

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2011

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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ALABAMA, Central

(AL-Z028) CLAY, (AL-Z029) RANDOLPH, (AL-Z036) COOSA, (AL-Z037) TALLAPOOSA, (AL-Z038) CHAMBERS, (AL-Z042) LOWNDES, (AL-Z043) ELMORE, (AL-Z044) MONTGOMERY, (AL-Z045) MACON, (AL-Z046) BULLOCK, (AL-Z047) LEE, (AL-Z048) RUSSELL, (AL-Z049) PIKE, (AL-Z050) BARBOUR

12/01/11 00:00 CST	0	Drought
12/31/11 23:59 CST	0	

Below average rainfall continued across Central Alabama into the first of December, offering no relief to drought stricken areas. The most severe drought conditions were located in east-central and southeast sections of Central Alabama. Drought conditions continued for Barbour, Bullock, Clay, Chambers, Coosa, Lowndes, Elmore, Lee, Macon, Montgomery, Randolph, Russell, Tallapoosa, and Pike counties.

(AL-Z025) SHELBY, (AL-Z027) TALLADEGA, (AL-Z033) PERRY, (AL-Z034) BIBB, (AL-Z035) CHILTON, (AL-Z040) DALLAS, (AL-Z041) AUTAUGA

12/01/11 00:00 CST	0	Drought
12/20/11 23:59 CST	0	

Over 2 inches of rain fell across portions of central Alabama during the first half of December, bringing much needed relief to drought stricken hours. This caused drought conditions to end for Autauga, Bibb, Chilton, Dallas, Perry, Shelby, and Talladega counties on December 20th.

RANDOLPH COUNTY --- 2.3 SSW GRAHAM [33.42, -85.32], 2.2 SSW GRAHAM [33.42, -85.32]

12/21/11 12:32 CST	25K	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.26 mi , W: 88 yd)
12/21/11 12:33 CST	0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

After a review of damage, eye witness accounts, and analysis of Dual-Pol radar data from KFFC, it was determined that damage in northeastern Randolph county was a result of a brief EF-0 tornado. The EF-0 tornado with winds of 70 mph briefly touched down near Sewell, along County Road 87, south of County Road 438. One home and half a dozen outbuildings sustained roof damage, as metal roofing was peeled off and tossed up to one half mile downwind. Minor tree damage was also noted. Two witnesses reported a funnel cloud in the area, but due to terrain were unable to confirm whether the circulation extended to the ground.

A cold front pushed into Central Alabama during the day on Wednesday, December 21, 2011, eventually stalling northeast to southwest, bisecting the forecast area in half. In a marginally unstable airmass ahead of the front (effective bulk shear around 50 kts and CAPE between 500-1000 J/kg), strong storms developed. As low level shear increased, several storms showed signs of rotation, with one producing damage near the Georgia state line in Randolph County.

BIBB COUNTY --- 1.1 SSE CENTREVILLE FOX ARPT [32.91, -87.12], 1.1 SSE CENTREVILLE FOX ARPT [32.91, -87.12]

12/22/11 12:56 CST	3K	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.06 mi , W: 25 yd)
12/22/11 12:57 CST	0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

National Weather Service meteorologists surveyed damage in Bibb County and assessed damage that was consistent with a tornado. An EF-0 tornado with winds of 70 to 80 mph briefly touched down 2 miles south of Centreville. Several large pines were uprooted at this location. No other damage was noted in either direction, which indicates just a brief touchdown along County Road 219.

BIBB COUNTY --- 0.3 WSW LAWLEY [32.87, -86.97], 1.5 SSW RANDOLPH [32.88, -86.93]

12/22/11 13:25 CST	15K	Tornado (EF0, L: 2.62 mi , W: 150 yd)
12/22/11 13:28 CST	0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

National Weather Service meteorologists surveyed damage in Bibb County and assessed damage that was consistent with a tornado. An EF-0 tornado with winds of 70 to 80 mph briefly touched down between Lawley and Randolph in southeast Bibb County. Damage along the beginning of the path was only 50 yards wide. This was along Hwy 82, where only large limbs were broken. The tornado then lifted just east of County Road 36. Here, the damage was 150 yards wide with numerous trees uprooted and snapped.

