

NOUS46 KSEW 202118
PNSSEW

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SEATTLE WA
120 PM PST MON DEC 20 2004

...THE YEAR 2004 IN REVIEW FOR WESTERN WASHINGTON WEATHER...

2004 WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY WINTER WEATHER EARLY IN THE YEAR...THE SECOND MOST TORNADOS ON RECORD IN ONE YEAR AND FLOODING NEAR THE END OF THE YEAR. THERE WERE FOUR FATALITIES ALL INVOLVING AVALANCHES... AND THREE INJURIES ALL FROM LIGHTNING. FLOOD AND WEATHER PROPERTY DAMAGES TOTALLED \$4.5 MILLION...PENDING DAMAGE TOTALS FROM THE FLOODING IN LATE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER AND AN EARLY DECEMBER CASCADE FOOTHILLS EAST WIND EVENT.

THE YEAR BEGAN WITH A SERIES OF WINTER STORMS THAT INCLUDED SNOW...FREEZING RAIN AND ICE. 4 TO 8 INCHES OF SNOW WAS COMMON IN THE WESTERN INTERIOR BEFORE IT TURNED TO FREEZING RAIN IN SOME LOCATIONS...KNOCKING POWER OUT TO NEARLY 150000 CUSTOMERS.

WASHINGTON STATE HAD NINE TORNADOS...SECOND ONLY TO THE ALL TIME RECORD OF 14 TORNADOS IN 1997. THREE OF THE TORNADOS OCCURRED IN NORTHWEST WASHINGTON?WHILE THREE WERE IN SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON AND THE REST EAST OF THE CASCADES. ALL WERE SHORT-LIVED AND DID NOT CAUSE ANY FATALITIES OR INJURIES?TYPICAL OF WASHINGTON TORNADOS. WASHINGTON STATE AVERAGES ONE OR TWO TORNADOS EACH YEAR.

HEAVY RAINFALL PRODUCED FLOODING DURING THANKSGIVING AND AGAIN TWO WEEKS LATER. MAJOR FLOODING OCCURRED ALONG THE NOOKSACK...SKAGIT ...TOLT AND SNOQUALMIE RIVERS.

JANUARY AND THE SECOND HALF OF AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER WERE COOL AND WET...WHILE THE REST OF THE YEAR WAS RELATIVELY WARM AND DRY.

OVERALL ANNUAL PRECIPITATION WAS BELOW NORMAL IN WESTERN WASHINGTON. WITH ABOUT A WEEK AND A HALF TO GO...MUCH OF WESTERN WASHINGTON WAS BETWEEN FOUR AND TEN INCHES OF RAIN BEHIND AVERAGE.

TEMPERATURES WERE BETWEEN ONE AND TWO DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. ONLY SEPTEMBER WAS SIGNIFICANTLY COOLER THAN AVERAGE...ABOUT ONE TO 2.5 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL. IN FACT...A WARM DRY SUMMER WAS ABRUPTLY TERMINATED IN MID AUGUST BY A PERIOD OF COOL WET WEATHER.

LIGHTNING INJURED A WOMAN IN A GRAHAM MOBILE HOME...A WORKER AT SEATAC AIRPORT AND A TOLEDO ROOFER. LIGHTNING PRODUCES AN AVERAGE OF ONE FATALITY IN THE STATE EVERY TWO YEARS...AND SEVERAL INJURIES EACH YEAR.

WIND STORMS WERE RELATIVELY FEW AND MINOR. THE STRONGEST REPORTED WIND SPEED WAS A GUST TO 75 MPH IN THE CASCADE FOOTHILLS IN EARLY DECEMBER.

A LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT 2004 EVENTS IN WESTERN WASHINGTON IS GIVEN BELOW...AS WELL AS RECORD TEMPERATURES FOR SELECTED LOCATIONS.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

TORNADOS/WATERSPOUTS/FUNNEL CLOUDS

4/27 - SUMAS - WHATCOM COUNTY
A F0 TORNADO TOUCHED DOWN NEAR SUMAS AND TRACKED 2.7 MILES. THERE

WERE NO INJURIES...BUT A BARN LOST SOME SIDING AND PART OF THE ROOF.

5/27 - TENINO - THURSTON COUNTY

AN F1 TORNADO TOUCHED DOWN FOR LESS THAN A MINUTE. NO ONE WAS HURT...BUT A BARN WAS SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED.

