
- Big snowstorms in Anchorage, Alaska. This followed several below normal years. Page 16
- California citrus crop destroyed by frost (Jan 16, 2007): Page 18

- Ready to scan July 3, 2007 (Doc RJ0416, 43 pages).

Document RJ0416

Roy Jenne
July 3, 2007

The winter had unusual storm patterns. Some more research would be useful!

R. Jenne

Roy Jenne
July 2, 2007

~ INDEX ~

   • California death toll hits 130 in heat wave (July 29, 2006).
   • High temps in the Northwest (July 22, 2006).
   • “US sizzles in heat wave” (July 17, 2006).
   • “Heat waves sock Midwest” (Aug 1, 2006).

   • Rushing rivers have state awash (Nov 7, 2006, western Washington State).
   • Rainier flood damage could reach $30 million.
   • Olympia, Washington, sets record (34 straight rain days), fall 2006.

3. Lots of snow in Colorado mountains and in Denver area.
   • This is covered below.

4. Big snowstorm hits Anchorage (Jan 4, 2007) P 16
   • They are having a big snow winter after several, “wimpy, low-snow winters.”

5. California citrus crop destroyed (Jan 16, 2007)
   • And, “Texas shivers under ice winter blast” (Jan 18, 2007). This was while the American Meteorological Society annual meeting was held there.
   • Odd winter for Midwest, East (very warm).


   • Sep 23, 2006: I-70 reopens after snowfall.
   • Storm shrouds state (Oct 27, 2006).
   • October snowstorm jumpstarts ski season.
   • Dec 30, 2006: Denver copes with second major snowstorm in two weeks.
     • Lots of trouble at Denver International Airport.
   • Dec 30, 2006: Metro anxieties ease as snow moves east.
     • In Boulder, Colorado, our second big Dec ’06 snow was Thursday, Dec 28, 10:00 AM to Friday, noon: 11 inches in Boulder, 11-12 inches in Broomfield 10 miles SE of Boulder, towards Denver.
   • Jan 2, 2007: Resupplying rural shelters, finding livestock is now the focus.
   • Jan 7, 2007: Snow slide slams into highway.
     • Huge avalanche sweeps two cars off the road to Winter Park, Colo.; 8 people rescued.
   • Jan 27, 2007: Another weekend, another snowstorm (Boulder, Colo.)

8. A note:
   2004 and 2005 were heavy years for hurricanes hitting the USA. This created an enormous amount of news. Another strong hurricane year was expected for 2006, but it was a weak year. An El Nino had brewed up in the Pacific, and that tends to cut off the Atlantic hurricanes.

...
SACRAMENTO — The suspected death toll from more than a week of searing, triple-digit temperatures in California climbed to more than 50 Tuesday as residents sweated calls to cut power and the rotting carcasses of dairy cows baked in the sun.

The stretch of 10 straight 100-plus degree scorcher marks the first time in 57 years that both Northern and Southern California — an area stretching nearly 900 miles — has experienced simultaneous, extended heat waves, Undersecretary for Energy Affairs Joe Desmond said.

“This is a historic heat wave,” he said, calling conditions “extreme.” He also noted the average temperature in Northern California has been 104, higher than Southern California’s 100-degree average.

State and local authorities reported at least 56 possible heat-related deaths, most in the smoldering Central Valley and where temperatures reached 115 degrees over the weekend and were forecast to remain well above normal for a few more days.

In the 14 counties where coroners investigated deaths that might be attributed to the heat, officials said most of the victims appeared to be elderly people who, along with children, are less able to tolerate extreme temperatures.

In Fresno County, 11 people may have perished during days of blistering weather; the coroner said eight of the victims were 70 or older. Meanwhile, three elderly residents of non-air-conditioned single-room occupancy hotels within four blocks of the state Capitol were found dead Tuesday.

On Tuesday afternoon, state officials issued their third Stage 1 power emergency alert since Saturday, calling on individual consumers to curb electricity use to help avoid involuntary rolling blackouts — the periodic shutdowns that plagued the state in 2000 and 2001.

The state avoided such blackouts again Tuesday, but the combination of record demand and high temperatures caused more transformers to explode.
More than 130 die in Calif. heat wave

Record-breaking temperatures cause concern for officials

By John Pomfret
The Washington Post

LOS ANGELES — The death toll from California’s 12-day heat wave topped 130 on Friday as coroners documented more cases of mostly elderly victims found dead during the record-breaking temperatures.

In Stanislaus County in the Central Valley, where temperatures hovered at 115 for the past two weeks, the heat wave killed 29 and is believed to be the single deadliest event in the county since the 1918 global outbreak of the Spanish flu. At the antiquated county coroner’s office there, four scented candles burned near the front door to cover the smell. In Fresno County, Coroner Loralee Cervantes said 27 deaths were suspected to be heat-related. “We usually have one or two a year,” she said. “This has just been incredible.”

Temperatures eased slightly Friday but still broke 100 in many parts of central California. “They are trending down a little, but California is still facing ridiculous heat,” said Dennis Feltgen, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Adding to the heat woes were warnings of flash floods for parts of San Diego, Riverside and San Bernardino counties hit by one of more than a dozen wildfires that have erupted around the state in recent weeks.

California’s heat wave, which began July 16, has been unusual because it has lasted so long, the temperatures were so high and the whole state — from its deserts in the south to the forested north — was affected.

The heat wave has threatened California’s multibillion-dollar agriculture industry. Rendering facilities for livestock carcasses were so overloaded that regulators eased environmental regulations to allow livestock and dairy farmers to bury dead animals on their own land or in landfills, said Jay Van Rein, a spokesman for the state Department of Food and Agriculture.
Toll of scorching heat adds up

Higher produce prices are expected, especially on milk

By Olivia Munoz

Aug 5 2006
Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — The triple-digit heat wave that steam-rolled across the country this week killed thousands of cattle and poultry and cooked crops in the field before farmers could pick them. And experts say consumers will help foot the bill.

In California, the nation’s No. 1 agriculture and dairy producer, the temperature peaked at more than 115 degrees in late July, killing 16,500 cows; 1 million chickens and turkeys perished; and countless peaches, nectarines, nuts and melons were destroyed.

As the heat plowed eastward, farmers in the Plains states and the Midwest also reported dried-out crops and lowered milk production.

“That’s the humbling part about agriculture,” said A.G. Kawamura, California’s secretary of Food and Agriculture. “We’re certainly vulnerable to a lot of factors.”

Because California produce is shipped worldwide, shoppers in far-flung places will probably help pay for the $1 billion blow the heat wave dealt to the state’s $33 billion agriculture industry.

“In certain areas you will see price spikes because of shortages,” Kawamura said. Dairy and canning tomatoes used for ketchup, salsa and spaghetti sauce were most affected but may show only a few cents increase.

Keith Collins, chief economist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said there’s strength in the size and number of America’s farms, and while some prices may go up, the damage has not been catastrophic.

“You have to keep in mind that this is a couple weeks in a season, in a long year, in an industry affected by many factors,” Collins said. “People may pay a few cents more for milk at the grocery store in the next few weeks, but overall it won’t be drastic.”

The most noticeable increase is likely to be on milk prices.

Production in California was 20 percent lower during the heat wave as the record-setting heat killed thousands of dairy cows.

The hot cows also ate less and produced less milk, even as farmers sprayed them with misters and fanned them down. Some of the milk they did produce was so low in fat and protein levels, it was “just white water,” one California dairy farmer said.

“The cows make the most milk when they’re the most happy, so we spend a lot of money trying to make them happy all the time,” said Dino Giacomazzi, a farmer whose family has operated a dairy in Central California since 1893. He doesn’t expect his cows to return to normal until December.

Farmers in the Midwest are using similar techniques to keep their cows cool. But Ohio farmers reported their animals have produced about 10 pounds less milk per day during the heat wave because of the heat, down from the usual 90 pounds.

Farmers were already making less money on milk this year. Doug Idsinga, a New Mexico dairy owner, was getting about $14 per pound for milk last summer, but only $10.50 per pound this month, he said.

Before the current heat wave, corn and soybean farmers in the Plains states and Midwest were anticipating a banner year. But the stifling temperatures created drought-like conditions. Late in the week, farmers were still waiting for things to cool off before taking stock of the damage.

Cotton, soybean and peanut crops across the Southeast also were stressed, Collins said.

The summer’s swelter has also taken a toll on poultry.

California farmers lost about 1 million of the state’s 30 million chickens and turkeys under last week’s scorching temperatures, said Bill Mattos, president of the California Poultry Federation.

Georgia, the No. 1 poultry state, suffered minor losses because the temperatures were not as severe as in the West, according to the Georgia Poultry Federation. Prices for Georgia chicken were average Thursday, according to the USDA.
Temp on Sat, Jul 22, 2006

Washington
- Bellingham: 85° Fe
- Blaine: 93
- Colville: 89
- Ellensburg: 98
- Ephrata: 106
- Hoquiam: 91
- Olympia: 98
- Seattle: 95
- Spokane: 101
- Tri-Cities: 109
- Walla Walla: 105

Idaho
- Boise: 107

Montana
- Butte: 94
- Helena: 100

BC
- Victoria: 90°

Roy Janno
July 2006
Kohl Mead, 3, gets a shot of cool water from a water fountain jet at Seymour Park on the west side of Green Bay, Wis., on Sunday. Green Bay residents tried to stay cool as the city endured record temperatures.

**U.S. sizzles in heat wave**

Midwest, West swelter as temps top 100 degrees

By Carla K. Johnson

CHICAGO — Temperatures soared into the upper 90s and higher Sunday from coast to coast, bringing out heat warnings and advisories

**Nation battling summer's heat**

Choking heat is expected for the next few days in many areas across the country, prompting scattered heat advisories.

- Heat advisory
- Excessive heat watch
- Excessive heat warning

**weather service meteorologist in Chicago.**

Even the Colorado mountain town of Fraser, which sits at 8,550 feet and likes to claim that it is the nation's ice box, was in the upper 80s during the weekend.

The mile-high city of Denver hit a record high of 101 on Saturday.

South Dakota posted some of the nation's highest temperatures with a reading on Saturday
Heat waves sock Midwest

By Carla K. Johnson
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The blowtorch heat that blistered California last week gripped the Midwest on Monday, prompting communities to throw air-conditioned buildings open to the public and endangering millions of people with outdoor jobs.

Temperatures throughout the Midwest and Plains rose into the upper 90s and in some places exceeded 100 degrees. The heat index, a measure of temperature plus humidity, climbed as high as 110. The National Weather Service issued heat warnings for such cities as Chicago, Cincinnati, Dayton, Ohio, and Tulsa, Okla.

The Midwest could get some relief by Wednesday, but the worst of the heat was expected to drift into the Northeast today, bringing scorching temperatures to New York, Washington and Boston.

