

Winter Storm Database

http://nc-climate.ncsu.edu/climate/winter_wx/database.php

THE NEED

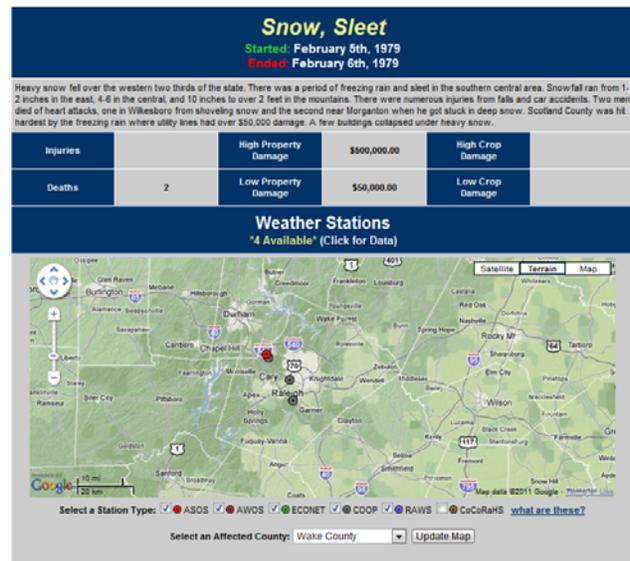
Although winter storms are relatively rare in North Carolina, even a light snow or ice accumulation can have a significant impact across the state. However, details about these storms and their impacts have often been hard to come by, which is why the State Climate Office developed a detailed and searchable archive of winter storms affecting North Carolina.

SERVING THE NEED

Using the National Climatic Data Center's annual "Storm Data" publications, the State Climate Office developed a searchable Winter Storm Database. The database includes winter events since 1959, and each includes data such as statewide impacts, a meteorological summary, and affected locations.

This product has been integrated with CRONOS, which allows users to view hourly and daily observations from the event, as reported at weather stations across the state. Also, for many events, links are provided to case studies and accumulation maps created by the National Weather Service's Raleigh office. These provide additional insight into the meteorological setup and extent of impacts for a given event.

Finally, to supplement the Winter Storm Database, there are several educational web pages within our Winter Weather portal. These include an introduction to North Carolina's winter climate, a definition of various precipitation types, a review of different atmospheric patterns and storm types, and a summary of some common impacts from winter storms.



IMPACT

Since the Winter Storm Database was released in December 2009, it has been referred to dozens of clients, including those seeking location-based climatologies and summaries of particular events, along with clients searching for nearby weather data to justify insurance or damage claims.

Judy, a journalist in Winston-Salem, was interested in the Triad's history of large snow events. Using the Winter Storm Database, she was able to identify several of these events and use their details in a news story about the region's winter climate. The Winter Storm Database was also a key source of information for forecasters in the National Weather Service's Raleigh office as they looked to provide examples of memorable snowstorms for their winter 2012 newsletter.

PARTNERS & SUPPORT

Support for the creation of the Winter Storm Database was provided by the State Climate Office of North Carolina. Data sources include the State Climate Office's NC ECONet, the National Climatic Data Center, and the National Weather Service.