	-----	-----	Wind	Winds, reaching gale force, crossed the State, blew down trees, damaged public utility lines, buildings, and fences. 3 hangars and a plane demolished, 5 persons injured in automobile accidents caused by falling trees. Monetary loss unquestionably very high.
Tampa, Fla., 40 miles south of Tampa.	22	1:30 p. m.	-----	0	-----	Tornado	Sighted by airline pilot.
Seffner, Fla., 15 miles west of Tampa.	22	6:10 p. m.	-----	0	5,000	do	3 small houses demolished; trees broken.
Tampa, Fla.	22	6:30 p. m.	-----	0	1,000	do	Trees and communication lines broken; roofs damaged.
Ocala, Fla.	23	4:30 a. m.	-----	0	4,000	do	Unroofed 2 homes, broke telephone and power lines, uprooted or broke trees.
Jacksonville, Fla.	23	9-11 a. m.	50-100	0	4,000	do	3 sections of the city affected by these storms: Norwood, Murray Hill, and Panama Park. Damage to roofs, trees broken or uprooted, telephone and power lines broken.
Atlantic Shores, Fla. south of Jackson Beach.	23	9-10 a. m.	50	0	3,000	do	Path about 500 yards long. Damage to roofs, telephone and power lines; trees broken and uprooted.
Adamsville, Fla., near Jacksonville Beach.	23	9-10 a. m.	-----	0	500	do	1 person injured.
Arlington, Fla., Duval County.	23	10 a. m.	100-200	0	5,000	do	One house moved off foundation; roofs damaged; trees broken or uprooted.
Jacksonville, Fla., south side.	23	10:30 a. m.	800	0	4,000	do	Path 2 miles or more long. Roofs damaged, trees broken or uprooted, and telephone and power lines broken.
Florida, Tampa to Jacksonville.	23	-----	-----	0	100,000	Tropical disturbance.	Moved up west coast; moved inland near Tampa about 5 to 6 p. m., and passed west of Jacksonville during night. Winds about 60 m. p. h. along coast from Sarasota northward to near Cedar Keys, and squalls of 40 to 60 m. p. h. quite general over Peninsula. Heavy rainfall aggravated flood situation. Some damage to beaches and transmission lines. Series of small tornadoes occurred on northern edge. See below.
Lewis and Nez Perce Counties, Idaho.	26	Late evening	-----	-----	-----	Heavy rain, hail, and wind.	Storm caused considerable crop damage, mostly to newly planted wheat fields, impeded work on highways, disrupted power and communication lines, and carried away top soil. Flash flood on Sweetwater Creek damaged roads and washed out 4 bridges.
Butte, Mont.	27	Afternoon	-----	-----	-----	Heavy hail and rain.	1 small fire started by lightning; power service temporarily disrupted, and basements in the lower portions of the city flooded.
Sherman and Wasco Cos., Oreg.	27-28	6 p. m.-after midnight.	300	-----	4,000	Thunderstorm	Storm severe near Oregon-Washington border. Damaged planted grains, washed soils, and caused slides across railways and highways. Heavy electric discharges damaged power lines.
Lake Lowell, near Nampa, Idaho.	28	5:30 p. m.	-----	3	-----	Wind squall	A sudden wind squall capsized a small motorboat; 3 people drowned.
Denver, Colo.	30	4:15 p. m.	-----	1	-----	Lightning	A Denver University football player killed and 4 team mates slightly injured when lightning struck the field.

¹ Miles instead of yards.