Chicago’s cooling centers — air-conditioned recreation centers and other buildings — were opened to the public to prevent a repeat of 1995, when a heat wave killed 700 people in Chicago.

In California, the sweltering heat that punished the state for two weeks subsided, but the number of confirmed or suspected heat-related deaths climbed to 164 as county coroners worked through a backlog of cases.

Cities across the Midwest urged neighbors to check on the elderly and disabled. Utilities expected to set records for power usage and asked customers to conserve electricity to prevent blackouts.

Betty Erna, from Chicago, wipes her face with a wet towel as she sells cold water to motorists under a train viaduct on the southwest side of Chicago, on Monday.
In this photo released by the Lewis County Sheriff's Office, a house begins to float down the Cowlitz River near Packwood, Wash., on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2006.

Rushing rivers have state awash

Rain eases Tuesday, but rivers reach record crest

By Donna Gordon Blankenship
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Rainstorms eased Tuesday but record flooding continued in Western Washington, changing the course of the Cowlitz River at Packwood, south of Mount Rainier, and forcing rescues in Skagit and Lewis counties.

Flood warnings were posted Tuesday on 19 Western Washington rivers, with six rivers already reaching record crests — the Skykomish River near Gold Bar, the Carbon River near Auburn, the Snoqualmie River near Bothell, the Nooksack River near Whatcom, the Skagit River near Mount Vernon and the Cowlitz near Packwood.

Girls watch as waters rise along the roadway as flooding continues along the banks of the Skagit River in Mount Vernon, Wash., on Tuesday.

Cleanup personnel from the Department of Ecology, who had vacuumed out about 2,000 gallons of fuel mixed with water, were stranded at the site Tuesday by a log jam and a mudslide, said spokesman Curt Hart.

Numerous smaller roads throughout Western Washington remained closed Tuesday as the Department of Transportation continued to clear debris and pump water.

State officials were concerned about the safety of five public water systems in Pierce, Skagit and Snohomish counties and 13,000 smaller ones, said Leslie Gates, spokeswoman for the Health Department's office of drinking water.
Deadly Floods Swamp Two States

The name Pineapple Express seems cheerful enough, but the storm, so named because it formed over warm Pacific waters, caused millions of dollars of damage last week when it dropped record rainfalls in many parts of the Pacific Northwest. The body of a 78-year-old woman was found Wednesday near Gleneden Beach, Ore., the third confirmed death from floodwaters that also carved up highways and inundated houses. Emergencies were declared in parts of both Oregon and Washington. Rain let up by midweek, but authorities were still worried about up to 1,000 hunters who rode out the storm on hillsides between Mount Rainier and Mount St. Helens. “The rescue guys in the air said the guys are just sitting around campfires, waving at the plane,” says Lewis County (Wash.) sheriff’s deputy Gene Seiber. “They’re fine now, but eventually they’re going to come down and realize they can’t get out.”

The “Pineapple Express” brought the moist air and heavy rains to the western areas of Washington and Oregon. — Ray James

Swept Away. A house is carried down the Cowlitz River during torrential rains near Packwood, Wash.
Rushing rivers have state awash

Rain eases Tuesday, but rivers reach record crest

By Donna Gordon Blankenship
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Rainstorms eased Tuesday but record flooding continued in Western Washington, changing the course of the Cowlitz River at Packwood, south of Mount Rainier, and forcing rescues in Skagit and Lewis counties.

Flood warnings were posted Tuesday for 19 Western Washington rivers, with six rivers already reaching record crests — the Skykomish River near Gold Bar, the Carbon River near Fairfax, the Snoqualmie River near Carnation, the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River near Arlington, the Cowlitz River at Randle and Packwood, and the Nisqually River near National — the weather service reported Tuesday.

The steady drenching was subsiding to showers Tuesday afternoon as the so-called Pineapple Express moved east. After a respite Wednesday and Thursday — with light showers and perhaps even some sun breaks — another Pacific weather system was expected to deliver more routine drizzle late Thursday and Friday, said forecaster Johnny Burg — "not more flooding."

It will take time for swollen rivers to subside, though.

Rainfall records were set Monday across Western Washington, including 8.22 inches at Stampede Pass, which broke an all-time rain record of 7.29 inches set on Nov. 19, 1962.

New records for Monday's date included 3.29 inches at Seattle-Tacoma Airport, more than triple the old record of 0.95 set in 1980, and 4.31 inches at Olympia Airport, more than double the old record of 1.74, also set in 1980. A record temperature of 61 degrees was set in Seattle on Monday, beating the 1997 record of 60 degrees, the weather service said.

Three hundred homes and rental cabins were threatened with flooding after the raging Cowlitz River changed course in the High Valley area near Packwood at midday Tuesday, said Deputty Stacy Brown of the Lewis County sheriff's office.

All roads into Packwood were closed by mudslides and flooding, which made rescues more difficult, Brown said.

About 19 households had called for rescue in the Randle area, where the Cowlitz River was rising past 24.45 feet, well above the 18-foot flood level, she said. "The people that we told to evacuate yesterday are staying and now we are risking our rescue personnel," said Brown, who was expecting assistance Tuesday from a helicopter and National Guard troops.

Gov. Chris Gregoire, who declared a state of emergency for 16 counties, flew over affected areas in a helicopter Tuesday.

"I feel very, very positive about what's going on here in Skagit County," the governor said during a stop in Mount Vernon. "People here know when to call for help and when not to. It's worked exactly as it should — federal, state and local."

She said she'd heard from both the state's U.S. senators and other members of the congressional delegation. "Everybody's standing ready to help us."

Cresting at 39.77 feet at Concrete early Tuesday, the Skagit River did not go as high as it did during the last big flood in 2003, officials said. But the total impact, which won't be known for days, could be comparable to that year, when flooding caused $17 million in property damage in Concrete and 3,400 households were evacuated, said county spokesman Don McKeen. Flood stage on the Skagit River at Concrete and Mount Vernon is 28 feet.

Fewer people than expected made their way to emergency shelters in eastern Skagit County and a minus tide expected Tuesday afternoon could aid runoff along shorelines, he said.

Mount Vernon Mayor Bud Norris declared a civil emergency, and volunteers worked to build a sandbag wall downtown next to the river, which was not expected to crest until 10 p.m. Tuesday.

Voters in several counties were expected to have trouble making it to the polls or the post office Tuesday, though most Washington counties now vote entirely by mail and election officials said a majority of ballots were mailed before the flooding began.

State elections director Nick Handy encouraged voters in extreme situations to write a note on the outside of their mail-in ballot envelopes explaining what happened.
WASHINGTON
STATE

Olympia sets record —
34 straight soggy days

OLYMPIA — With a drip here and a torrent there, Olympia set a local record for sogginess Friday — its 34th consecutive day of measurable rainfall.

The Washington state capital almost missed tying its old mark, set in 1953, until 0.09 inches fell late Thursday night. After that, though, there wasn’t much letup. By 5 a.m., the National Weather Service had recorded more than half an inch of rain at Olympia Regional Airport.

Fifty miles to the north, Seattle’s went 27 straight days with rain until Sunday, when the streak ended six days short of the city’s record for consecutive days of rain.

Camera wire services

They got lots of
rain in Fall 2006

Fall 2006
NW USA

WASHINGTON

Inspector: Katrina bus bill inflated by $32M

A bill for busing evacuees from New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina was $32 million more than it should have been, and the government paid it without question, the Transportation Department inspector general said Friday.

Landstar Express America was given 570 specific tasks to supply enough vehicles to haul thousands of truckloads of goods and thousands of busloads of people after the hurricane struck.

News from
the hurricane
glands Sep 2005
Washington storm kills at least four

More than 1 million without power

By Gene Johnson
Associated Press

SEATTLE — More than a million people were without power Friday after the worst windstorm in more than a decade tore through western Washington, killing at least four people.

One woman died after being trapped in the flooded basement of her home, while falling trees killed three others.

It was the worst windstorm to hit the state since the Inauguration Day storm on Jan. 20, 1993, which killed five people, destroyed at least 79 homes and caused about $130 million in damage, said Clifford F. Mass, a University of Washington atmospheric sciences professor.

Winds gusted to a record 69 mph about 1 a.m. local time at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, breaking the old mark of 65 mph set in 1993. Winds were clocked at 90 mph near Westport on the coast.

Power was knocked out at one of the airport's concourses until late Friday morning. Dozens of flights were canceled, including all American Airlines service through the morning hours.

In Seattle, firefighters cut a hole in the floor in an attempt to rescue Kathryn Fleming, 41, from her flooded basement after neighbors heard her screaming. She was pronounced dead after being taken to Harborview Medical Center.

"Somehow, the door shut and she couldn't open the door because of the water pressure," Fire Department spokeswoman Helen Fitzpatrick said.

In Grays Harbor County, a 28-year-old man was killed around midnight when the top of a tree snapped off, crashing into his home in the Brookside Trailer Court in McCleary, 18 miles west of Olympia.

The 40-foot section of the tree crushed the man, who has not been identified, while he slept, Chief Ron Pittman, of the McCleary Fire Department, told The Daily World of Aberdeen.

"The tree came down and flattened everything down to the floor. It just came right down on him," Pittman said.

In Pierce County, Harold J. Fox, 47, of Eatonville, was killed Thursday when a tree fell on his vehicle on State Route 7 near Roy, the Washington State Patrol said, and a woman died and her husband was critically injured when a tree fell on their pickup truck after they stopped because of fallen trees southeast of McKenna.

About 700,000 customers of Puget Sound Energy, the state's largest private utility, were without power early Friday and about three-fourths of the circuits were down in the company's nine-county service area, spokesman Roger Thompson said.

Some people could be without power for as long as three days, said Dorothy Bracken, a Puget Sound Energy spokeswoman.

Other outages affected about 171,000 customers in Seattle, 120,000 in the Snohomish County Public Utility District north of the city, 70,000 to 80,000 to the south in Tacoma and 22,000 in the Grays Harbor PUD on the coast.

There was no estimate of how long it would take to restore all service, but Neil Neroutsos of the Snohomish PUD noted that repair crews were busy for more than a week after the 1993 storm.

Dec 16, 2006
Daily Camera
Boulder, Colo
MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK, Wash. — When floodwaters washed away roads and trails, damaged campgrounds and forced the closure of this popular Pacific Northwest park earlier this month, officials there couldn't begin to estimate the cost of the damage.

Now that they have, the numbers are as sobering as the damage was when they first encountered it.

Park Superintendent Dave Uberuaga said repairs will cost an estimated $29.85 million, the bulk of it — $16 million — to repair roads wiped out or weakened by water.

