

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2021

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

(AL-Z011) MARION, (AL-Z012) LAMAR, (AL-Z013) FAYETTE, (AL-Z014) WINSTON, (AL-Z022) PICKENS

02/14/21 19:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
02/18/21 09:00 CST	0	

A persistent, large-scale trough over the United States favored an active period of weather across the Central Gulf Coast region, with parts of Central Alabama experiencing several waves of wintry precipitation over a span of five days. An upper level disturbance moving through Texas aided in the development of a surface low over the northern Gulf of Mexico Sunday the 14th into Monday the 15th. As the surface low tracked northeast towards the Mid-Atlantic region, a large area of precipitation developed and overspread Central Alabama. Sub-freezing surface temperatures were confined to far west and northwest portions of Central Alabama. The freezing air mass was shallow, and the wind pattern a few thousand feet above the surface favored an influx of warmer air from the south. This type of vertical temperature profile was a typical setup for freezing rain. Over time, low-level cooling occurred and allowed for mixture of sleet and snow along with the freezing rain. The hardest hit counties were Pickens, Lamar, Fayette, Marion, and Winston Counties. As much as one-half of ice accumulation occurred in these counties. The weight of the ice caused trees to bend or fall over, tree branches to break, and power outages. The coating of ice made for dangerous or impossible travel across the area.

As the storm system exited, arctic air was pulled southward into Alabama. Temperatures fell into the teens on the morning of Tuesday the 16th with a wind chill factor in the single digits. Much of the region remained below freezing through the day. To add to the busy period of weather, a remaining shallow cloud layer produced snow showers into the early afternoon on the 16th. The snow was dry and fluffy in nature with accumulations of 1-2 inches some areas.

A second cycle of wintry weather affected similar areas across northwest Central Alabama on Wednesday the 18th through Thursday the 19th. Another upper level disturbance moved through the large-scale trough. The northwest counties of Central Alabama remained at or a few degrees below freezing. By mid afternoon on the 17th, precipitation, in the form of snow and sleet, began moving in from Mississippi. Snow and sleet began accumulating in the evening hours and continued through the mid-morning hours on the 18th. As much as 3 inches of sleet and snow accumulated in Marion and Winston Counties. The sleet and snow changed over to freezing rain in northern Lamar County resulting in power outages.

ALABAMA, North

(AL-Z009) JACKSON

02/07/21 00:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
02/07/21 04:00 CST	0	

Rain mixed with and changed over to wet snow quickly during the early morning hours of the 7th after Midnight as a strong upper level disturbance moved through the area. Temperatures remained above freezing in valley locations, but dropped to around 32 degrees atop the higher elevations of the Cumberland Plateau. Snow accumulations of up to 0.5 inch were reported in Jackson County, mainly atop the higher elevations of Sand Mountain and in north and northwest Jackson County. Higher amounts (although not reported) are suspected to have occurred atop the higher elevations of the Cumberland Plateau in northern Jackson County.

(AL-Z001) LAUDERDALE, (AL-Z002) COLBERT, (AL-Z003) FRANKLIN, (AL-Z004) LAWRENCE, (AL-Z005) LIMESTONE, (AL-Z006) MADISON, (AL-Z007) MORGAN

02/12/21 20:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
02/13/21 10:00 CST	0	

(AL-Z016) CULLMAN

02/12/21 22:00 CST	0	Ice Storm
02/13/21 09:00 CST	0	

Freezing drizzle developed during the evening hours of the 12th over northwest and north central Alabama. By late evening into the early morning hours of the 13th, an area of light freezing rain spread northeast over the area lasting through around 7-8 am in north central Alabama. Heavier ice accumulations of 0.25-0.32 inches was reported in Cullman County, with a few trees reported fallen over. Ice accumulations ranged from 0.01-0.10 at most locations, with a few spots receiving a bit more. Icy bridges and overpasses on I-565 in Madison County caused multiple vehicle accidents. Other accidents were reported across the area.

(AL-Z001) LAUDERDALE, (AL-Z002) COLBERT, (AL-Z003) FRANKLIN, (AL-Z004) LAWRENCE, (AL-Z005) LIMESTONE, (AL-Z006) MADISON, (AL-Z007) MORGAN, (AL-Z016) CULLMAN

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Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
	02/13/21 08:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	02/15/21 06:00 CST		0	

Patchy freezing drizzle and mist continued from the 13th through the 14th and into the early morning of the 15th in northwest and a portion of north central Alabama. A brief period of light freezing rain arrived during the evening of the 14th. A light coating of ice accumulated, especially on elevated objects, due to the prolonged period of freezing drizzle, mist and brief period of freezing rain.

(AL-Z001) LAUDERDALE, (AL-Z002) COLBERT, (AL-Z004) LAWRENCE, (AL-Z006) MADISON, (AL-Z007) MORGAN, (AL-Z016) CULLMAN				
	02/15/21 06:00 CST		0	Ice Storm
	02/15/21 18:00 CST		0	

Widespread freezing rain, moderate to heavy at times, moved into northwest and north central Alabama after 6 am LST. In northwest Alabama, a period of moderate freezing rain occurred during the late morning into the midday hours when several tenths of an inch of ice and liquid equivalent were measured. Ice accumulations of 0.25-0.50 inches were observed in northwest Alabama. Very hazardous travel conditions were reported in northwest Alabama.

