



Vermont State Climate Office  
Initial Climate Impacts Summary  
**February 2011**

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**...Active weather pattern continued across Vermont during February 2011...**

February 2011 resulted in a continuation of the stormy weather pattern across Vermont. During the month various locations registered record snowfall and precipitation amounts, record warmth, and damage from strong winds. Burlington ended the month with a total of 43.1", the most snow ever for the month of February.

A complex storm system in the east with secondary development near Delaware resulted in a daily snowfall record of 11.3" being set on February 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Burlington areal, and a storm total of 14.3" in South Burlington at the Burlington International Airport. Elsewhere across Vermont, generally between 8 and 15 inches of snow fell. The greatest snowfall amount (19.5") was recorded in the town of Waterbury.

Another storm system moved up the east coast on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of February and resulted in a general 6-12 inch snowfall across most of western and northeast Vermont, with 3-6 inches across southeast Vermont. This storm system also featured thundersnow across western Vermont during the evening of February 5<sup>th</sup>. This snowfall had a high water content, thus daily record precipitation records were set at Burlington (0.83"), St Johnsbury (0.91") and Montpelier (0.79").

Mild weather took over on the 14<sup>th</sup> with high temperatures in the 40'sF across the north half of Vermont and the low 50sF across the south half of the state. Montpelier set a record high temperature of 47°F on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter, a large storm system near James Bay in Canada resulted in a very mild air flow across all of Vermont on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of February. A record high temperature was set at Montpelier on the 18<sup>th</sup> with 56 degrees. A few other warm readings included Burlington with 57°F (1°F shy of tying a record), and both Bennington and Sunderland reached 60°F.

As the storm system moved east across Canada, a strong cold front moved into Vermont with strong winds during the late night of February 18<sup>th</sup> into the morning of February 19<sup>th</sup>. Winds were generally 40-50 mph across the state. Power lines were blown down, and the previous days thaw probably assisted the winds in uprooting trees. This resulted in about 20 thousand customers without power. With respect to power outages, the hardest hit counties appear to have been Caledonia, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Windsor and Windham.

The month ended with another snowstorm that moved northeast from the Ohio Valley across

southern New England during the 25<sup>th</sup>. Snowfall totals were generally between 10 and 14 inches statewide.