

SUMMARY OF HEAVY SNOWFALLS IN THE WORLD (NON UK) 2005

Sunday 2 January 2005

Abbottabad, Pakistan, a hill resort town about 70km north-west of Islamabad sustained heavy snow. Quetta, capital of the south-western Baluchistan province received the heaviest snow in 20 years.

Wednesday 5 January 2005

Reno, Nevada, U.S.A. endured the largest snowstorm to hit the area in 15 years.

Thursday 6 January 2005

Snow up to 15cm in depth fell across Nebraska, Iowa and Northern Illinois, U.S.A.

Saturday 8 January 2005

In the San Bernadino Mountains, California, U.S.A., 200 vehicles were stranded in snow after 1m of snow fell across the area.

Friday 14 January 2005

The mountains of Hawaii, U.S.A. sustained a heavy snowfall. Mauna Kea reported having a snowfall of 15cm.

Saturday 15 January 2005 - Sunday 16 January 2005

Parts of eastern South Korea were battered by heavy snowfall. Up to 56cm of snow fell in the Gangwon and North Gyeongsang provinces by midday on the 16th. Pusan's Kimhae International Airport was forced to close to all flights due to the snow. In Japan, the regions of Kanto and Tohoku, especially towards the Pacific coast, were also badly hit by the snow. Approximately 50cm of snow fell in places.

Sunday 16 January 2005 - Monday 17 January 2005

Heavy snow affected parts of Massachusetts, Oregon, Cape Cod and New York in the U.S.A. Nearly 20cm of snow had fallen by Monday morning in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, while Buffalo, New York State received 13cm of snow.

Tuesday 18 January 2005

Heavy snow fell in eastern parts of the Republic of Ireland, with Dublin Airport seeing several flights cancelled or delayed during the morning period. The main runway was closed for 30 minutes to allow workers to clear snow and ice that had accumulated.

Wednesday 19 January 2005

In the Piedmont areas of North Carolina and Virginia, U.S.A., snow fell up to 7cm, producing traffic jams in the Raleigh-Durham area. The snow stranded more than 3,000 children overnight in schools.

Saturday 22 January 2005 – Sunday 23 January 2005

Large parts of the north and northern-eastern areas of the U.S.A. had a snowstorm that seriously curbed road and air travel and cut power to thousands of customers. The cities of Chicago, New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington were badly hit. On the 22nd, a 747 cargo plane skidded off a runway at JFK Airport, New York. The 'Blizzard of 2005' caused snowfall accumulations exceeding 30cm in much of the State of New England, U.S.A., with as much as 97cm in some areas of Massachusetts, Maine, New Jersey and Maryland. In New York City, 45cm of snow fell, while New Jersey saw a snowfall up to 53cm. Heavy snow also affected parts of Nova Scotia, Canada, where it was reported that snowdrifts up to 3m high occurred in places. In northern Pakistan, Islamabad, snow fell on nearby hills for the first time in 6 years.

Sunday 23 January 2005

In Albania, 8 people were killed in a traffic accident during a blizzard near the northern town of Qafa e Buallit.

Tuesday 25 January 2005

Heavy snowfall affected road and maritime traffic throughout Croatia. Snow forced the shutdown of some roads to trucks, including the central town of Gorski Kotar, where a snowfall of 64cm occurred. Traffic was also affected by the snow on the highway between Zagreb and Split as well as in the northern region of Bjelovar, and between Rijeka and Zadar. In Turkey, 3 people were killed and many were injured in traffic accidents as blizzards hit the Balkans. In Macedonia, 1 person was killed and 3 were injured in one of some 200 traffic accidents reported around the country because of heavy snow. The snow blocked roads and isolated villages and towns. In neighbouring Serbian in the province of Kosovo, 2 people were killed and 9 were injured in traffic accidents caused by the snow.

