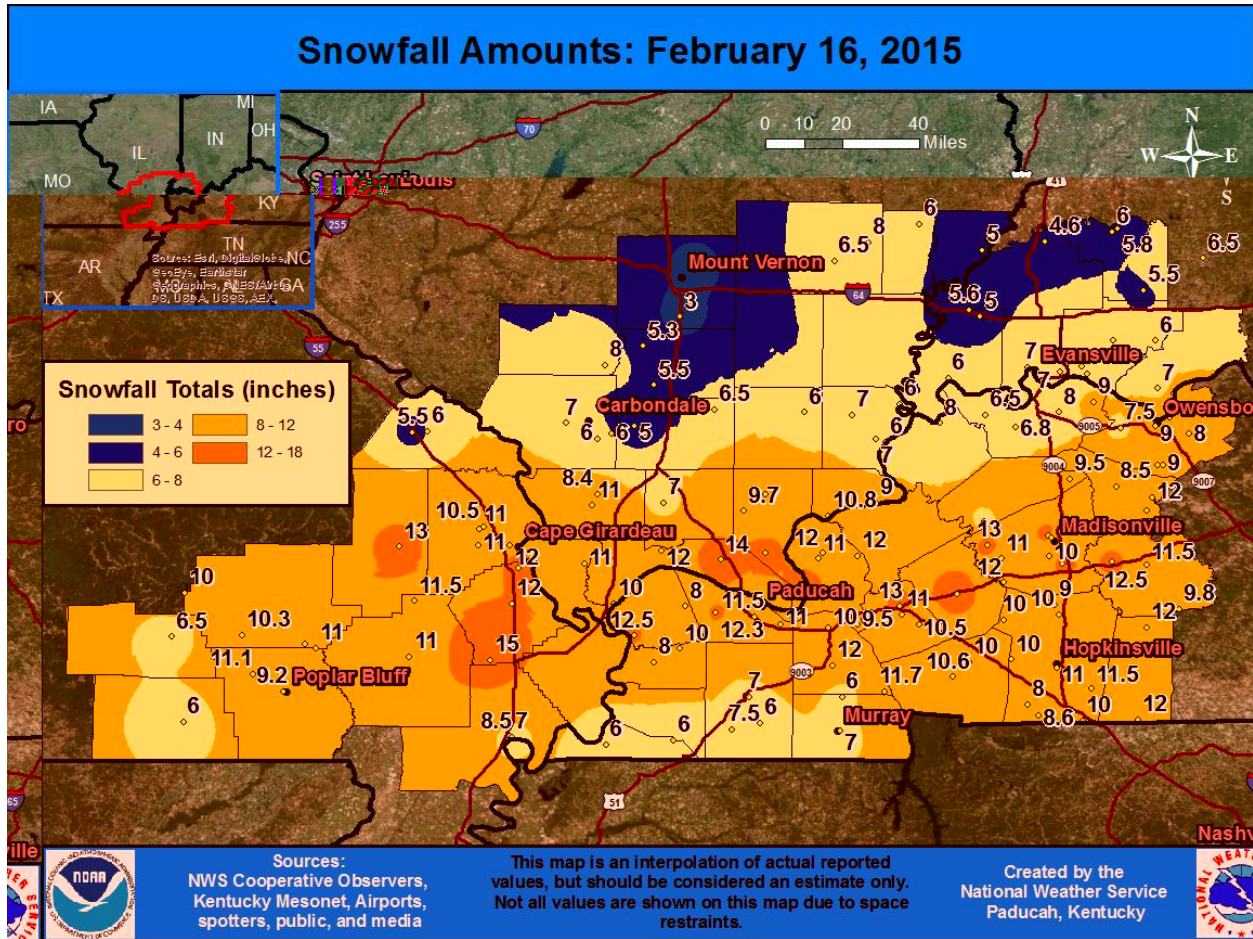


A major winter storm dumped up to a foot of snow on western Kentucky, southeast Missouri, and extreme southern Illinois.



HISTORICAL RANKING: At the Paducah National Weather Service office, the total of 10.8 inches made this the third heaviest snowstorm on record (for snowstorms lasting 2 days or less).

PRECIP TYPE: Snowfall amounts were lower along parts of the Arkansas and Tennessee borders due to a period of sleet and freezing rain at the beginning of the storm. One-half to one inch of sleet occurred at the beginning of the storm from Poplar Bluff, MO east to Murray, KY. This lowered snowfall totals in those areas to 4 to 8 inches.

SNOWFALL RATES: Snowfall rates were one to two inches per hour at times, reducing visibility below one-half mile.

IMPACTS: Until they were plowed, streets and back roads were impassable for smaller, lighter vehicles. Hopkinsville police responded to more than 270 stuck vehicles and 14 minor collisions. The governor of Kentucky declared a state of emergency. Local states of emergency were declared in Ballard, Marshall, Hopkins, and Webster Counties. Ballard County issued a curfew that banned any unnecessary travel between 8 P.M. and 5 A.M. All schools and numerous businesses were closed. Interstate 55 both

northbound and southbound was closed at times in New Madrid and Scott Counties, Missouri. Some 18-wheelers were jack-knifed on Interstate 55 in Scott County, and there were several crashes near Portageville. Across southeast Missouri, the Missouri State Highway Patrol responded to 178 stranded motorists and 78 crashes.

RECOVERY: Very cold temperatures in the wake of the storm rendered salt ineffective, slowing down recovery efforts. Wind chills ranged from 5 to 15 above zero.

WEATHER MAP SYNOPSIS: A low pressure center tracked northeast from north Texas to northern Alabama. Abundant moisture was drawn into the system, resulting in a major winter storm.