

Richmond's 25 Greatest Snowstorms

The storm duration is determined by the number of consecutive days with measurable snow from the same weather system. (Trace Amt. Do Not Count)

| Amount # | Inches | YR. | Time of Occurrence MONTH DAY/S | Days of Storm Duration | Day Snow Started | Amt. 1st Day | Amt. 2nd Day | Amt. 3rd Day | Amt. 4th Day | Remarks lines underlined are links. Links to the "Weather History" one may need to scroll down to find the year of interest. | |
|-----------------------------|--------|------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | Storm Links and Remarks |
| 1 | 21.6 | 1940 | Jan 23-24 | 2 | 22-Mon | 1.7 | 19.9 | | | Richmond Snow Records-19.9 inches in 1day & 28.5 inches the most for Jan. There were 12 deaths attributed to the storm in Virginia with damages estimated at \$500,000.00. Low temperatures dropped below zero with the coldest day setting a new all time record of -12°F on the 29th. | |
| No Time Record | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 46 | 28 | 36 | 26 | 26 | |
| | | | | | | 22 | 22 | 10 | -6 | -11 | |
| | | | | | | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | |
| 2 | 19.1 | 1922 | Jan 27-29 | 3 | 26-Thu | 7.7 | 10.3 | 1.1 | | Greater snow to the North-Washington, DC 28 inches and Baltimore 25 inches. Snow Map of Area Depths - Maximum Just West of Washington DC A Book was published on the Knickerbocker Snowstorm by Kevin Ambrose Shortly after 9p.m. on Jan. 28th this storm killed 98 people & injured 133 | |
| Richmond Times | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 33 | 28 | 32 | 39 | 40 | |
| | | | | | | 13 | 22 | 26 | 31 | 27 | |
| | | | | | | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| 3 | 17.7 | 1983 | Feb 10-11 | 2 | 9-Wed | 4.4 | 13.3 | | | Annandale 18.8 inches-Lightning in MD suburbs & Frederick MD reported 30 inches. Maximum Snow Depths - Extreme Eastern WVA and Extreme NW Virginia On the 11th winds in the Richmond area caused three-foot high drifts. The cost of clearing the snow from VA roads came to \$9 million. | |
| Alexandria, VA Times | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 43 | 36 | 31 | 38 | 33 | |
| | | | | | | 22 | 29 | 22 | 19 | 19 | |
| | | | | | | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | |
| 4 | 17.2 | 1908 | Dec 22-23 | 2 | 21-Mon | 15.0 | 2.2 | | | Richmond's Greatest December Snowstorm - Wet Snow did much damage The heavy wet snow brought down many trees with >1,300 telephones being put out of commission along with telegraph wires. Precip. started as rain to snow that ended 6:30PM then rain 6:30PM-9:15PM back to snow ending on 23rd. Wet Snow and High Winds Brought Down Electrical Wires | |
| Time Record is not complete | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 53 | 44 | 35 | 35 | 44 | |
| | | | | | | 35 | 30 | 24 | 20 | 33 | |
| | | | | | | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | |
| 5 | 16.3 | 1899 | Feb 11-14 | 4 | 10-Fri | 1.3 | 7.5 | 6.5 | 1.0 | Feb.11th was the coldest day/coldest snow 11°F & -2°F with 1.3 inches of snow The Maximum Snow Depths were in Northern Virginia & West of the DC area This storm was the 2nd coldest & started 3:20PM on 11th & ended 9:30PM on 14th 15th a high was over VA and the minimum was 6°F (Snow on ground 17 days in Feb) | |
| Richmond Times | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 14 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 28 | |
| | | | | | | -3 | -2 | 6 | 7 | 5 | |
| | | | | | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | |
