

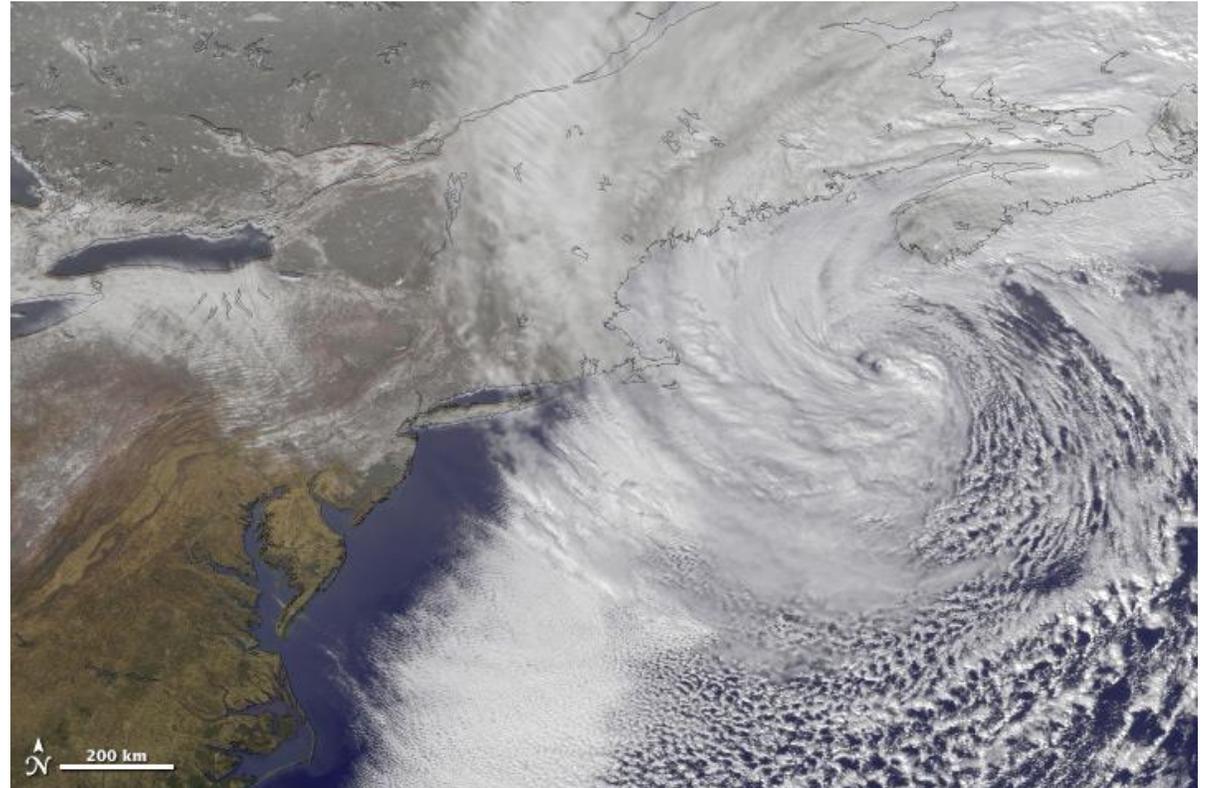


BLIZZARD

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WHAT IS A BLIZZARD?

Blizzard is a severe snowstorm with high winds and low visibility.



WHAT CAUSES BLIZZARDS?



For a **blizzard** to form, warm air must rise over cold air. There are two ways that this may happen. Winds pull cold air toward the equator from the poles and bring warm air toward the poles from the equator. When warm air and cold air are brought together, a front is formed and precipitation occurs.

WHAT PREDICTION TOOLS ARE USED TO PREDICT THIS EVENT?



Meteorologists track and predict weather conditions using state-of-the-art computer analysis equipment that provides them with current information about atmospheric conditions, wind currents, temperatures, precipitation and more. The information collected is used to create different possible scenarios or models. These are used as the basis for most weather predictions.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS

Effect 1

If people are caught outside in a **blizzard**, they risk getting frost bite and hypothermia.

Effect 2

A **blizzard** can cause lots of property damage, such as roof cave-ins and windows breaking.

WHERE DOES THIS MOSTLY OCCUR?



In the United States, blizzards are common in the upper Midwest and the Great Plains but occur in most areas of the country except for the Gulf Coast and the California coast. Blizzards can occur all over the world, even in the tropics where it is cold on high altitude mountaintops.

HOW CAN A PERSON PREPARE OR AVOID THE EFFECT OF THIS EVENT

Winterize your vehicle and keep the gas tank full. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.

Insulate your home by installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic from the inside to keep cold air out.

Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.