The park has been closed since Nov. 6, when 18 inches of rain fell in 36 hours, swamping roads and bridges, cutting power and sewer lines and forcing park officials to swing the gates closed to visitors for the first time since nearby Mount St. Helens' massive May 18, 1980, eruption.

The shutdown now marks the longest closure at Mount Rainier since all national parks were closed during World War II.

"Every day I keep adding to it and adding to it. Originally, I would have said $25 (million) to $30 million," Uberuaga said.

"And it could go up very easily. We could have more damage during the winter. Every culvert that's plugged now could cause trouble when the snow melts next spring."

National forests in Washington and Oregon also face extensive repairs, particularly the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, which includes Mount St. Helens, and the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, in Seattle's backyard. The North Cascades National Park and Olympic National Park also saw roads washed away.

"It comes at a bad time because trails funding for national parks and national forests is declining," said Andrew Engelson of the Washington Trails Association, a group representing hikers. "Now the storms have hit us pretty hard and that's going to set the work back even further."

Fixing all the forest roads and trails that lace Washington's flood-hammered mountains could cost more than $50 million, and the extensive damage will keep people from many favorite destination spots well into the summer, if not longer.

Road-repair money could be the easiest to find for the parks and the national forests. The Federal Highway Administration often pays to fix forest roads damaged in floods. But money for trails and campgrounds could be more scarce because that spending is usually part of annual budgets that take months to hammer out.

The National Park Service doesn't have enough money to pay for all the repairs right now, and will have to turn to the highway administration and Congress for help, Uberuaga said.

U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash., said securing money to repair Mount Rainier will be his first priority in Congress. Dicks is expected to chair the congressional committee responsible for spending in national parks and national forests when Democrats take control in January.

"This isn't going to happen overnight," Dicks said Tuesday after a tour of the damage with park officials. "As the new chairman, I'm going to be in a good position to see that it does get done."

Meanwhile, Uberuaga said he is pushing to reopen the park at least at the Nisqually entrance as far as Longmire, where the National Park Inn and many park offices are. The Nisqually River washed away chunks of the road leading there and severed sewer, water and power lines.
Cleanup begins after Ore. flood

By Shannon Dininny
Associated Press

PACKWOOD, Wash. — Cleanup from the drenching storm that killed at least three people in the Pacific Northwest likely will continue for days, if not weeks, officials say.

The rain washed out a major highway near Oregon's Mount Hood and forced the shutdown of 67 miles of the North Cascades Highway in Washington state Thursday.

The White River flowed over Oregon 35 on Mount Hood's eastern flank on Monday and Tuesday, cutting 20-foot-deep ruts through the road and sending boulders and trees rolling down the mountainside, said Bill Barnhart, an Oregon Department of Transportation manager.

Two creeks also wiped out a section of the same highway to the north, Barnhart said. Re-opening the highway near Mount Hood is estimated to cost $20 million.

In Washington, search-and-rescue teams continued to seek out hunters camped between Mount Rainier and Mount St. Helens who may be unaware that many of the roads out had been washed out or blocked by mudslides.

"Many up there are just waiting it out," Lewis County sheriff's Chief Deputy Gene Seiber said. "The rescue guys in the air said the guys are just sittin' around campfires, waving at the plane. They're fine now, but eventually they're going to come down and realize they can't get out."

The storms damaged hundreds of homes and broke rainfall records. At least three deaths were blamed on the flooding: two men swept into a Washington river and a 78-year-old woman found along the Oregon coast, where another woman was missing.
Snowstorm hits Anchorage

City ‘bearing the brunt’ of widespread weather system

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Snow piled up most of Wednesday in Anchorage and other southcentral Alaska communities, disrupting traffic and closing public buildings.

Meteorologist Tom Dang at the National Weather Service said 16 inches of snow had fallen in parts of Anchorage by 5 p.m. local time. A snow advisory remained in place for four more hours as heavy snow continued to fall.

A low pressure system moving from the Gulf of Alaska into Prince William Sound brought snow over a 200-mile swath, stretching from Homer to Toklatna. The snowstorm followed 36.9 inches of snow that fell in Anchorage last month, the fourth snowiest December on record.

Anchorage was “bearing the brunt of things” in the storm, Dang said.

Anchorage Police Department Lt. Paul Honeman said police took reports of 53 collisions between midnight Tuesday and 5 p.m. Wednesday. More than 100 vehicles were in distress or in ditches. The department was averaging a disabled call every six minutes and a collision every 10 minutes, Honeman said.

Julie Hasqueut, spokeswoman for the municipality of Anchorage, said libraries and recreation facilities would close early because of the heavy snowfall. Schools already were closed for the holidays. The University of Alaska Anchorage closed early, though a women’s basketball game was not postponed.

Rick Feller, spokesman for the state Department of Transportation Central Region, said the snowfall meant plenty of work for snow removal crews.

“We’re keeping up,” he said.

“We’re certainly having to maximize our available work force.”

Plowing crews have shifted to working six 12-hour days.

“That way we can provide 24-hour coverage,” Feller said. “With this much snowfall, it just takes awhile to clean up between snowfalls.”

Alaska State Trooper spokesman Tim DeSpain reported no unusual traffic problems earlier in the day.

“Considering the amount of snow and that it continues to fall, things are going pretty well,” DeSpain said. “It seems that people have decided to slow down.”

Driving too fast in snowy conditions is the main reason people leave the roadway or cause accidents, DeSpain said. Troopers driving from Anchorage to Girdwood reported low visibility and slowed traffic but no major disruptions.
ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The snow is already piled so high that drivers cannot see around corners. Homeowners are getting worried their roofs can’t handle the load. And snow-removal crews are running up the overtime hours.

Even by Alaska’s prodigious, myth-making standards, this is a remarkably snowy winter on the Last Frontier.

In one of the strangest winters across America in many years, Alaska’s biggest city has gotten more snow — more than 74 inches so far — than it normally receives in an entire winter, 68 inches. And there are still four more months of wintry weather ahead.

The robust snowfall comes after several years of wimpy, low-snow winters in proudly rugged Alaska, and so it is welcome news to some.

The Anchorage snowfall record is 132.5 inches, set in the winter of 1955-56.

City snow-removal crews have had to cut channels through the streets, leaving narrower-than-usual roadways, hemmed in by walls of snow as high as cars.

To help open side streets, Anchorage police have begun towing cars and issuing tickets instead of just warning drivers. Police spokesman Lt. Paul Honeman said people have “become a little lulled in light snow years.”

The city’s 100 snow-removal workers will have to work 10-hour shifts six days a week for the next two months to clear the streets, said Alan Czajkowski, director of maintenance and operations. And to think, last year at this time, crews were patching potholes created by a warming trend that had water running down the streets.

Contractors are fielding a blizzard of calls from homeowners wanting their roofs cleared before the ice and snow cause damage and force water through the ceiling.

Brent Eaton, operations manager for Rain Proof Roofing, said the company has a three-week backlog of roof snow-removal jobs. But he said he is not worried about his own roof yet. The city code requires roofs to withstand 40 pounds a square foot, and the snowfall adds up to only half that.

Snow removal crews work to clear snow from a street in Anchorage, Alaska, on Thursday. More than 74 inches of snow that has fallen in Anchorage this winter, above the normal seasonal snowfall of 68 inches, which is clogging roads and straining the city’s snow removal crews.

- Anchorage gets lots of snow this winter (2006-2007)
- This followed several years of "wimpy", low-snow winters in Alaska
Prices soar for California citrus

By Olivia Muno
Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — Shoppers will feel the sting from a string of subfreezing nights in California's citrus groves and other farming areas, with prices for oranges, lemons, avocados and other produce poised to double or triple in coming weeks, according to industry officials.

"We may adjust the prices as we discover the full extent of the damage next week, but for now, if you bought an orange at the supermarket for 50 cents, expect to pay a dollar to $1.49 for it," said Todd Steel, owner of Royal Vista Marketing, which sells California citrus to markets throughout the country.

Nearly every winter crop is affected by the freeze, from avocados to strawberries to fresh-cut flowers, but it's the state's citrus crop that stands to take the biggest economic hit. California is the nation's No. 1 producer of fresh citrus, growing about 86 percent of lemons and 21 percent of oranges sold in the U.S., according to the California Farm Bureau. Florida produces more oranges, but those are mostly processed for orange juice.

More than 70 percent of this season's oranges, lemons and tangerines — nearly $1 billion worth of fruit — were still on the trees as nighttime temperatures in California's Central Valley dipped into the low 20s and teens on four straight nights beginning Friday. The freeze ruined as much as three-quarters of the California citrus crop, growers say; the fruit is threatened whenever the mercury falls below 28 degrees.

Labor leaders are also watching the weather closely. They estimate as many as 12,000 field workers and packing house employees could lose their jobs for the remainder of the season.

Damaged fruit from the current freeze may still be salvaged as juice, usually a byproduct for California farmers, Smith said.

Jan 17, 2007

Daily Caixa
Boothet Cal
Growers report freezing temps have ruined 50 percent to 75 percent of fruit

By Marcus Wohlsen
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Three nights of freezing temperatures have destroyed up to three-quarters of California’s $1 billion citrus crop, according to an estimate issued Monday as forecasters warned the weather could continue.

Other crops, including avocados and strawberries, also have suffered damage in the cold snap, agricultural officials said.

“This is one of those freezes that, unfortunately, we’ll all remember,” said A.G. Kawamura, secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

“The latest freeze will likely surpass the damage done by a three-day cold snap in December 1998 that destroyed 85 percent of California’s citrus crop, a loss valued at $700 million, Kawamura said.

Overnight temperatures dropped into the teens again early Monday in parts of the San Joaquin Valley, where many of the state’s oranges and lemons are grown, according to the National Weather Service. The subfreezing conditions came after a weekend of record lows.

Drip irrigation creates icicles and forms an insulation and way of protecting oranges on the trees Saturday in Exeter, Calif. California’s weather lurched from beach to ski in less than a week as an arctic blast Friday delivered rare snowfalls in low-lying southern cities and put the state’s citrus industry on alert.

Growers should expect the mercury to dip into the mid-20s until at least Wednesday night, National Weather Service meteorologist Daniel Harty said.

Even though it’s slightly warmer, it’s still dangerous for the citrus crops,” Harty said. Citrus growers already have

Jan 16, 2007
Texas shivers under icy winter blast

Storm shuts down schools, businesses, even the Alamo

By Michelle Roberts
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The latest in a series of icy storms blamed for at least 62 deaths in nine states spread snow and freezing rain across Texas all the way to the Mexican border Wednesday, closing the Alamo, glazing freeways and immobilizing communities unaccustomed to such cold.

Accumulations were light by many regions' standards — the Dallas area topped out at a half-inch of snow, and more than 3 inches piled up west of Fort Worth. But hundreds of flights were canceled, tens of thousands of customers lost electricity and a 300-mile stretch of Interstate 10, a major east-west artery, was closed.