Tuesday 25 January 2005 – Thursday 27 January 2005

The heaviest snow since the year 1950 fell on the Algerian capital, Algiers. Several areas in the north of Algeria, in particular the Mediterranean oil port city of Skikda, were cut off after 2 days of snow. On the 27th, 13 people died and 47 others were injured, mostly in snow related road accidents as snow up to 15cm fell in places. Over the Atlas Mountains, Morocco, up to 2m of snow fell.

Wednesday 26 January 2005

Hundreds of motorists were stranded by heavy snow and ice on a motorway in southern Italy forcing local authorities to call in the army to remove snowbound vehicles and take their occupants to safety. Local authorities faced a barrage of criticism from many motorists who spent 2 days and nights in their vehicles on the snowbound A3 autostrada between Salerno and Reggio Calabria without receiving help. In the western Mediterranean, snow fell for the first time in decades, with 8cm of snow falling at Mahon on the island of Menorca. Snow also forced the closure of mountain roads on the island of Mallorca.

Thursday 27 January 2005

In the northern Cantabria region of Spain, a significant snowfall occurred. On the same day, Vienna, Austria received a snowfall of 30cm, while in the Ukraine; heavy snow caused power cuts to many towns and villages.

Tuesday 1 February 2005

Japan was hit by a severe snowstorm causing traffic chaos. Domestic flights were forced to cancel and train services were suspended or delayed in northern and western areas of the country. The worst affected area of Japan was on the north side of Honshu where up to 90cm of snow occurred. On the southern Japanese Island of Shikoku, the city of Kochi sustained snow for the first time in 20 years. In the U.S.A., the state of Colorado sustained a snowfall of 60cm.

Thursday 3 February 2005

Heavy snow in Tajikistan, Turkey caused a house to collapse in the Nurobod district of central Rasht Valley, killing 9 people and seriously injuring 3 others. In Afghanistan, an Afghan passenger jet with 104 people on board disappeared from radar during a snowstorm. The Kam Air Boeing 737 took off from the western Afghan City of Herat bound for the capital Kabul, but was unable to land due to heavy snow.

Saturday 5 February 2005

Heavy snow and blizzards affected eastern Romania leaving roads and schools closed. In the county of Constanta on the Black Sea coast, snowdrifts up to 2m high brought traffic to a standstill.

Wednesday 9 February 2005

Snow fell in the Jordanian capital Amman and neighbouring countries for example Israel. In Lebanon, snow blanketed Mount Lebanon above 700m and the Bekaa Valley region. Snowploughs were used to try and keep the road open between Beirut and Damascus. Parts of northern Iran and the capital Tehran achieved record breaking snowfall amounts. Certain districts achieved snowfalls up to 150cm, the heaviest snow to fall in the area in 10 years.

Thursday 10 February 2005

Heavy snow affected Tajikistan causing roofs to collapse on schools, homes and even hospitals. Tavildara had as much as 2m of snow.

Friday 11 February 2005

Remote northern areas of Pakistan, where the Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush mountain ranges meet, were cut off, as roads were buried under 60cm of snow. The Chitral Valley was the worst affected with 50 people confirmed dead due to onset of several avalanches.

Saturday 12 February 2005 – Sunday 13 February 2005

Scandinavia had a major snowstorm that left many homes without power in Sweden. The worst affected region was the eastern Baltic coast, especially around Stockholm. In Denmark, the main airport at Copenhagen was closed for landings on the 12th.

Wednesday 16 February 2005 – Friday 18 February 2005

Heavy snow affected the southern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China. In Sangzhu Village in Pixian County, snow fell to a depth of 70cm, killing livestock and causing houses to collapse.

Tuesday 22 February 2005

Heavy snow affected parts of northern Spain.

Wednesday 23 February 2005

Heavy snow shut down major airports in Europe, including Munich, Germany and both of the major airports in Paris, France. In parts of the Czech Republic, 40cm of snow fell, with the main D5 highway west of Prague blocked after several trucks collided. Blizzards also affected Bosnia, Austria and Montenegro. Vienna, Austria received 30cm of snow. Snow also fell in areas where snow is rare, for example, Nice, France.

