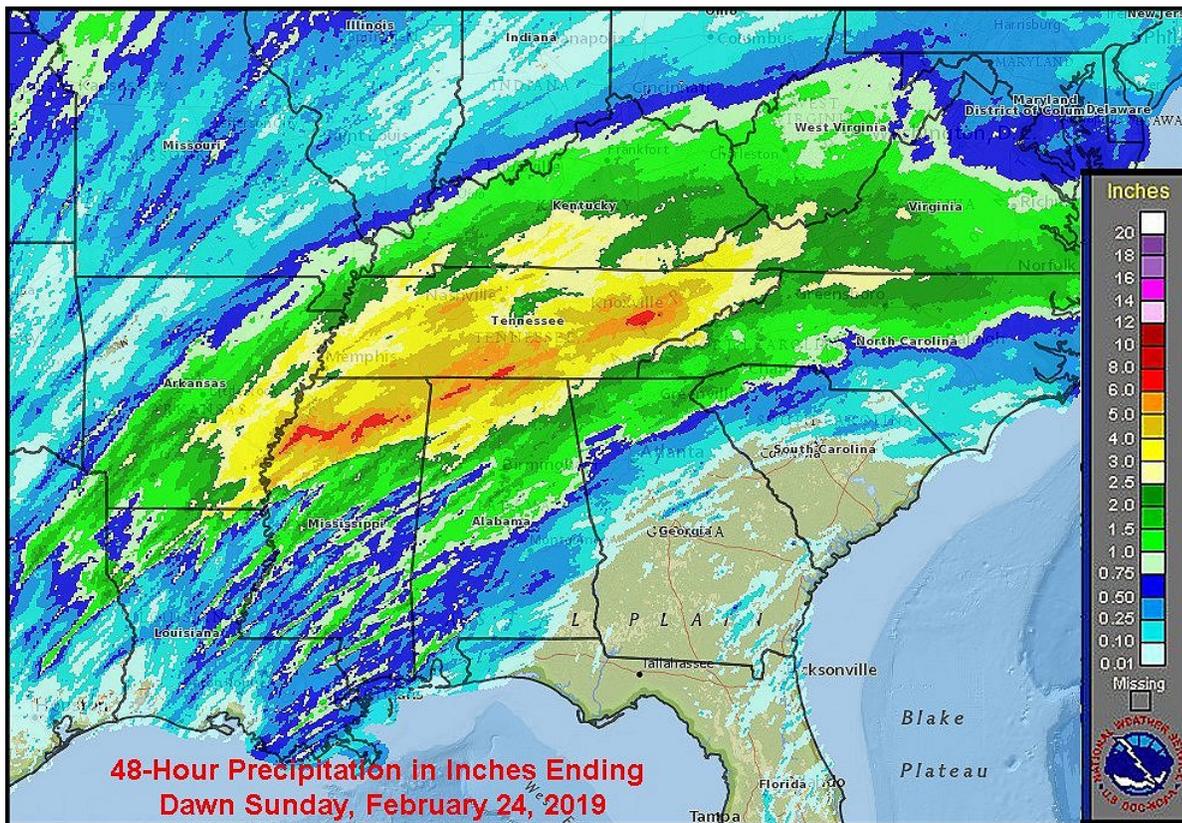


Brutal U.S. Weekend Storm Abates Sunday Morning

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, February 24 (World Weather Inc.) – [A brutal mid-winter storm impacted a large part of the U.S. Midwest and interior southeastern parts of the nation during the weekend as expected. The storm produced torrential rain and flooding in the Tennessee River Basin and a part of the northern Delta while heavy snow fell from western Kansas to Minnesota and Wisconsin.](#) Very strong wind speeds were noted as well resulting in blizzard conditions in some of the snowfall area. Some power outages occurred and road closures were suspected. Most of the storm was abating at dawn Sunday, but another storm of significant size may bear down on many of the same areas late this week.