Marc and Courtney Unger, visiting San Antonio with their 3- and 7-year-old boys from Tallahassee, Fla., found most of their plans wrecked by the cold weather and closed attractions. The Alamo shut down for the morning but reopened at noon.

Instead of visiting the Children's Museum or Sea World, the boys amused themselves knocking icicles off signs and benches.

"We're very disappointed it didn't go those few extra degrees colder for snow," Marc Unger said, laughing.

Storms nationwide since Friday have abruptly ended what had been an unseasonably mild winter in many areas, plunging hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses into icy darkness, many for days. Ten deaths were blamed on the storm in Texas.

In Oklahoma, the ice storm killed at least 23 people, most in auto accidents, and about 75,000 customers in eastern Oklahoma remained without power.

In the mountains north of Los Angeles, a sudden snowstorm brought traffic to a halt on busy Interstate 5. Snow mixed with hail also fell at lower elevations of northern Los Angeles County, leaving some neighborhoods with rare coatings of white.

California already had been suffering from an unusual cold snap that threatened many of its winter crops and wiped out most of its citrus.

In Dallas, Houston and San Antonio, roads were largely empty Wednesday morning. Motorists unaccustomed to driving on ice took the day off after waking up to light snow, trees sagging with ice and icicle-draped cars.

Many schools closed for the day or opened late.

Tree limbs laden with ice snapped and brought down electrical lines in the San Antonio area, where as many 65,000 customers lost power at the height of the storm late Tuesday.

More than 350 flights out of Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, San Antonio and Austin were canceled as officials worked to de-ice runways.

In addition to the fatalities in Oklahoma and Texas, the storm was blamed for 11 deaths in Missouri, eight in Iowa, four each in New York and Michigan, three in Arkansas and one each in Maine and Indiana.
Odd winter for Midwest, East

Flowers blooming, links calling during mild Nov., Dec.

By Tara Burghart
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Crocuses are pushing out of the ground in New Jersey. Ice fishing tournaments in Minnesota are being canceled for lack of ice. And golfers are hitting the links in Chicago in January.

Much of the Midwest and the East Coast are going through a remarkably warm winter, with temperatures running 10 and 20 degrees higher than normal in many places.

"I'm not complaining. I can take this," said Rudolph Williams, a doorman in New York City who normally wears a hat this time of year but stood outside in 50-degree weather with his shaved head uncovered.

"The Earth is recalibrating itself. Last year, we had a cold winter, and it's balancing itself out now. In January, it feels like the middle of April."

New York City saw a November and December without snow for the first time since 1877. And New Jersey had its warmest December since records started being kept 111 years ago.

Maria Freitas said not only are crocus bulbs blooming in her Rahway, N.J., backyard, but the asparagus also is 3 inches high.

"They think it's spring. They're so confused," she said.

Meteorologists say the warm spell is due to a combination of factors: El Niño, a cyclical warming trend now under way in the Pacific Ocean, can lead to milder weather, particularly in the Northeast; and the jet stream, the high-altitude air current that works like a barricade to hold back warm Southern air, is running much farther north than usual over the East Coast.

The weather is prone to short-term fluctuations, and forecasters said the mild winter does not necessarily mean global warming is upon us. In fact, the Plains have been hit by back-to-back blizzards in the past two weeks.

"No cause for alarm. Enjoy it while you have it," said Mike Halpert, head of forecast operations at the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center.

Whatever the explanation, Amanda Dickens was enjoying the weather Wednesday at Baltimore's Inner Harbor as she ate lunch outside with her husband and 3-year-old son. Temperatures were expected to reach 60 degrees.

At the Marovitz Golf Course in Chicago near Lake Michigan, 30 people teed off between 9 a.m. and noon, when there are usually no golfers at all this time of year.

Leonard Berg, the course's superintendent for maintenance, gestured to the fairways with pride: "Normally this time of year there would be a brown singe to it. Look at that nice emerald green."

At New York's Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the "everblooming" cherry trees are flowering more fully than usual, producing thousands of blooms instead of hundreds.

But the mild weather is also hurting some businesses and events.

In Minnesota, where a water skier in a wetsuit was recently seen on the Mississippi River near St. Paul, ice fishing tournaments have been canceled. The U.S. Pond Hockey Championships — scheduled for Jan. 19-21 in Minneapolis — have only a 50-50 chance of being held.

And organizers of the St. Paul Winter Carnival, scheduled to begin late this month, said the ice is not thick enough to harvest into 1,400 blocks for the ice maze. They may have to switch to plastic blocks.

"It would give the effect, but it's not exactly Minnesota winter," said Mary Huss, a spokeswoman for the event.

In Ohio, Dan Motz said sales for his firewood business in a Cincinnati suburb are down about 25 percent.

In Maryland, buds are appearing on apple and peach trees, raising the prospect of a poor spring crop if a sudden cold snap kills the blossoms. A gradual cooldown would minimize any damage.
People gather next to a flooded street in downtown in Bound Brook, N.J., on Monday. New Jersey was placed under a state of emergency Monday as more than 1,400 residents were evacuated due to flooding from over a day of heavy rains and strong winds from a potent nor'easter.

Northeast battered by heavy rains, flooding

By David Bauder
Associated Press

CROTON-ON-HUDSON, N.Y. — A menacing spring storm punished the Northeast for a second straight day Monday, dumping more than 8 inches of rain on Central Park and sending refrigerators and pickup trucks floating down rivers in one of the region's worst storms in recent memory.

"This one is really a horror show," Gov. Elliot Spitzer said after touring hard-hit areas north of New York City.

The nor'easter left a huge swath of devastation, from the beaches of South Carolina to the mountains of Maine. It knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of people and was blamed for at least 11 deaths nationwide, including a New Jersey man who drowned inside a car.

The storm showed no immediate sign of letting up. The National Weather Service predicted showers through Wednesday night in the New York City area, with rain mixed with snow at times.

The storm was especially harsh in the Westchester County suburbs north of New York City and in New Jersey, where the state was placed under a state of emergency and more than 1,400 residents were evacuated — many by boat.

Vermont got about 17 inches of snow, with flakes still falling Monday across sections of Pennsylvania, New York and Maine.

"We have incredible amounts of damage," said Steve Costello, a spokesman for Central Vermont Public Service, describing power lines brought down by high wind. "I've never seen anything like it."

New Jersey authorities called it the worst storm to hit the state in 15 years.

"There was debris flowing down the river like you wouldn't believe — refrigerators, I mean, you name it, it was going down the river," said homeowner John Vitro, whose basement at one point had water 5 feet high.

Gusts exceeding 80 mph in Maine toppled trees and drove rain that flooded roads and sank boats. In New Hampshire, "a landslide forced the closure of part of the state's major east-west route, and winds blew out windows on oceanfront stores."

In Maine, a woman and her 4-year-old granddaughter died when they were swept into a river by the fast-moving floodwaters as they tried to cross a washed-out section of road in Lebanon, near the New Hampshire line, the Maine Warden Service reported.

One person died in a car stalled in deep water in an underpass in New Jersey. Another person was killed by a tornado in South Carolina, and two died in car accidents — one in upstate New York and one in Connecticut. The same storm was blamed for five deaths earlier in Texas and Kansas.
A winter storm warning was issued through 6 a.m. today for areas including Rabbit Ears Pass, Breckenridge, Rocky Mountain National Park and the Eisenhower Tunnel, a mile-long bore at 11,000 feet above sea level beneath the Continental Divide. 12".

A foot of snow had fallen on the Grand Mesa, and nearly 4 inches was reported in Avon from the storm that was expected to drop an additional 4 inches overnight Friday, said Dan Cuevas of the Grand Junction National Weather service.

The wintry conditions sent many drivers hunting for rooms Thursday night.

"We're sold out," said Shawn Patel, general manager of the Super 8 Motel in Georgetown. "We probably sold about 40 rooms in the last two hours."

The mountains have been hit with a series of storms this week.

The ski industry group Colorado Ski Country USA was reporting that Silverton Mountain in southwest Colorado already had 14 inches of snow Thursday; Breckenridge had 12 and Vail 11.

**Evelyn Johnson**, 19 months, of Tulsa, Okla., gets her first taste of snow with a bit of help from her mother, Charay Johnson, in Vail on Friday, where an overnight winter storm deposited 6 inches of snow.
Storm shrouds state

Many residents wake up to power outages, widespread travel delays

By Kate Larson
Camera Staff Writer

Geography was everything Thursday. People living just a few miles apart experienced very different versions of a fall storm that moved into Colorado overnight. Residents in some foothill, mountain and southeastern areas of the state received about two feet of snow, while others got just a few inches. The weather caused accidents, road closures and power outages, and it shuttered schools.

"We had a really strong low-pressure system that developed really rapidly," said Jim Kalina, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Boulder. The result was a lot of wet snow in a short period of time, Kalina said.

It was welcome news for ski resorts, some of which announced earlier opening dates Thursday. "We've probably got a good three-week jump on the season," said Mike Gillespie of the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service, which tracks Colorado's mountain snow.

Keystone was initially scheduled to open Nov. 10 but moved the date up to Nov. 3. Breckenridge is scheduled to open Nov. 10; Vail and Eldora Mountain Resort plan to open Nov. 17; and Beaver Creek will welcome skiers Nov. 25.

Please see STORM on 9A

Chain restaurants may appear at CU

CU-operated cafes losing money, shutting down at the end

Not enough caffeine-craving customers are stopping at the five satellite cafes operated by the University Memorial Center, said Director Car-
FROM PAGE 1A

Robert Tafoya, of Boulder, uses a broom to knock snow off the limbs of trees in his front yard Thursday morning.

Storm shrouds state in feet of early snow

Continued from 1A

Snow depths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Depth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longmont</td>
<td>3.5&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunbarrel</td>
<td>6&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisville</td>
<td>8&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafayette</td>
<td>6&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nederland</td>
<td>24&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eldora</td>
<td>24&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allenspark</td>
<td>19.5&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wondervu</td>
<td>19.5&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugarloaf</td>
<td>10&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estes Park</td>
<td>16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Mountain National Park</td>
<td>24&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arapahoe Basin</td>
<td>16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loveland Ski Area</td>
<td>20&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td>25&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conifer</td>
<td>22&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Daily Camera weather watchers, the Associated Press, ColoradoAOL.com

Send us your snow photos

It’s the first really big snow of the year. And it was a big, wet snow. That means it was great for building snowmen, snow forts and snow sculptures.

Share photos of your snow art with your community Web site, mytown.dailycamera.com.

It’s quick and easy.
October snowstorm jump-starts ski seas

2 feet of snow closes schools, interstate, grounds travelers

By Dan Elliott

DENVER — The biggest October snowstorm to hit Colorado in several years dumped more than 2 feet Thursday, grounding flights, closing highways, knocking out electricity — and jump-starting the ski season.