5/27 - TWO SEPARATE FUNNEL CLOUDS (RAPIDLY ROTATING COLUMN OF AIR NOT IN CONTACT WITH THE GROUND) WERE REPORTED NEAR FALL CITY AND MILL CREEK.

6/5 - STANWOOD - SNOHOMISH COUNTY

A F0 TORNADO BRIEFLY TOUCHED DOWN ON INTERSTATE 5 JUST SOUTH OF THE STANWOOD INTERCHANGE. THERE WERE NO INJURIES.

LIGHTNING

2/06 - SEATAC AIRPORT - KING COUNTY

AN AIRPORT WORKER WAS DAZED AFTER LIGHTNING STRUCK THE PLANE HE WAS LOADING ON THE TARMACK.

5/27 - TOLEDO - LEWIS COUNTY

A MAN WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED AFTER BEING STRUCK BY LIGHTNING WHILE WORKING ON A ROOF.

8/17 - 10 MILES EAST OF NORDLAND - JEFFERSON COUNTY

LIGHTNING STARTED A FIRE THAT BURNED A STORAGE SHED TO THE GROUND.

9/1 - GRAHAM - PIERCE COUNTY

LIGHTNING STRUCK A CHAIN LINK FENCE OUTSIDE A MOBILE HOME... TRAVELED THROUGH THE METAL SKIRTING UNDER THE HOME DAMAGING IT AND INJURING THE WOMAN INSIDE.

9/1 - BRIER - SNOHOMISH COUNTY

A LIGHTNING STRIKE DESTROYED A TREE AND FRIED THE WIRING IN A NEARBY HOME.

HIGH WINDS

1/03 - NORTH INTERIOR

STRONG WINDS OF UP TO 61 MPH CAUSED SCATTERED POWER OUTAGES IN THE SAN JUANS AND ISLANDS OFF WHATCOM COUNTY.

1/30 - ADMIRALTY INLET AREA

HIGH WINDS OF UP TO 52 MPH CAUSED SOME POWER OUTAGES MAINLY IN ISLAND COUNTY...BUT A FEW IN SOUTHWEST SKAGIT AND EASTERN CLALLAM COUNTIES. A TRUCK WAS BLOWN SIDWAYS AGAINST THE GUARDRAIL OF SR20S DECEPTION PASS BRIDGE.

2/24 - TACOMA AREA - SOUTHWEST INTERIOR

STRONG WINDS OF UP TO 40 MPH KNOCKED POWER OUT TO ABOUT 2000 HOMES. A FEW TREES FELL...ONE DAMAGING A CAR.

3/18 - WESTERN WASHINGTON

WINDS OF UP TO 45 MPH KNOCKED POWER OUT TO ABOUT 10000 CUSTOMERS FROM EVERETT TO OLYMPIA AND THE CENTRAL COAST. SEVERAL TREES WERE DOWNED?ONE ACROSS SR16 BLOCKING TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT AN HOUR.

4/27 - WESTERN INTERIOR

NEARLY 200000 CUSTOMERS LOST POWER FROM HIGH WINDS OF UP TO 52 MPH. HUNDREDS OF TREES WERE BLOWN DOWN AND PART OF THE ROOF AT MARYSVILLE-PILCHUCK HIGH SCHOOL WAS BLOWN OFF. TOTAL DAMAGE FROM THIS EVENT WAS ESTIMATED AT 3 MILLION DOLLARS.

12/05 - CENTRAL CASCADE FOOTHILLS
STRONG EASTERLY WINDS FROM THE CASCADES OF UP TO 75 MPH KNOCKED
DOZENS OF TREES DOWN AND ABOUT 40000 CUSTOMERS LOST POWER. DAMAGE
ESTIMATES WERE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

WINTER STORMS

1/3-4 - CENTRAL CASCADE FOOTHILLS - TACOMA AREA - SOUTHWEST INTERIOR
5 TO 12 INCHES OF SNOW CLOSED SOME MAJOR TRAVEL ARTERIALS INCLUDING
SR512 AND SR410 FOR SEVERAL HOURS. SEVERAL HUNDRED COLLISIONS WERE
REPORTED IN PIERCE AND THURSTON COUNTIES...MOST INVOLVING VEHICLES
SLIDING INTO THE DITCH.