DALLAS COUNTY --- 1.8 ESE SELMA SELFIELD ARPT [32.42, -86.92], 2.5 ESE MANILA [32.43, -86.88]

12/22/11 13:30 CST	30K	Tornado (EF0, L: 2.17 mi , W: 50 yd)
12/22/11 13:33 CST	0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

National Weather Service meteorologists surveyed damage in Dallas County and assessed damage that was consistent with a tornado. The tornado touched down approximately 6 miles east of Selma along County Road 306 where minor tree damage occurred, along with roof damage to two mobile homes. The tornado then traveled further to the northeast, to Garner and Harville Roads where several soft and hardwood trees were damage or snapped. There was also some structure damage, with one outbuilding destroyed and one mobile home that was shifted off its foundation blocks. The tornado lifted shortly after, near River Road, with evidence of some additional tree damage.

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AUTAUGA COUNTY --- 0.6 NNW STATESVILLE [32.48, -86.85]				
	12/22/11 13:34 CST		1K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	12/22/11 13:34 CST		0	Source: Amateur Radio
A tree was reported down across Alabama Highway 14 near Starksville.				
SHELBY COUNTY --- 0.5 WNW COLUMBIANA [33.18, -86.61], 1.8 NNE COLUMBIANA [33.20, -86.59]				
	12/22/11 13:42 CST		45K	Tornado (EF0, L: 1.83 mi , W: 50 yd)
	12/22/11 13:45 CST		0	Source: NWS Storm Survey
National Weather Service meteorologists surveyed damage in Shelby County and assessed damage that was consistent with a tornado. An EF-0 tornado with winds of 70 to 80 mph briefly touched down in Columbiana along County Road 47 and moved northeast for 1.9 miles and lifted along County Road 25. Along its path, 2 homes were damaged due to falling trees, and another home suffered minor shingle damage. Approximately 50 trees were either snapped or uprooted.				
AUTAUGA COUNTY --- 3.4 S NEW PROSPECT [32.62, -86.55], 3.8 ENE WADSWORTH [32.70, -86.41]				
	12/22/11 14:02 CST		60K	Tornado (EF0, L: 9.66 mi , W: 100 yd)
	12/22/11 14:14 CST		0	Source: NWS Storm Survey
A tornado initially touched down along County Road 57, just south of County Road 49. Here, a mobile home suffered significant roof damage and also damage to its decking material. The tornado continued to the northeast causing tree damage and then crossed Interstate 65 and Highway 31, where additional tree damage occurred. As it continued moving further northeast, it crossed County 68 and Highway 143 where several outdoor building suffered damage and trees were snapped or uprooted. The tornado crossed the Elmore County line where it eventually lifted along Tram Road.				
DALLAS COUNTY --- 1.9 NE SELMA [32.42, -87.00]				
	12/22/11 14:11 CST		1K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	12/22/11 14:11 CST		0	Source: Amateur Radio
A tree was reported down across a road near the junction of US Highway 80 and Alabama Highway 41.				
ELMORE COUNTY --- 5.4 N DEATSVILLE [32.70, -86.41], 5.2 WSW TITUS [32.70, -86.41]				
	12/22/11 14:14 CST		5K	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.52 mi , W: 50 yd)
	12/22/11 14:16 CST		0	Source: NWS Storm Survey
A tornado initially touched down along County Road 57, just south of County Road 49 in Autauga County. It moved to the northeast causing damage to a mobile home and tree damage. It crossed the Elmore County line and continued its northeastward progression. A few trees were snapped or uprooted and large branches were downed as well. The tornado eventually lifted along Tram Road.				
ELMORE COUNTY --- 2.7 SSW TITUS [32.69, -86.34]				
	12/22/11 14:16 CST		1K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	12/22/11 14:16 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager
A tree was reported down along Tyler Road 2 miles southwest of Titus.				
ELMORE COUNTY --- 3.0 N TITUS [32.76, -86.32]				
	12/22/11 14:23 CST		1K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	12/22/11 14:23 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager
A tree was reported down along Law Road east of Welona.				
TALLADEGA COUNTY --- 1.2 SSE STOCKDALE [33.40, -86.02]				
	12/22/11 14:23 CST		1K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	12/22/11 14:23 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager
A tree was reported down on Woolfolk Road in Waldo.				
ELMORE COUNTY --- 1.5 NW SYKES MILL [32.74, -86.30], 1.8 NNW SYKES MILL [32.75, -86.29]				
	12/22/11 14:24 CST		15K	Tornado (EF0, L: 0.82 mi , W: 50 yd)
	12/22/11 14:25 CST		0	Source: NWS Storm Survey
A tornado initially touched down along Grey Ferry Road in Elmore County. It moved northeast snapping approximately 50 trees along the path. It crossed into Coosa County and caused EF-1 rated damage and then crossed into Tallapoosa County, eventually lifting along Hix in Tallapoosa County.				