LATE STORM REPORTS FOR JUNE—AUGUST 1947

The table hereunder contains such data as were received concerning severe local storms during these months. 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
Howell County, Mo.	June 1	3:40-4:15 p. m.	440-880	1	\$20,000	Tornado, rain, hail.	Storm from west struck Olden, Pomona, Dripping Springs, White Church, and Peace Valley; path 15 miles long. Serious injury to 2 persons; damage to farm homes, buildings, outbuildings, timber, wires, orchards, and fences; livestock and poultry killed. 1 hailstone reported found that measured 7 inches around. Roads and highways blocked by fallen trees.
De Kalb County, Mo.	4	10:45-11 p. m.	440-880	0	10,000	Tornado.	Storm from southwest, struck near Oak and Clarksdale, damaging one house, several barns, outbuildings, trees, and orchards. 1 person slightly injured; livestock and poultry killed. Path 4 miles long.
Dade County, Mo.	5	7-7:15 a. m.	50-67		3,000	Wind.	Storm from northwest struck business district of Lockwood. Roofs of 3 buildings blown off; 2 dwellings and numerous outbuildings damaged; many trees felled or broken. Storm accompanied by heavy rain which came through damaged roofs, accounting for about one-half of damage.
Clay County, Mo.	6	8:08-8:14 p. m.	200-660	0	100,000	Tornado.	Storm from west-southwest, veering to west-northwest, struck near Excelsior Springs, passed through Crescent Lake and over Lake Maurer. Two or three houses totally destroyed; other houses and outbuildings partially destroyed; livestock killed; telephone wires, growing crops, gardens, and trees damaged. A few persons slightly injured. Path 2 3/4 miles long.
St. Louis City and St. Louis County, Mo.	8	1-2 a. m.			1,000	High wind, thunderstorm.	Storm from south disrupted power and telephone service. Lightning struck a chimney and a church, with \$1,000 resultant fire damage.
Holt County, Mo.	12	Morning				Electrical.	Barn near Forbes struck by lightning and burned. A combine, feed grinder, 40 tons of hay, and 6,000 bushels of corn lost.
Sullivan County, Mo.	17	do.		1		do.	1 man and several head of livestock killed near Browning.
St. Louis City and St. Louis County, Mo.	25	7-7:45 p. m.				High wind, thunderstorm.	Trees and public utility lines blown down. Storm from northwest.
Butler County, Mo.	27	8:45-8:55 a. m.	100	0	10,000	Tornado, rain, hail.	Storm from southwest struck Harviell, damaging houses, barns, and automobiles. Many telephone lines down. Length of path 11 miles.
Greene and Webster Cos., Mo.	27	6-6:30 a. m.	15		10,500	High wind.	A line-squall wind of 56 m. p. h. from northwest struck Springfield, resulting in heavy damage to trees, power and telephone lines, an airplane, and an automobile. Some evidence of a tornado, but it did not touch ground. Damage at Springfield estimated at \$10,000. Also struck Seymour; trees and wires broken; service disrupted; damage, \$500.
St. Louis City and St. Louis County, Mo.	29	4:30-5 a. m.				High wind, thunderstorm.	Storm from the northwest. Trees and wires blown down and electric service disrupted; damage to wheat crop by wind.
Marion County, Mo.	30			2		Electrical.	Two children killed and another injured when lightning struck a tree on farm near Emerson.
Sullivan, Linn, and Crawford Cos., Mo.	30	11:30 a. m.-12:25 p. m.; also, 6 p. m.				High wind, hail.	Storm from southwest. High winds, quite general over State, resulted in considerable damage. Near Browning, limbs blown from trees, one house blown down, and outbuildings damaged. In Linn County, heavy hail accompanied the wind, damaging roofs and car tops, and killing frying chickens. Some stones measured 9/2 inches in circumference. At Cuba, Crawford County, trees and wires damaged by wind at 6 p. m.
Boone County, Mo.	30	1:10-2:15 p. m.	12		1,000	High wind.	Storm from northwest occurred at Columbia and vicinity to south and southwest, blowing down trees and wires and damaging farm buildings and roofs. Path 10 miles.
Cass and Johnson Cos., Mo.	30	4-5 p. m.	440	0	60,000	Tornado.	Storm from west-northwest struck Kingsville and Holden; seriously injured 1 person, destroyed 6 residences, damaged many other buildings, killed chickens, and tore down trees and power and communication lines. Strong wind damaged trees at Strasburg. Path 7 miles long.
<i>July</i>							
Condon to Umatilla, Oreg., then northward into Washington.	10	4:20-5:30 p. m.	1 to 25	1	(?)	Wind, dust, hail, rain.	One man killed when struck by branch broken in wind. Grain elevators blown down, considerable acreage of standing wheat and other grain crops destroyed. Dust reduced visibility to only a few feet.
Deschutes Valley, Jefferson County and Wasco County to western border Morrow County, Oreg., then northward into Washington.	14	2:50-5 p. m.	1 1/4 to 3		(?)	Hail, wind, rain.	Storm from southwest. Damage serious to wheat fields just ready for harvest; some, one hundred percent losses. Other grains and hay fields suffered. Some hailstones resembled ice cubes.
<i>August</i>							
Giles County, Tenn.	6	Afternoon		2		Thunderstorm, hail.	Damage to crops by hail. 2 persons killed by lightning.
Montgomery, Ala., near	6	2-3 p. m.			15,000	Wind, thunderstorm	A hangar unroofed and 11 light planes damaged or destroyed at Allensport air field.
Nashville, Tenn.	6	7 p. m.				Electrical, wind, hail.	300 telephones out of order; electrical power lines down. Hail damage to crops.
Putnam County, Tenn.	6	P. m.			10,000	Thunderstorm, high winds.	Large saw mill struck by lightning burned. Many trees down; heavy crop damage.
Baton Rouge, La.	7					Wind, thunderstorm	Several buildings damaged; electrical service disrupted; one man injured by falling glass.
Jackson, Miss.	8	1 p. m.		1	5,000	Severe thunderstorm, high wind, light hail.	Lightning caused 1 death, damaged several homes and a cotton warehouse, splintered many trees.
Harrisburg, Pa.	9	Evening				Thunderstorm.	Lightning caused several minor fires; crops damaged by wind and rain.
Beaver Canyon, Utah.	9					Heavy rain.	Erosion of watersheds and roads.
Cameron-Cedar Ridge, Coconino County, Ariz.	11				3,000	Thunderstorm.	Flash flood damaged roads and dikes and washed out water system at Cameron, Ariz.
Winslow-Joseph City, Navajo County, Ariz.	11				2,000	Rain.	State highway department reported damage to structures, drainage, and shoulders on U. S. 66.
Pennsburg, Pa.	12	Night		2		Electrical.	Two persons killed by lightning; five others felled momentarily.
Beaver Canyon, Utah.	12					Heavy rain.	Erosion of watersheds and roads.
Grenville, N. Mex., near	14	P. m.				Flashflood.	Washed out section of highway.
Hawley, Pa.	15					Thunderstorm.	Much damage to trees and gardens; a few buildings burned when struck by lightning.
Magdalena, N. Mex., near	19	P. m.		1		Lightning.	Barn struck by lightning destroyed.
Carlisle, Pa.	19	Night				Electrical.	Crop damage mostly near Deer Flat and Caldwell.
Deer Flat and Caldwell, Canyon County, and Mesa, Adams County, Idaho.	20	Afternoon				Hail.	