1/06-07 - WESTERN INTERIOR
3 TO 8 INCHES OF SNOW FELL ACROSS MUCH OF THE INTERIOR TURNING TO
FREEZING RAIN IN SOME LOCATIONS FOR A SHORT TIME. MOST SCHOOLS
CLOSED AND MANY BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES CLOSED AS WELL.
NEARLY 150000 CUSTOMERS WERE WITHOUT POWER. TRAFFIC WAS
SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED.

AVALANCHE

4/26 - NORTH CASCADES
A SNOWBOARDER WAS KILLED IN A SNOW SLIDE ON MT BAKER.

6/13 - CENTRAL CASCADES
TWO CLIMBERS ON MT RAINIER WERE SWEEPED TO THEIR DEATHS BY AN
AVALANCHE ON LIBERTY RIDGE.

10/24 - CENTRAL CASCADES
TWO CLIMBERS WERE CAUGHT IN A SNOW SLIDE NEAR THE 11700 FOOT
ELEVATION ON MT RAINIER. ONE CLIMBER WAS ABLE TO DIG HIMSELF OUT BUT
THE OTHER DIED.

FLOODS/HEAVY RAIN/MUDSLIDES

01/29-31 - WESTERN INTERIOR
FOLLOWING 1 TO 4 INCHES OF RAINFALL...MINOR FLOODING OCCURRED ON THE
SNOHOMISH...TOLT...AND SKOOKUMCHUCK RIVERS AND MODERATE FLOODING ON
THE SNOQUALMIE RIVER. A FEW ROADS WERE CLOSED IN THE SNOQUALMIE
VALLEY.

8/22-24 - WESTERN INTERIOR
SEVERAL PERIODS OF HEAVY RAINFALL PRODUCED LOCAL URBAN FLOODING.
SEVERAL DOZEN HOMES IN SEATTLES MADISON VALLEY SUFFERED DAMAGE AS
WELL AS IN THE MOUNT VERNON AREA.

11/24-25 - WESTERN WASHINGTON
A PERIOD OF HEAVY RAINFALL PUSHED THE NOOKSACK...SKAGIT...BOGACHIEL
...STILLAGUAMISH...TOLT...SKYKOMISH...SNOQUALMIE...SNOHOMISH AND
SKOKOMISH RIVERS OVER THEIR BANKS. THE FLOODING WAS MINOR WITH THE
EXCEPTION OF MAJOR FLOODING ALONG THE NOOKSACK AND TOLT RIVERS.
DAMAGE ESTIMATES ARE PENDING.

12/10-12 - WESTERN WASHINGTON
THE SATSOP...SKAGIT...STILLAGUAMISH...SKYKOMISH...SNOQUALIME...
TOLT...SNOHOMISH...BOGACHIEL AND SKOKOMISH RIVERS AS WELL AS
ISSAQUAH CREEK ROSE ABOVE FLOOD STAGE AS A RESULT OF HEAVY
RAINFALL. MAJOR FLOODING OCCURRED ON AT LEAST THE SKAGIT AND
SNOQUALMIE RIVERS. DAMAGES ESTIMATES WERE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

RECORD TEMPERATURES SET

SEATTLE-TACOMA AIRPORT

HIGHS

LOWS

MAR 29	78	AUG 2	54
APR 3	71		
APR 10	74 - TIED		
APR 11	80		
JUN 20	88		
JUL 24	95		
AUG 9	92		
DEC 18	54		

OLYMPIA

MAR 8	70	AUG 2	49
MAR 21	71	AUG 28	49
MAR 29	79		
APR 3	74		
APR 11	82		
APR 26	82		
JUN 20	89		
JUL 23	99		
JUL 24	99		
AUG 9	94		
DEC 18	56		

QUILLAYUTE AIRPORT NEAR FORKS

MAR 8	64	NONE	
APR 10	79		
APR 11	79		
JUL 22	92		
JUL 23	93		
DEC 18	59		

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN WESTERN WASHINGTON...
CONTACT NWS SEATTLE...OR NWS PORTLAND FOR AREAS IN
EXTREME SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON ALONG THE COLUMBIA RIVER.
FOR INFORMATION IN EASTERN WASHINGTON...CONTACT EITHER
NWS SPOKANE OR NWS PENDLETON.

BUEHNER/NEHER/GAEBEL

NNNN