

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2011

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

(AL-Z037) TALLAPOOSA, (AL-Z038) CHAMBERS, (AL-Z043) ELMORE, (AL-Z045) MACON, (AL-Z047) LEE

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

Several storm systems brought precipitation to Central Alabama during the month of January, with rainfall totals of one to five inches. However, the monthly totals were below normal. Despite the rainfall, there was no significant change in drought conditions. Extreme drought (D3) conditions persisted to the right of a line from Tallassee to Lake Martin to Penten to Cusseta to Tallassee.

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

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

Several storm systems brought precipitation to Central Alabama during the month of January, with rainfall totals of one to five inches. However, the monthly totals were below normal. Despite the rainfall, there was no significant change in drought conditions. Severe drought (D2) conditions persisted to the right of a line from Goshen to Mount Meigs to Santuck to Alexander City to Wadley to Rock Mills.

WINSTON COUNTY --- 0.9 SSE NATURAL BRIDGE [34.09, -87.60]

01/01/11 01:20 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
01/01/11 01:20 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

A couple trees were blown down along Highway 278 and Highway 13.

(AL-Z017) BLOUNT, (AL-Z018) ETOWAH, (AL-Z023) TUSCALOOSA

01/01/11 02:00 CST	2.50K	Strong Wind (MAX 45 kt)
01/01/11 05:15 CST	0	

LAMAR COUNTY --- 0.9 SE VERNON [33.74, -88.11]

01/01/11 02:10 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
01/01/11 02:10 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

Multiple trees were blown down on Highway 17.

WINSTON COUNTY --- 1.8 WNW HALEYVILLE [34.24, -87.65], 1.5 W LITTLEVILLE [34.25, -87.60], 1.7 WSW DEFOOR [34.21, -87.60], 1.9 WSW HALEYVILLE [34.22, -87.65]

01/01/11 02:30 CST	0	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
01/01/11 04:30 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

A couple roads were washed out.

LAMAR COUNTY --- 2.3 NW DETROIT [34.05, -88.20], 7.5 W FERNBANK [33.54, -88.26], 5.3 SE KENNEDY [33.53, -87.91], 7.1 NNE BEAVERTON [34.03, -87.98]

01/01/11 03:00 CST	0	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
01/01/11 05:00 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

Several roads across the county were washed out or impassable.

A cold front pushed through Central Alabama in the early morning hours of New Year's Day producing strong damaging winds and isolated flash flooding. Ahead of this front, strong gradient winds knocked down trees and caused minor structural damage in several places in north Central Alabama.

(AL-Z022) PICKENS, (AL-Z023) TUSCALOOSA, (AL-Z025) SHELBY, (AL-Z027) TALLADEGA, (AL-Z029) RANDOLPH, (AL-Z030) SUMTER, (AL-Z031) GREENE, (AL-Z032) HALE, (AL-Z033) PERRY, (AL-Z034) BIBB, (AL-Z035) CHILTON, (AL-Z036) COOSA, (AL-Z037) TALLAPOOSA, (AL-Z038) CHAMBERS, (AL-Z039) MARENGO, (AL-Z040) DALLAS, (AL-Z041) AUTAUGA, (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

01/09/11 11:00 CST	0	Ice Storm
01/10/11 13:00 CST	0	

(AL-Z011) MARION, (AL-Z012) LAMAR, (AL-Z013) FAYETTE, (AL-Z014) WINSTON, (AL-Z015) WALKER, (AL-Z017) BLOUNT, (AL-Z018) ETOWAH,

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(AL-Z019) CALHOUN, (AL-Z020) CHEROKEE, (AL-Z021) CLEBURNE, (AL-Z024) JEFFERSON, (AL-Z026) ST. CLAIR, (AL-Z028) CLAY				
	01/09/11 14:15 CST		0	Winter Storm
	01/10/11 13:00 CST		0	

As a low pressure system moved across the northern Gulf of Mexico on Sunday January 9th, moisture pushed northward into Central Alabama, interacting with cold air already in place across the area. The combination of moisture and cold air brought a wintry mix of precipitation to most of Central Alabama, Sunday afternoon through Monday morning. Snowfall totals ranged from 4 to 7 inches across far north Central Alabama to 2 to 4 inches across locations from Vernon to Birmingham to Anniston. South of these locations, ice and sleet were the predominant precipitation type with around .50 inch of ice and between 1 to 3 inches of sleet reported across southern portions of the area.

