



Illinois Winter Weather Fact Sheet



Cold Temperatures

- ❖ A total of **135 people have died from exposure** to cold temperatures in the state of Illinois since 1995. This is much more than severe thunderstorms and tornadoes (50 deaths), floods (32 deaths) and lightning (19 deaths) – combined during the same period.
- ❖ The coldest temperature on record in the state occurred on **January 5, 1999** when the mercury dipped to **-36 °F near Congerville** in Woodford County!

Winter Storms

- ❖ Illinois normally experiences five severe winter storms each year. During the **winter of 2012-13** there were **9 severe winter storms**
- ❖ As few as two (*in the winters of 1921-1922 and 1980-1981*), and as many as 18 winter storms (*in the winters of 1977-1978 and 1981-1982*) have occurred. There has not been a winter in Illinois without a winter storm in the past century.
- ❖ The last winter storm to impact our area was the Palm Sunday Snowstorm of March 24, 2013. This storm produced heavy, wet snow – at times accompanied by thunder – which totaled more than 6 inches in all areas of central and much of southeast Illinois. The greatest snowfall totals were 12 to 18 inches along the I-72 corridor and up I-55 from St. Louis to Bloomington. New all-time snowfall records were set in Springfield and Taylorville where 18.5 inches were measured.

Snowfall

- ❖ Average annual snowfall ranges from nearly 40 inches of snow north of Chicago, to as little as 5 inches in the southern tip of Illinois. In central Illinois the average is 20 to 25 inches, while areas south of I-70 normally experience 12 to 16 inches.

Ice Storms

- ❖ Locations from just south of Quincy, through Lincoln, to Watseka experience more freezing rain and ice storms than any other part of the state, on average.
- ❖ Several major ice storms have impacted Illinois recently. The most recent was in southeast Illinois on Feb. 1-2, 2011 which created week-long power outages and nearly \$10 Million damage to power poles and lines, as well as trees.



WINTER WEATHER IMPACTS

- ❖ The economic impact of winter weather in the United States ranges from \$3 Billion during a “normal” season, to \$6 Billion during an active winter season. The Groundhog Day Blizzard and Ice Storm of 2011 produced more than \$2 Billion in damages alone, and resulted in 36 direct fatalities.
 - ❖ About 70% of the people that are killed or injured due to winter storms are in automobiles. About 25% of the people that are killed or injured in winter storms are caught out in the storm with no place to take shelter.
 - ❖ In Illinois, snow and ice covered roads result in an average of 29,260 vehicle crashes each year. The accidents also produce an average of 4,454 injuries and 51 fatalities annually.
 - ❖ The **National Weather Service (NWS) in Lincoln** has given advance warning for all winter weather storms (heavy snow and significant icing) in central and southeast Illinois **89%** of the time the past 10 years, with an average of **nearly 20 hours of advance notice**.
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More Information

Visit our web page or social media for more information about winter storm safety, or to track forecast winter storms:

- NWS Lincoln web page: www.weather.gov/Lincoln
- ***NEW*** web page to monitor forecast winter storms and get winter road conditions: www.weather.gov/Lincoln/?n=winter_monitor
- ***NEW*** web page for all things related to winter weather preparedness: www.weather.gov/Lincoln/?n=winter-prep
- ***NEW*** social media page to follow NWS Lincoln Facebook, You Tube and Twitter Feeds: www.weather.gov/Lincoln/?n=ilx_social_media