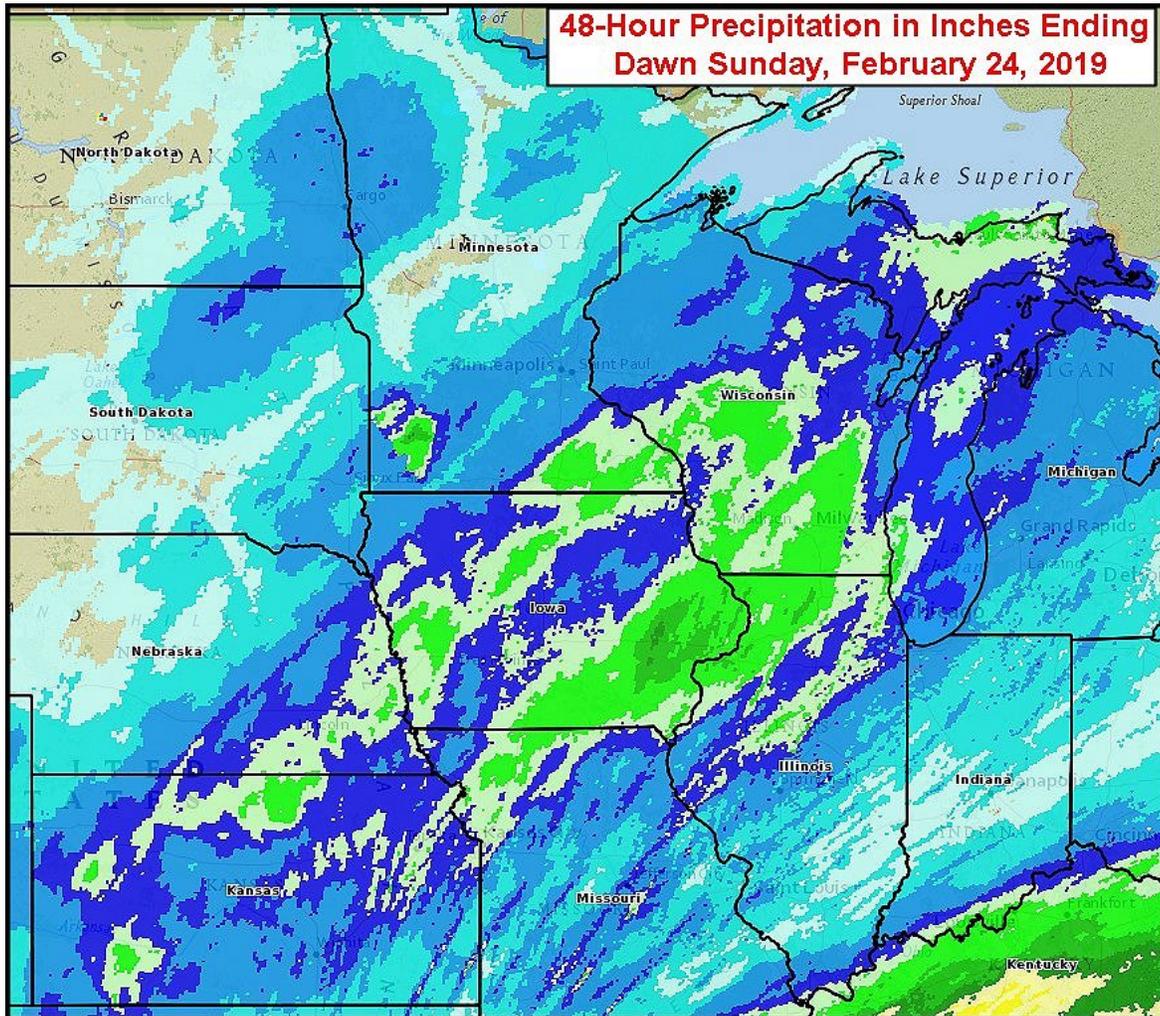


[Rainfall during the 48-hours ending at dawn Sunday varied from 2.00 to more than 6.00 inches from southeastern Arkansas through the heart of Tennessee and northern Mississippi to central and southern Kentucky, southern West Virginia and southwestern Virginia. Most of this region was saturated long before the weekend rain came along and the rainfall was more than enough to induce new flooding while worsening that which was already under way.](#) Minor to moderate flooding was reported this morning from southern Indiana and southwestern Ohio into Kentucky and Tennessee as well as in much of the Delta. Major flooding was impacting the northern Delta and areas northward to the lowermost Ohio River Valley.

Some of the heavy rain was accompanied by severe thunderstorms with reports of a few tornadoes, damaging wind and hail coming from Alabama and Mississippi.

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Damage to wheat fields in low lying areas has likely occurred and some of the corn production areas have been impacted as well. In some years corn planting begins in late February and early March across a part of the Delta and far south, but flooding in the areas noted above may prevent that for a while. Soil temperatures have cooled greatly in recent days after being high enough to support planting earlier last week. The region needs to dry down and warm up for a while before fieldwork can begin – at least in the wetter locations. Some planting may begin soon if it has not already begun near the Gulf of Mexico Coast.

