

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - December 2023

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-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-Z030) SUMTER, (AL-Z031) GREENE, (AL-Z032) HALE, (AL-Z034) BIBB, (AL-Z035) CHILTON, (AL-Z036) COOSA

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

Abnormally dry weather from October through November for much of Central Alabama continued into December. Although rainfall totals began increasing during the month, some areas remained in Severe (D2) to Extreme (D3) drought conditions.

CHEROKEE COUNTY --- 0.9 WNW CENTRE [34.16, -85.69]

12/09/23 23:40 CST	2K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 43 kt)
12/09/23 23:44 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

Metal roofing was peeled off the front of a Cherokee Farmers' CO-OP building in Centre, and a small tree fell on a house on Hardwood Hills Drive, causing minor roof and gutter damage. A few small trees were uprooted and tree limbs were snapped around town, blocking roadways.

JEFFERSON COUNTY --- 1.2 N CAHABA HGTS [33.47, -86.73]

12/10/23 00:04 CST	0	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 61 kt)
12/10/23 00:22 CST	0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

A large area of straight-line wind damage impacted the southern Birmingham suburbs just after midnight on December 10. Damage was first noted in the Oxmoor Valley and Bluff Park areas, with a concentrated area of heavier softwood tree damage along Shades Creek from Cammack Road to the Huntington Parc neighborhood. Widespread wind damage was observed through parts of northern Hoover, Vestavia Hills, Homewood, and Cahaba Heights. More damage was observed in much of Mountain Brook, including in Cherokee Village near Brookwood Mall and areas northwest of Mountain Brook High School along Spring Valley Road and Old Leeds Road. Many streets in these areas had hundreds of trees down, many of which were on homes. Further northeast, more tree and home damage was observed in the neighborhood along Nottingham Lane and along Overton Road east of Interstate 459 up to Grants Mill Road. The observed swath of wind damage was roughly 13.5 miles long and 3.6 miles wide at the widest point, lasting roughly 18 minutes from Oxmoor Valley to near Grants Mill Road. Wind speeds were estimated at 60 to 70 mph.

JEFFERSON COUNTY --- 1.9 SSW MAGELLA [33.44, -86.84], 1.7 WSW HOMEWOOD [33.47, -86.80]

12/10/23 00:09 CST	5M	Tornado (EF1, L: 3.02 mi, W: 600 yd)
12/10/23 00:12 CST	0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

A tornado first touched down just north of Lakeshore Parkway along Snow Drive. Here the damage was very light with large tree branches broken. The tornado tracked northeast, skirting John Carroll High School before producing significant tree damage along Oak Grove Road. One home was heavily damaged by falling trees, with lesser damage to others, and a large stand of mostly pine trees were snapped or uprooted east of Oak Grove Road. The tornado widened and intensified as it approached Wildwood Parkway. A strip mall there sustained very minor damage. However, a large office complex on the north end of Wildwood Parkway sustained substantial damage. A large number of windows were blown out of a 5-story professional building with many windows and debris blown back westward. A large load bearing beam was also pulled from the roof structure. The tornado is estimated to have reached its maximum intensity here at EF-1 / 100 mph. The tornado continued to move northeast, felling numerous trees south of Kent Drive. Along State Farm Parkway, a couple hotels sustained roof damage, a large hotel sign was blown out, and a vehicle was flipped before it crossed Interstate 65. The tornado reached its maximum width of approximately 600 yards as it crossed Green Spring Avenue. Significant structural damage was noted to an auto repair shop with the roof blown off. Several additional businesses and an apartment complex in this area also sustained minor roof damage. Power poles were snapped in this area as well. Further northeast, the tornado tracked through a densely populated residential area. Here the primary damage was caused by snapping and felling of trees. Many large and mature trees fell through homes in this area, causing moderate to severe damage. The most concentrated area of damage was along and north of Sautler Road and surrounding streets. It is estimated that over three dozen homes in this area sustained at least moderate damage from falling trees. The tornado began to weaken as it tracked on the north side of the Samford University campus with a few trees down in this area. The tornado dissipated near the Windsor Highlands Community along the north edge of the Samford Campus.