Thursday 24 February 2005 – Friday 25 February 2005

A snowstorm blanketed north-eastern parts of the U.S.A., forcing the federal government and schools around the region to close early. This triggered a spate of accidents during the afternoon rush hour. The snow coated an area that included Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Massachusetts and New York. Many cities reported a snowfall of 20-25cm.

Saturday 26 February 2005

Heavy snowfalls in the Xigaze Prefecture of south-west China's Tibet Autonomous Region left 1 person dead.

Tuesday 1 March 2005

Heavy snow brought large areas of the East Coast of the U.S.A. to a standstill. Areas worst hit by the snowstorm were North Carolina, Virginia, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Up to 20cm of snow fell at Mount Mitchell, North Carolina. Heavy snow also caused problems in Spain, grounding flights in Madrid and Barcelona and disrupting train services.

Friday 4 March 2005

A rare snowstorm blanketed the Netherlands, disrupting flights at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport. The heaviest snowfalls were in the north-western province of Friesland, where 50cm of snow fell, the highest level in March for 25 years. In Spain, a state of alert was declared due to the snow, with Madrid recording its heaviest snowfall in 15 years. Almost all of Germany was covered by snow and heavy snowfall in northern and central Greece cut off dozens of mountain villages, blocked roads and closed some schools. Italy too experienced extensive snow in places. In Japan, 3cm of snow accumulated in downtown Tokyo. It is the first time since 1998 that more than 1cm of snow has covered the Japanese capital.

Sunday 6 March 2005

Taiwan had an unexpected 9-hour heavy snowfall that closed highways and caused considerable inconvenience to the local residents.



(Photographs taken across Taiwan from *China Daily* Monday 7 March 2005)

Wednesday 9 March 2005

Heavy snow fell across Montenegro and Serbia. Certain districts sustained as much as 2m of snow.

Monday 14 March 2005

Mountainous parts of the Yunnan province, China received over 100cm of snow in places, resulting in the death of at least 15 people.

Sunday 27 March 2005 – Tuesday 29 March 2005

In northern Idaho, U.S.A. the ski area of Silver Mountain reconsidered opening again after closing for the season. This was because a significant amount of snow fell across the region close to Kellogg. Stevens Pass between Seattle and Spokane also considered re-opening when nearly 90cm of snow fell, with 51cm falling in a 24-hour period.

Wednesday 30 March 2005

In the Sierra Nevada Mountains, California, U.S.A., 45cm of snow was reported to have fallen.

Saturday 2 April 2005 – Sunday 3 April 2005

In parts of New York State, U.S.A., heavy snow fell to approximately 60cm. The snow caused power lines to snap due to the shear weight of the snow.

Sunday 10 April 2005

Hundreds of travellers were stranded at Denver Airport and on surrounding highways as a blizzard affected many parts of Colorado, U.S.A. Denver sustained a snowfall of 30cm, while Greenland, approximately 36km north of Colorado Springs received a snowfall of 60cm.

Saturday 16 April 2005

Heavy snow affected south-eastern parts of France; including the Isere, Ardeche and Drome regions where more than 50,000 homes were left without power. In the worst affected areas, more than 40cm of snow fell. It caused serious traffic disruption, particularly in the Ain region in the Jura mountain range, where a major highway was shut down completely. The snow also cut off the TGV rail link between Grenoble and Paris. Heavy snow also affected parts of Switzerland, causing train and road traffic to be disrupted.

Monday 18 April 2005

In parts of Alaska, U.S.A., 46cm of snow fell in the region of the Richardson Highway between Donnelly Dome and Summit Lake. In Fairbanks, 8cm of snow fell. The snow contributed to more than 20 traffic accidents in the region.

Tuesday 19 April 2005

In the mountain ranges of the Sierra Nevada, California, U.S.A. a snowstorm deposited up to 23cm in places.

Friday 22 April 2005

Wyoming, U.S.A. had a snowstorm that deposited up to 30cm of snow in places. Interstate 80 was closed along a 72km stretch because of the blizzard.

