

Richmond's 25 Greatest Snowstorms

The storm duration is determined by the number of consecutive days with measurable snow from the same weather system. (Trace Amt. Do Not Count)

Amount ##	Inches	Time of Occurrence YR.	MONTH	DAY/S	Days of Storm Duration	Day Started	Amt. 1st Day	Amt. 2nd Day	Amt. 3rd Day	Amt. 4th Day	Remarks lines underlined are links. Links to the "Weather History" one may need to scroll down to find the year of interest. Storm Links and Remarks
1	21.6	1940	Jan	23-24	2	22-Mon	1.7	19.9			<u>Richmond Snow Records-19.9 inches in 1day & 28.5 inches the most for Jan.</u> There were 12 deaths attributed to the storm in Virginia with damages estimated at \$500,000.00. Low temperatures dropped below zero with the coldest day setting a new all time record of -12°F on the 29th.
No Time Record							46	28	36	26	26
							22	23	24	25	26
2	19.1	1922	Jan	27-29	3	26-Thu	7.7	10.3	1.1		<u>Greater snow to the North-Washington, DC 28 inches and Baltimore 25 inches.</u> <u>Snow Map of Area Depths - Maximum Just West of Washington DC</u> <u>A Book was published on the Knickerbocker Snowstorm by Kevin Ambrose</u> Shortly after 9p.m. on Jan. 28th this storm killed 98 people & injured 133
Richmond Times							33	28	32	39	40
Started 27th @ 7:20AM							13	22	26	31	27
Ended 29th @ 9:30AM							26	27	28	29	30
3	17.7	1983	Feb	10-11	2	9-Wed	4.4	13.3			<u>Annandale 18.8 inches-Lightning in MD suburbs & Frederick MD reported 30 inches.</u> <u>Maximum Snow Depths - Extreme Eastern WVA and Extreme NW Virginia</u> On the 11th winds in the Richmond area caused three-foot high drifts. The cost of clearing the snow from VA roads came to \$9 million.
Alexandria, VA Times							43	36	31	38	33
Started 10th @ 8:45PM							22	29	22	19	19
Ended 11th @ 9:30PM							9	10	11	12	13
4	17.2	1908	Dec	22-23	2	21-Mon	15.0	2.2			<u>Richmond's Greatest December Snowstorm - Wet Snow did much damage</u> The heavy wet snow brought down many trees with >1,300 telephones being put out of commission along with telegraph wires. Precip. started as rain to snow that ended 6:30PM then rain 6:30PM-9:15PM back to snow ending on 23rd. <u>Wet Snow and High Winds Brought Down Electrical Wires</u>
Time Record is not complete							53	44	35	35	44
							35	30	24	20	33
							21	22	23	24	25
5	16.3	1899	Feb	11-14	4	10-Fri	1.3	7.5	6.5	1.0	<u>Feb.11th was the coldest day/coldest snow 11°F & -2°F with 1.3 inches of snow</u> <u>The Maximum Snow Depths were in Northern Virginia & West of the DC area</u> This storm was the 2nd coldest & started 3:20PM on 11th & ended 9:30PM on 14th <u>15th a high was over VA and the minimum was 6°F (Snow on ground 17 days in Feb)</u>
Richmond Times							14	11	11	12	28
Started 11th @ 3:30PM							-3	-2	6	7	5
Ended 14th @ 9:30PM							10	11	12	13	14
6	15.2	1962	Mar	05-07	3	4-Sun	9.3	5.3	0.6		<u>Also - Ash Wed. Storm-Great Damage to Coastal area from high winds/water</u> <u>Personal Story About the 1962 Storm "The Day Shenandoah Valley Stood Still"</u> Only 1996 was deeper in the Shenandoah Valley and the 1996 storm was a colder storm but on the 19th in 1996 a great warm-up caused flooding
Rockingham Co. Times							47	36	36	38	42
Started 05th @ 7:30AM							18	29	32	32	22
Ended 07th @ -1:00AM							4	5	6	7	8
7	14.9	1980	Jan	04-05	2	4-Fri	1.6	13.3			<u>This 14.9 inches was Richmond's Third Largest January Snowstorm</u> This was a heavy wet snow and coastal areas were hit the hardest. Williamsburg , Virginia had 18 inches and the Shenandoah Valley had much less. <u>The Shenandoah Valley had only 7 inches</u>
Alexandria Times							41	33	35	45	46
Started 4th @ 8:20PM							32	27	18	19	34
Ended 5th @ 4:30PM							4	5	6	7	8
8	14.8	1966	Jan	26-27	2	25-Tue	13.2	1.6			<u>The 2nd of a series of snows-Rockingham Co., VA had 36 inches in 9 days</u> <u>Richmond was on the south edge of the heavy snow the Valley & NY had more</u> <u>Diary of this Snowstorm of 1966 - The 1st time VA Tech was closed for snow</u> <u>A Daily-News Record Newspaper - VA Snow Emergency Declared by Godwin</u>
No Time Record							32	27	35	29	18
							23	20	19	8	8
							25	26	27	28	29
9	13.0	1980	Mar	01-02	2	29-Fri	10.6	2.4			<u>Richmond's largest March snowfall and also the coldest for March</u> <u>The Greatest Snow Depths were in NC - Elizabeth City had 25 inches</u> <u>Harrisonburg (Dale Enterprise) had 10 inches Elkton had around 1 foot of snow</u> Cape Hatteras reported a wind gust to 62mph & drifting snow was also a problem.