| 6 | 15.2 | 1962 | Mar 05-07 | 3 | 4-Sun | 9.3 | 5.3 | 0.6 | | Also - Ash Wed. Storm-Great Damage to Coastal area from high winds/water Personal Story About the 1962 Storm "The Day Shenandoah Valley Stood Still" Only 1996 was deeper in the Shenandoah Valley and the 1996 storm was a colder storm but on the 19th in 1996 a great warm-up caused flooding | |
| Rockingham Co. Times | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 47 | 36 | 36 | 38 | 42 | |
| | | | | | | 18 | 29 | 32 | 32 | 22 | |
| | | | | | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | |
| 7 | 14.9 | 1980 | Jan 04-05 | 2 | 4-Fri | 1.6 | 13.3 | | | This 14.9 inches was Richmond's Third Largest January Snowstorm This was a heavy wet snow and coastal areas were hit the hardest. Williamsburg , Virginia had 18 inches and the Shenandoah Valley had much less. The Shenandoah Valley had only 7 inches | |
| Alexandria Times | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 41 | 33 | 35 | 45 | 46 | |
| | | | | | | 32 | 27 | 18 | 19 | 34 | |
| | | | | | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | |
| 8 | 14.8 | 1966 | Jan 26-27 | 2 | 25-Tue | 13.2 | 1.6 | | | The 2nd of a series of snows-Rockingham Co., VA had 36 inches in 9 days Richmond was on the south edge of the heavy snow the Valley & NY had more Diary of this Snowstorm of 1966 - The 1st time VA Tech was closed for snow A Daily-News Record Newspaper - VA Snow Emergency Declared by Godwin | |
| No Time Record | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 32 | 27 | 35 | 29 | 18 | |
| | | | | | | 23 | 20 | 19 | 8 | 8 | |
| | | | | | | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | |
| 9 | 13.0 | 1980 | Mar 01-02 | 2 | 29-Fri | 10.6 | 2.4 | | | Richmond's largest March snowfall and also the coldest for March The Greatest Snow Depths were in NC - Elizabeth City had 25 inches Harrisonburg (Dale Enterprise) had 10 inches Elkton had around 1 foot of snow Cape Hatteras reported a wind gust to 62mph & drifting snow was also a problem. | |
| Alexandria Times | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 40 | 21 | 24 | 42 | 56 | |
| | | | | | | 20 | 13 | 16 | 16 | 16 | |
| | | | | | | 29 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 10 | 12.6 | 1936 | Feb 07 | 1 | 6-Thu | 12.6 | | | | Norfolk recorded 9 inches, the city's heaviest snowfall in the last 40 yrs. Not the City's coldest storm but after the storm the -10°F is the lowest Feb. temp. The storm passed 60 miles E. of Cape Hatteras so the biggest snows were coastal. The heavy snow set the stage for the great spring flood in March of 1936. | |
| Washington DC Times | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 33 | 26 | 34 | 48 | 34 | |
| | | | | | | 18 | 5 | -10 | 16 | 12 | |
| | | | | | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| 11 | 12.0 | 1996 | Jan 6-8 | 3 | 5-Fri | 6.0 | 3.5 | 2.5 | | Many areas in VA had more snow than Richmond; The 1st of 3 storms. Luray had 33.5 inches & holds the VA record for the most snow in 1 day. The 19th a great warm-up caused some VA stations to lose 10 inches of snow overnight and flooding started on the 20th see Northern VA link On the 9th an additional 1.4 inches of snow that came from a clipper and was not included. | |
| Falls Church, VA Times | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 40 | 28 | 21 | 32 | 32 | |
| | | | | | | 27 | 20 | 19 | 14 | 20 | |
| | | | | | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
| 12 | 11.5 | 2018 | Dec 09 | 1 | 09-Sun | 0.0 | 11.5 | | | The forecast was for 3 to 6 inches of snow & many areas got near 1 foot Obs. Taken Each Hr. From 0735 to 2400 - Stormstorm lasted abt. 15 Hrs. Snowfall Map of Accumulations in VA and NC Video Taken During the One Day Snowstorm | |