The storm began late Wednesday and turned highways wet and slushy across the state. At one point, snow was falling at a rate of about 3 inches an hour in Denver. A 125-mile corridor from Colorado Springs to the New Mexico line was under a blizzard warning and poor conditions forced the state’s main north-south route to close at the border.

Denver International Airport got 5 inches, and more than 110 flights were canceled. Some suburbs reported up to 10 inches of snow that fell at about 3 inches an hour before the storm moved east onto the Plains, where it caused more trouble.

A 150-mile stretch of Interstate 70 was closed for hours from Denver to Burlington, near the Kansas line, after falling temperatures turned slush to ice.

“There’s an awful lot of trucks jackknifed in the median or across the road,” said Dick Hormann, who was waiting out the delay at the Flying J Travel Plaza restaurant in Limon, about 70 miles southeast of Denver. “There’s a lot of rigs across the road in both directions.”

On the wide-open Plains, residents and emergency managers braced for blowing snow and wind up to 45 mph. Red Cross officials sent supplies to Byers, about 30 miles east of Denver, in case the weather stranded travelers along I-70.

The storm shut down dozens of schools, courthouses, voting centers and even chased office employees home early from a sheriff’s office. Small towns in the mountains and foothills just west of Denver appeared to get the heaviest snowfall, with Evergreen reporting 25 inches and Conifer reporting 22 inches with 4-foot drifts. Two feet fell in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Up to 45,000 customers in Denver, Colorado Springs and Boulder lost electricity as snow-laden trees and branches gave way, taking lines.

At least one stone, announced to open Nov. 3, than planned.

“This storm over the top,” said a spokeswomen group Color USA.

The storm al for water utilities as the closely tain snowpack videos much of — got an early — three-week jarson,” said Mike federal Natural servation Servi Colorado’s mou.

Large Octot are common in this was the stal years, Na Service spoke roughs said.
Denver Copes With the Second Major Snowstorm in Two Weeks

Crippled Last Time, Airport Stays Open

By MINDY SINK

DENVER, Dec. 29—With the second of two snowstorms in back-to-back weeks swirling through Colorado on Friday, everyone from city officials to holiday travelers was finding coping with the latest one incrementally easier.

"White-Christmas feelings went out the second day of the last blizzard," said Steve Snyder, a spokesman for Denver International Airport. "When you start measuring in feet, the White Christmas doesn't really work."

While the accumulating snow—with more in the forecast through the weekend—caused headaches for many, the second storm was far more manageable than the blizzard that struck on Dec. 20.

"We had 600 people here last night, is all," Mr. Snyder said of those who stayed in the airport from Thursday night to Friday. "Planes were going in and out, so the people that stayed here chose to do so."

During last week's blizzard, the airport was closed for nearly 48 hours and thousands of people were stranded, many for more than one night.

This week, airlines began canceling hundreds of flights in advance of the storm, and offering passengers later flights at no additional cost.

"It's not ideal, but the airport's not closed," said Joe Hodas, a spokesman for Frontier Airlines in Denver. Mike Looney, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service, said the latest storm system was producing rain and freezing rain into the Nebraska Panhandle and parts of Kansas and Oklahoma. It brought up to two feet of snow in the foothills west of Denver on Thursday and several inches to the south and east, with snow and intermittent increasing winds predicted through the weekend.

Ellen Berman found the going easy in Boulder, Colo.—ski country—yesterday. In Denver, the second big storm in two weeks was less welcome.
Storm just clobbers foothills

Snowplow drivers ‘doing a good job’ to clear pathways

By Bill Scanlon
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Residents of Golden and other foothills communities slammed with 20-plus inches of snow hope this latest storm has a sense of fair play.

“We'll be happy to share,” Golden City Manager Mike Bestor joked at midday Friday as he surveyed a city buried under 27 inches - and that's not counting last week's storm that dumped about the same amount.

Forecasts say that communities east of Denver will get the lion's share of the rest of the storm, which might not end until the Denver Broncos game Sunday afternoon.

Still, the National Weather Service expected another 2 to 4 inches Friday night into this morning for the Golden area, another 3 to 5 inches today, and a 60 to 70 percent chance of snow continuing through tonight and most of Sunday.

Snow totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>In inches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geneseo</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Hawk</td>
<td>22.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bergen Park</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eldorado Springs</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estes Park</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As of 5 p.m. Friday, National Weather Service, The Associated Press.

After digging another two feet of snow from his driveway at Heritage Dells in Golden Friday morning, Mike Kerwin said, "Everybody's feeling pretty snowed in here. It's just clobbered us."

"The driveways are doable," said Kerwin, a University of Denver geology professor. "The plowing up here has been fantastic. They've been doing a good job."

Bestor agreed.

In Golden, a city of 100 dead ends, 30 cul-de-sacs and countless hills, the snowplow drivers have been told to take 30 minutes for lunch and two 15-minute breaks during their 12-hour shifts.

"These guys are doing 12 hours on, 12 hours off," Bestor said. "At night, when the snow is coming down and the strobe lights are flashing, it can drive you nuts. But I haven't heard of one accident involving a snowplow. They are doing great."

Bestor worries that "we're going to push these guys too hard and they're going to run into somebody. But it looks like they are all doing a great job."

In huge storms, especially those packing a one-two punch, there has to be a social contract between residents and snowplow drivers, Bestor said: plows for the streets, and snow shovels for the cars and driveways.

His crews did their best to make one pass through the residential streets, but purposely did no more than that.

"By the time we hit the residential streets, people are ready to dig out their driveways. We on purpose didn't go back, because if we did, all we'd do is push back the snow to where they had dug out their cars and driveways."

"People get stressed out and upset — some get downright nasty," Bestor said. "They take out their frustrations on our folks, but that's part of the business."

"Last week's storm vs. this week's"

Two major storms, two different personalities. The first one shut down Denver International Airport for almost two days last week. The second one hobbled the airport but never closed it. Here are the factors that made the difference:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of hours closed</th>
<th>Number of stranded passengers</th>
<th>Snow amounts</th>
<th>Wind</th>
<th>Canceled flights</th>
<th>Moisture in snow</th>
<th>Clearing ramp areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last week: 45</td>
<td>Last week: several thousand</td>
<td>Last week: DIA got about 20 inches.</td>
<td>Last week: Winds blew at a steady 20 to 25 mph, with stronger gusts.</td>
<td>Last week: The two largest users of DIA, Frontier and United, canceled about 2,650 flights.</td>
<td>Last week: Snow was light and dry, which allowed the wind to blow it into large drifts that were difficult to plow.</td>
<td>Last week: The city would plow the larger ramp areas (areas between concourses where planes are pushed out from boarding gates and moved to the taxis), while airline crews plowed the areas right around their planes. At times, airline crews were pushing snow into places that had already been cleared by the airport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This week: 0</td>
<td>This week: 600</td>
<td>This week: About 7 inches (as of Friday morning).</td>
<td>This week: Winds were about 10 mph.</td>
<td>This week: Through 3 p.m. Friday, both airlines had canceled approximately 375 flights.</td>
<td>This week: Snow was much heavier and did not drift nearly as much.</td>
<td>This week: The city added 37 trucks, mostly to remove snow from the ramps. Also, airline and city crews kept in closer contact.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Dan Leszynski, National Weather Service; DIA press office; Frontier and United airlines.
Metro anxieties ease

Ryan Kircher digs his car out of a snow bank in Golden. The foothills community received 27 inches of snow through Friday afternoon, according to the National Weather Service. After digging another 2 feet of snow from his driveway in Golden, geology professor Mike Kerwin said, “Everybody’s feeling pretty snowed in here. It’s just clobbered us.”
Metro anxieties ease as snow moves east

In Denver, storm's bark proves worse than its white

By Todd Hartman, Lou Kibzer and Felix Doligosa Jr.
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

A winter storm that threatened to again paralyze the metro area never packed the same punch as last week's blizzard and appeared to be taking its act east for the weekend.

Parts of the region, particularly the foothills, still took a big hit, with more than 2 feet of new snow in places.

But by Friday afternoon, forecasters had turned their focus to regions south and east of Denver.

That's where greater snowfall and higher winds were bringing more dangerous, blizzard-like conditions, as ranchers and emergency workers reported near whiteouts on the eastern plains.

Authorities reported two deaths, including a tow-truck driver killed on Interstate 70 near Burlington.

And the National Guard rescued stranded motorists, including a bus filled with skiers who were members of a Texas youth group, in Springfield in the southeastern corner of the state.

The Front Range is "hopefully through the worst part of this storm. It was not as bad as we expected," Colorado National Guard Col. Douglas Fullmore said.

Today's flights should be OK

- Flying into or out of DIA? Today should be clear for takeoff as airlines bounce back.
- What about cancellations? Airlines, which cut an estimated 500 flights at Denver International Airport over the past two days, said Friday night they expect few cancellations today.

Light snow, cold

The snowstorm that threatened to linger around Denver into the weekend instead moved south and east, and wasn't predicted to have much effect on the metro area, the National Weather Service said.

- Today: Light snow showers, no accumulation. Temperatures will remain in 20s.

More coverage

- Read more about the snowstorm on pages 6A, 8A, 9A, 17A-20A.

For information on closings and the latest news, go to RockyMountainNews.com.

Main streets and highways are clear, said the city would ease residents of the area that the storm's impact was not as severe as expected.

Easy going for commuters

day and Sunday schedules of buses and trains, said spokesman Scott Reed, assuming the storm continues to fade.

That includes its full schedule of BroncosRide express buses and enhanced light rail to Invesco Field at Mile High, as well as extra light-rail trains for the Nuggets game and the downtown Denver New Year's Eve fireworks display Sunday night.

The Downtown Denver Business Improvement District, which co-sponsors the fireworks show, has been working since last week on snow removal and cleanup on the 16th Street Mall.

"It's all systems go," said Susan Rogers-Kark, director for Downtown Denver Events Inc., producer of the fireworks show.

Tow-truck driver killed

Things were worse on the eastern Plains. Tow-truck driver Joe C. Tatenhorst, 60, of Burlington, was killed after a car slid out of control and hit him and his parked truck Thursday night on Interstate 70 near Burlington in Kit Carson County. None of the four people in the car, all from Denver, was injured, authorities said.

And the state Division of Emergency Management reported that one person had been killed Thursday night in a storm-related traffic accident on Interstate 70 in Kit Carson County.

Also, in southeastern Colorado, a busload of Texas skiers were stranded by snow in Back
In Denver, storm’s bark proves worse than its white

By Todd Hartman, Lou Kizer and Felix Dolgosa Jr.

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And the National Guard rescued stranded motorists, including a bus filled with skiers who are members of a Texas youth group, in Springfield in the southeastern corner of the state.