Monday 25 April 2005

Parts of Michigan received a snowfall of 30cm. The snow caused tree branches and power lines to snap, leaving approximately 80,000 people in Cleveland without power. In New Zealand heavy snow trapped people in the Port Hills area of Christchurch.

Monday 2 May 2005

Amarillo, Texas, U.S.A. sustained a snowfall of 13cm – the most for any May 2nd on record.

Thursday 12 May 2005

Over 30cm of snow fell in parts of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota, U.S.A. In South Dakota, the heavy, wet snow damaged tree branches and caused electrical power cuts to approximately 5000 homes and businesses in the vicinity around Rapid City.

Friday 13 May 2005

A severe snowstorm in north-western districts of China killed 15 people and injured 13. The victims were conducting fieldwork in the mountainous remote province of Qinghai.

Wednesday 18 May 2005

In Chile, an unexpected snowstorm in the Los Barros range of the Andes Mountains affected a Chilean army exercise. Locals regarded it as the worst snowstorm in the region in 30 years. A total of 45 Chilean soldiers died due to exposure to the cold and snow.

Saturday 21 May 2005

Two men lost their lives on Mount Rainier, Washington, U.S.A. after a severe snowstorm deposited 60cm of snow.

Monday 6 June 2005

Heavy snow fell in the Alpine region of Austria causing authorities to close roads. Nearly 40cm of snow fell in parts. Snow up to 5cm also fell in parts of the southern mountain range of Biokovo in Croatia, and over the mountains of southern Serbia.

Monday 27 June 2005

Snow caused the closure of several roads in North Island, New Zealand. One of the roads included the Desert Road between Wiaouru and Turangi.

Saturday 9 July 2005

Jindabyne, New South Wales, Australia sustained a snowfall of 35cm. The snow caused power lines to be severed and telephone lines to be cut.

Friday 5 August 2005

Heavy snow caused widespread traffic delays around the city of Melbourne, Australia.

Wednesday 10 August 2005

Heavy snow affected the southern and mountainous parts of Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania in Australia for the first time in 50 years closing schools and roads. Snow even fell in northern and eastern suburbs of Melbourne, New South Wales and Hobart, Tasmania. The snow caused a school bus to slide off a road near Strahan in Tasmania, though no injuries were reported.



Snow at Tarpeena Retreat in Oberon, New South Wales



Ballarat, Victoria saw snow fall for the first time since July 1986

Monday 19 September 2005 – Tuesday 20 September 2005

Heavy snow fell over Southland, Otago, Canterbury, Kaikoura and the entire southern half of North Island, New Zealand on Monday, while heavy snow fell in the higher districts of Wellington, Wairarapa, Manawatu, Wanganui, Taranaki and Taihape on Tuesday.

Tuesday 4 October 2005 - Wednesday 5 October 2005

Areas of Montana, the Dakotas and Wyoming, U.S.A. were hit by a slow-moving snowstorm that produced up to 33cm of snow. The snowstorm also resulted in many districts losing their electricity supply. Drifted snow also contributed to road closings and the National Guard was called out to rescue stranded motorists in south-western North Dakota.

Wednesday 5 October 2005

Parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Canada received between 10-20cm of snow. The heavy snow forced the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to close a number of highways in Southern Manitoba.

Saturday 15 October 2005 – Monday 17 October 2005

The summit of Mount Washington, New Hampshire, U.S.A. at 1,917m, received 86.4cm of snow over this 3-day period and broke the record for the highest snowfall within a 24-hour period (midday 16th – midday 17th) with 64.8cm.

Monday 24 October 2005

The state of New York, U.S.A. sustained a snowfall up to 20cm to fall in the area of southern Essex and northern Warren. The snow severed electricity to around 13,000 homes across the area.

Tuesday 25 October 2005

Up to 50cm of snow fell across an area of New England to West Virginia, U.S.A., severing power to 40,000 homes and forcing schools to close. In Barton, Vermont, 40cm of snow fell.

Wednesday 26 October 2005

Heavy snow fell in north-western districts of Nepal. The snow left hundreds of tourists stranded and created havoc across the region.

