

THE UNUSUAL SNOWSTORM OF MARCH 9, 1999
The Richmond International Airport had only 0.8 inches of snow in this storm.

A strong high-pressure system was helping to drive a very cold, dry air mass southward into Virginia. It appeared the dry air mass over the region would help keep the accumulations down. The very narrow band of heavy snow in central and northern Ohio during night moved rapidly towards Washington during the pre-dawn hours. On the morning of the 9th snow began falling in Washington and western suburbs. The band station expanded eastward and became almost stationary, lasting through the afternoon. The snow band was oriented east to west, and center just a few miles south of Washington D.C. The heaviest snow fell in central Fairfax County, where 10 - 12 inches accumulated. Reagan National Airport reported 8.4 inches of snow - the heaviest March snowfall since the storm of March 28 - 29, 1942. The northern side of Baltimore received only 2 inches of snow while Charlottesville and Richmond received very light accumulations. The Annandale-Barcroft Hills Weather Center received 10.2 inches. (p. 102-103 Washington Weather Book 2002 by Ambrose, Henry, Weiss)