See footnotes at end of table.

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	August						
Newellton, Tensas Parish, La.	20	-----	-----	-----	\$500	Lightning-----	
Houma, Terrebonne Parish, La.	20	-----	-----	-----	1,500do-----	
Mercer, Pa.	20	-----	-----	-----	-----	Electrical-----	Several barns burned and others damaged.
Oil City, Pa.	20	-----	-----	-----	-----do-----	Lightning struck and killed a swimmer.
Franklin County, Idaho	21	2 p. m.	14	-----	40,000	Hail-----	Hailstones ½-inch in diameter; storm from southwest; path 5 miles long. Damage to grain, corn, sugarbeets, and tomatoes.
Grants, N. Mex.	21	P. m.	-----	-----	-----	Lightning-----	Fluorspar mill struck by lightning burned.
Bryce Canyon, Utah	21	-----	-----	-----	-----	Heavy rain-----	3.81 inches in 24 hours. Considerable damage to roads.
Chaco Canyon, N. Mex.	22	4:30 p. m.	-----	-----	1,000	Flash floods-----	Considerable damage to highways and irrigation ditches; also damage to ruins in National Monument.
Cocconino and Yavapai Cos., Ariz.	23	-----	-----	-----	2,000	Rain-----	State Highway Department reported shoulders washed out, drainage and oil cake damaged, on U. S. 66, 2 miles north of Bridgeport.
Bedford County, Pa.	26	-----	-----	1	-----	Electrical-----	Boy killed by lightning.
Fredericksburg, Pa.	26	-----	-----	1	-----do-----	
Garfield, N. Mex.	29	3:00 p. m.	-----	-----	10,500	Hail, heavy rain-----	Damage to cotton and chili crop.
Wallace, Idaho, vicinity of	29	6:15 p. m.	19	-----	500	Wind-----	Communications and power lines down, windows broken, and trees uprooted. Storm from northeast, accompanied by hail and rain; path about 12 miles long.
Carville, Iberville Parish, La.	31	-----	-----	-----	1,000	Lightning-----	

¹ Miles instead of yards.

² \$250,000 to \$500,000 damage from storms of 10th and 14th in Oregon.