The Front Range is “hopelessly through the worst part of this storm... It was not as bad as we feared,” said Gov. Bill Owens, who declared the second state of emergency in as many weeks.

The eastern Plains, Owens said, are “still not out of the woods.”

Early predictions had called for the storm to intensify Friday in the Denver area, reported new meteorological data, but the continued up to the hype, dropping only 7 to 15 inches in Denver and outlying areas.

Denver, DIA exhale

But the poise of a storm came as a relief to Denver’s snowplow fleet and Denver International Airport, both of which took heat last week for what some thought was a slow response to the pre-Christmas blizzard.

Main streets and highways were kept clear of snow and, after so much gripping the first time around, Denver’s residential streets got more attention.

Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper deployed trucks from other departments — as well as Denver Public Schools, Denver Water and private contractors — to keep streets passable.

Hickenlooper, savaged by criticism last week, wouldn’t count his chickens yet, however, and intended to keep an “armada” of heavy and light vehicles prowling Denver’s streets in search of ice and slush.

He also fretted over how to deal with side streets covered with a thick “plate of ice,” formed when vehicles compressed fast-falling snow during the previous storm, and said the city would work on it.

DIA remained open, as plows kept up with snow that fell at a slower rate and in lower volumes.

And despite about 800 flight cancellations during the past two days, the numbers of stranded passengers celebrating barstool holidays were far less than those who suffered through the airport’s record 45-hour shutdown that stretched into Christmas weekend.

Travelers scheduled to fly in or out of Denver today should be in the clear.

And, airline officials said, there should be sufficient room on planes to help many of the more than 55,000 travelers whose flights were canceled Thursday and Friday.

Today’s flights should be OK

Flying into or out of DIA? Today should be clear for takeoff as airlines bounce back.

What about cancellations? Airlines, which cut an estimated 550 flights at Denver International Airport over the past two days, said Friday they expect few cancellations today.

Light snow, cold

The snowstorm that threatened to linger around Denver into the weekend instead moved south and east, and wasn’t predicted to have much effect on the metro area, the National Weather Service said.

Today: Light snow showers, no accumulation. Temperatures will remain in 20s.

More coverage

Read more about the snowstorm on pages 6A, 8A, 9A, 17A-20A.

For information on closings and the latest news, go to RockyMountainNews.com.

Easy going for commuters

Anxiety, triggered by predictions that the latest storm might be even worse than last week’s, was much better on Friday, when bus and train schedules were not disrupted, and many drivers reported clear roads.

The eastern Plains are probably the worst area, but the snow was not as deep as expected. If you drive carefully, you should be able to get through.

And the weather is expected to improve on Saturday.

Sources: National Weather Service, News4

Metro-area snow totals

Day and Sunday schedules of buses and trains, said spokesman Scott Reed, assuming the storm continues to fade.

That includes its full schedule of BroncoRide express buses and enhanced light rail to Invesco Field at Mile High, as well as extra light-rail trains for the Nuggets game and the downtown Denver New Year’s Eve fireworks party Sunday night.

The Downtown Denver Business Improvement District, which co-sponsors the fireworks show, has been working since last week to clear snow on the Mile High and the 16th Street Mall.

“Tis all systems go,” said Susan Rogers-Kark, director for Downtown Denver Events Inc., of the fireworks show.

Tow-truck driver killed

Things were worse on the eastern Plains. Tow-truck driver Joe C. Tatenhorst, 60, of Burlington, was killed after a car slid out of control and hit him and his parked truck on Thursday night on Interstate 70 near Burlington in Kit Carson County.

None of the four people in the car, all from Denver, was injured, authorities said.

And the state Division of Emergency Management reported that one person had been killed Thursday night in a storm-related traffic accident on Interstate 70 in Kit Carson County.

Also, in southeastern Colorado, a truckload of Texas skiers were stranded by snow in Baca County and were hunkered down in a local church while the storm passed, after their bus slid off the road, despite having chains on the tires.

George Epp, head of DEM, sent National Guard members to Springfield in southeastern Colorado to assist stranded motorists.

“Drives and finds them shelters, finds some who are stranded in the snow and helps them get where they need to go,” he said.

“Tis all systems go,” said Susan Rogers-Kark, director for Downtown Denver Events Inc., of the fireworks show.

Main streets and highways were kept clear of snow and, after so much gripping the first time around, Denver’s residential streets got more attention.

Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper deployed trucks from other departments — as well as Denver Public Schools, Denver Water and private contractors — to keep streets passable.

Hickenlooper, savaged by criticism last week, wouldn’t count his chickens yet, however, and intended to keep an “armada” of heavy and light vehicles prowling Denver’s streets in search of ice and slush.

He also fretted over how to deal with side streets covered with a thick “plate of ice,” formed when vehicles compressed fast-falling snow during the previous storm, and said the city would work on it.

DIA remained open, as plows kept up with snow that fell at a slower rate and in lower volumes.

And despite about 800 flight cancellations during the past two days, the numbers of stranded passengers celebrating barstool holidays were far less than those who suffered through the airport’s record 45-hour shutdown that stretched into Christmas weekend.

Travelers scheduled to fly in or out of Denver today should be in the clear.

And, airline officials said, there should be sufficient room on planes to help many of the more than 55,000 travelers whose flights were canceled Thursday and Friday.

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And the weather is expected to improve on Saturday.

Sources: National Weather Service, News4
Ryan Kircher digs his car out of a snow bank in Golden. The foothills community received 27 inches of snow through Friday afternoon, according to the National Weather Service. After digging another 2 feet of snow from his driveway in Golden, geology professor Mike Kerwin said, “Everybody’s feeling pretty snowed in here. It’s just clobbered us.”
Rescue shifts from travelers

Resupplying rural shelters, finding livestock now focus

By Deborah Frazier

Emergency workers switched their efforts from rescuing stranded motorists in southeastern Colorado on Monday to searching for thousands of stranded cattle and replenishing food in rural emergency shelters.

"We feel pretty close to having centers and churches, said Col. Hans Kallam of the National Guard.

White said about 600 people were housed at the shelters and had been there for several days. "Life and safety are still the No. 1 priorities," said Dick Vnuk, chief of operations for the state Division of Emergency Management.

"We need to get the roads open so people can get out and deal with the situation."

White said that about 3,000 people in the town of Holly, Bristol, Lamar, Hartman, Granada, Walsh, Campo, Pritchett and Two Buttes had been without power for about 48 hours.

Weather calendar for January

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Moon Phase

A collapsed building rests on a vehicle in Trinidad on Monday. Similar damage was reported elsewhere in the state. The roof of an assisted living center in Walsh collapsed Sunday, but no one was injured. A large section of roof collapsed at a hog farm near Lamar on Monday.
Resupplying rural shelters, finding livestock now focus

By Deborah Frazer
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Emergency workers switched their efforts from rescuing stranded motorists in southeastern Colorado on Monday to searching for thousands of stranded cattle and replenishing food in rural emergency shelters.

"We feel pretty close to having found everyone, but we are worried about the livestock," said Polly White of the Colorado Division of Emergency Management.

Up to 200,000 cattle are stranded on pasture land in the six counties in the state's southeast corner where two storms left about 15-foot drifts, White said. "The snow piles up on them, they stay together to stay warm, so they suffocate," she said.

A severe storm in 1997 killed about 30,000 head of cattle and cost ranchers an estimated $28 million, officials said.

"We've had a lot of calls about cattle getting weak, falling down and unable to make it through the drifts," said Riley Frazez, Baca County's director of Emergency Services.

Civil Air Patrol planes flew over the snow-covered eastern Plains on Monday, using heat-sensing equipment to locate livestock.

"The fly-overs spotted a large section of roof that collapsed at a hog farm near Lamar, and the owner was working with a private contractor," White said.

The farm, which hasn't been identified, houses up to 35,000 hogs, she said.

On Saturday, the National Guard rescued 14 people trapped at the same farm, White said.

The National Guard will use snowmobiles and a twin-engine Chinook helicopter to deliver hay to starving cattle today, she said.

"We'll try to get food and water to them to try and save them," Frazez said.

Meanwhile, Humvees and four Blackhawk helicopters will be used to resupply more than a dozen emergency shelters set up in community centers and churches, said Col. Hans Kallam of the National Guard.

White said about 600 people were housed at the shelters and had been there for several days. "Life and safety are still the No. 1 priorities," said Dick Vnuk, chief of operations for the state Division of Emergency Management.

"We need to get the roads open so people can get out and deal with the situation," White said.

White said that about 3,000 people in the towns of Holly, Bristol, Lamar, Hartman, Granada, Walsh, Campo, Pritchett and Two Buttes had been without power for about 24 hours.

Service resumed in Two Buttes and Hartman Monday, she said.

"There are people without heat and medical supplies, so the National Guard is doing missions bringing food and medicines to them," Frazez said.

White said that county emergency workers and the National Guard performed 75 lifesaving missions Monday, 80 percent of them in Baca County, where the storm hit hardest. Some people were evacuated to hospitals for treatment, Frazez said.

While only a few roads remained closed, many residents are seniors who live miles from a main road or neighbors, Frazez said.

"The Colorado Department of Transportation has four plows trying to get through drifts," White said.

"We're now worried about people stranded in their homes," she said.

The roof of an assisted living center in Walsh collapsed Sunday, but no one was injured and people were moved to the adjacent nursing home, White said.

"We have a lot of people living out here that never see a storm like this," Frazez said.

Blizzards in 1957 and 1979 brought less snow than the recent storms, but drifts were as high as 20 feet, he said.

Associated Press also contributed to this report.

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Weather calendar for January

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No Massaro

- Columnist Gary Massaro is taking the day off.

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January normally cold and with periodic fair-weather

By Tony Neyens
WEATHER CENTRAL INC.

The first month of the year is typically the coldest for most of North America, including Denver.

The average high and low temperatures bottom out during the first half of the month, and every daily record low temperature is at least 10 degrees below zero.

Like most other months, the weather in Denver can be quite changeable from day to day. Cold blasts of arctic air come down from Canada, bringing subzero temperatures and light snows.

However, Chinook mountains often raise tides into the 50s and winds can blow as high in and near the foothills.

Typically, there is no dance of inclement weather January, as it is the month of the year, avering 8 inches of snow.

The National Weather Service book favors at temperatures and precipitations.
Trash haulers snowed under

Continued from 1A

in Boulder and in Louisville. He said trucks were still trying to pick up a two-week backlog Tuesday, and would likely be out today as well.

"We just could not get to the alleys," he said. "That's one of the main places where we're having problems."

He said some neighborhood streets have been tough as well, but his drivers have been walking half a block or farther to retrieve and empty cans.

Hill resident Jan Otto said he'd gone two weeks without trash pickup — and said he was running out of places to put it.