If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

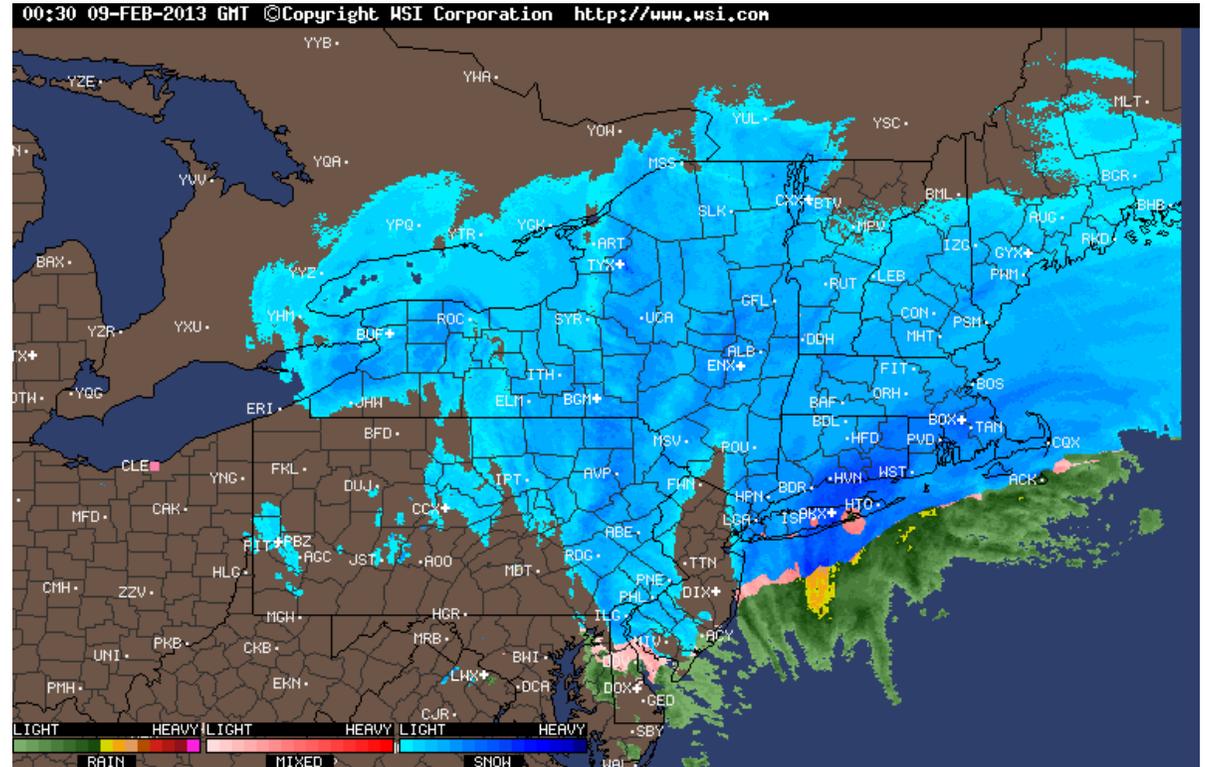
-To prepare



HOW IS THE STRENGTH OR IMPACT OF THIS EVENT MEASURED?

Radar

a system for detecting the presence, direction, distance, and speed of aircraft, ships, and other objects, by sending out pulses of high-frequency electromagnetic waves that are reflected off the object back to the source.



11 FACTS ABOUT BLIZZARDS!

1. A blizzard is a severe snow storm with winds in excess of 35 mph and visibility of less than 1/4 mile for more than 3 hours.

2. Blizzards can also occur after snowfall when high winds cause whiteouts (fallen snow blowing around) and snowdrifts (huge mountains of snow), which decrease visibility.

3. To avoid hypothermia if caught outdoors during a blizzard, stay hydrated and nourished. Keep blood flowing by moving around. Also build a snow cave to block winds, which reduce your body temperature. And don't eat snow, it will make you colder!

While keeping yourself safe, also think about the well-being of your animals by creating an emergency plan for your pets! Sign up for [Save Our Pets](#).

4. If you must travel by car during a blizzard, it is vital to have an emergency aid kit (water, jumper cables, road flares, tow rope, non-perishable snacks) in case your car breaks down, you get into an accident, or become stuck in the snow.

5. The first blizzard to be declared a Federal Emergency was in 1977, affecting upstate New York and Southern Ohio. The storm's accumulation was only about 12 inches over 5 days, but the winds were deadly.

6. The Storm of the 20th Century took place in March, 1993. It was iconic for its hurricane wind force and massive size. And stretched from Canada to mid-America. The blizzard caused roughly 300 deaths and 10 million power outages.

7. Traveling by car or foot is highly discouraged during blizzard conditions. It increases the chance of hypothermia, accident and death.

8. Many blizzards stem from Nor'easters, which are storms traveling up the east coast of America. Moisture gathers from the Atlantic and dumps large accumulations of snow all the way from Delaware to Maine.

9. Rochester, New York is said to be the largest city with the most snow in the U.S., accumulating an average of 94 inches of snow every year.

10. When a blizzard is in the forecast, you may receive a "Winter Storm Watch," which means there is a possibility of a storm taking effect. You could also receive a "Winter Storm Warning," which means a storm is on the way or already taking place.

11. As soon as you receive a storm warning, get prepared. You could lose electricity (this includes hot water and heat), so stock up on non-perishable foods, blankets, flashlights, extra batteries, and candles beforehand.



SOURCES

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