

Illinois Winter Weather Fact Sheet



Cold Temperatures

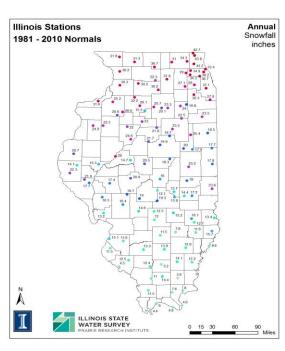
- ❖ 177 people have died from exposure to cold temperatures in the state of Illinois since 1996. This is much more than severe thunderstorms and tornadoes (63 deaths), floods (36 deaths) and lightning (19 deaths) combined during the same period.
- ❖ The coldest temperature on record in the state occurred on January 5, 1999 when the mercury dipped to -36 °F near Congerville in Woodford County!

Winter Storms

- Illinois <u>normally</u> experiences <u>five severe winter storms</u> each year. During the winter of 2014-15 there were nine severe winter storms, seven of which occurred from February into March
- ❖ As few as two (*in the winters of 1921-1922 and 1980-1981*), and as many as 18 winter storms (*in the winters of 1977-1978 and 1981-1982*) have occurred. There has not been a winter in Illinois without a winter storm in the past century.

Snow

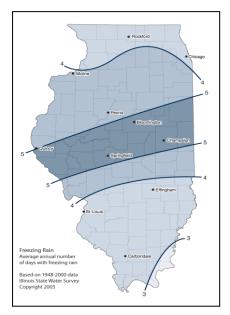
- Average annual snowfall ranges from nearly 40 inches of snow north of Chicago, to as little as 5 inches in the southern tip of Illinois
- In central Illinois, average snowfall is 20 to 25 inches, while areas south of I-70 normally experience 12 to 16 inches
- ❖ The average liquid water to snow ratio in central IL is 13:1 (This means, on average, there are 13.0" of snow for every 1.00" of liquid / melted snow)



(Click here for larger image)

Ice Storms

- Locations from just south of Quincy, through Lincoln, to Watseka experience more freezing rain and ice storms than any other part of the state, on average.
- Several major ice storms have impacted Illinois recently. The most recent was in southeast Illinois on Feb. 1-2, 2011 which created weeklong power outages and nearly \$10 Million damage to power poles and lines, as well as trees.



(Click here for larger image)



WINTER WEATHER IMPACTS



- ❖ The economic impact of winter weather in the United States ranges from \$3 Billion during a "normal" season, to \$6 Billion during an active winter season. The Groundhog Day Blizzard and Ice Storm of 2011 produced more than \$2 Billion in damages alone, and resulted in 36 direct fatalities.
- ❖ About 70% of the people that are killed or injured due to winter storms are in automobiles. About 25% of the people that are killed or injured in winter storms are caught out in the storm with no place to take shelter.
- ❖ In Illinois, snow and ice covered roads result in an average of 27,970 vehicle crashes each year. The accidents also produce an average of 4,318 injuries and 49 fatalities annually.

More Information

Visit our web page or social media for more information about winter storm safety or to track winter storms:

- Web page to monitor winter storms and get winter road conditions: http://www.weather.gov/ilx/winter_monitor
- Winter preparedness: http://www.weather.gov/ilx/winter-prep
- Social media page to follow NWS Lincoln Facebook, Twitter and You Tube Feeds: http://www.weather.gov/ilx/ilx_social_media