Monday 7 November 2005

A number of roads were forced to close due to heavy snowfall across southern districts of the Eastern Cape in South Africa.

Tuesday 8 November 2005

Heavy snow fell across Manitoba, Canada. In Westman, wet heavy snow covered nearly every major route north of the Trans-Canada Highway. In Brandon, the snow caused at least two vehicle collisions, while Dauphin, sustained up to 34cm of snow.

Monday 14 November 2005

In Colorado, U.S.A., a snowstorm brought up to 50.8cm of snow to many districts. The snow caused many roads to close with several accidents being reported.

Tuesday 15 November 2005

At least four people were killed due to heavy snow falling across the Trans-Canada Highway.

Thursday 17 November 2005

Heavy snow fell across north-eastern districts of the U.S.A. Northern areas of New York State saw a snowfall up to 33cm. The snowfall brought some disruption, with dozens of schools being forced to close and widespread travel chaos ensured.

Sunday 27 November 2005 – Monday 28 November 2005

Heavy snow fell across North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado, U.S.A. with up to 75cm of snow falling in places. The snow closed schools and post offices and several stretches of Interstate 70 near to Limon close to the Kansas-Colorado border causing hundreds of motorists to be stranded. Numerous other highways were also forced to close across the Plains, including a 175 mile stretch of Interstate 90 across South Dakota, and a 60 mile stretch of Interstate 80 in Nebraska. The snow caused the death of 4 people across the area in motor related accidents, while in South Dakota; the snow caused the power loss to 50,000 homes. Heavy snow also affected parts of Europe, including the Netherlands, Belgium France and Germany. Snow in Paris, France and Düsseldorf, Germany forced numerous flights to either be diverted or simply cancelled.

Tuesday 29 November 2005

Heavy snow fell across the Island of Sakhalin, just to the north of Japan. Up to 20cm of heavy, wet snow fell causing power-lines to snap, resulting in thousands of homes being left without any electricity. The worst hit areas were Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Kholmsk and Korsakov.

Friday 1 December 2005 – Saturday 2 December 2005

Snow up to 45cm fell across Lower Michigan, U.S.A., particularly across the Suttons Bay area.

Tuesday 6 December 2005

A snowstorm affected the Colorado Mountains in the U.S.A. Approximately 30cm of snow covered many ski resorts in the area.

Thursday 8 December 2005 - Friday 9 December 2005

In the Midwest and the north-eastern districts of the U.S.A., up to 30cm of snow fell causing the death of 5 people, travel chaos and school closures. The worst states affected were Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maine and New Hampshire. In New Hampshire, 35cm of snow fell, with up to 85,000 homes in Massachusetts losing power, particularly in the Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard area. The city of New York received 15cm of snow and this caused flight delays at local airports. On Thursday evening at 1915 local time, a Southwest Airline Boeing 737 from Baltimore trying to land at Chicago Midway Airport slid dangerously off the runway. The aircraft crashed through a fence and into the intersection of Central Avenue and 55th Street where it collided with several vehicles, killing a 6-year-old boy and injuring 11 other people. Eighteen centimetres of snow lay at Chicago Midway Airport at that time.

Friday 9 December 2005

In Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, 42cm of heavy snow caused the loss of power to 10,000 homes. Flights in and out of Halifax International Airport were significantly delayed. Snow also fell across Prince Edward Island, south-eastern districts of New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

Sunday 11 December 2005

Heavy snow fell across the Vladimir region of Russia, severing the power to many towns and villages.

Monday 12 December 2005 – Tuesday 13 December 2005

In South Korea, 25cm of snow caused the closure of 100 schools in Kwangju City and North and South Cholla. In China, heavy snow affected the eastern Shandong Province with the cities of Weihai and Yantai reporting blizzard conditions as up to 39cm of snow fell in places.

Tuesday 13 December 2005

In the Vladimir, Ryazan, Moscow, Nizhny, Novgorod and Ivanovo regions of Russia, blizzards caused a significant electricity failure.