Light wintry precipitation began to spread into the area during the early afternoon hours on January 9. Even though amounts were light, accumulations were increasing travel concerns and the risk for vehicle accidents. As the strong storm system neared the area, several bands of wintry precipitation moved northward across the area, sometimes becoming quite heavy, with estimated precipitations rates over 1 inch an hour. As snow and ice began to accumulate, travel conditions quickly became hazardous. Several reports of thundersnow were also noted.

ALABAMA, North

MORGAN COUNTY --- 2.4 ESE OAK RIDGE [34.47, -86.96], 0.2 SE MT TABOR [34.43, -86.87], 1.3 WNW HARTSELLE ARPT [34.40, -86.95], 3.3 S OAK RIDGE [34.43, -86.99]

	01/01/11 02:30 CST		0	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	01/01/11 05:15 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

Several roads in and around the Hartselle community were impassable due to flash flooding. Some roads impacted more heavily included: Hwy 31 near the Moss Chapel, Powell, Huckaby Bridge, Mount Tabor, Cedar Cove, and Johnson Chapel.

CULLMAN COUNTY --- 0.8 WNW PHELAN [34.13, -86.83], 1.9 E GOOD HOPE [34.10, -86.84], 1.0 W GOOD HOPE [34.10, -86.89], 2.8 NNW GOOD HOPE [34.14, -86.89]

	01/01/11 04:45 CST		0	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	01/01/11 05:45 CST		0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue

Numerous streets were reported flooded in downtown Good Hope. Water was reported up to car doors on several roadways in the Good Hope area.

MADISON COUNTY --- 2.8 W GURLEY [34.71, -86.43], 0.9 NW GURLEY [34.71, -86.39], 0.9 WSW GURLEY [34.69, -86.39], 3.0 NNE CHERRYTREE [34.69, -86.44]

	01/01/11 05:15 CST		0	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	01/01/11 06:15 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager

Heavy rainfall caused some roads to be impassable in and near the Gurley community. A car was stranded as it drove into a flooded roadway southwest of Gurley. Rock Cut road was closed due to flash flooding in the same area.

LAWRENCE COUNTY --- 1.0 SW MOULTON [34.47, -87.29], 0.8 SW MOULTON [34.47, -87.29], 1.1 SSW MOULTON [34.47, -87.29], 1.3 SW MOULTON [34.47, -87.30]

	01/01/11 07:26 CST		0	Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	01/01/11 08:30 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

Portions of CR 33 off of CR 59 in the Moulton were flooded by heavy rainfall. Unfortunately, someone's car was stranded in these high waters as he tried to drive through the flooded roadway.

A large mesoscale convective system (MCS) produced a series of thunderstorms with frequent lightning and rain periods. Significant rainfall began during the early to mid evening hours of December 31st and lasted through the morning hours of January 1st. Rainfall amounts of 1.5 to 3 inches were common, with a swath of heavier amounts in the 3 to 5.5 inch range from southern Lawrence through Morgan, Madison and western Jackson Counties. Resulting runoff resulted in several reports of flooded roads and small streams exceeding bankfull.

(AL-Z001) LAUDERDALE, (AL-Z002) COLBERT, (AL-Z003) FRANKLIN, (AL-Z004) LAWRENCE, (AL-Z005) LIMESTONE, (AL-Z006) MADISON, (AL-Z007) MORGAN, (AL-Z008) MARSHALL, (AL-Z009) JACKSON, (AL-Z010) DEKALB, (AL-Z016) CULLMAN

	01/09/11 16:45 CST		0.30K	Heavy Snow
	01/10/11 13:30 CST		0	

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A low developed in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico early on the 9th and tracked east along the Gulf Coast late on the 9th into early on the 10th. A large area of snow spread northeastward during the early to mid evening hours on the 9th, reaching south of the Tennessee River before 8 pm, and along and north of the Tennessee River shortly after. Snowfall rates jumped quickly to 1 to 2 inches per hour and visibility dropped to 1/4 mile or less. Thunderstorms produced very heavy snowfall bursts of up to 4 inch per hour between 10 pm and 1 am with many social media sources and the National Lightning Detection Network (NLDN) reporting several strikes and rumbles of thunder. Weather observers at the Huntsville International Airport reported a 4 inch snowfall between 11 pm and Midnight. Snowfall was mixed in with sleet at times initially as well. The snowfall tapered off to light snow and flurries between 2 and 5 am. Patchy freezing rain mixed in with some of the remaining light snow showers during the morning hours of the 10th, mainly in northeast Alabama.

