

This Day in Weather History

March

Minnesota State Climatology Office: DNR Waters

March 1

1966 The Blizzard of '66 hits state and last 4 days. Aitken got 23 inches of snow. The snow depth at International Falls reached a record 37 inches by the end of the storm.

March 2

1980 Frozen sunshine in Florida. Residents in northern portions of the state were treated to flurries.

March 3

1977 Snowstorm across state... Over 400 school closings in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

March 4

1935 Extremely damaging ice storm in progress at Duluth. At the time it was called "The worst ice storm in Duluth's history." The storm began with rain and moist snow falling at the Duluth Weather Bureau in at 7th Ave West and 8th Street in Duluth at 10pm on March 3. The temperature was 26 degrees. By the morning of the 4th, the snow stopped but the rain continued. The lights started going out in Duluth by 6pm on the 4th due to power lines breaking. By the morning of the 5th, Duluth was virtually isolated from the outside world except for short wave radio. A local ham radio operator sent the Duluth National Weather Service reports. Four streetcars had to be abandoned in the storm, three of them in the western part of the city. A heavy salt mixture and pick axes were used to try to free the stuck streetcars. A one-mile stretch of telephone poles along Thompson's Hill was broken off as if they were toothpicks due to the ice.

March 5

1966 Blizzard finally ends in the upper midwest. Some wind gusts from the storm topped 100 mph.

March 6

1836 12-day cold spell at Ft. Snelling. During this time 7 nights were in the double-digits below zero.

March 7

1950 Snow and ice storm across Minnesota. The heaviest ice was in northwest and west central Minnesota. The heaviest ice was found in Norman County near Twin Valley. 52 electrical poles were down in this area with ice up to 1 ½ inches on wires. All communication lines out of Fargo were out with wind gusts estimated up to 60 mph. In order to provide temporary long distance service to and from isolated communities short wave radio equipment was used to bridge the gaps. In Pipestone, several plate glass windows were blown in. During the snowstorm that followed later in the day, Northwest

Airline plane crashed into three homes in Minneapolis killing all 13 on the plane and two on the ground. The left wing of the plane struck a flagpole at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery as it circled to land.

1987 Heat wave across state brings earliest 70's to the Twin Cities. The record high for the day was 73, breaking the old record by 13 degrees. Shorts were common and persons were turning over dirt in their gardens for planting.

March 8

1892 Blizzard hit Minnesota with 70 mph winds at Easton. Duluth was especially hard with 60 mph winds causing large drifts. Persons were able to walk out of their second story windows.

2004 A vigorous Alberta Clipper brought a surprise intense snow burst across the Twin Cities from 9:30 am to Noon. 2.5 inches fell with most of it in an hour at the State Climatology Office on the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus. Numerous crashes were reported across the metro area with I-94 closed at Highway 280 and also at White Bear Avenue. In a rare scene, television programming was interrupted to report on the snow situation. By early afternoon most of the snow had moved into Wisconsin and road conditions rapidly improved.

March 9

1918 Snowstorm hits state and dumps nearly 11 inches at the Twin Cities.

1999 Light, fluffy snow piles up to 16 inches in the Twin Cities.

March 10

1948 Late winter cold wave with -44 reported at Itasca.

March 11

1878 The ice was off Lake Minnetonka due to one of the warmest winters on record.

March 12

1954 "Look out for yellow snow!" In this case the "Yellow Snowstorm" was caused by Texas dust.

March 13

1851 Before the spring green-up, dry grassy areas are a fire risk. In this case prairie fires blazed in Minnesota.

March 14

1870 Severe snow and wind storm across Minnesota and Iowa. First use of the term "Blizzard" by the Estherville, Iowa Vindicator.

1943 Snow, sleet and ice storm south of a line from Duluth, St. Cloud and Ortonville. Heaviest ice was in the vicinities of Lake Benton, Springfield and Windom. Ice thickness was ½ to ¾ inch around St. Cloud to ¾ to 2 inches in the Pipestone, Ruthton, Lake Wilson, Slayton and Tracy. A good description of the ice was submitted in one report.

"...ice was 2 inches across and 1 ¾ inch deep on wire. A little frost ice near the wire with the outside solid ice. The ice was irregular in shape. Duluth had 6 inches of snowfall at

the city office with 13 inches at the airport. The ice was confined to Moose Lake and south.

March 15

1941 "Ides of March Blizzard." Winds reached hurricane force at Twin Cities. 32 people died.

March 16

1942 Two tornadoes hit Baldwin, Mississippi. They were only 24 minutes apart.

March 17

1965 Great St. Patrick's Day Blizzard. Two feet of snow dumped at Duluth. 19 inches at Mora.

March 18

1925 Great Tri-State Tornado. It moved across Missouri, Illinois and Indiana and was on the ground for three and a half hours. 695 people died.

1968 The earliest tornado to hit Minnesota. No one was hurt when it hit Watonwan County.

March 19

1977 The energy emergency finally ends in Minnesota. It was caused by the extended cold.

March 20

1991 Early tornado hits Faribault county from Bricelyn to Wells.

March 21

1953 Tornado hits the northern St. Cloud area with high winds from Martin to Stearns County.

March 22

1952 Snowstorm dumps 13.2 inches on the Twin Cities. Tornado outbreak the day before from Missouri to Tennessee.

1991 Ice storm began during the afternoon and ended as the event changed to heavy, wet snow on the 23rd. This event coated the city of Duluth with as much as 6 inches of ice. The 850-foot WIDO TV tower was toppled. 4 million pine trees were damaged or destroyed with the heaviest damage at G.C. Andrews State Forest near Moose Lake in Pine County.

March 23

1966 Snowstorm brings a foot of snow to southern Minnesota.

March 24

1851 Heat wave across Minnesota with 60's and 70's common.

March 25

1843 Snowstorm from Mississippi to Maine. 3 inches fell on Natchez.

March 26

1913 Great Miami River Flood in Ohio...10 inches of rain fell over a wide area. It caused 467 deaths.

March 27

1956 70 mph wind hits Austin. 100,000 dollars damage done to a motel when a 5-ton roof slammed into it.

March 28

1924 A drought was broken in Southern Minnesota with a 25 inches of snow fell.

March 29

1986 Record warmth with July-like temperatures. The Twin Cities hits 83.

March 30

1938 Springtime flooding hits Warroad and Grand Marais.

March 31

1843 Don't put the coats away yet. The low at Ft. Snelling was -11.

1896 A strong snowstorm dumps 13.5 inches of snow at Maple Plain. Vivid lightning in storm with 10-12 flashes per minute. Visibility was down to less than one block. The temperature was 57 at Maple Plain the day before.