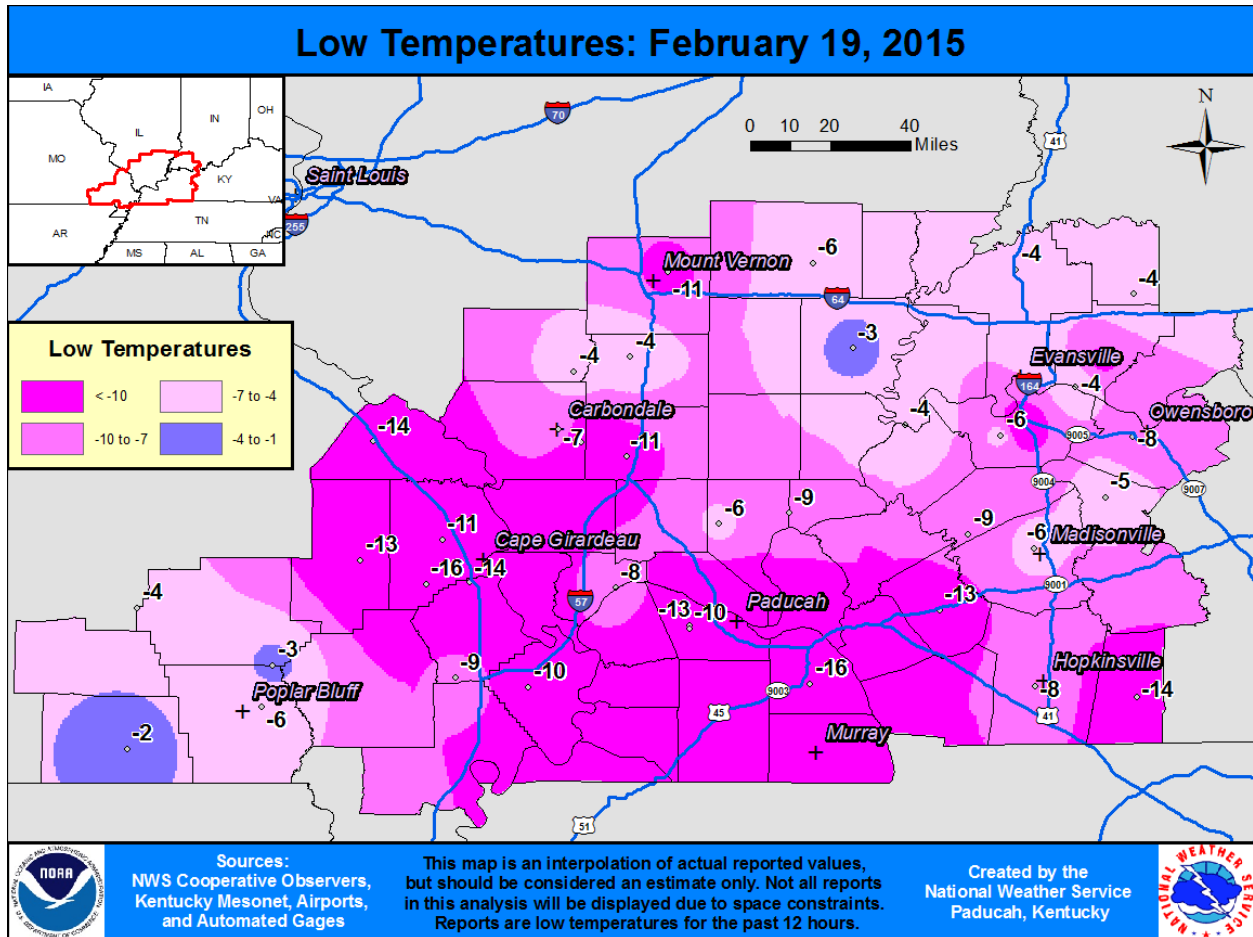


Record-breaking cold and brisk winds combined to produce dangerously low wind chills. Bitterly cold wind chills from 10 to 24 below zero were observed.



LOW TEMPS & WIND CHILLS: Actual low temperatures dropped as low as 6 below zero at Evansville, 7 below zero at Carbondale, 10 below at Paducah, 11 below at Cairo, 13 below at Mount Vernon, and 14 below at Cape Girardeau. The lowest wind chills were as low as 24 below zero at Cairo and Henderson, 20 below at Hopkinsville, 18 below at Paducah, 15 below at Carbondale and Evansville, 17 below at Sikeston, and 22 below at Harrisburg, Illinois.

HISTORICAL RANKING: A cold stretch of this magnitude had not been seen this late in the season since 1960. In some cases, the low temperature on the 19th was the coldest temperature ever recorded this late in the season. At Paducah, the low temperature of 10 below zero on the 19th was the coldest temperature ever recorded this late in the season. At Cape Girardeau, the low temperature of minus 14 on the 19th was the coldest temperature ever recorded this late in the season.

FATALITIES: One fatality was blamed on the cold weather. An 82-year-old Evansville woman was found outside her home without a coat. She suffered from dementia. The woman was transported to a local hospital, where she was pronounced dead from hypothermia. The coroner's office estimated her exposure to the cold air was about 15 minutes.

IMPACTS: Some water pipes burst. Warming centers were opened in several cities. Due to extremely high demand for electricity, the Tennessee Valley Authority requested its customers to conserve energy. At least one water main break occurred due to frozen ground.

WEATHER SYNOPSIS: This arctic air was delivered by arctic high pressure that settled southward across Missouri and Arkansas. Temperatures did not modify much due to extensive deep snowcover as far south as Kentucky and Missouri.