JEFFERSON COUNTY --- 1.2 SW HOMEWOOD [33.47, -86.78], 0.8 ESE HOMEWOOD [33.48, -86.76]

12/10/23 00:13 CST	0	Tornado (EF1, L: 1.78 mi, W: 200 yd)
12/10/23 00:15 CST	0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

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<p>An EF-1 tornado touched down just west of US Highway 31 in the Southwood community, just east of Lakeshore Foundation. Numerous softwood trees were knocked down across Old Montgomery Highway and Ashley Road, with some on homes. The tornado tracked east, nearly paralleling Lakeshore Drive/Shades Creek Parkway. At this point the tornado was near its maximum EF-1 intensity and also its widest point of 200 yards. Several houses on the north side of Shades Creek Parkway along Yorkshire Drive, Devon Drive, and Windsor Drive were damaged by falling trees. Power poles were snapped as well. The north facing side of Brookwood Mall also sustained minor structural damage. The very narrow tornado passed through the interchange of US Highway 280 and Shades Creek Parkway, with tree and power line damage noted around the interchange. The tornado moved northeastward across Cahaba Road and up a ridge, with a defined area of tree damage consisting of uproots and snapped limbs and tree tops. The last observable damage occurred at the top of the ridge along Cherokee Road.</p>				

JEFFERSON COUNTY --- (BHM)BIRMINGHAM ARPT [33.57, -86.75]				
	12/10/23 00:27 CST		0	Thunderstorm Wind (MG 50 kt)
	12/10/23 00:28 CST		0	Source: ASOS

A 58 mph gust was measured at the Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport ASOS station (KBHM) at 12:28 AM CST.

BARBOUR COUNTY --- 5.6 SE BLUE SPGS [31.62, -85.44], 6.1 S TEXASVILLE [31.63, -85.42]				
	12/10/23 01:19 CST		0	Tornado (EF0, L: 1.65 mi, W: 100 yd)
	12/10/23 01:22 CST		0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

The tornado began in rural southwestern Barbour County just west of Lury Walker Road with a single tree uprooted along the road bank and a few branches off of trees. The tornado track mainly consisted of sporadic very minor tree damage, yet the path remained discernible and consistent with the associated tornado debris signature (TDS). The tornado crossed Alabama Highway 10 and entered Henry County just north of and parallel to County Rd (CR) 54. The total path length was 8.01 miles across Barbour and Henry counties.

LEE COUNTY --- 4.4 W BUPREE [32.46, -85.43], 2.1 W BUPREE [32.47, -85.39]				
	12/10/23 04:36 CST		0	Tornado (EF0, L: 2.43 mi, W: 400 yd)
	12/10/23 04:39 CST		0	Source: NWS Storm Survey

The National Weather Service surveyed in southwestern Lee County and found the damage was consistent with an EF 0 tornado. The tornado initially touched down along County Road 30 where several trees were uprooted and a single family residence sustained minor damage. The tornado continued east-northeast crossing County Road 29 where additional trees were uprooted and a home had roof damage. It was also noted that a car window was blown out. The tornado then crossed County Road 11 just before lifting north of County Road 39. Additional soft and hard wood trees were damaged and uprooted along these two roads. It should be noted that this damage was adjacent to the EF4 tornado that impacted Lee County in 2019.

A pre-frontal line of thunderstorms tracked eastward across Alabama around and just after midnight on December 10th. A segment of the line intensified over Jefferson County, producing two tornadoes and a large swath of wind damage. Elsewhere, two weak tornadoes were spawned over parts of southeast Central Alabama.

(AL-Z028) CLAY, (AL-Z029) RANDOLPH				
	12/19/23 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	12/31/23 23:59 CST		0	

Abnormally dry weather from October through November for much of Central Alabama continued into December. Areas in east Alabama saw drought conditions worsen in December, with Clay and Randolph counties increasing to Severe (D2) drought.

(AL-Z039) MARENGO				
	12/26/23 00:00 CST		0	Drought
	12/31/23 23:59 CST		0	

Abnormally dry weather across southwest Central Alabama through autumn continued into December. Although some rainfall in November lowered Marengo County from Severe (D2) to Moderate (D1) drought, drier conditions in much of December contributed to the drought severity increasing again to D2 by late month.

ALABAMA, North

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

The U.S. Drought Monitor slowly showed improvement through the month of December, beginning the month with the entire CWFA included in Extreme Drought (D3) Conditions for all 14 counties in Northern Alabama and Southern Middle TN.

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By the issuance on the 7th, a large swath of the D3 was downgraded to Severe Drought (D2) across central portions of the area, including: Jackson, Madison, Limestone, Morgan, Lawrence, Cullman, Franklin, and Colbert Counties.

The area of D2 expanded once again by the issuance on the 14th, further being downgraded to a sliver of Moderate Drought (D1) Conditions across portions of Jackson, Madison, and a tiny portion of NE Morgan County.

No changes were made for the issuance on the 19th, but conditions improved once again by the issuance on the 28th as the area of D1 Conditions expanded across central portions of the area once again.

With above normal rainfall continuing into January, additional improvements will be likely in further Drought Monitor issuances as we head into 2024.

COLBERT COUNTY --- 1.3 ESE LINE KILN [34.76, -88.01]

12/09/23 17:39 CST	0.50K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 43 kt)
12/09/23 17:39 CST	0	Source: 911 Call Center

A tree was knocked down at the intersection of Highway 72 and the Natchez Trace Access Road. Time estimated by radar.

