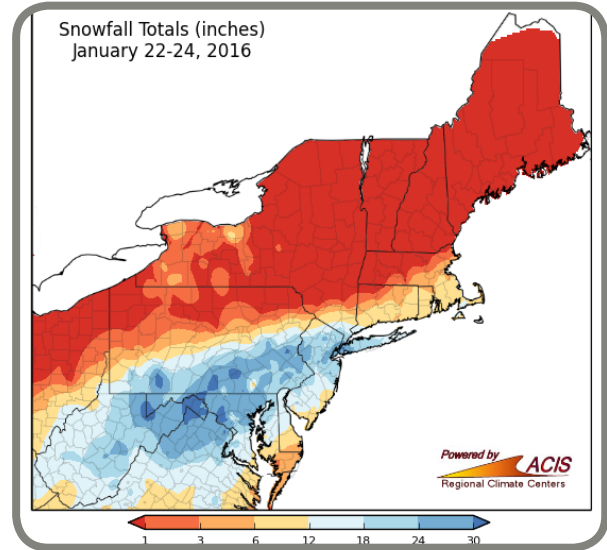
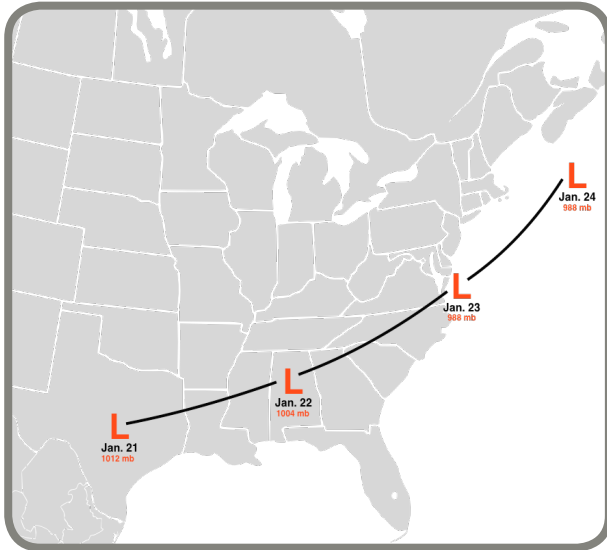
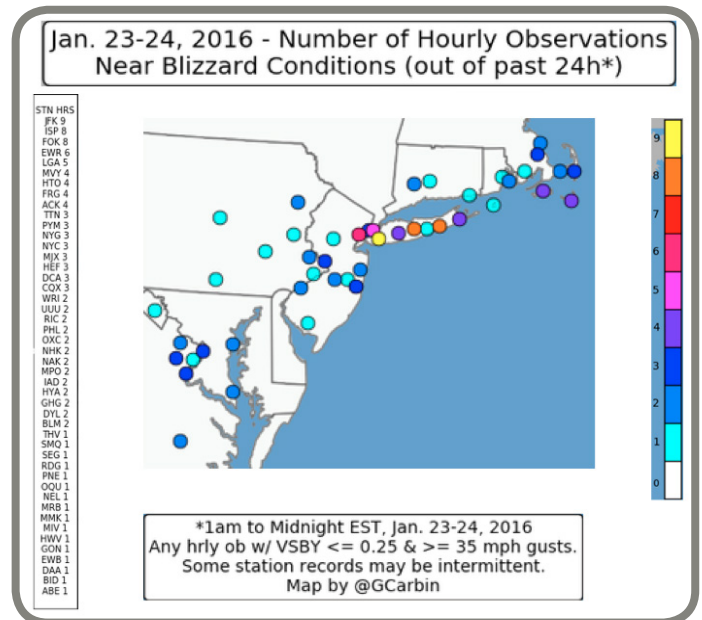
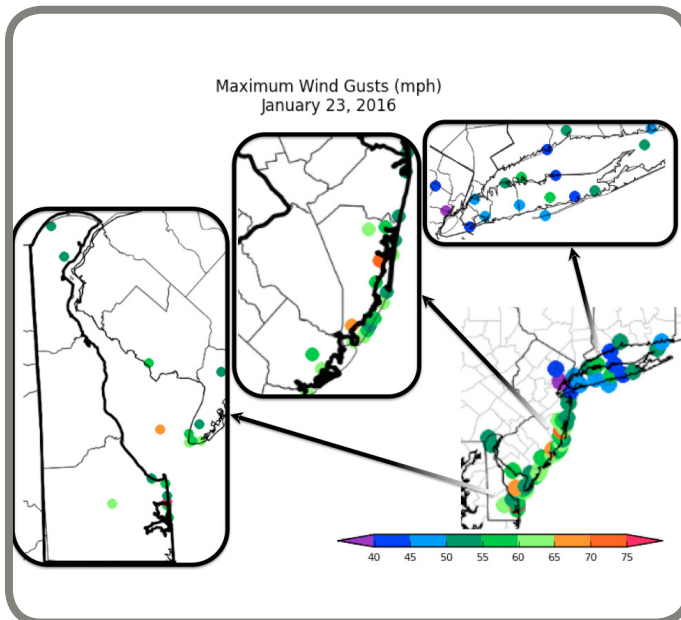