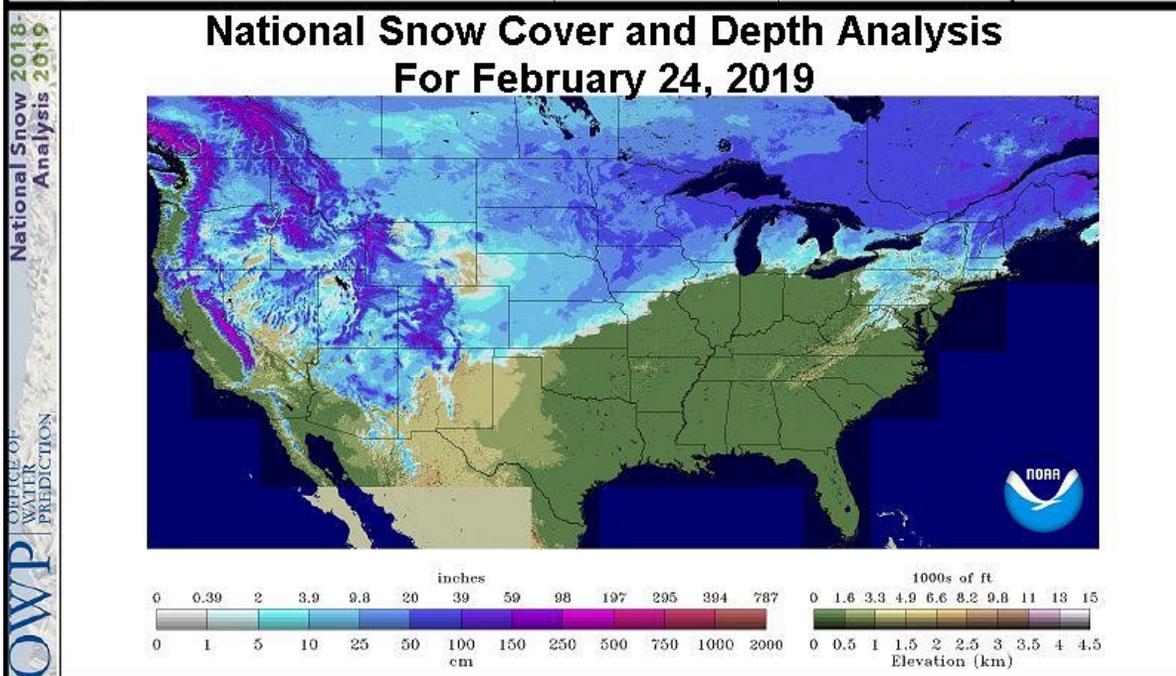
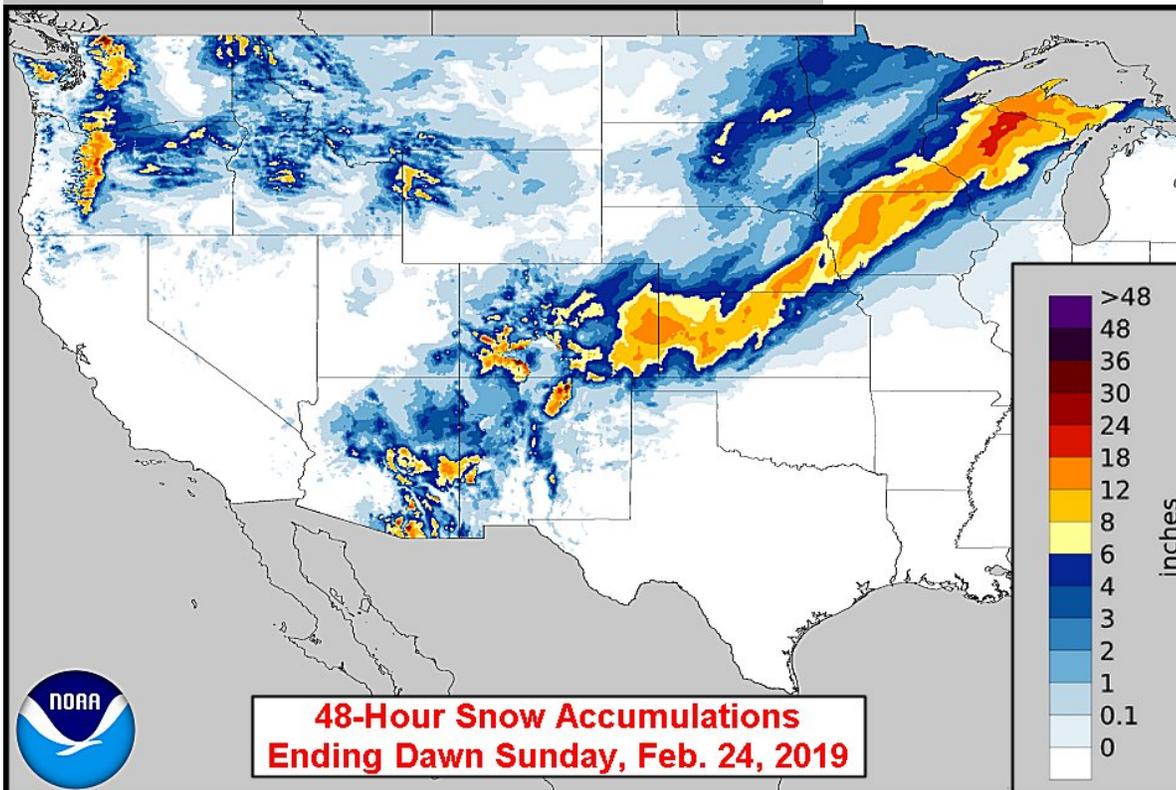


