

January 2009 National Storm Summary

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NATIONAL WEATHER SUMMARY

FEBRUARY 2009

1st-7th&Today's main weather activity occurred across the Eastern US as a strong cold front and warm front produced a mixture of showers and thunderstorms across the Mid-Atlantic and the Southeast. A cold front that extended from the Northeast through the Lower Mississippi Valley produced light to moderate snow showers over the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys and the Mid-Atlantic as it trekked toward the East Coast today. Brief periods of heavy snowfall were also reported across areas of Tennessee. The eastern regions of the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys were placed under Winter Storm Warnings. To the south, a low pressure system over the eastern Gulf of Mexico supported numerous showers and thunderstorms as an associated warm front stretched across central-southern Florida. Large areas of showers pushed northeastward across the Florida Peninsula at about 30 mph. Locations along the leading edge of the system received winds of up to 35 mph with periods of heavy rainfall. Strong thunderstorm activity and brief heavy downpours were detected over southwestern Florida and the Florida Keys. A line of storms detected over the Gulf of Mexico created an increased risk for additional torrential downpours and cloud to ground lightning strikes across these areas. Meanwhile, the Western US remained dry with fair weather activity as high pressure edged across the West Coast.

Active weather remained in the West as California received some much-needed snow in an already dry winter season. Considerable rain and high elevation snow fell once again in the state. Winter Storm Warnings were posted for parts of the Sierra Nevadas as several inches of snow fell and snow levels dropped. Flood Watches were posted for some mountainous areas of Southern California as the ground was already saturated with previous rainfall. Farther to the north, more rain and high elevation snow fell through the Northwest and the Cascade Mountains. Aside from early morning snow showers that raced through the Northeast, the rest of the country remained dry. A high pressure system along the eastern seaboard brought dry and calm conditions to the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic. Strong winds were reported from the Southern Plains through the Great Lakes as Wind Advisories were noted from New Mexico through the Southern Plains. The

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Northeast rose into the 10s, 20s, and 30s, while the Southeast saw temperatures in the 50s and 60s. The Southern Plains rose into the 70s and 80s, while the Northwest saw temperatures in the 40s.

8th–14th&Two storm systems have caused significant weather activity across the Central and Western US today. A strong storm system over the Central US caused significant amounts of mixed precipitation and storm activity across the Plains this afternoon. The system began the day deepening over eastern Colorado and then lifted northeastward to the Nebraska–South Dakota border by the afternoon. A large area of rain, sleet, and snow has been detected across the Northern Plains. Localized areas of heavy rainfall were also embedded within this region. Gusty, northwest winds with speeds ranging from 25 to 40 mph have also accompanied shower activity. Meanwhile, an associated cold front caused a band of rain showers with isolated thunderstorms across the Mississippi Valleys.

To the west, another storm system produced mixed precipitation, thunderstorms, small hail, and dense fog coverage over areas of the Intermountains and across areas of the Southwest. A low pressure system triggered light to moderate rain and snow showers as it pushed through Nevada today. To the south, a cold front associated with this system produced scattered rainfall with isolated thunderstorms and small hail across areas of western Arizona and southern California. Strong southwest winds of up to 50 mph accompanied storms in southern California. To the north of the aforementioned system, another cold front produced dense fog coverage over southern Idaho. The remainder of the nation saw fair weather activity today as the East remained under the influence of high pressure.

Two strong low pressure systems brought active winter weather to the country on Wednesday. A system moved from the Southern Plains and towards the Great Lakes, which produced a warm front that moved up the Ohio River Valley and a cold front that extended into the Southeast.

The warm front brought heavy rain and a few scattered thunderstorms to the Mid–Mississippi and Ohio River Valleys with 2.17 inches reported in Forest, Indiana. Tornadoes have not yet been reported, but hail was spotted in Crawford, Illinois. Flood watches were issued for these areas as this system moved slowly throughout the day. Damaging winds struck Kentucky and Tennessee, with gusts greater than 65 mph across these areas. Reported in Carthage, Tennessee, a barn roof was completely blown off and landed in a field. In the Southeast, the cold front triggered light rain and cloudy skies. Meanwhile, the most of the East Coast saw increasing clouds as the system approached. New England saw scattered rain showers due to well above freezing temperatures. Moving west, high pressure build in across the Plains as the low pushed eastward. This allowed for mostly sunny skies over the Central and Southern Plains, while the Northern Plains saw light snow showers. Wet weather persisted on the West Coast due to another low pressure system moving in from the Gulf of Alaska. This system pushed a cold front over the Pacific Northwest and California, which kicked up scattered showers with 0.75 inches of rain reported in Arcata, CA.

