

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2017

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

(AL-Z012) LAMAR, (AL-Z013) FAYETTE, (AL-Z015) WALKER, (AL-Z017) BLOUNT, (AL-Z018) ETOWAH, (AL-Z019) CALHOUN, (AL-Z020) CHEROKEE, (AL-Z021) CLEBURNE, (AL-Z022) PICKENS, (AL-Z023) TUSCALOOSA, (AL-Z024) JEFFERSON, (AL-Z025) SHELBY, (AL-Z026) ST. CLAIR, (AL-Z027) TALLADEGA, (AL-Z028) CLAY, (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-Z043) ELMORE

12/08/17 06:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
12/09/17 05:00 CST	0	

A significant snowstorm impacted central Alabama on December 8-9. The snow began during the early morning hours on December 8th and continued for nearly 24 hours.

Within the main corridor of snow, totals of 4 to 8 inches were common, with a few swaths of 8 to 12 inches. A few reports exceeding 12 inches were received from Clay and Cleburne Counties. Birmingham officially recorded 4 inches of snow, making it the 3rd snowiest December on record.

During the early portion of the event, temperature profiles were marginally supportive of wintry precipitation due to surface temperatures a few degrees above freezing, and many areas were receiving rain or a rain/snow mix; however, by daybreak, many areas had made the transition to snow as colder air moved in from the north; a period of drier air aloft that allowed for evaporative cooling; and higher precipitation rates. Through the afternoon, snow continued to fall across much of central Alabama. While surface temperatures were varied with some areas at freezing and some a degree or two above freezing, notable accumulations began to manifest. An overrunning setup provided an long fetch of moisture from the southwest, and lift alongside favorable conditions in the snow growth zone resulted in swaths of heavy snowfall and large snowflakes. Colder air had not yet made it to areas near and southeast of the I-85 corridor, and those areas continued to see rain during the afternoon; however, a change to snow occurred into the evening and nighttime hours just in time for the last surge of precipitation, with little to no accumulation.

RANDOLPH COUNTY --- 2.7 N DICKERT [33.17, -85.43], 1.5 WNW ROANOKE [33.16, -85.37]

12/20/17 10:40 CST	0	Tornado (EF0, L: 3.17 mi , W: 16 yd)
12/20/17 10:45 CST	0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

NWS meteorologists surveyed damage in eastern Randolph County and determined that the damage was consistent with an EF0 tornado. The weak tornado touched near County Road 865 just north of Highway 22. Several metal roof panels were blown off a barn on County Road 865, with a few instances of snapped tree branches and snapped, slender pine trees noted downstream. A snapped tree was noted within the city limits of Roanoke.

A line of thunderstorms pushed eastward through central Alabama during the morning hours on December 20th. Wind shear values were favorable for rotating storms with 0-6km Bulk Shear values near 50 knots and 0-3km Storm Relative Helicity values near 350 m²/s². Surface based instability also increased during the morning hours, reaching values near 500 j/kg by the time the tornado formed.

ALABAMA, North

(AL-Z008) MARSHALL, (AL-Z016) CULLMAN

12/08/17 06:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
12/08/17 13:00 CST	0	

(AL-Z010) DEKALB

12/08/17 09:00 CST	0	Heavy Snow
12/08/17 21:00 CST	0	

The northern fringe of a large band of snow across central into northeast Alabama brought a period of snow during the morning and afternoon hours over portions of Cullman, Marshall and DeKalb Counties. Amounts ranged from 1 to 3 inches. The Valley Head COOP observer in DeKalb County measured 3.2 inches.

DEKALB COUNTY --- 0.6 W SKIRUM [34.32, -85.98]

12/20/17 07:00 CST	0	Heavy Rain
12/20/17 13:00 CST	0	Source: CoCoRaHS

Heavy rain reported in Skirum.

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MORGAN COUNTY --- 0.6 W SOMERVILLE [34.47, -86.81], 0.1 SSW SOMERVILLE [34.47, -86.80], 1.4 SSW SOMERVILLE [34.45, -86.81], 1.9 SW SOMERVILLE [34.45, -86.82]				
	12/20/17 07:01 CST	0		Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	12/20/17 12:00 CST	0		Source: Emergency Manager

Flash flooding was reported along Barnett Chapel Road and Black Road along Gill Creek. Although receded since 7am, still well over 6 inches of swift moving water reported as of 910am.

MORGAN COUNTY --- 0.7 N MASSEY [34.38, -87.02], 1.2 NNW MASSEY [34.39, -87.02], 0.8 NW MASSEY [34.38, -87.03], 0.4 N MASSEY [34.38, -87.02]				
	12/20/17 07:01 CST	0		Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	12/20/17 12:00 CST	0		Source: Emergency Manager

Flash flooding reported on New Cut Road at Herrin Creek. Water rescues underway with up to 6 vehicles trapped. 3 feet of swift flood waters reported.

MORGAN COUNTY --- 1.3 ENE DANVILLE [34.43, -87.06], 1.8 NE DANVILLE [34.44, -87.06], 1.5 NNE DANVILLE [34.44, -87.07], 1.1 NE DANVILLE [34.43, -87.06]				
	12/20/17 07:01 CST	0		Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	12/20/17 12:00 CST	0		Source: Emergency Manager

Flash flooding was reported along Craze Road along Johnson Chapel Creek. Road remains impassable and flooded as of 935am.