## Blizzard Track and Snow Totals



The Northeast region was hit by a [blizzard](#) on January 22-24, 2016, with over 30 inches of snow falling in some areas, such as Kennedy Airport, NY and Allentown, PA. The highest storm total reported was 42 inches in Glengary, WV. Records were broken for 1-day and 2-day snowfall totals at stations in Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. The 1-day snowfall amounts at several sites were more than typically seen in an entire season! Baltimore, MD, for example, received 25.5 inches on January 23rd, more than 5 inches above the normal season total of 20.1 inches. The same was true at Central Park, NY; Washington Dulles, DC; Kennedy Airport, NY; and LaGuardia Airport, NY.

## Wind Gusts and Blizzard Conditions



Maximum wind gusts of 39 to 75 mph were recorded along the Northeast coast from Delaware to Connecticut (left image). The highest gusts reported were 75 and 72 mph at Dewey Beach, DE and Bayville, NJ respectively. These gusts caused dangerous storm surge and blizzard conditions. The graphic on the right displays the number of hours with near blizzard conditions at airport climate sites. Note that Kennedy Airport, NY had such conditions for 9 hours!

## Northeast Impacts



### Coastal

Preliminary data indicated that several sites along the New Jersey and Delaware coasts saw record or near-record high water levels, even higher than those during Sandy in some cases, which resulted in moderate to major flooding. Early estimates indicated damage in Cape May County, NJ was \$67 million. Offshore waves heights were up to 27 feet, with 6 to 15 foot waves near the coast. The high seas created cliffs up to 15 feet high in some dunes. Of the 66 beach areas surveyed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, 40 beaches experienced [moderate to major erosion](#).

### Transportation & Infrastructure

All flights into and out of Philadelphia and the three Baltimore-Washington area airports were cancelled on January 23, with very limited flights in the New York City area. Between January 22 and 26, more than 13,000 flights were cancelled nationwide. Numerous roads were also shut down or impassable. A backup on the Pennsylvania Turnpike left more than 500 vehicles stranded for almost 24 hours. Travel bans were enacted in some areas, such as New York City and Baltimore. Public transportation services were also suspended. As communities dug out, schools were closed for up to a week. In addition, more than 100,000 customers lost power during the storm, with the greatest number in New Jersey. The weight of the snow also caused some roofs to collapse.

## Regional Snowfall Index and Historical Blizzards

START	END	CATEGORY	RSI	RANK	AREA OF SNOW ENTIRE STORM	POPULATION ENTIRE STORM
1969-02-21	1969-02-27	5	34.026	1	174,950	58,912,750
1993-03-11	1993-03-14	5	22.117	2	174,949	58,912,681
1996-01-05	1996-01-08	5	21.708	3	162,312	58,450,268
1978-02-03	1978-02-07	5	18.422	4	174,950	58,912,680
2010-02-20	2010-02-28	4	17.827	5	174,950	58,912,816
2016-01-21	2016-01-23	4	17.758	6	92,140	52,963,122

Area	2-Day Snowfall			Date	Years of Data
	Jan 2016	Rank	Previous/1st		
Baltimore, MD	29.2	1	26.3	1/28/1922	125
Newark, NJ	27.9	1	27.8	1/8/1996	86
Kennedy Ap, NY	30.5	1	25.8	2/17/2003	60
LaGuardia Ap, NY	28.2	1	25.4	2/12/2006	71
Allentown, PA	31.9	1	25.6	1/8/1996	89
Harrisburg, PA	30.2	1	25.0	2/12/1983	128
Central Park, NY	27.5	1	26.9	2/12/2006	127
Dulles Ap, VA	29.3	2	32.4	2/6/2010	54
Charleston, WV	18.6	3	18.9	3/14/1993	99
Islip, NY	23.7	4	27.8	2/9/2013	32
Washington, DC	17.8	5	26.0	1/28/1922	132
Philadelphia, PA	22.4	6	30.7	1/8/1996	132
Elkins, WV	17.8	15	22.6	1/8/1996	109
Wilmington, DE	16.1	16	25.8	2/6/2010	119

This storm has a [Regional Snowfall Index](#) (RSI) value of 17.758, making it a category 4 crippling event, on a scale from 1 to 5. The snowfall impact scale takes into account population and area affected. The storm ranks 6th on the scale for the Northeast. The highest-ranking storm, a category 5 extreme event, was the late February nor'easter of 1969. More than 30 inches fell on a large portion of New England, with over 4 feet being recorded in some locations. New Hampshire had its record 24-hour snowfall during this event when Mount Washington received 49.3 inches! Drifts up to 15 feet high in Massachusetts almost buried houses. This was also an El Niño winter, and several research studies have noted an increased frequency of nor'easters during such winters. Other crippling events have occurred during El Niño winters, such as the heavy snow event in late February 2010, the President's Day Blizzard in 2003, the Blizzard of 1966, and the Post Christmas Storm of 1969.