

Weekend Snowstorm Approaches All-Time Record in Some Locations

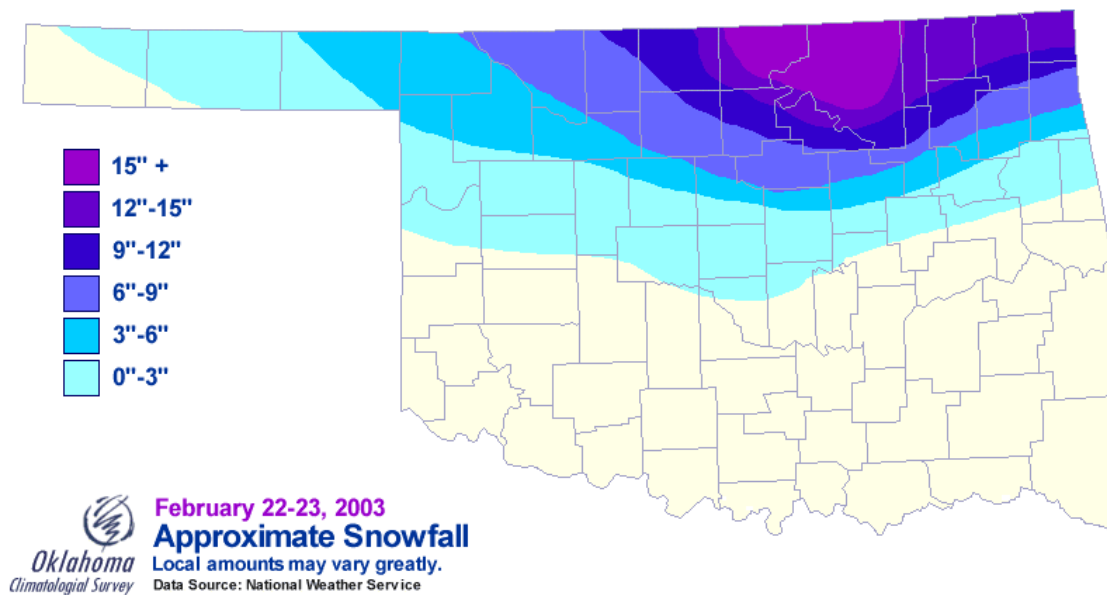
By Derek Arndt

Climatologist

Oklahoma Climatological Survey

2/24/03

NORMAN, OK - Northern Oklahoma, especially north-central Oklahoma, is digging out from more than a foot of snow today. Some locations reported as much as 18 inches of snowfall over the weekend. In many locations, these amounts approached or exceeded the snowfall of record for one event.



Most of the area impacted by the February 22-23, 2003 event averages less than 10 inches of snowfall *per year*, so 2002-03 will go down in the historical records as a snowy winter for much of northern and eastern Oklahoma. In fact, as of February 23rd, Tulsa's season-to-date total of 20.6" exceeded Chicago's total by more than three inches!

Measuring snowfall is still one of meteorology's toughest and least accurate tasks. Heavy snowstorms typically come with high winds, so measurers should be wary of drifts. Also, as with this event, ground temperatures substantially above freezing can cause some melt before the observation is recorded. Therefore, large snow totals generally are approximate amounts. With that said, here are some of history's largest snow events for Grant, Kay, Nowata, Osage, Pawnee and Washington Counties:

Nowata	Mar 17, 1970	21.0"
Bartlesville	Mar 17, 1970	20.0"
Medford	Mar 14, 1999	19.0"
Newkirk	Jan 7, 1988	16.0"
Foraker	Mar 17, 1970	16.0"

Hulah Dam	Mar 17, 1970	16.0"
Medford	Feb 2, 1982	14.8"
Newkirk	Dec 15, 1987	14.5"
Foraker	Jan 6, 1988	14.5"
Jefferson	Feb 2, 1982	14.5"
Blackwell	Feb 22, 1971	14.0"
Newkirk	Jan 8, 1920	14.0"
Jefferson	Jan 8, 1988	14.0"
Cleveland	Mar 9, 1994	14.0"
Renfrow	Jan 7, 1988	13.8"
Blackwell	Mar 16, 1970	13.0"
Barnsdall	Dec 29, 1954	13.0"
Foraker	Dec 15, 1987	13.0"
Hulah Dam	Feb 8, 1980	13.0"
Lamont	Mar 15, 1999	13.0"
Ponca City	Dec 10, 1932	12.8"
Bartlesville	Dec 29, 1954	12.8"
Pawhuska	Mar 16, 1970	12.5"
Ralston	Mar 17, 1970	12.5"
Newkirk	Feb 3, 1913	12.0"
Bartlesville	Dec 14, 2000	12.0"
Foraker	Mar 18, 1988	12.0"
Pawhuska	Dec 23, 1918	12.0"
Pawhuska	Mar 30, 1926	12.0"
Pawhuska	Mar 27, 1931	12.0"
Pawhuska	Feb 8, 1980	12.0"
Pawhuska	Dec 14, 2000	12.0"
Jefferson	Dec 23, 1918	12.0"
Lenapah	Mar 14, 1999	12.0"
Nowata	Dec 30, 1954	12.0"
Wann	Mar 14, 1999	12.0"
Ralston	Feb 8, 1980	12.0"

Media Contact:

Cerry Leffler
 Administrative Manager
 Oklahoma Climatological Survey
 100 E. Boyd, Suite 1210
 Norman, OK 73019-1012
 (405) 325-2541 Phone
 (405) 325-2550 Fax
cerry@ou.edu

For Additional Information:

Derek Arndt
 Climatologist
 Oklahoma Climatological Survey
 100 E. Boyd, Suite 1210
 Norman, OK 73019-1012
 (405) 325-2541 Phone
 (405) 325-2550 Fax
darndt@ou.edu