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The Cascades and Sierras saw plenty of snow from this system, with new snowfall accumulation between 6 to 10 inches above 2500 feet. Active weather took place across the nation on Friday. The Central Plains saw the most serious weather as a snowstorm moved out of Colorado into Nebraska and Iowa where it dropped heavy snow throughout the day. Snow accumulations up to 8 inches were reported, with widespread reports of over 4 inches. By late afternoon, precipitation had begun to taper off in most areas, though portions of Iowa continued to experience moderate snow with visibilities reduced to around 1000 feet. The Gulf Coast also saw wet weather Friday as a warm front lifted out of the Gulf of Mexico. Steady heavy rain was reported throughout southern Mississippi and Alabama and thunderstorms rumbled across Louisiana and Southeastern Texas. In the West, California also saw rain and snow as an intense Pacific storm moved ashore in the overnight hours. Moderate to heavy rain fell below around 2000 feet throughout much of the state, but at higher elevations, heavy snow was reported. In the Sierra Nevada mountains, a heavy band of snow moved through the region around mid-day dropping about 2 inches per hour.

15th–21st&A Pacific storm system located just off the northern California shoreline continued to produce heavy winter precipitation across central and southern California today. Heavy rainfall was detected along the central and southern coast and valleys, while strong southerly–southwesterly flow produced abundant snowfall across the mountains and high elevations. Isolated thunderstorms and 15 to 30 mph winds with wind gusts of up to 40 mph accompanied heavy rainfall rates of one-half inch per hour across southern California. Elsewhere, isolated thunderstorms accompanied lighter rain showers with rainfall rates of one-tenth inch per hour across the inner valleys and foothills. Areas along the southern California Coast were placed under Flash Flood Watches and Flood Advisories. Meanwhile, veering winds assisted in producing significant snowfall over the Sierras and the Tehachapi mountain vicinities. The mountain regions and higher elevations of California remained under Winter Storm Warnings and Winter Weather Advisories. The Eastern US remained under predominantly fair conditions as high pressure continued trekking toward the Atlantic today. Pockets of light precipitation were detected over areas of the Great Lakes, southern Texas, and southern Florida, otherwise dry conditions prevailed.

A strong winter storm moved from the Central Plains up the Ohio River Valley on Wednesday. This system produced a warm front that extended from Ohio, through the Tennessee Valley, and into the Southeast, which brought light rain and kicked up scattered thunderstorms. These storms turned severe over the Ohio Valley with multiple hail reports ranging from golf ball sized in Allen, Kentucky, to penny size in Oak Grove, Kentucky. In Richmond, Kentucky, hail covered the ground at two inches deep. Strong winds have also been reported, but none of which have reached severe strength. Campbellsville, Kentucky saw 26 mph winds with gusts up to 35 mph. To the north, this strong low pressure system brought mixed precipitation to New England and the Great Lakes region. Light rain reached into Michigan and light rain turned into snow over

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Pennsylvania. In South Bend, Indiana, 0.45 inches of rain was reported. Light lake effect snow fell over northern Pennsylvania with new snowfall accumulation less than a half of an inch. Meanwhile in the Plains, high pressure built in over the region and allowed for mostly sunny skies and seasonable temperatures. The Southern Plains saw temperatures reach into the 80s, in addition to dry conditions, increased fire threats over the region. The Northern Plains saw windy and cool weather as high pressure pushed cold air in from Canada. The West Coast finally saw dry conditions on Wednesday as a low pressure system moved eastward over the Rockies and high pressure built in. This brought mostly sunny skies and warmer temperatures. Relatively benign weather transpired throughout the country on Friday.