Wednesday 14 December 2005

In north-western districts of Japan, heavy snow occurred across the regions of Fukui, Niigata and Toyama, where up to 160cm of snow fell and resulted in the death of 5 people. The snow caused traffic disruption to train services from Osaka to Aichi, and also caused electricity failures to approximately 10,000 homes.

Wednesday 14 December 2005 - Thursday 15 December 2005

Heavy snow affected eastern Iowa, Ohio, western Wisconsin, Michigan and south-eastern Minnesota, U.S.A. Up to 25cm of snow fell in places causing the closure of many schools. In Montgomery County, Ohio, snow caused numerous accidents, with one fatally on Interstate 70.

Thursday 15 December 2005

Heavy snow fell across Nova Scotia, Canada. Approximately 8,000 people in Sydney, Port Hawkesbury, Mabou and Port Hood lost their electricity power. The heavy snow also forced the closure of a significant number of schools. The snow also caused several car accidents on the Trans-Canada Highway.

Friday 16 December 2005

Heavy snow up to 25cm affected Ottawa, Canada.
In Minnesota and Missouri, U.S.A., 20cm of snow fell in places causing travel problems.

Saturday 17 December 2005

Heavy snow affected the coastal city of Yantai, in eastern China.

Saturday 17 December 2005 – Monday 19 December 2005

Heavy snow killed 3 people in separate accidents across northern Japan, and also forced airlines to cancel flights. The snow also caused the cancellation of train across the region. Up to 80cm of snow fell in the Hokuriku region, while 50-60cm of snow fell in the Hokkaido, Koshin and Tohoku regions. On the 18th, heavy snow also severed power lines in the Niigata Prefecture region.

Sunday 18 December 2005 – Monday 19 December 2005

In Bulgaria, 100 villages in the southern mountains lost their electricity supply due to blizzard conditions. All schools in the municipalities of Kurdzhali and Kirkovo were forced to close on the 19th. In the city of Plodiv, the snow forced the local airport to close on the 19th for a short period of time.

Tuesday 20 December 2005

Heavy snow hit the state of New York, U.S.A., with up to 20cm falling across the Tug Hill plateau, causing numerous traffic accidents.

Tuesday 20 December 2005 – Wednesday 21 December 2005

Heavy snow fell across western districts of Japan severing electricity to many areas in the Fukui region, particularly in the cities of Osaka, Shiga, Nara and Kyoto. Nearly 700,000 households were affected by the power loss. In the Niigata region, 650,000 homes also lost their power. Two nuclear power plants in the western prefecture of Fukui ceased operating because of technical problems with the electric transmission systems caused by the heavy snow. No reactors however, were damaged and there was no radiation leak. By the 21st, accumulations of snow in northern Niigata, had piled up as high as 184cm with more snow expected, while the area of Gifu prefecture, in central Japan, snowfall had accumulated to 199cm (the most significant accumulation of snow in the month of December for more than 22 years).

In South Korea, heavy snow affected the southern areas of the county. The snow claimed at least one life; left thousands of motorists stranded and damaged hundreds of greenhouses. Several thousand South Korean troops were deployed to clear highways and remove snow from buildings to prevent collapse under the weight of up to 40-50cm of snow.

Heavy snow also affected the cities of Weihai and Yantai in the eastern district of the Shandong Peninsula, China. Yantai recorded 60cm of snow, while neighbouring Weihai sustained 35cm. In Yantai, it was the heaviest snowfall across the city since records began in 1961.

Friday 23 December 2005 – Sunday 25 December 2005

Further heavy snow of up to 70cm in places fell across the coastal areas of the Sea of Japan in the Hokuriku and the Kanto-Koshinetsu regions. By Friday morning, Niigata in the Yuzawa district had accumulated 197cm of snow on the ground, setting a record accumulation for the month of December. In Gujo, in the Gifu Prefecture, 211cm lay on the ground, while Shobara, in the Hiroshima Prefecture, received 160cm. On Christmas Eve, up to 60cm of snow fell across many parts of northern and central Japan. In parts of the northern Hokuriku region, 275cm of snow had fallen so far in the month of December, breaking the previous December snow record. In the Fukui Prefecture, a 52-year-old construction worker suffered a broken hip and leg on Christmas Eve after being swallowed by an avalanche during a roadside snow removal operation. On Christmas Day, 5 people were killed and 33 people injured when an express train was blown off its tracks during a blizzard at Shonai, 180 miles of Tokyo.