"Right now, our garbage containers are full, so we either have to keep it inside, which is not the best thing, and I don't want to put it outside, because the raccoons are going to get to it," he said.

Otto said he thinks his hauler, Western Disposal, is doing all it can considering the treacherous condition of streets on the Hill. The city of Boulder is trying a new snow-removal strategy in response to last week's storm.

Hill businesses said they've fared better. Chris Heinritz, owner of The Sink restaurant at 13th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, said Western Disposal haulers dug his trash containers out to empty them.

"Now the problem in our alley is 7 inches of ice," he said. "It's tough for trucks to get up and down."

Contact Camera Staff Writer Ryan Morgan at (303) 473-1333 or morgan@dailycamera.com.

Season could see record snowfall

Continued from 1A

1946 with its 46.7 inches.

Add December's snow tally to what had already fallen this season, and you get 70-some inches, putting the winter on track to far exceed typical snowfall levels, Callahan said.

"The annual average is 78.5 inches, and there are very few snow seasons that get over 100 inches," he said. "We could easily go over 100 inches if things just continue as normal."

Only 17 other years in Boulder's recorded weather history have hit that three-digit mark, Callahan said. If history is any indication, the 2006-07 season is likely to see a major spring storm to become the 18th.

All the fall and winter months that topped this December in snow totals were followed by massive spring storms — including the snowy October 1969 that served as a precursor to the even stormier March 1970.

That season, a total of 134.5 inches fell in Boulder, said Matt Kelsh, a meteorologist with the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. The 1946-47 season was the only winter to top that, with 137 inches helped by a 17-inch January, 19.3-inch February and 23.7-inch March.

And then there was the 1913-14 season that saw a 27-inch March follow the big December, bringing that season's snow total to 104.9 inches, Kelsh said.

"There were big months in the winter followed by big months in the spring," he said. "Maybe that's going to happen this year."

According to the National Weather Service, the Front Range is on track to have above-average levels of precipitation over the next three months.

If a big spring storm is in the cards for Boulder, city and state officials, postal carriers, bus drivers and residents say they've learned some lessons from last month's double-whammy blizzards. Boulder got 26 inches of snow Dec. 20-21 and 15 inches Dec. 28-29.

"These storms served as dress rehearsals for next time," said Al DeSarro, U.S. Postal Service spokesman. "They were two of the toughest storms we could have encountered. We learned a lot."

For instance, area post offices now have extra parts for damaged delivery vehicles, a large collection of tire chains and on-call workers willing to volunteer their four-wheel-drive trucks.

Although Jim Yannarella, 34, of Boulder, said he was inconvenienced by last month's storms, he likes getting snowed in and wouldn't mind more wintry conditions this spring.

"I like to get hammered with snow," he said, conceding that it does keep him from driving to the mountains to enjoy the fresh powder. "But it doesn't really bother me too much."

Contact Camera Staff Writer Vanessa Miller at khebert@dailycamera.com or (303) 473-1329.

Haggard's book sales hurt by allegations

Associated Press

DENVER — Former megachurch leader Ted Haggard's book-writing career could be

Page 35
Slide slams into highway

Huge avalanche sweeps two cars off road to Winter Park; 8 people rescued

is damaged SUV on Saturday before it's towed from the Target parking lot in Superior.

20- to 25-car pileup caused by blowing snow on U.S. 36, which was closed for four hours in

age, including one Subaru Outback that had its entire rear end smashed into the front half of the car.

"I saw it coming. It was a wall of snow," said Coinneach Fitzpatrick, 37, of Denver, whose Ford Crown Victoria was crumpled and leaking gasoline. "Do you have any idea what type of energy it takes to ruin a Crown Vic's rear end?"

He said his car, which he had just picked up after having its windows tinted, was hit from behind and spun 180 degrees.

"I got to enjoy my $250 window tint for about 15 minutes," he said.

Eight people in two cars survived being swept off U.S. 48, eight miles west of Empire on Saturday by a massive avalanche that shut the highway down for the rest of the day, the Colorado State Patrol reported.

The two vehicles tumbled nearly 300 feet down a 7 percent to 8 percent grade, said state patrol spokesman Eric Wynn.

Ambulances took the eight survivors, including seven adults and one juvenile, to St. Anthony Central Hospital, where spokeswoman Bev Lilly said seven were treated and released.

Among those hospitalized was Darren Johnson, a member of the Oakwood Road Church in Ames, Iowa, said Johnson's father, Don. He did not know the extent of the injuries but did not believe they were life threatening.

Darren and his wife, Sarah Johnson, were in a group of about 30 church members returning home from a ski trip to Colorado that started Jan. 1.

Don Johnson said the group was traveling in a four-car caravan. He was unsure of whether other members of the church group were injured.

Johnson said the group had left their ski resort Saturday morning and traveled about 10 to 15 miles on their way home when they were caught up in the avalanche.

As of 3:30 p.m., Wynn said authorities are confident no
Another weekend, another snowstorm

Yet another winter storm is predicted to dust Boulder County with snow today.

More important, an arctic chill will return to keep temperatures low and snow covering the ground for the foreseeable future.

"I wouldn't even call it a snowstorm," said meteorologist Matt Kelsch of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. "There will probably be some light snow (today), but the main thing is that it's going to turn colder again after a few warm days. -- 20s during the day and down to the teens or single digits at night."

By the numbers

- Consecutive weeks with snowfall in Boulder: Five and counting
- Snow predicted in Boulder this weekend: Up to 3 inches.
- Total snow in Boulder this winter: 93.3 inches (tode)
- Typical yearly Boulder snow accumulation: 85 to 90 inches

Snowiest winters on record in Boulder: 142.9 inches in 1908-09 (69.7 inches through end of January), 137 inches in 1946-47 (79 inches through end of January), 134.5 inches in 1969-70 (70.3 inches through end of January)

Snow in Boulder this January: 20.6 inches (tode)

Average January snow in Boulder: 11 inches
Average temperature this January in Boulder: 27.6 degrees (tode)
Average January temperature in Boulder: 32 degrees
Record cold average temperature for January in Boulder: 16 (1930)

Consecutive days with snow on the ground in Boulder: 38, since Dec. 20

Boulder record for consecutive days with snow on the ground: 62 (Nov. 20, 1992, through Jan. 20, 1993)

Source: Matt Kelsch, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

SAY WHAT

"When are you going to Hawaii?"

"Saturday."

"Cool. I'm going next Wednesday."

— A Trident employee and customer

Elwood the dog leads a group of snowboarders and sleds up a steep hill near Gregory Canyon in the Chautauqua Park area Friday. The group included Ian Markstein, Ben Mills, Randy Cook and Devin Arac. Only three are visible.

BEENTHERE?

Think you know Boulder County like the back of your hand? Identify the location in the photo at LEFT — and be listed as a Boulder County expert. Each day, Monday through Saturday, we'll feature a new photo here, as well as the location of the picture from the previous day.

Submit your answer: Visit www.dailycamera.com, click on the "Been There" icon on the home page and make your guess between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. The Camera will take the names of everyone who answers correctly and pick a winner at random. That person will win a prize and get his or her name listed as a Boulder County expert in the next day's Been There.

Yesterday's location: Entrance to the Republic of Boulder restaurant and bar, 1095 Canyon Blvd.

Winner: Virjean Butler

Mike Cote, (303) 473-1362 cotemj@dailycamera.com dailycamera.com/news TO SUBSCRIBE: (303) 444-3444 or at dailycamera.com
Boulder, Colo Weather
Oct 31, 2006

BOULDER
Through 5 p.m. yesterday
Temperatures Oct. 31
Actual 39\degree F
Normal 59\degree F
Record High 83 in 1950
Record Low 5 in 1991

Precipitation in inches

Yesterday 0.00\"* 
Month to date 3.54\"*
Year to date 14.76\"*
Normal Month to date 1.26\"*
Normal Year to date 17.73\"*

Snowfall in inches

Yesterday 0.0\"*
Month to date 13.7\"*
Season to date 13.7\"*

LOCAL STATISTICS

Boulder Dec 29, 2006

BOULDER
Through 5 p.m. yesterday
Temperatures Dec. 29
Actual 30\degree F
Normal 45\degree F
Record High 69 in 1955
Record Low 40 in 1983

Precipitation in inches

Yesterday 0.72\"*
Month to date 3.04\"*
Year to date 18.53\"*
Normal Month to date 0.74\"*
Normal Year to date 19.69\"*

Snowfall in inches

Yesterday 12.5\"*
Month to date 45.5\"*
Season to date 71.0\"*

AROUND THE COUNTY

City
Allenspark
Central Boulder
North Boulder
South Boulder
Broomfield
Erie
Gunbarrel
Lafayette
Loengmont
Louisville
Mead
Nederland
Sugarloaf
Wonderlo

Hi 18°
Lo 15.5°
Pr 8°

11.5° snow
12.5° snow
10.8° snow
11.5° snow
8° snow
7.5° snow
18.5° snow
11.9° snow
15° snow

SNOW PACK

Percentage of Average Snow Water Equivalent

Copper Mountain 122%
Independence Pass 113%
Vail Mountain 92%
Lake Eldora 120%
Loveland Basin 168%
Mead 159%
Wolf Creek Summit 99%
Rabbit Ears 93%
Hoosier Pass 127%

Source: Natural Resources Conservation Service

Lots of new snow

38

J got 11.4 on Boulder
snowy in the ninth inning

By William Callahan
Camera Weather Historian

I was poring over the weather data for 2006, trying to summarize and highlight the year in weather. It began to snow. As I identified each record high and low and each record rain and snow, the wind began to blow.

I was keeping my eye out for the weather story of the year when it really started to snow. It was slim pickings. I had pretty much settled on the 20-minute hailstorm on June 24, which wrecked our urban tomato crop, when the wind really began to blow.

I also started to describe a relatively benign December, but a winter storm warning had turned into a blizzard warning. DIA was closing, the National Guard was being called out, motorists were stranded, schools were closing, the Denver metro area was becoming paralyzed and the national media became intensely interested.

I decided to put down my files and just stare out the window. I was watching not only the weather story of the year, but also the weather story of this very young millennium. The fourth biggest snowstorm in Boulder's history was extremely ill timed if you were a commuter, shopper, merchant or holiday traveler. But it was perfect for weather junkies, those pining for a white Christmas and winter-sports enthusiasts. Ironically, the entire storm occurred just before the winter solstice. So it wasn't a winter storm after all.

To top it all off, the weather story of the year had an addendum.

Eight days later a tre winter storm disrupted air travel, clogged streets, and shut down government offices and businesses. Again, the national media were focused on the Denver metro area. Thankfully, this storm was a little over-predicted. If it had been as intense as the one before Christmas we would have had to wait until Memorial Day to dig out.