MORGAN COUNTY --- 1.4 N DANVILLE [34.44, -87.08], 1.7 S PUMPKIN CENTER [34.45, -87.08], 1.5 S PUMPKIN CENTER [34.45, -87.08], 1.5 NNW DANVILLE [34.44, -87.09]				
	12/20/17 07:01 CST	0		Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	12/20/17 12:00 CST	0		Source: Emergency Manager

Flash flooding reported on North Johnson Chapel Road at Johnson Chapel Creek. At least 6-12 inches of swift moving water over the road. Flash flooding continues as of 9am.

MORGAN COUNTY --- 1.5 SSW SOMERVILLE [34.45, -86.81], 1.1 SSW SOMERVILLE [34.46, -86.81], 1.0 SSW SOMERVILLE [34.46, -86.81], 1.4 W FURNEY XRDS [34.45, -86.80]				
	12/20/17 07:01 CST	0		Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	12/20/17 12:00 CST	0		Source: Emergency Manager

Flash flooding was reported along Hobb Ward Road. Despite some receding since 7am, still well over 6 inches of swift moving water still reported as of 910am.

MORGAN COUNTY --- 2.9 ESE MASSEY [34.36, -86.97], 2.3 SW HARTSELLE ARPT [34.38, -86.96], 2.1 NE MASSEY [34.39, -87.00], 1.1 SE MASSEY [34.36, -87.00]				
	12/20/17 07:01 CST	0		Flash Flood (due to Heavy Rain)
	12/20/17 12:00 CST	0		Source: Emergency Manager

Flash flooding with at least 6 inches of swift moving water on Barkley Bridge Road along Mack Creek.

Heavy rain occurred during the early morning hours of the 20th. Rainfall amounts of over 2 inches fell over much of north Alabama, with a narrower band of 3-5 inch rainfall. Within this band, runoff resulted in flash flooding in Morgan County. In one case, up to six vehicles had to be rescued from flood waters.

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Flooding along New Cut Road.

MADISON COUNTY --- 1.3 ESE HARVEST EPPS ARPT [34.86, -86.75]

12/20/17 16:13 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
12/20/17 16:13 CST	0	Source: Public

One inch hail was reported via social media.

MADISON COUNTY --- 2.1 N JEFF [34.85, -86.72]

12/20/17 16:15 CST	0	Hail (0.75 in)
12/20/17 16:15 CST	0	Source: Public

Penny sized hail was reported in the Anderson Hills subdivision. Relayed via social media.

MADISON COUNTY --- 0.9 NW NUNN STORE [34.66, -86.49]

12/20/17 17:01 CST	0	Hail (0.88 in)
12/20/17 17:01 CST	0	Source: Public

Nickel sized hail was reported in Big Cove area. Relayed via social media.

An isolated thunderstorm became severe during the late afternoon hours in north central Alabama. The storm produced hail up to 1 inch in diameter.

COLBERT COUNTY --- 1.5 NNE FORD CITY [34.80, -87.51]

12/23/17 05:46 CST	1K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 65 kt)
12/23/17 05:46 CST	0	Source: Trained Spotter

A power pole was snapped and lines knocked down on Baker Road.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY --- 1.7 E WATERLOO [34.92, -88.04]

12/23/17 06:01 CST	2K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 52 kt)
12/23/17 06:01 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

A few trees were knocked down on CR 14 east of Waterloo. Time estimated by radar.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY --- 1.4 N ST FLORIAN [34.89, -87.62]

12/23/17 06:36 CST	0.50K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 43 kt)
12/23/17 06:36 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

A tree was knocked down partially blocking the intersection of CR 61 and CR 335. Time estimated by radar.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY --- 1.5 SSE LEXINGTON [34.95, -87.36]

12/23/17 07:00 CST	0.50K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 43 kt)
12/23/17 07:00 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

A tree was knocked down causing partial blockage of the road near CR 88 at CR 51. Time estimated by radar.

A fast-moving line of showers and thunderstorms pushed through north Alabama from west to east during the early morning hours of the 23rd. Damaging winds snapped a power pole. There were also reports of trees knocked down.

ALABAMA, Southwest

(AL-Z051) CHOCTAW, (AL-Z052) WASHINGTON, (AL-Z053) CLARKE, (AL-Z054) WILCOX

12/08/17 00:00 CST	0	Heavy Snow
12/08/17 18:00 CST	0	

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(AL-Z055) MONROE, (AL-Z056) CONECUH, (AL-Z057) BUTLER, (AL-Z058) CRENSHAW, (AL-Z059) ESCAMBIA, (AL-Z060) COVINGTON, (AL-Z262) BALDWIN INLAND, (AL-Z263) MOBILE CENTRAL, (AL-Z264) BALDWIN CENTRAL, (AL-Z265) MOBILE COASTAL				
	12/08/17 14:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	12/09/17 04:00 CST		0	

An extremely rare early season snow event occurred across the central Gulf coast late in the day on the 8th into the morning of the 9th. An area of low pressure moved northeast off the Gulf and as the low moved east and pulled a cold air mass into the area, rain changed to a mix and eventually all snow. It was the earliest snow event ever recorded in the area. Most areas received some accumulation, with the largest totals across northwest areas. Areas northwest of a line from Leakesville, Mississippi to Camden, Alabama received 3 to as much as 7.5 inches of snow.