| Richmond Times | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 48 | 43 | 33 | 36 | 42 | |
| | | | | | | 28 | 27 | 30 | 24 | 23 | |
| | | | | | | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | |
| 13 | 11.4 | 2016 | Jan 22-23 | 2 | 21-Thu | 6.1 | 5.3 | | | Storm forecast was for 2 feet of snow and N. VA got more than that. The deepest snows were in Northern VA - Frederick, VA & Frederick, MD. An detailed article from Weatherwise about the February 2016 Storm | |
| Richmond Times | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 36 | 28 | 28 | 40 | 46 | |
| | | | | | | 24 | 22 | 24 | 17 | 15 | |
| | | | | | | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | |
| 14 | 11.0 | 2000 | Jan 25 | 1 | 24-Mon | 11.0 | | | | This storm that did not go out to sea causing a very "Poor Forecast" This storm hit Baltimore and the Delmarva coastal areas the hardest The storm was worst in N. VA & 20 inches was common in the DC area The Storm Didn't Match the Weather Forecast | |
| Falls Church, VA Times | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 40 | 33 | 33 | 29 | 34 | |
| | | | | | | 27 | 27 | 23 | 11 | -1 | |
| | | | | | | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |

Richmond's 25 Greatest Snowstorms

The storm duration is determined by the number of consecutive days with measurable snow from the same weather system. (Trace Amt. Do Not Count)

| # | Amount Inches | Time of Occurrence YR. MONTH DAY/S | Days of Storm Duration | Day Started | Amt. 1st Day | Amt. 2nd Day | Amt. 3rd Day | Amt. 4th Day | Remarks lines underlined are links. Links to the "Weather History" one may need to scroll down to find the year of interest. |
|--|------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 10.9 | 1979 Feb 18-19 | 2 | 17-Sat | 7.2 | 3.7 | | | This snow had the heaviest snow rate I have ever seen yet to this day <u>The deepest snows in this storm were in Maryland and Delaware</u> Phil Poole a NWS employee measured at 6AM 13 inches at 16°F and at 7AM had 20 inches giving a snow intensity of 7 inches in one hour. |
| Alexandria, VA Times | | Max. Temperature °F | | 21 | 14 | 40 | 44 | 50 | |
| Started 18 th @ 2:00PM | | Min. Temperature °F | | 8 | 6 | 10 | 3 | 27 | |
| Ended 19 th @ ~10:00AM | | Map Links for Days | | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | |
| 16 | 10.4 | 1917 Dec 12-14 | 3 | 11-Tue | 9.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | | After this storm a cold Air mass gave Richmond its lowest Dec. Temp. of -2°F <u>The Richmond Times had only a little to report about this storm</u> Snow cover from this storm lasted 8 days with measurable snow |
| Richmond Times | | Max. Temperature °F | | 26 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 29 | |
| Started 12 th Pre- 1:55PM | | Min. Temperature °F | | 12 | 20 | 22 | 15 | 7 | |
| Ended 13 th @ 9:25PM | | Map Links for Days | | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | |
| 17 | 10.1 | 1948 Jan-Feb 31-1 | 2 | 30-Fri | 7.0 | 3.1 | | | A low pressure developed over the Gulf of Mexico and moved across northern Florida then taking a NE track passing closest to Cape Hatteras. It is interesting that Richmond had 10.1 inches from this storm and Norfolk had only 5.8 inches. |
| No Time Record | | Max. Temperature °F | | 33 | 23 | 34 | 43 | 48 | |
| | | Min. Temperature °F | | 19 | 11 | 19 | 9 | 9 | |
