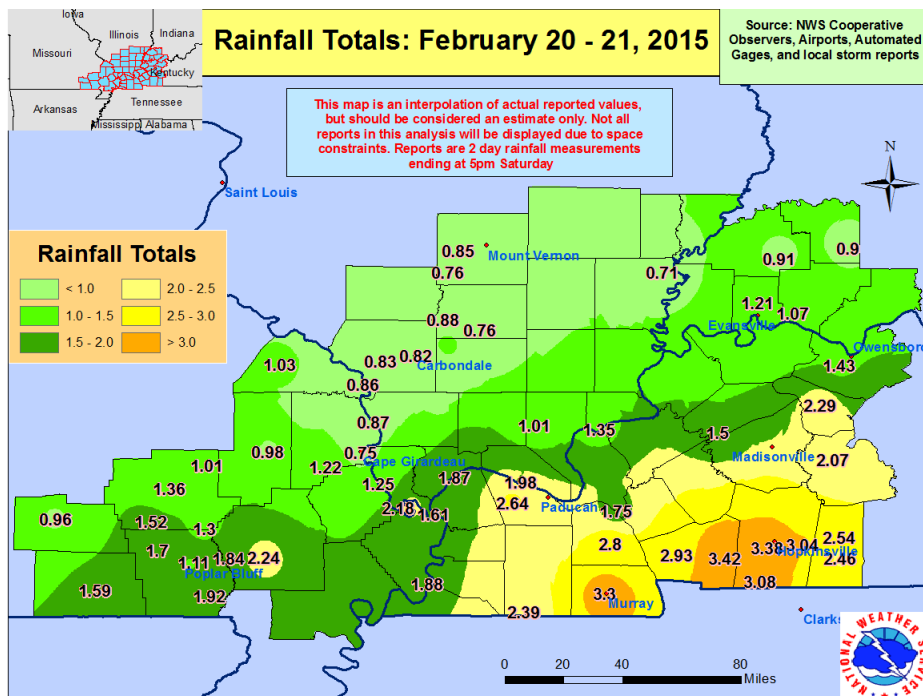


A winter storm brought hazardous conditions. The precipitation type started as sleet, then changed to freezing rain in most areas before turning to liquid rain by the afternoon of the 21st.

PRECIP AMOUNTS: Around one-quarter inch of ice glazed trees and power lines, on top of one-quarter to one inch of sleet. Convective enhancement of precipitation rates was observed, including heavy thundersleet at Poplar Bluff and Greenville, Missouri. After the precipitation changed to rain, the combination of snowmelt and rainfall produced localized street flooding.

The liquid equivalent of all the precipitation from this storm ranged from 1 to 3.5 inches across western Kentucky and southeast Missouri, as indicated by the map below.



WINTER IMPACTS: Roads became ice-covered and very slippery, especially untreated back roads. Numerous vehicle crashes and slide-offs occurred. The Missouri State Highway Patrol reported several dozen slide-offs or crashes in southeast Missouri. Interstate 55 southbound was closed near the 109 mile-marker in Cape Girardeau County due to a vehicle crash. Numerous accidents occurred on Interstate 24 near Calvert City, KY as well as U.S. Highway 51 in the Fulton area. In Benton, KY, nobody was hurt when a minivan slid off an icy road and overturned in a creek. All three occupants were freed from the vehicle by breaking out the back window. Small branches were broken or bent by the ice. Isolated power outages were reported due to tree limbs on power lines. A southwest Indiana utility company estimated outages totaled about 500 customers. Downed tree limbs damaged vehicles at the campus of Southern Indiana University. About 700 utility customers were without power in Stoddard County. A more widespread power outage affected Sikeston after a main line that ran into the city came down.

FLOODING/HEAVY RAIN IMPACTS: After the changeover to rain, street flooding occurred in urban areas, especially in the Evansville, Owensboro, and Hopkinsville areas. In downtown Mayfield, the accumulated weight of melting snow and ice from successive winter storms caused a partial roof collapse. In Dexter, MO, there were two roof collapses due to the accumulated weight of melting snow and ice from successive February winter storms. A large part of the roof of a strip mall collapsed, and a gas station roof collapsed. The weight of snow and ice also brought down an awning of a gas station in Sikeston.

FATALITIES / INJURIES: In western Marshall County on U.S. Highway 68, one person was killed when his ATV slid out of control on ice and struck an SUV head-on. A passenger in the SUV was injured. In Henderson, a police officer was injured in a vehicle crash. The officer's vehicle spun out of control on ice and went into oncoming traffic. His car was struck by another vehicle. The officer was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries. Just west of Paducah on Highway 358, one person was injured in a rollover accident. The driver was transported to a local hospital for treatment. In Dexter, MO, a driver was injured when his car crashed into the side of a train.

WEATHER MAP SYNOPSIS: Several east-to-west bands of light to locally moderate precipitation advanced slowly northward in response to the arrival of warm, moist air in the low levels. Strengthening of a southerly low level jet occurred ahead of a 500 mb shortwave impulse emerging out of the central Plains. Convective enhancement of precipitation rates was observed, including some thundersleet west of the Mississippi River.