COLBERT COUNTY --- 2.0 WNW VALDOSTA [34.74, -87.75]

12/09/23 18:42 CST	0.50K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 43 kt)
12/09/23 18:42 CST	0	Source: 911 Call Center

A tree was knocked down and partially blocking the roadway at the intersection of Keller Quarry Road and Bluff Ct. Time estimated by radar.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY --- 0.9 SE MARS HILL [34.84, -87.64]

12/09/23 18:54 CST	0	Hail (0.75 in)
12/09/23 18:54 CST	0	Source: Public

An mPING report of 0.75 inch hail was reported.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY --- 1.6 NNW ELGIN [34.87, -87.39]

12/09/23 19:18 CST	0	Hail (1.00 in)
12/09/23 19:18 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

Quarter sized hail was reported on CR 92 north of Elgin.

MORGAN COUNTY --- 1.0 NW FALKVILLE [34.38, -86.91]

12/09/23 20:15 CST	0.20K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 43 kt)
12/09/23 20:15 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

A large tree branch was blown down and partially blocking the roadway at the 6400 block of Highway 31. Time estimated by radar.

MORGAN COUNTY --- 1.4 E LACON [34.33, -86.87]

12/09/23 20:15 CST	0.50K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 43 kt)
12/09/23 20:15 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

A tree was knocked down and blocking the road at 900 Mill Creek Road.

MORGAN COUNTY --- 1.2 SSE GUM POND [34.31, -86.66]

12/09/23 20:25 CST	0.50K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 43 kt)
12/09/23 20:25 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

A tree was knocked down along the roadway at Holcomb Road and Welcome Falls Road. Time estimated by radar.

MORGAN COUNTY --- 1.0 NE HUNTSVILLE LACEYS SP [34.54, -86.59]

12/09/23 20:37 CST	0.50K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 43 kt)
12/09/23 20:37 CST	0	Source: Emergency Manager

A tree was knocked down blocking the road at 62 River Loop Road. Time estimated by radar.

CULLMAN COUNTY --- 0.6 WNW FAIRVIEW [34.25, -86.69]

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	12/09/23 21:25 CST		1K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 43 kt)
	12/09/23 21:25 CST		0	Source: Amateur Radio

A power line was knocked down in front of Merchants Bank in Fairview. Time estimated from radar.

JACKSON COUNTY --- 0.8 N LARKINSVILLE [34.69, -86.13]

	12/09/23 21:30 CST		0.50K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 43 kt)
	12/09/23 21:30 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager

A tree was knocked down at CR 109 and CR 30 in Scottsboro.

JACKSON COUNTY --- 0.7 NNE LANGSTON [34.54, -86.07]

	12/09/23 22:12 CST		0.50K	Thunderstorm Wind (EG 43 kt)
	12/09/23 22:12 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager

A tree was knocked down on CR 67 in Langston.

Scattered to numerous thunderstorms, some of which were supercells, moved across northwest Alabama into southern middle Tennessee. A few of these produced strong and damaging wind gusts and some hail.

ALABAMA, Southeast

HENRY COUNTY --- 3.3 SW EDWIN [31.63, -85.42], 3.2 E EDWIN [31.67, -85.32]

	12/10/23 01:22 CST		50K	Tornado (EF0, L: 6.35 mi , W: 200 yd)
	12/10/23 01:37 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager

This is a continuation of the EF0 tornado from Barbour County. The tornado began in rural southwestern Barbour County just west of Lury Walker Road , with a single tree uprooted along the road bank and a few branches off the trees . The entire tornado track mainly consisted of sporadic very minor tree damage, yet the path remained discernible and consistent with the associated Tornado Debris Signature (TDS) noted on doppler radar. The tornado crossed Alabama Highway 10 and entered Henry County just north of and parallel to County Rd (CR) 54, before crossing CR 54 just before CR 216. The tornado reached its maximum width of approximately 200 yards wide as well as its maximum intensity, with relatively more widespread tree damage, as well as superficial damage to several manufactured homes. The tornado continued northeastward through forested land before crossing CR 75 and CR 235. It continued across the East Fork of the Choctawhatchee River before crossing CR 29. As the tornado crossed CR 235, it struck a chicken farm, where it caused primarily narrow and minor damage to 6 chicken barns. The tornado continued to the northeast and dissipated before crossing CR 54 yet another time. Max winds were estimated around 75 mph. Damage was estimated.

A cool season severe weather setup of low instability and high wind shear brought a few reports of severe weather to portions of the tri-state region. A couple of tornadoes occurred in Holmes county, FL, and Henry county, AL.

ALABAMA, Southwest

CRENSHAW COUNTY --- 5.8 SE SPORTS [31.47, -86.26]

	12/10/23 04:25 CST		0	Hail (1.00 in)
	12/10/23 04:27 CST		0	Source: Emergency Manager

A strong thunderstorm moved across the western Florida panhandle and produced large hail.