

SUMMARY OF HEAVY SNOWFALLS IN THE WORLD (NON UK) 2003

Sunday 5 January 2003 – Monday 6 January 2003

Parts of northern Vietnam were blanketed by snow. In Ha Giang province, 5-15 cm of snow fell. This was the heaviest snow ever reported to have fallen in that area.

Monday 6 January 2003

A rare snowfall in southern France shut down two airports. Flights to and from the southern cities of Nimes and Montpellier were cancelled. Several major highways linking France and Spain across the Pyrenees Mountains were closed. Up to 5 cm of snow fell across the area.

Wednesday 8 January 2003

A blizzard on the island of Sakhalin, Russia left 6 people dead. Many of the victims were found buried beneath snow drifts as high as 2 m.

Saturday 18 January 2003

Up to 25 cm of snow fell across parts of Newfoundland, Canada.

Monday 20 January 2003

Parts of Newfoundland, Canada experienced a blizzard that shut down schools and government services, as well as cause delays and cancellations at St. John's airport.

Thursday 23 January 2003

Snowfall accumulations of 10-30 cm occurred across areas of western and central North Carolina, U.S.A.

Saturday 1 February 2003

Heavy snow affected the Balearic Islands of Spain.

Friday 7 February 2003

Heavy snow caused an accident in western Michigan, U.S.A. involving 60 cars and tractor trailers. One person was killed and eight others seriously injured. The incident took place in blinding snow on Interstate 94 just north of the Indiana border. Other northern and eastern districts of the U.S.A. also saw heavy snowfall. Many cities including Washington D.C. and Baltimore received a snowfall of 15 cm.

Saturday 15 February 2003 – Monday 17 February 2003

A 3-day snowstorm that caused 24 deaths affected north-eastern districts of the U.S.A. Between 40 cm and 90 cm of snow fell across many areas between Washington D.C. and Boston, Massachusetts. The heavy snow forced the closure of airports in the region as runways and roadways were impassable. The region experienced its snowiest winter in over 7 years.

Wednesday 19 February 2003

Parts of Iran reported snow for the first time in three years, while heavy snow left nearly 80 villages around Greece cut off.

Sunday 23 February 2003

Heavy snow fell across eastern Quebec and Ontario. In parts of Quebec, snow fell up to 45 cm.

Monday 24 February 2003

Heavy snow fell across parts of Jordan, Israel and Lebanon. This was the heaviest snowfall in the region since 1950. Locally, over 20 cm of snow accumulated, disrupting transportation and closing schools and business throughout the region.

Wednesday 26 February 2003

Arkansas, U.S.A. had a snowfall of 30 cm, while Dallas, Texas recorded a snowfall of 5 cm.

Tuesday 6 March 2003

Heavy snow fell across Massachusetts, U.S.A. The snowstorm caused an accident of 100 cars on Interstate 95, just south of Boston.

Monday 17 March 2003

Heavy snow fell in the southern Peloponnesian region of Greece.

Monday 17 March 2003 - Wednesday 19 March 2003

Heavy snow fell across Colorado and Wyoming, U.S.A., with 60 cm of snow falling over the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. The heaviest snowfall occurred in Gilpin County, which is located west of Denver, where up to 222 cm of snow fell. Denver International Airport was forced to close on the 19th, while the main terminal was temporarily evacuated due to the possibility of the roof collapsing from the weight of the snow. This was Denver's second biggest snowstorm ever with 81 cm of snow falling in the month of March.

Sunday 23 March 2003

Heavy snow affected Athens, Greece.

Monday 31 March 2003

Heavy snow fell across north-eastern districts of the U.S.A. Snow accumulations averaging 8-15 cm fell across western North Carolina to New York.

Friday 4 April 2003

A snowstorm affected many districts of Canada, with 30 cm of snow falling in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Monday 7 April 2003

A snowstorm affected the Plains and north-eastern districts of the U.S.A. The snow was blamed for an accident that left 7 people dead in Pennsylvania. Up to 15 cm of snow fell in places.