Snowfall totals ranged from 4 to 14 inches, with heaviest amounts in northwest and north central Alabama, and lessor amounts in central and northeast Alabama generally south of the Tennessee River. The snowfall basically shutdown normal activities and travel across the region with many roads declared impassible or closed. Schools were closed on the 10th and 11th. Temperatures climbed in valley areas to 32 to 34 degrees during the late afternoon and early evening hours, allowing for some main streets to become wet, while rural county roads remained very treacherous or impassible. Black ice became a problem during the nighttime hours of the 10th into the 11th as temperatures either remained below or dipped back below freezing. This was especially the case on mountain roads and rural county roads. In fact, the icing issues were so significant and widespread, that local area emergency situation was declared by emergency management officials for Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Morgan, Marshall, Dekalb, and Jackson counties.

(AL-Z001) LAUDERDALE, (AL-Z002) COLBERT, (AL-Z004) LAWRENCE, (AL-Z005) LIMESTONE, (AL-Z006) MADISON, (AL-Z007) MORGAN, (AL-Z008) MARSHALL, (AL-Z009) JACKSON, (AL-Z010) DEKALB

01/20/11 16:53 CST	0	Winter Weather
01/20/11 21:40 CST	0	

An upper level disturbance along with an arctic cold front dropped southeast through the Tennessee Valley during the evening hours of the 20th. Rain and drizzle along and ahead of the front quickly changed to snow for about a 3 to 4 hour period in northwest and north central Alabama between 5 and 9 pm. Rain changed to snow later in northeast Alabama, between 7 and 9 pm before ending shortly after. Snowfall amounts ranged from just a dusting to near one inch. Temperatures plummeted into the lower to mid 20s, producing black ice on some roads, bridges and overpasses during the overnight and early morning hours.

(AL-Z006) MADISON

01/26/11 01:30 CST	0	Winter Weather
01/26/11 06:30 CST	0	

A strong upper level low trough swung through the Tennessee Valley during the morning hours of the 26th. Rainfall switched to a brief period of freezing rain in the higher elevations of northeast Alabama around 4 am as temperatures slipped to 32 degrees or just below. Up to a tenth of an inch of ice accumulation was reported in the higher elevations. The freezing rain changed to a brief period of wet snow, but little or no accumulation was reported.

ALABAMA, Southeast

(AL-Z065) COFFEE, (AL-Z066) DALE, (AL-Z067) HENRY, (AL-Z068) GENEVA, (AL-Z069) HOUSTON

01/01/11 00:00 EST	0	Drought
01/31/11 23:59 EST	0	

The severe drought (D2), which developed in mid September, continued through all of January and into February across southeast Alabama.

(AL-Z066) DALE, (AL-Z067) HENRY

01/10/11 05:00 EST	2K	Ice Storm
01/10/11 09:00 EST	0	

On the Monday morning of January 10, 2011, freezing rain fell across portions of southern Georgia and southeast Alabama. Amounts generally ranged from a trace to a quarter of an inch, but a few areas had half an inch of total ice accumulation. In southern Georgia, the main impacts from the ice storm were hazardous road conditions and power outages. In southeast Alabama, where there was less ice, the impact was limited to slippery roads. This was a very rare event for the region, and warning criteria ice accretion at the time was defined locally as any measurable ice accretion of greater than a trace. Ice accretion reports first started to come in around 5 am EST /4 am CST/ with freezing rain ending around 9 am EST /8 am CST/. The highest amount reported was in Terrell County, GA with around a half inch of accretion. The counties of Turner, Worth, Randolph, and Lee in Georgia reported around a quarter inch of accretion. The rest of the counties reported less than a quarter inch of accretion. Many schools were closed for the day on Monday. The monetary damage

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figure provided is a rough estimate that only includes the Alabama counties which saw the least freezing rain and tree and power line damage. For the estimate on the Georgia counties, please see that entry.

ALABAMA, Southwest

(AL-Z051) CHOCTAW, (AL-Z053) CLARKE

01/09/11 13:38 CST	5K	Ice Storm
01/10/11 08:13 CST	0	

An area of low pressure caused rainfall to develop across portions of southwest Alabama. As the rain fell on objects that were at freezing or below the rain froze on contact. This caused a light glaze to form on cars, trees and elevated roadways.

BALDWIN COUNTY --- GULF SHRS [30.28, -87.68]

01/18/11 20:05 CST	3K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
01/18/11 20:07 CST	0	Source: Public

Winds estimated at 60 mph blew siding off a condo on the beach.

Winds estimated at 60 mph caused damage in Gulf Shores.