In north central Alabama, near the I-65 corridor, freezing rain changed to rain at times from late morning into the mid afternoon. The freezing line wavered west and back east across north central Alabama, so some areas received more ice accumulation than others. Ice accumulations ranged from 0.25-1.0 inch in north central Alabama. Rapid refreezing of any melted liquid occurred during the early evening as a sharp cold front arrived. Impacts included a few power outages, especially in northwest Alabama west of the I-65 corridor, and very hazardous travel conditions.

(AL-Z007) MORGAN				
	02/16/21 01:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	02/16/21 18:00 CST		0	

A persistent period of mostly light snow and snow showers developed during the early morning of the 16th, carrying on through early evening. In addition, a narrow and very persistent lake effect snow band developed off a favorable west-northwest wind fetch off Lake Wheeler, producing measurable snowfall southeast of the fetch in northern and eastern Morgan County. One CoCoRaHS observer reported a snowfall of 1.8 inches 5.0 miles SE of Decatur. Broadcast news reports and photos indicated amounts around 2 inches in parts of northeast Morgan County.

(AL-Z001) LAUDERDALE, (AL-Z002) COLBERT, (AL-Z003) FRANKLIN, (AL-Z004) LAWRENCE, (AL-Z005) LIMESTONE, (AL-Z006) MADISON, (AL-Z007) MORGAN				
	02/16/21 02:00 CST		0	Cold/Wind Chill
	02/16/21 08:00 CST		0	

Wind chills dropped into the Zero to -5 degree range at times for a few hours.

(AL-Z001) LAUDERDALE, (AL-Z002) COLBERT, (AL-Z003) FRANKLIN, (AL-Z004) LAWRENCE, (AL-Z005) LIMESTONE, (AL-Z006) MADISON, (AL-Z007) MORGAN				
	02/17/21 17:00 CST		0	Winter Storm
	02/18/21 00:00 CST		0	

(AL-Z009) JACKSON, (AL-Z016) CULLMAN				
	02/17/21 18:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	02/18/21 22:00 CST		0	

Another high impact winter weather event struck much of north Alabama during the evening of the 18th into the early morning hours of the 19th. A strong frontal boundary remained nearly stationary along the spine of the Cumberland Plateau. This divided temperatures above freezing in the upper 30s to upper 40s southeast of the front, mainly southeast of Winchester Tennessee, and Huntsville and Cullman in Alabama, with temperatures in the upper 20s to around 30 northwest of the boundary. Another upper level impulse that produced widespread winter weather across much of the south central U.S. and western Gulf states moved into the region. This spread widespread precipitation northeast into north Alabama. Southeast of the freeze line, or from roughly Sevanee in Tennessee, through central Jackson County through southeast Madison County (south Huntsville), southeast Morgan into central Cullman County in Alabama, the precipitation was rain for the duration of the event. In fact, moderate to locally heavy rainfall of 1-2 inches was received. Northwest of the freeze line, the precipitation began as light snow or ice pellets, but quickly intensified into moderate to heavy snow, with accumulation rates of 1-2 inches per hour. Snow accumulations reached 2-6 inches across northwest and north central Alabama. The freeze line lifted northwest slowly, changing the snow to rain for most of north central Alabama. This made for a slushy mess. Road conditions deteriorated quickly over the area, including both the north and northwest Huntsville metro, Decatur, Athens, and the Quad Cities/Shoals area. In Florence, over 100 vehicles were abandoned due to the treacherous road conditions, with many sliding off roadways. In this part of the area, many roads were still ice/sleet/snow covered from the previous event just a day before.

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(AL-Z002) COLBERT				
	02/28/21 22:00 CST		0.20K	Strong Wind (MAX 35 kt)
	02/28/21 22:00 CST		0	

COLBERT COUNTY --- 0.8 S ALLSBORO [34.69, -88.12]

	02/28/21 22:05 CST		0.20K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 35 kt)
	02/28/21 22:05 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager

A tree was knocked down on Old Natchez Trace Road.

A line of thunderstorms entered northwest Alabama during the late evening hours. A tree was knocked down by gusty winds in Colbert County due to the thunderstorms. Another was knocked down by non-thunderstorm winds.

ALABAMA, Southeast

HOUSTON COUNTY --- LUCY [31.01, -85.04]

	02/09/21 04:40 CST		0.15M	Lightning
	02/09/21 04:40 CST		0	Source: Fire Department/Rescue

The Lucy Fire Department Facebook page reported a residential structure fire due to lightning with significant damage.

Early morning thunderstorms caused a lightning strike which resulted in significant damage to a home in Houston county.

HOUSTON COUNTY --- WICKSBURG [31.20, -85.62]

	02/15/21 14:26 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	02/15/21 14:26 CST		0	Source: Public

A tree was blown down in Wicksburg.

DALE COUNTY --- 1.5 SSE ARGUTA [31.55, -85.58]

	02/15/21 14:39 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 50 kt)
	02/15/21 14:39 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement

A tree was blown down across the road near 607 County Road 60.

A strong cold front moved through the area during the afternoon hours of Feb 15th. The airmass ahead of the front was relatively unstable, and shear was very strong. The result was a round of strong to severe storms across the tri-state area with damaging winds and a few tornadoes, including a strong EF2 tornado in Early county, GA.