Friday 11 April 2003

Parts of China experienced heavy snow.

Saturday 26 April 2003

In Calgary, Canada emergency medical services responded to 263 calls, approximately 100 more than average, after a snowstorm paralysed parts of Calgary causing major damage to trees and some buildings. Up to 65 cm of snow fell in places.

Tuesday 3 June 2003

People in Moscow were astonished to see snowflakes falling from the skies upon leaving their houses during the morning period. The phenomenon lasted for only a few minutes and the snowflakes melted immediately upon reaching the ground.

Sunday 6 July 2003

Heavy snow fell across southern districts of North Island, New Zealand. The heavy snow caused significant power loss to many areas with up to 30 cm falling in places.

Sunday 19 October 2003 – Monday 20 October 2003

Heavy snow fell across western Finland.

Wednesday 12 November 2003 – Thursday 13 November 2003

Heavy snow affected SE Canada, including Quebec. The snow caused widespread chaos.

Tuesday 2 December 2003

In the U.S.A., heavy snow fell across north-eastern districts. In central New York, 20 cm of snow fell.

Saturday 6 December 2003 – Sunday 7 December 2003

Heavy snow affected north-eastern parts of the U.S.A. Western parts of Maine sustained a snowfall of 100 cm, New York City had 48 cm, while Boston, Massachusetts sustained 45 cm. The snowfall in Boston was the largest snowfall in the city in the month of December for 28 years. This snowfall across

north-eastern districts of the U.S.A. caused 11 deaths. Power supplies were cut off to many thousands of households and travel was severely disrupted. Hundreds of flights from New York's LaGuardia Airport were cancelled.

Tuesday 9 December 2003 - Wednesday 10 December 2003

A snowstorm hit many districts of the U.S.A. The snowstorm affected the Sierra Mountains of California, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri. Snowfalls between 15-25 cm occurred in many districts.

Saturday 13 December 2003

Oklahoma and Kansas, U.S.A., sustained a snowfall up to 30 cm in places.

Monday 15 December 2003 – Tuesday 16 December 2003

Heavy snow covered many north-eastern areas of the U.S.A. At least 7 people died. In New York City, 15 cm of snow fell.

Tuesday 16 December 2003

In Germany, snow caused numerous traffic accidents, resulting in 1 fatality and 17 injuries. Police reported at least 100 road accidents in the southern states of Bavaria and Baden-Wurttemberg.

Thursday 18 December 2003

Heavy snow fell across parts of Turkey, forcing schools to close and roads to become blocked including the capital, Ankara.

Saturday 20 December 2003

Snow brought parts of western and central Japan to a standstill. Nagoya City in central Japan saw its heaviest snowfall in 38 years with a total of 9 cm. The snow proved perilous for travellers as the snow delayed flights and the 'bullet train'.

Sunday 21 December 2003 - Monday 22 December 2003

Blizzards left at least 2 people dead and 100,000 more without power in parts of Denmark, Finland and Sweden. The snow caused 80 separate traffic accidents during Sunday in Finland alone.

Thursday 25 December 2003

Blizzards affected many parts of Romania, Serbia and Bulgaria.

Friday 26 December 2003

In Utah, U.S.A., a snowstorm deposited a snowfall of 75 cm on the mountains, while in areas around Salt Lake City, 30 cm of snow fell. The snow caused widespread chaos as tree branches collapsed on to power lines bringing blackouts to over 50,000 people.

Sunday 28 December 2003

In India, heavy snowfall fell over the high ground in the Himalayan foothills cutting off the Kashmir Valley from the rest of India.

Tuesday 30 December 2003 - Wednesday 31 December 2003

In the U.S.A., a snowfall gave Las Vegas, Nevada the first good covering of snow in 5 years. Around 2-4 cm of snow fell on the famous gambling city. Further to the west and north in Oregon and California, snow also occurred. In the Sierra Nevada Mountain range, California snow fell up to 60 cm.