As it turned out, December 2006 was the second wettest December on record. No other month has ever had three separate days with double-digit snow totals. The month also was the fifth snowiest, superseded only by March 1970's 56.7 inches, December 1913's 52.5, October 1969's 49.3 and November 1947's 46.7.

The year past was the fifth snowiest on record, but also the 12th warmest. Records for specific days in 2006 are as follows:

Record highs: 69 degrees on Jan. 7; 67 on Jan. 14; 83 on April 13; 90 on May 19; 90 on May 21; 92 on May 27; 92 on June 2; and 100 on June 14.

Record lows: Minus 14 degrees on Feb. 18; minus 4 on Feb. 19.

Record moisture: .99 inches on June 24; .67 on Nov. 29; 1.13 on Dec. 20; .57 on Dec. 21; and .72 on Dec. 29.

Record snowfall: 2.5 inches on April 25; .1 on Oct. 10; 3.7 on Oct. 17; 1.5 on Oct. 18; 5.8 on Oct. 21; 4.1 on Oct. 26; 11.8 on Nov. 29; 15.7 on Dec. 20; 10.3 on Dec. 21; and 12.5 on Dec. 29.
**On Feb 2, 2007**

**Boulder**

**Through 5 p.m. yesterday**

**Temperatures Feb 2, 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>25°F-13°F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>47°F-21°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record High</td>
<td>74°F in 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record Low</td>
<td>-13°F in 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Precipitation in Inches**

| Yesterday | 0.10" |
| Month to date | 0.22" |
| Year to date | 2.16" |
| Normal Month to date | 0.94" |
| Normal Year to date | 0.74" |

**Snowfall in Inches**

| Yesterday | 1.2" |
| Month to date | 2.6" |
| Season to date | 100.9" |

**Source:** Natural Resources Conservation Service

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**SNOW PACK**

**Percentage of Average Snow Water Equivalent**

- **Copper Mountain**: 119%
- **Independence Pass**: 126%
- **Vail Mountain**: 96%
- **Lake Elbert**: 86%
- **Loveland Basin**: 100%
- **Niwot**: 100%
- **Wolf Creek Summit**: 100%
- **Rabbit Ears**: 96%
- **Hoosier Pass**: 100%

**Source:** Natural Resources Conservation Service

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**AROUND THE COUNTY**

**City** | **Hi** | **Lo** | **Pr** | **Snow**
---|---|---|---|---
Allenspark | 31 | 15 | 9" snow |
Central Boulder | 30 | 23 | 11°.5" snow |
North Boulder | 36 | 25 | 9.5" snow |
South Boulder | 36 | 25 | 9.5" snow |
Brookfield | 36 | 21 | 9.5" snow |
Erie | 32 | 19 | 6.5" snow |
Gunnison Valley | 34 | 26 | 9.6° snow |
Longmont | 31 | 26 | 6° snow |
Louisville | 34 | 26 | 7°.5" snow |
Nederland | 18 | 13 | 8.5° snow |
Sugarcreek | 35 | 17 | 9.3° snow |
Wondervue | 35 | 17 | 9.3° snow |

**Source:** Cameron Weather Watchers

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**SNOW PACK**

**Percentage of Average Snow Water Equivalent**

- **Copper Mountain**: 113%
- **Independence Pass**: 100%
- **Vail Mountain**: 73%
- **Lake Elbert**: 122%
- **Loveland Basin**: 105%
- **Niwot**: 104%
- **Wolf Creek Summit**: 93%
- **Rabbit Ears**: 86%
- **Hoosier Pass**: 122%

**Source:** Natural Resources Conservation Service

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**SNOW PACK**

**Percentage of Average Snow Water Equivalent**

- **Copper Mountain**: 116%
- **Independence Pass**: 100%
- **Vail Mountain**: 76%
- **Lake Elbert**: 129%
- **Loveland Basin**: 106%
- **Niwot**: 74%
- **Wolf Creek Summit**: 100%
- **Rabbit Ears**: 86%
- **Hoosier Pass**: 126%

**Source:** Natural Resources Conservation Service
January Weather Review

January 07 weather in Boulder

Boulder, Colorado

Average Temperature
For the month: 26.8°F
Normal: 33.0°F

Average High
For the month: 39°F
Normal: 45°F

Average Low
For the month: 15°F
Normal: 21°F

Precipitation / Sky Watch
This section of the Weather Review details the conditions (sunny, partly cloudy or cloudy) and rain or snow-fall on a particular day during the past month.

IN JANUARY: Sunny: 17 / Normal: 17  Partly cloudy: 5 / Normal: 10  Cloudy: 9 / Normal: 4  Precipitation: 1.71" / Normal: 0.55"  Snow: 27.6" / Normal: 8.8"

2007 (Year to date / expected): Precipitation: 1.71" / 0.55"  Snow: 27.6" / 8.8"  Season Snow: 100.3" / 38.3"

Source: Bill Callahan, Boulder Weather Log

Daily Camera graphic
Melt down

IT'S AN EL NINO YEAR FOR COLORADO, BUT IS IT THE REASON BEHIND THE REGION'S RECENT WEATHER PATTERN?

By NICOLE DANNA
Colorado Daily Staff Writer

With the past three snow storms totaling over 40 inches in just under a month, have you stopped to wonder: Where's it all coming from?

For the meteorologists and research scientists studying the region's climate trends and weather patterns at the Boulder-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the answer is one for debate.

According to Martin Hoerling, NOAA meteorologist involved in climate change research, the reason behind the recent snowfall events are ambiguous, but in line with trends presented by the El Nino effect.

El Nino is a naturally occurring warming of the Pacific Ocean, typically one Celsius degree difference, which produces excess moisture throughout the month of December and January and is a phenomenon that occurs cyclically — typically every three to five years.

Hoerling said research conducted by NOAA associate scientist Kathy Smith indicates that heavy snow events in December and January during the past 56 years are twice as likely during El Nino years. Between 1950 and 2005, Hoerling said Smith's research indicates there have been 10 El Nino years, each registering 30 snowfall events of six or more inches during the months of December and January — snowfalls that are more frequent and leave behind more inches when compared to snow events during years when El Nino was not present.

In addition, Klaus Wolter, climatologist and research associate with the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, has found similar evidence that snowfall increases during El Nino. Hoerling said snow storms are less likely when El Nino does not occur.

Hoerling added that the scene is not all that is occurring during El Nino years, with other factors influencing the current weather patterns.

[See WEATHER, Page A7]

WEATHER: Warming in the West


But whether or not El Nino caused Boulder's most recent snowstorms is still questionable, Hoerling added.

"From a statistical point of view, you would expect El Nino is responsible for these [past three] storms — given the increased risk of this happening, but then there is something that isn't fitting in these events, and that is where these storms coming from."

Commonly, El Nino generates a track of storminess that comes across the Pacific through the south of California, across to New Mexico, and then into our region, said Hoerling, but these storms have actually dropped in from the northwest, and that makes it rather unusual.

"The actual physical reason is elusive for us to answer, and we're not at all convinced that El Nino has been causing these storms," said Hoerling. "But this is an El Nino that is evolving on an ocean that is much warmer than it would normally be, which is of consequence when we're talking about climate."

Warmer weather may be the cause for El Nino, but according to NOAA Research Climatologist Henry Diaz, the area's recent weather pattern isn't due to either El Nino or a global warming trend.

"[These storms] aren't due to anything — weather just happens," said Diaz.

However, warmer temperatures — roughly 2 1/2 to three degrees Fahrenheit more than average temperatures for the region — do set up a higher probability of getting severe storms because there is more energy in the atmosphere, said Diaz, who said record-breaking highs experienced across the U.S. in 2006 exceeded a 112-year record.

Furthermore, said Diaz, these record-breaking highs are considerably more pronounced in the western U.S. than in any other area of the nation.

"The trend from 1895 has been roughly two degrees Fahrenheit [higher across the nation], and in the west it is more than that," said Diaz.

And with warmer temperatures come more pests, such as beetles, and more severe drought — which doesn't even a few extra inches of snow will clear up.

Diaz said the nation's most severe drought on record occurred from 1997 to 2004, with the western region experiencing an even more pronounced drought from 2000 to 2004.

Still, due its altitude, Boulder temperatures remain only slightly higher than normal, said Bob Glensky, a Boulder-based National Weather Service meteorologist. Records show December 2006 averaged 35.3 degrees, only slightly above the normal 35.0 degrees Fahrenheit.

One thing that was above average, however, was the snowfall, which averages 10.2 inches for the month of December, but accumulated 45.5 inches in Dec. 2006 — a total of 3.05 inches of precipitation.

"We've been in a fairly dry period for some time, and this should really be helpful in getting moisture into the soil and reducing fire damage," said Glensky. "Midwinter snow tends to stay around longer, providing moisture to the soil slowly over time, and even though it's not good for drivers, it is good for the soil."

Contact Nicole Danna in regard to this story at (303) 443-0272, ext. 125, or at danna@coloradodaily.com.
Early snows rival records

Expert says storm pattern unusual for an El Niño year

By Todd Neff
Camera Staff Writer

Boulder’s early season snowfall totals rival any since measurements began, data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Earth System Research Laboratory show.

The 45.5 inches that fell last month brought the September-December total to 72.7 inches — more, it appears than the 69.2 inches that fell during those same months in 1908.

But Matt Kelsch, a meteorologist with the University Corp. for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, said snowfall numbers before 1990 should be read with skepticism. He said snowfall totals before the establishment of an automated station in that year were probably as much as 20 percent too low.

“It’s fair to say that this is the snowiest season so far since accurate snow records began in 1990,” Kelsch said in an e-mail.

Klaus Wolter, the scientist who compiled the snowfall data, studies the relationship between temperatures in the tropical Pacific and U.S. weather. All nine years with the largest early-season accumulations were during El Niño years — in which tropical Pacific temperatures are above normal — with the exception of the 1908-09 season. That winter switched from La Niña — or below-normal sea-surface temperatures — to El Niño.

Wolter said this year has been puzzling. It’s an El Niño year with El Niño snowfall volumes, but it has once-a-week storm patterns reminiscent of La Niña. Even in La Niña years, such repetition is more common in the spring, Wolter said.

“To see this in mid-winter, as best as I can tell, is not something we have witnessed as long as we have had records,” he said.

He said this week’s storm was “very unusual” for an El Niño winter and that California and Florida have been dry — usually the opposite is true.

“It’s like La Niña storms in El Niño clothing,” Wolter said.

Early snows don’t always mean full-season records, but all four years in which Boulder got more than 130 inches of snow had big totals by the end of December. For comparison, the 1961-90 average annual snowfall in Boulder was about 80 inches, data shows.

Contact Camera Staff Writer Todd Neff at (303) 473-1327 or neff@dailycamera.com.