

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR JANUARY 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
Boone County, Ind., and vicinity. Northwestern counties, Ohio.	Jan. 1947 1					Glaze	Wires down, branches broken from trees.
	1-3					do	Heavy damage to telephone and power lines and to fruit and shade trees. Ice accumulated in thickness to about 3/4 of an inch on exposed objects in Toledo.
Metairie, La.	2	6 a. m., C. S. T.	100	0	\$1,200	Tornado	This storm occurred just ahead of the cold front, attended by high winds from the south and southwest. The tornado moved northeast and struck in only one block of Metairie, a suburb of New Orleans. Two garages destroyed; 1 outbuilding twisted off its foundation; and tiles from all houses in the block loosened and many blew off. Investigation showed definite cyclonic circulation of the wind as it struck this block.
Indiana, northeastern portion of the State. Middletown, Pa. Fulton County, Ohio. Hindsdale, Mont.	2-3					Glaze	This is the heaviest storm on record in Fort Wayne. Trees and wires down; ice coating up to 1 inch.
	21	4:30 p. m.			500	Wind	Part of roof of a building blown off.
	22-23				12,000	Glaze	Damage to power and telephone lines and to trees.
	24-25	P. m.				High wind	High wind broke an insulator at the substation at Hindsdale. The resulting "short" caused a fire which burned the substation and left Hindsdale without electric service from 8:30 p. m., January 24-25.
Wisconsin, southern and central portions.	28-29			3		Blizzard and thunderstorm.	10 to 27 inches of snow recorded over the southern portion and from 8 to 20 inches over much of central Wisconsin. Northeast and east winds, with velocities reaching 38 to 49 miles per hour, accompanied the snow. Drifts of from 10 to 15 feet blocked streets and highways over a large area, worst in southeastern counties. In Milwaukee traffic was completely tied up from 9 p. m., of the 29th to the 31st., when partial train and streetcar service was resumed. Stores, factories, offices, and schools closed from 2 to 4 days. Many persons were stranded the night of the 29th in stalled cars, buses, trains, railroad depots, and hotel lobbies. It was the longest, worst, and costliest tie-up in Milwaukee's history. On the night of the 29th, a man, wife, and daughter perished in the blinding snowstorm within 500 yards of their Jefferson County home. Widespread thunderstorms occurred during the heavy snowfall.
Indiana, northern portion of the State. Oklahoma, most sections of the State.	28-30					Glaze	Trees and wires down. Ice coating measured up to 1/2 inch. Heavy damage in some areas.
	29				28,500	High winds	Considerable property damaged, much soil blowing, and some damage to summer grains. Many plate glass windows blown in, trees broken, roofs of buildings damaged or blown off, and light airplanes damaged. No estimate as to the total damage caused by these winds is available. In Pottawatomie County, \$20,000 property damage occurred; crop loss, mostly in Shawnee, \$8,500. 3 persons were injured.
University, Miss., and throughout Lafayette county.	29-30	During night.			1,000	Thunderstorm	Power and telephone lines damaged by falling trees. Roof blown from a few houses in University, Miss., and throughout Lafayette County.
Saline, Jefferson, Lancaster, Gage, Otoe, Pawnee, Johnson, and Nemaha, Nebr.	29-30		185		3,750	Glaze and high wind	Thickness of ice on wires from 1/4" to 3/8". Wires were overloaded from the freezing rain, with some poles and wires down. Very little destruction. \$3,750 cost of labor required to clear lines and put them in working condition.
Ohio, northwestern counties.	29-30				25,000	Glaze	Heavy damage to telephone and power lines and trees. Worst glaze storm known in some localities. Ice was so heavy that it broke off new telephone poles. \$25,000 damage to telephone poles in Fulton County. Ice accumulated to depth of 1 inch on exposed objects in Toledo.
South Dakota, extreme southern counties.	29-30					High winds and blowing snow.	Locally moderate to heavy snow accompanied by fresh to strong winds caused drifts in some highways and rural roads. Some schools closed, traffic interrupted, and several motor accidents reported.
Michigan, entire State.	29-31					Blizzard, sleet, and ice.	Hazards and discomfort throughout the State.
Greenwood to Muncie, Ind. Frankton to Matthews, Ind. Spencer and Perry Counties, Ind.	30	1 a. m.	50	0	200,000	Tornado	Buildings, trees, and wires down; path from southwest to northeast.
	30	2 a. m.	440	0	60,000	do	Path southwest to northeast; buildings destroyed.
	30	do			50,000	Wind	Buildings, wires, and trees down.
Montgomery, Ala., northeastern portion.	30	9:25 a. m.	100	0	10,000	Tornado	4 houses and 1 store completely destroyed and several other building damaged; 12 persons injured. Length of path, 880 yards.
Kent, Ala.	30	9:50-9:56 a. m.	75-200	3	120,500	do	This believed to have been a continuation of the same tornado which struck in Montgomery, Ala. 14 dwellings and 17 barns destroyed, and 27 other buildings damaged. Path 5 miles long.
Bethel, Ala.	30	10 a. m.	200	3	55,250	do	This small town of Bethel reported to have been wiped out, including 5 out of 6 stores. Length of path 880 yards.
Valdosta, Ga.	30	Mid-afternoon.	100	0	10,000	do	Storm took a zig-zag course, occasionally lifting and returning to the ground. Heaviest damage to timber and power lines, with a number of barns and smaller buildings destroyed. Path 10 miles long.
Macon, Ga., vicinity.	30	3:15 p. m.	200	0	200,000	do	Storm affected three separate areas over a length of 8 miles, a short distance south of Macon. A tourist camp practically wiped out and a trunk line warehouse demolished. Airport hangar and 11 airplanes destroyed; 25 or more dwellings badly damaged and numerous smaller buildings damaged or destroyed; 23 persons injured, 2 seriously.
Chula, Ga.	30	4:15 p. m.	400	0	30,000	do	Smaller homes, including household effects, and numerous small buildings badly damaged. Small area affected.
Springfield, Ohio, and vicinities.	30				250,000	Tornadoic winds.	Some residents reported seeing a funnel-shaped cloud. 75 trees uprooted, and splinters driven through a building. Windows broken, signs blown down, and buildings unroofed. Two factories in Springfield were forced to suspend operations for a day due to buildings being unroofed and otherwise damaged.

<sup>1</sup> Miles instead of yards.

LATE STORM REPORTS FOR DECEMBER 1946

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Lower Snoqualmie, Snohomish, Green, and Cedar Valleys, Washington. Clarkesville, Tenn., vicinity.	December 1946 11-16				\$700,000	Flood from rain and melting snow.	Main damage from flooding of the Green River which resulted primarily from the breaking of the dike. Valley floor from Kent to Renton Junction remained under water until the end of December.
	29	Early morning.			1,000,000	Severe local thunderstorm.	Widespread damage mostly to Camp Campbell.