

Good morning, Lowell,

You are correct - The September 1936 snowstorm was the biggest single snowfall ever during the month of September whereas overall, September 1971 had more snow for the entire month.

Having said that, most of the snow in September 1971 did fall with one snowstorm (15.6 inches) and that one storm was pretty close to the 1936 storm.

Below are the historical narratives from our local National Weather Service office for more details. I am guessing this is for your weather history stuff?

Tony

September 16-19, 1971 - A record breaking early fall snow storm caused extensive damage to trees and utility lines. The heavy wet snow occurred with little wind but caused record breaking cold temperatures for so early in the season. Snowfall totaled 15.6 inches at Stapleton International Airport with most of the snowfall 12.0 inches occurring on the 17th. This was the heaviest first snow of the season. The maximum snow depth on the ground was 13 inches. Record low temperatures were set on three consecutive days: 31 degrees on the 17th 23 degrees on the 18th and 20 degrees on the 19th which was also a new all-time record minimum for the month at that time. Record low maximum temperatures were set on 4 consecutive days: 48 degrees on the 16th 35 degrees on the 17th 40 degrees on the 18th and 42 degrees on the 19th.

September 26, 1936 - The heaviest snowfall ever recorded in September and the heaviest snowfall ever recorded so early in the season dumped a total of 16.5 inches of snow on downtown Denver and 21.3 inches at Denver municipal airport. The 15.0 inches of snow measured from 6:00 pm on the 27th to 6:00 pm on the 28th is the greatest 24 hour snowfall ever recorded in September. This was the first snow of the season. The snow was intermittent through the 26th but continuous from early afternoon on the 27th to around midnight on the 28th except for a period of rain during the afternoon of the 28th which contributed to a loss of depth on the ground. The greatest snow depth on the ground downtown was 13 inches with 8 inches at Denver municipal airport. There were no high winds with the storm and traffic was interrupted for only a short period. The storm produced property damage estimated at 7 million dollars. With trees and shrubs in full foliage the leaves caught and held the heavy water-laden snow until the branches snapped from the weight. More than 3000 workmen were called to remove the debris and snow from the city. The city firemen who were off duty as well as all the reserves were asked to report to their stations. All schools in the city remained open but attendance was only 50 percent of normal. Grade school students were sent home at noon on the 28th. The early storm caught stockmen with many cattle still in higher ranges. Warm weather followed the snow which had all melted by the end of the month except for a few inches in sheltered places.

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From:
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Message:

Was the Sep.26, 1936 your largest Sep. snowstorm in Denver or was there a bigger storm in 1971 ?

The monthly total is more for 1971 than 1936 but I wonder if the 1971 total is from more than one storm.

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