Alexandria Times							40	21	24	42	56
Started 1st @ 2:15PM							20	13	16	16	16
Ended 2nd @ 2:30AM							29	1	2	3	4
10	12.6	1936	Feb	07	1	6-Thu	12.6				<u>Norfolk recorded 9 inches, the city's heaviest snowfall in the last 40 yrs.</u> Not the City's coldest storm but after the storm the -10°F is the lowest Feb. temp. The storm passed 60 miles E. of Cape Hatteras so the biggest snows were coastal. The heavy snow set the stage for the great spring flood in March of 1936.
Washington DC Times							33	26	34	48	34
Started 6th @ 12:55PM							18	5	-10	16	12
Ended 7th @ 4:45PM							6	7	8	9	10
11	12.0	1996	Jan	6-8	3	5-Fri	6.0	3.5	2.5		<u>Many areas in VA had more snow than Richmond; this was the 1st of 3 storms.</u> <u>Luray had 33.5 inches & now holds the VA record for the most snow in 1 day.</u> On the 19th a great warm-up caused some VA stations to lose 10 inches of snow overnight and flooding started on the 20th see Northern VA link <u>On the 9th an additional 1.4 inches of snow that came from a clipper and was not included.</u>
Falls Church, VA Times							40	28	21	32	32
Started 6th @ 7:30PM							27	20	19	14	20
Ended 9th @ 3:55PM							5	6	7	8	9
12	11.4	2016	Jan	22-23	2	21-Thu	6.1	5.3			<u>Storm forecast was for 2 feet of snow and N. VA got more than that.</u> <u>The deepest snows were in Northern VA - Frederick, VA & Frederick, MD.</u> <u>An detailed article from Weatherwise about the February 2016 Storm</u>
Richmond Times							36	28	28	40	46
Started 21st @ 10:05AM							24	22	24	17	15
Ended 22nd @ 10:00PM							21	22	23	24	25
13	11.0	2000	Jan	25	1	24-Mon	11.0				<u>This storm that did not go out to sea causing a very "Poor Forecast"</u> <u>This storm hit Baltimore and the Delmarva coastal areas the hardest</u> The storm was worst in N. VA & 20 inches was common in the DC area <u>The Storm Didn't Match the Weather Forecast</u>
Falls Church, VA Times							40	33	33	29	34
Started 25th @ 3:15AM							27	27	23	11	-1
Ended 25th @ 9:15PM							24	25	26	27	28

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#	Amount Inches	Time of Occurrence YR. MONTH DAY/S	Days of Storm Duration	Day Started	Amt. 1st Day	Amt. 2nd Day	Amt. 3rd Day	Amt. 4th Day	Remarks lines underlined are links. Links to the "Weather History" one may need to scroll down to find the year of interest.
14	10.9	1979 Feb 18-19	2	17-Sat	7.2	3.7			This snow had the heaviest snow rate I have ever seen yet to this day <u>The deepest snows in this storm were in Maryland and Delaware</u> Phil Poole a NWS employee measured at 6AM 13 inches at 16°F and at 7AM had 20 inches giving a snow intensity of 7 inches in one hour.