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COOSA COUNTY --- 3.6 ESE WETONA [32.75, -86.29], 1.3 ESE KELLYTON [32.97, -86.01]				
	12/22/11 14:25 CST		65K	Tornado (EF1, L: 22.61 mi , W: 300 yd)
	12/22/11 14:51 CST		0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

A tornado initially touched down along Grey Ferry Road in Elmore County, where it caused tree damage. It then crossed into Coosa County, approximately one quarter of a mile east of County Road 31. The tornado continued on an northeastward path snapping and uprooting hundreds of trees. The most extensive damage occurred on County Road 89 near Highway 280, where a large metal building was destroyed. The tornado moved into Tallapoosa County and lifted along Hix Road.

TALLAPOOSA COUNTY --- 2.8 NW ALEXANDER CITY [32.97, -86.01], 3.1 NNW ALEXANDER CITY [32.99, -85.99]				
	12/22/11 14:51 CST		5K	Tornado (EF0, L: 1.47 mi , W: 50 yd)
	12/22/11 14:53 CST		0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

A tornado initially touched down along Grey Ferry Road in Elmore County, where it caused tree damage. It moved northeastward and crossed into Coosa County, where extensive tree damage and structure damage occurred. Continuing on a northeastward path, the tornado crossed into Tallapoosa County just south of Sasser road. A few trees were snapped or uprooted along this section of the path. The tornado eventually lifted along Hix Road.

In response to a strong upper level shortwave, a surface low developed over the northwestern Gulf of Mexico and rode along a previously stalled front across northwest Central Alabama, Thursday, December 22, 2011. Much of Central Alabama resided in an unseasonably warm airmass, with dewpoints near 70 degrees and CAPE over 1000 J/kg. As the surface low passed over northwest Central Alabama and low level winds backed, helicity increased. Rotating supercells within several thunderstorm complexes produced six tornadoes and isolated wind damage.

ALABAMA, North

(AL-Z006) MADISON				
	12/07/11 10:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	12/07/11 13:00 CST		0	

A powerful upper level trough moved swiftly through the region during the morning and early afternoon hours of the 7th. A batch of rain mixed with snow changed to all snow on the Cumberland Plateau by late morning (around 10 am). The snow ended abruptly by early afternoon. Snowfall of a half inch or less occurred on grassy areas and elevated surfaces as temperatures remained near or just above freezing during the snowfall.

ALABAMA, Southeast

(AL-Z065) COFFEE, (AL-Z066) DALE, (AL-Z067) HENRY, (AL-Z068) GENEVA, (AL-Z069) HOUSTON				
	12/01/11 00:00 EST		0	Drought
	12/31/11 23:59 EST		0	

D3 drought conditions (extreme) continued across all of southeast Alabama through the month of December and into January.

DALE COUNTY --- 0.4 NNW HIGHWAY 231 PEA RIVER BRIDGE [31.59, -85.78]				
	12/20/11 20:45 CST		0	Heavy Rain
	12/21/11 20:45 CST		0	Source: River/Stream Gage

A 24 hour total rainfall of 3.28 inches was measured at the Pea River Gauge at US Highway 231 near Ariton.

COFFEE COUNTY --- ELBA [31.41, -86.07]				
	12/21/11 14:29 CST		0	Funnel Cloud
	12/21/11 14:29 CST		0	Source: Public

The public reported a funnel cloud behind a home to the Elba police department as it moved eastward. No reports of damage were received.

DALE COUNTY --- OZARK [31.44, -85.64]				
	12/22/11 17:55 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 52 kt)
	12/22/11 17:55 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

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A spotter reported gusts of 40-50 mph with a peak gust of 60 mph along with heavy rain and intense lightning. There was no known damage reported.

A broad upper level trough located west of the area provided southwesterly flow with a series of upper level disturbances ejecting northeastward. Moist southerly low level flow off of the Gulf of Mexico provided ample moisture. The result was pockets of heavy rain in excess of 3 inches in a 24 hour period across portions of southeast Alabama. In addition to the heavy rainfall, instability gradually increased through December 22nd with a continuous feed of moist air from the Gulf of Mexico. A combination of instability and increased shear allowed for the development of some convection across the area on the 21st and 22nd with an isolated report of a funnel cloud on the 21st and 60 mph winds on the 22nd.

ALABAMA, Southwest

COVINGTON COUNTY --- 2.0 W BECK [31.25, -86.65]

12/22/11 15:52 CST	3K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
12/22/11 15:54 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

Winds estimated at 60 mph downed several trees and caused minor damage to a metal barn.

A thunderstorm produced high winds that caused minor damage to a barn and downed several trees.