Sunday 25 December 2005 – Tuesday 27 December 2005

Heavy snow fell across many areas of the U.S.A. In Maine, up to 56cm of snow fell at Eagle Lake. At Tahoe in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, California, 61cm of snow fell, while at Heavenly Valley, snow fell to a depth of 30cm.

Monday 26 December 2005 – Tuesday 27 December 2005

Heavy snow up to 70cm fell across New Brunswick, Canada, while 40cm fell in Newfoundland and parts of Quebec and Labrador. The snowstorm severed electricity to approximately 70,000 homes across the region.

Tuesday 27 December 2005

In Russia, there were several avalanches following heavy snow on the Caucasus Mountains, in the Dagestan district close to Georgia. The avalanches killed 2 people also closed many of the Transcaucasus routes.

Heavy snow in Turkey killed 4 people. One person died in the western province of Denizli, while another 2 people died in the province of Edirne. The fourth person to die was a tourist who froze to death in the city of Ipsala. The worst affected areas were Trabzon, Giresun, Gumushane, Artvin, Bayburt, Bolu, Ordu, Samsun, Amasya, Elazig and Zonguldak. Schools in many of the above places were forced to close. The snow also damaged the power supply to the city of Sirnak.

Wednesday 28 December 2005

In France, heavy snow fell up to 30cm in Nancy and close to the French/Italian border, forcing 10,000 drivers to abandon their cars, while others slept in their vehicles on the A31 motorway. Six hundred people were also stranded in the Calvados region of western Normandy, as snow closed the A84 motorway in both directions.

In Austria, 15cm of snow fell across eastern districts, creating travel delays and numerous road accidents. The snow also severed electricity supply to at least 300 homes in Vienna.

In central Croatia, heavy snow cut off several villages, while in Slovakia, the heavy snow forced an avalanche warning to be issued.

Heavy snow also affected the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Czech Republic and northern Germany. In Hungary, heavy snow caused havoc to the train services. Snow also fell across northern Italy, particularly in the area of Verona, Venice and Padua. The snow caused traffic problems along the A4 motorway, close to the junction at Sommacampagna, while a series of minor traffic accidents caused a multiple collision of 10 lorries in the Desenzano area on the carriageway close to Venice.

Thursday 29 December 2005

In Florence, Italy, snow fell across the city for the first time in 20 years. Up to 12cm of snow fell during the morning period. The snow caused numerous traffic problems across the area including the airport.

In the U.S.A., Colorado experienced heavy snow up to 30cm with wind gusting to 75mph across the Rockies, bringing down trees, causing traffic accidents and closing roads, including Interstate 70, west of Denver. In Minnesota snow fell to a depth of 20cm, while North Dakota saw 30cm. The snow also caused 1 person to be killed in a traffic accident in North Dakota.

In southern Sweden, heavy snow caused the severing of electricity to approximately 4,000 households, while heavy snow also affected Denmark, Czech Republic and Germany. In Hungary, flights from Budapest's Ferihegy Airport were delayed as heavy snow swept across the country.

Friday 30 December 2005

Heavy snow affected many parts of Europe. In Poland, snow blocked roads around the Katowice, Gdansk and Bielsko-Biala region causing traffic chaos. The snow caused a 60-vehicle pile up killing an 8-year-old boy and injuring 11 people on the M1 motorway connecting Budapest, Hungary and Vienna, Austria. In the Netherlands, Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport was forced to close due to the adverse weather conditions.

In the U.S.A., up to 27cm of snow fell across Minnesota, particularly in the Redwood Falls region. Eleven people were injured because of snow related traffic accidents, but none were fatal.