| | | Map Links for Days | | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| 18 | 10.0 | 1915 Apr 3 | 1 | 2-Fri | 10.0 | | | | Cape Henry had 74mph NE winds on the 3rd - Precip. started as rain on the 2nd <u>All Wires to City Down - No April Storm Comparable - Wet Snow & High Winds</u> <u>Deepest Apr. Snow in Richmond-Not Since 1887 Has Norfolk Seen Such A Storm</u> <u>Wet Snow and High Winds Brought Down Electrical Wires</u> |
| Richmond Times | | Max. Temperature °F | | 49 | 37 | 52 | 63 | 77 | |
| Started 3 rd @ 2:30AM | | Min. Temperature °F | | 33 | 32 | 32 | 34 | 51 | |
| Ended 3 rd @ 5:10PM | | Map Links for Days | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | |
| 18 | 10.0 | 2010 Jan 30-31 | 2 | 29-Fri | 9.5 | 0.5 | | | Central VA had more snow than N.VA - DC had 6.4 and Baltimore only 5.0 inches <u>Glen Allen had 12.1 inches-Western Henrico, Louisa, Goochland Co. had more</u> <u>Snow Depths in Northern VA clearly show the storm track was to the South</u> Between 1100-Noon of the 30th Glen Allen had 2 inches of snow in 1hr. |
| Richmond Times | | Max. Temperature °F | | 34 | 27 | 32 | 44 | 41 | |
| Started 30 th @ 4:10AM | | Min. Temperature °F | | 24 | 18 | 12 | 12 | 21 | |
| Ended 31 st @ 2:20AM | | Map Links for Days | | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | |
| 19 | 9.7 | 1902 Feb 15-17 | 3 | 14-Fri | 3.6 | 0.1 | 6 | | This was a fast-moving storm and was worse in NY area This storm did little damage in the Richmond area and was short lived The snow started in the early evening hours and lasted past midnight but the morning of the 17th the sky was clear |
| Richmond Times | | Max. Temperature °F | | 40 | 32 | 35 | 38 | 39 | |
| Started 15 th | | Min. Temperature °F | | 19 | 27 | 29 | 28 | 26 | |
| Ended 17 th @ 1:30PM | | Map Links for Days | | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | |
| 20 | 9.3 | 1947 Feb 19-20 | 2 | 18-Tue | 3.7 | 5.6 | | | Norfolk, VA on the 19th and 20th had only a trace of snow but 0.65 inches of precipitation. Charlottesville reported 1/4 inch of snow on the 19th & 4.0 inches on the 20th and 7.0 inches on the 21st and reported 11 inches on the ground. |
| No Time Record | | Max. Temperature °F | | 66 | 46 | 30 | 38 | 37 | |
| | | Min. Temperature °F | | 25 | 26 | 20 | 21 | 22 | |
| | | Map Links for Days | | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | |
| 21 | 9.2 | 1930 Jan 30-31 | 2 | 29-Wed | 9.0 | 0.2 | | | Norfolk on the 29-30 reported 4 inches of snow and 0.72 inches Precip. Charlottesville reported 11 inches with 3.0 inches on the 29th and 8.0 inches on the 30th with 0.85 inches of liquid precipitation. |
| No Time Record | | Max. Temperature °F | | 33 | 26 | 42 | 44 | 54 | |
| | | Min. Temperature °F | | 22 | 18 | 4 | 10 | 36 | |
| | | Map Links for Days | | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | |
| 21 | 9.2 | 1965 Jan 15-17 | 3 | 14-Thu | 2.2 | 6.3 | 0.7 | | Norfolk had 1.02 inches liquid precip. & 5.2 inches snow. - Ashland had 0.59 inches & 7.0 inches of snow. Charlottesville had 0.24 inches liquid and 5.2 inches of snow. Blacksburg, in SW Virginia had 0.42 inches of liquid and 7.0 inches snow. The snow in there started on the 15th at 8PM and ended at 3AM on the 16th & again from 2PM to 11PM |
| No Time Record | | Max. Temperature °F | | 42 | 31 | 25 | 24 | 34 | |
| | | Min. Temperature °F | | 20 | 17 | 18 | 3 | 16 | |
| | | Map Links for Days | | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | |
| 22 | 8.9 | 1960 Feb 13-14 | 2 | 12-Fri | 8.3 | 0.6 | | | Valentine Storm - Harrisonburg had 6.5 inches their deepest since Mar.9, 1958. Charlottesville reported 8 inches, Ashland 10 inches and Norfolk had 3.9 inches of snow. The snow started during the night of the 13th in SW Virginia where the heaviest snowfall totals were reported with up to 16 inches. |