The most active weather occurred in the Northeast as cold flow over the Great Lakes instigated considerable lake effect snow in western New England. Additional morning snow showers fell in northern New England as a low pressure system exited the region and moved into the Atlantic Ocean. A developing low pressure system swept into the Northern Plains from central Canada. It carried considerable cold air into the northern half of the country, but it only produced scattered snow showers in the Dakotas and Upper Midwest. A high pressure system anchored over the Southeast provided dry conditions from the Southeast Coast through the Southern Plains. Dry conditions associated with this high pressure system produced dangerous fire weather that forced Red Flag Warnings to be posted from Alabama through Florida. A low pressure system off the West Coast inched closer to the coast of Northern California, but failed to bring precipitation to the area by mid afternoon. The Northeast rose into the 10s and 20s, while the Southeast saw temperatures in the 40s, 50s, and 60s. The Northern Plains rose into the 0s and 10s, while the Northwest saw temperatures in the 30s and 40s.

22nd–28th&The nation's main weather stories occurred over the Western US today. Northern California continued to see showery weather as leftover boundary layer moisture produced scattered rain showers across the coast and valleys with limited snowfall over the higher elevations. Plumes of moisture spread southward and triggered bands of rainfall across southern California as well. Moist instability along the California shoreline made conditions favorable for isolated thunderstorms, small hail development, and brief periods of heavy downpours. Thus far, several instances of isolated thunderstorms have been reported along the southern California Coast, with a lightning strike reported over Santa Catalina Island. Strong southerly winds sustained at about 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph also accompanied showers across the central and southern valleys. The central valleys remained under a Wind Advisory, while the higher elevations of northern California remained under a Winter Storm Warning. The Pacific Northwest also saw wet weather conditions this afternoon. A cold front associated with a low pressure system located off the Northwest Coast produced healthy onshore flow and instigated shower activity across the Pacific Northwest. Strong, south winds with gusts

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to 60 mph caused areas along the Pacific Northwest Coast to be placed under a High Wind Advisory. In the East, the winter storm system over Maine lifted into southeastern Canada this morning. As the system exited, strong northwest flow continued to plunge across the Great Lakes and the Northeast, supporting pockets of lake-effect snow shower development throughout the afternoon. The Central part of the nation continued to see predominantly fair conditions this afternoon due to dominating areas of high pressure. Dry conditions and gusty winds across the Southern Plains put eastern New Mexico and northern Texas at risk for fire weather activity.

Active weather persisted across the Eastern and Western US on Wednesday. Starting in the West, a low pressure system moved into the Pacific Northwest from the Gulf of Alaska and brought extremely cold northern air with it. This cold air mass created a cold front lowered snow levels in the mountains and triggered light rain over lower elevations of Washington, Oregon, and northern California. In Portland, Oregon 0.29 inches of rain has been reported, with 6–10 inches of snow in the Cascades. Meanwhile in the Heartland, a low pressure system tracked through the Great Lakes and created a cold front that extended down the Mississippi River Valley. Ahead of the front, a combination of light rain and snow developed along the northern edge of the front as temperatures remained warm in the mid- to upper 30s. Snow accumulation in Michigan remained under an inch, while precipitation has not yet been reported elsewhere along the front. The Northeast saw mostly sunny skies and fair weather as a ridge of high pressure stretched from Maine to the Mid-Atlantic States. Temperatures ranged from the mid-30s in the north to the mid-50s in the south. Further south, a small trough of low pressure moved through the Lower Mississippi Valley and into the Southeast on Wednesday. This triggered overcast skies with light and scattered rain showers over the region. Birmingham, Alabama reported 0.16 inches of rain.

The most active weather in the country remained in the East on Saturday. This was due to a frontal system that moved very slowly through the Southeast and off the eastern seaboard. As the northern edge of the front moved off the East Coast, precipitation ended in New England and the Mid-Atlantic. The heaviest precipitation occurred in the Southeast due to a developing low pressure system that developed along the frontal system. This precipitation included heavy rain and thunderstorms that spawned several tornadoes in Alabama. There were also several reports of wind damage due to thunderstorms in Georgia. Tornado Watches remained posted in southern Georgia and Florida late into the afternoon. A Pacific storm was set to renew wintry weather along the West Coast later on Saturday and into Sunday. Ahead of this storm, dry conditions were noted throughout the West. The Northeast rose into the 10s, 20s, and 30s, while the Southeast saw temperatures into the 70s and 80s. The Northern Plains rose into the 10s and 20s, while the Northwest saw temperatures in the 30s and 40s.

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