Alexandria, VA Times Max. Temperature °F 21 14 40 44 50 Started 18 th @ 2:00PM Min. Temperature °F 8 6 10 3 27 Ended 19 th @ ~10:00AM Map Links for Days 17 18 19 20 21									
15	10.4	1917 Dec 12-14	3	11-Tue	9.4	0.5	0.5		After this storm a cold Air mass gave Richmond its lowest Dec. Temp. of -2°F <u>The Richmond Times had only a little to report about this storm</u> Snow cover from this storm lasted 8 days with measurable snow
Richmond Times Max. Temperature °F 26 26 27 27 29 Started 12 th Pre- 1:55PM Min. Temperature °F 12 20 22 15 7 Ended 13 th @ 9:25PM Map Links for Days 11 12 13 14 15									
16	10.1	1948 Jan-Feb 31-1	2	30-Fri	7.0	3.1			A low pressure developed over the Gulf of Mexico and moved across northern Florida then taking a NE track passing closest to Cape Hatteras. It is interesting that Richmond had 10.1 inches from this storm and Norfolk had only 5.8 inches.
No Time Record Max. Temperature °F 33 23 34 43 48 Min. Temperature °F 19 11 19 9 9 Map Links for Days 30 31 1 2 3									
17	10.0	1915 Apr 3	1	2-Fri	10.0				Cape Henry had 74mph NE winds on the 3rd - Precip. started as rain on the 2nd <u>All Wires to City Down - No April Storm Comparable - Wet Snow & High Winds</u> <u>Deepest Apr. Snow in Richmond-Not Since 1887 Has Norfolk Seen Such A Storm</u> <u>Wet Snow and High Winds Brought Down Electrical Wires</u>
Richmond Times Max. Temperature °F 49 37 52 63 77 Started 3 rd @ 2:30AM Min. Temperature °F 33 32 32 34 51 Ended 3 rd @ 5:10PM Map Links for Days 2 3 4 5 6									
17	10.0	2010 Jan 30-31	2	29-Fri	9.5	0.5			Central VA had more snow than N.VA - DC had 6.4 and Baltimore only 5.0 inches <u>Glen Allen had 12.1 inches-Western Henrico, Louisa, Goochland Co. had more</u> <u>Snow Depths in Northern VA clearly show the storm track was to the South</u> Between 1100-Noon of the 30th Glen Allen had 2 inches of snow in 1hr.
Richmond Times Max. Temperature °F 34 27 32 44 41 Started 30 th @ 4:10AM Min. Temperature °F 24 18 12 12 21 Ended 31 st @ 2:20AM Map Links for Days 29 30 31 1 2									
18	9.7	1902 Feb 15-17	3	14-Fri	3.6	0.1	6		This was a fast-moving storm and was worse in NY area This storm did little damage in the Richmond area and was short lived The snow started in the early evening hours and lasted past midnight but the morning of the 17th the sky was clear
Richmond Times Max. Temperature °F 40 32 35 38 39 Started 15 th Min. Temperature °F 19 27 29 28 26 Ended 17 th @ 1:30PM Map Links for Days 14 15 16 17 18									
19	9.3	1947 Feb 19-20	2	18-Tue	3.7	5.6			Norfolk, VA on the 19th and 20th had only a trace of snow but 0.65 inches of precipitation. Charlottesville reported 1/4 inch of snow on the 19th & 4.0 inches on the 20th and 7.0 inches on the 21st and reported 11 inches on the ground.
No Time Record Max. Temperature °F 66 46 30 38 37 Min. Temperature °F 25 26 20 21 22 Map Links for Days 18 19 20 21 22									
20	9.2	1930 Jan 30-31	2	29-Wed	9.0	0.2			Norfolk on the 29-30 reported 4 inches of snow and 0.72 inches Precip. Charlottesville reported 11 inches with 3.0 inches on the 29th and 8.0 inches on the 30th with 0.85 inches of liquid precipitation.
No Time Record Max. Temperature °F 33 26 42 44 54 Min. Temperature °F 22 18 4 10 36 Map Links for Days 29 30 31 1 2									
20	9.2	1965 Jan 15-17	3	14-Thu	2.2	6.3	0.7		Norfolk had 1.02 inches liquid precip. & 5.2 inches snow. - Ashland had 0.59 inches & 7.0 inches of snow. Charlottesville had 0.24 inches liquid and 5.2 inches of snow. Blacksburg, in SW Virginia had 0.42 inches of liquid and 7.0 inches snow. The snow in there started on the 15th at 8PM and ended at 3AM on the 16th & again from 2PM to 11PM
No Time Record Max. Temperature °F 42 31 25 24 34 Min. Temperature °F 20 17 18 3 16 Map Links for Days 14 15 16 17 18									
21	8.9	1960 Feb 13-14	2	12-Fri	8.3	0.6			Valentine Storm - Harrisonburg had 6.5 inches their deepest since Mar.9, 1958. Charlottesville reported 8 inches, Ashland 10 inches and Norfolk had 3.9 inches of snow. The snow started during the night of the 13th in SW Virginia where the heaviest snowfall totals were reported with up to 16 inches.
Rockingham Co. Times Max. Temperature °F 50 35 35 41 45 Started 13 th @ ~6AM Min. Temperature °F 29 26 25 20 16 Ended 14 th Pre-Sunrise Map Links for Days 12 13 14 15 16									
22	8.8	1960 Mar 2-3	2	1-Tue	3.3	5.5			The Shenandoah Valley in Rockingham County had 9 to 9.5 inches Locally the most snow was in western VA & WVA but MA & RI had more. Roanoke had 17 ins. one of the higher totals & drifting was a problem. <u>Drifting was also a problem in parts of VA - Rockingham Co. Picture</u>
Rockingham Co. Times Max. Temperature °F 39 32 29 32 31 Started 02 nd @ ~8PM Min. Temperature °F 23 20 24 21 14 Ended 03 rd Map Links for Days 1 2 3 4 5									
22	8.8	1966 Dec 23-24	2	22-Thu	3.0	5.8			This was a Central VA Snowstorm and only New England had more. Ashland reported 8.0 inches of snow on the 24th and 25th. Charlottesville on the 24th and 25th had 8.2 inches of snow & 0.57 inches of liquid precip. Norfolk had only 1.0 inch of snow and 0.64 inches of liquid precip.
Rockingham Co. Times Max. Temperature °F 48 35 28 34 38 Started 23 th @ 3:30PM Min. Temperature °F 28 25 20 15 15 Ended 24 th @ 6:30PM Map Links for Days 22 23 24 25 26									
23	8.6	1904 Jan 28-29	2	27-Wed	3.4	5.2			The public was worried this storm might be like the Feb 1899 storm The storm total for this storm was only 8.6 inches even though the map features before the storm were similar to that of the 1899 storm
Richmond Times Max. Temperature °F 34 28 28 34 34 Started 28 th @ 11:10AM Min. Temperature °F 20 22 22 11 23 Ended 29 th @ 7:25PM Map Links for Days 27 28 29 30 31									
24	8.4	1987 Jan 25-26	2	24-Sat	5.0	3.4			This was known as the "Double Whammy" as two big snows were 3 days apart <u>This was a Central VA, Eastern MD and DE snowstorm</u> The 25 Anniversary of the Double Whammy - A Washington Post article.
Falls Church, VA Times Max. Temperature °F 37 24 26 27 35 Started 25 th @ 6:30AM Min. Temperature °F 7 18 18 7 -1 Ended 26 th @ 9:00AM Map Links for Days 24 25 26 27 28									
24	8.4	1971 Mar 26	1	26-Sun.	8.4				Parts of northern and central Georgia experienced their worst snow and ice storm since 1935. Hatcheries in GA without power was costly. This was the deepest NW SC ever had so late in the season <u>Richmond was on the N. edge of significant snow. -- More</u>
Started on the 25 at 4PM in Greenville, SC & into S. VA Max. Temperature °F 47 46 36 48 63 late 25 & VA on the 26 Min. Temperature °F 28 25 29 26 28 Map Links for Days 24 25 26 27 28									
25	8.0	1934 Feb 25	1	24-Sat	8.0				Norfolk reported 2.63 inches of liquid precipitation and 6.0 inches of snow. Charlottesville reported 1.35 inches of precipitation & 6.5 inches of snow starting at 6AM and ending at midnight.
Charlottesville, VA Times Max. Temperature °F 34 28 30 23 28 Started 25 th @ 6:00AM Min. Temperature °F 16 20 18 4 -1 Ended 25 th @ 12:00PM Map Links for Days 24 25 26 27 28									