| Rockingham Co. Times | | Max. Temperature °F | | 50 | 35 | 35 | 41 | 45 | |
| Started 13 th @ ~6AM | | Min. Temperature °F | | 29 | 26 | 25 | 20 | 16 | |
| Ended 14 th Pre-Sunrise | | Map Links for Days | | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | |
| 23 | 8.8 | 1960 Mar 2-3 | 2 | 1-Tue | 3.3 | 5.5 | | | The Shenandoah Valley in Rockingham County had 9 to 9.5 inches Locally the most snow was in western VA & WVA but MA & RI had more. Roanoke had 17 ins. one of the higher totals & drifting was a problem. Drifting was also a problem in parts of VA - Rockingham Co. Picture |
| Rockingham Co. Times | | Max. Temperature °F | | 39 | 32 | 29 | 32 | 31 | |
| Started 02 nd @ ~8PM | | Min. Temperature °F | | 23 | 20 | 24 | 21 | 14 | |
| Ended 03 rd | | Map Links for Days | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| 23 | 8.8 | 1966 Dec 23-24 | 2 | 22-Thu | 3.0 | 5.8 | | | This was a Central VA Snowstorm and only New England had more. Ashland reported 8.0 inches of snow on the 24th and 25th. Charlottesville on the 24th and 25th had 8.2 inches of snow & 0.57 inches of liquid precip. Norfolk had only 1.0 inch of snow and 0.64 inches of liquid precip. |
| Rockingham Co. Times | | Max. Temperature °F | | 48 | 35 | 28 | 34 | 38 | |
| Started 23 th @ 3:30PM | | Min. Temperature °F | | 28 | 25 | 20 | 15 | 15 | |
| Ended 24 th @ 6:30PM | | Map Links for Days | | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | |
| 24 | 8.6 | 1904 Jan 28-29 | 2 | 27-Wed | 3.4 | 5.2 | | | The public was worried this storm might be like the Feb 1899 storm The storm total for this storm was only 8.6 inches even though the map features before the storm were similar to that of the 1899 storm |
| Richmond Times | | Max. Temperature °F | | 34 | 28 | 28 | 34 | 34 | |
| Started 28 th @ 11:10AM | | Min. Temperature °F | | 20 | 22 | 22 | 11 | 23 | |
| Ended 29 th @ 7:25PM | | Map Links for Days | | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| 25 | 8.4 | 1987 Jan 25-26 | 2 | 24-Sat | 5.0 | 3.4 | | | This was known as the "Double Whammy" as two big snows were 3 days apart This was a Central VA, Eastern MD and DE snowstorm The 25 Anniversary of the Double Whammy - A Washington Post article. |
| Falls Church, VA Times | | Max. Temperature °F | | 37 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 35 | |
| Started 25 th @ 6:30AM | | Min. Temperature °F | | 7 | 18 | 18 | 7 | -1 | |
| Ended 26 th @ 9:00AM | | Map Links for Days | | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |
| 25 | 8.4 | 1971 Mar 26 | 1 | 26-Sun. | 8.4 | | | | Parts of northern and central Georgia experienced their worst snow and ice storm since 1935. Hatcheries in GA without power was costly. This was the deepest NW SC ever had so late in the season <u>Richmond was on the N. edge of significant snow. -- More</u> |
| Started on the 25 at 4PM in Greenville, SC & into S. VA late 25 & VA on the 26 | | Max. Temperature °F | | 47 | 46 | 36 | 48 | 63 | |
| | | Min. Temperature °F | | 28 | 25 | 29 | 26 | 28 | |
| | | Map Links for Days | | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |
| 26 | 8.0 | 1934 Feb 25 | 1 | 24-Sat | 8.0 | | | | Norfolk reported 2.63 inches of liquid precipitation and 6.0 inches of snow. Charlottesville reported 1.35 inches of precipitation & 6.5 inches of snow starting at 6AM and ending at midnight. |
| Charlottesville, VA Times | | Max. Temperature °F | | 34 | 28 | 30 | 23 | 28 | |
| Started 25 th @ 6:00AM | | Min. Temperature °F | | 16 | 20 | 18 | 4 | -1 | |
| Ended 25 th @ 12:00PM | | Map Links for Days | | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |