

Tom Skilling, veteran meteorologist of WGN-TV in Chicago who experienced the 1967, 1979, and 1999 record snowstorms for Chicago was being interviewed by Jim Catore today and said that while the 2011 storm of 20.2 inches falls a few inches short of the all-time record, that the amazing winds of this blizzard made this the worst snowstorm he has seen in the area. Below is a great video with Cantore showing the winds.

Chicago wind sends people skating down sidewalks
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/41394405#41394405>

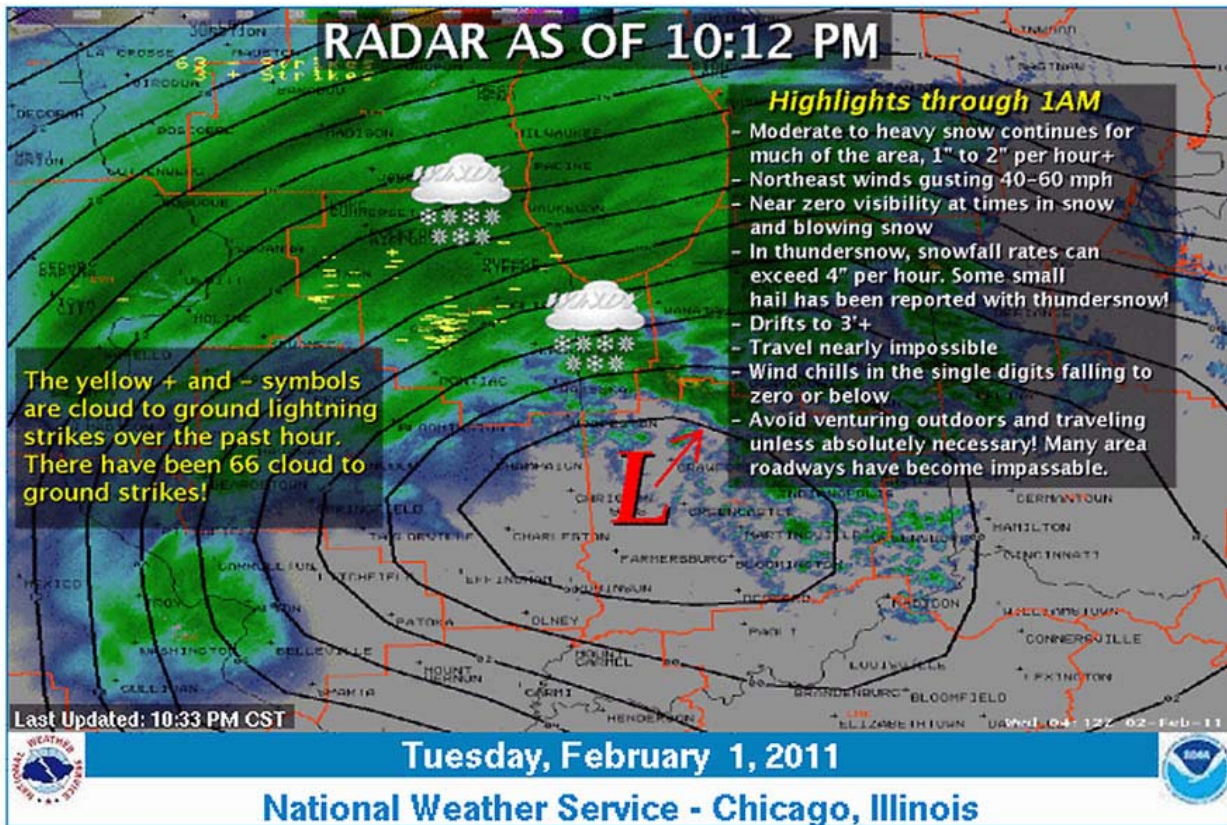
Since snow records began in 1886 in Chicago, there have been 41 winter storms that produced 10 inches or more of snow. A 10 inch snow occurs about once every 3 years. A 15 inch snow occurs only once about every 19 years. The closest back to back 10 inch snows were March 25-26 and April 1-2, 1970 (6 days apart). The longest period of time without a 10 inch snow or greater was February 12, 1981 to January 1, 1999 (almost 18 years). The earliest 10 inch snow was November 25-26, 1895 and the latest 10 inch snow was April 1-2, 1970. The most recent 10 inch snow was January 21-23, 2005. These snowfall statistics are through the 2004-2005 winter season.

Chicago's 10 biggest Snowstorms:

1. 23.0 inches Jan 26-27, 1967
2. 21.6 inches Jan 1-3, 1999
3. 20.2 inches Feb 1-2, 2011 (Through 1030am)
4. 19.2 inches Mar 25-26, 1930
5. 18.8 inches Jan 13-14, 1979
6. 16.2 inches Mar 7-8, 1931
7. 15.0 inches Dec 17-20, 1929
8. 14.9 inches Jan 30, 1939
9. 14.9 inches Jan 6-7, 1918
10. 14.3 inches Mar 25-26, 1970

.25-inch hail was reported in thundersnow.

I have never seen so many lightning strikes in a snowstorm!
O'Hare had a gust to 61mph. With the drifting and extremely high winds and low wind chills, it is now very hard to get around outside.
The blinding snow in your face does not let you see the depth of the snow you are walking into.



0951 PM HAIL MIDWAY AIRPORT 41.78N 87.75W
02/01/2011 0.25 INCH COOK IL OFFICIAL NWS OBS

1005 PM HAIL 6 S EVANSTON 41.97N 87.71W
02/01/2011 0.25 INCH COOK IL TRAINED SPOTTER

**SMALL HAIL IN THUNDERSTORM WITH SNOW ON NW SIDE NEAR
LELAND AND KEDZIE**

0901 PM NON-TSTM WND GST OHARE AIRPORT 41.98N 87.90W
02/01/2011 61 MPH COOK IL ASOS

**SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHICAGO IL
1208 AM CST WED FEB 2 2011**

ILZ003>006-008-010>014-019>023-032-033-039-INZ001-002-010-011-019-020815-
WINNEBAGO-BOONE-MCHENRY-LAKE IL-OGLE-LEE-DE KALB-KANE-DUPAGE-COOK-
LA SALLE-KENDALL-GRUNDY-WILL-KANKAKEE-LIVINGSTON-IROQUOIS-FORD-
LAKE IN-PORTER-NEWTON-JASPER-BENTON-
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...ROCKFORD...BELVIDERE...WOODSTOCK...
WAUKEGAN...OREGON...DIXON...DEKALB...AURORA...WHEATON...CHICAGO...
OTTAWA...OSWEGO...MORRIS...JOLIET...KANKAKEE...PONTIAC...
WATSEKA...PAXTON...GARY...VALPARAISO...MOROCCO...RENSSELAER...
FOWLER
1208 AM CST WED FEB 2 2011 /108 AM EST WED FEB 2 2011/

...BLIZZARD CREATING LIFE THREATENING SITUATION FOR MOTORISTS...

REPORTS FROM MEDIA AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALLY INDICATE THAT HUNDREDS IF NOT THOUSANDS OF VEHICLES HAVE GONE OFF THE ROADS. THE GOVERNOR HAS ACTIVATED THE NATIONAL GUARD WHO ARE CURRENTLY RESCUING STRANDED MOTORISTS.

THE BLIZZARD CONDITIONS WILL CONTINUE TONIGHT...PARTICULARLY IN OPEN AREAS WHERE WHITE OUT CONDITIONS WILL MAKE TRAVEL IMPOSSIBLE. LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS ARE TELLING PEOPLE TO STAY OFF THE ROADS AS NOT A SINGLE ROAD IS PASSABLE IN RURAL AND OPEN AREAS. THEY ARE ASKING PEOPLE TO STAY IN A SAFE PLACE AND NOT TO LEAVE HOME TONIGHT.

THIS IS A POTENTIALLY LIFE THREATENING SITUATION. DO NOT TRAVEL UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY OVERNIGHT.