In the meantime, a mix of rain, freezing rain, sleet and snow occurred across the heart of the Midwest. Moisture totals from Kansas to Wisconsin and southern Minnesota varied from 0.25 to 0.75 inch with many areas receiving more than 1.00 inch of moisture. A few areas in eastern Iowa were reporting nearly 2.00 inches. *Much of this region of precipitation occurred as snow, however. Snowfall varied from 4 to 10 inches with a couple of reports to nearly a foot (12 inches).*

Livestock stress reached an extreme for a little while during the weekend from Colorado and western Kansas to Minnesota and Wisconsin. Visibilities in some of the snowfall area went to zero and stayed there for a few hours with much of the heavy snow occurring in six hours or less. Wind speeds were high enough to produce blizzard and near

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blizzard conditions in much of the snowfall region with high wind speeds also occurring as far to the south as the southern Plains were little to no snow fell.



The additional snow in the upper Midwest has brought some totals over 20 inches with 10-20 inches extending to the southwest of that region into southeastern Nebraska and much of central and northwestern Iowa. The weekend storm has further expanded the snowfield and it now reaches as far to the southwest as the Oklahoma Panhandle, central

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Kansas, northwestern Missouri and northern most Illinois and southern Michigan. Much of the lower Midwest experienced rain from this weekend's storm and temperatures were warm enough to melt most of the snow that had previously been in the region.

The roots of the weekend storm were in the southwestern corner of the nation with up to 4 feet of snow reported in the mountains of central and northern Arizona. The storm was the greatest to impact the southern Rocky Mountain region this winter and may have been one of the larger storms to impact those areas in a couple of years.

The weekend storm system was just one of many that have impacted the heart of the Midwest this year and the pattern is far from being over. More snow and rain events are expected over the next couple of months and more flooding is expected. World Weather, Inc. expects the upper Midwest to deal with flooding late this winter and in the early spring as the frequent precipitation pattern prevails while snow melts. The situation may lead to planting delays in that region as well as the lower Midwest and Tennessee River Basin.

Planting in the lower Midwest and Tennessee River Basin usually occurs in April and the second half of March leaving plenty of time for improved weather. However, World Weather, Inc. is concerned that the wet weather bias will continue periodically throughout that period of time limiting fieldwork to small periods of temporarily improved weather.

Most of the weekend storm will concentrate on Ontario, Quebec and the far northeastern corner of the United States today. Snow and blowing snow with blizzard conditions will continue in the Great Lakes region as well as in much of central and western Ontario. Additional snowfall of 4 to more than 10 inches will occur in Upper Michigan while northeastern Wisconsin will receive 1 to 5 inches. Some locations in Upper Michigan may end up with more than 12 inches. Snowfall elsewhere in the upper Midwest will be limited while parts of New England receive up to 8 inches.

A new weaker weather system will bring a follow up snow event to the northern Plains Tuesday and across the upper Midwest Tuesday afternoon and evening before moving to the Great Lakes region Tuesday night. The system will produce another dusting to 2 inches with a few totals to 3 inches.

Another weak disturbance will move through the Great Plains and Midwest late Wednesday night and Thursday without much meaning. *A larger storm system may develop and impact the northern Plains and Midwest Friday and Saturday, March 1 and 2.* The storm is too far out in the forecast to get specific about the rain amounts and snowfall, but several inches of snow and some significant rain may impact the Midwest once again. Most likely the storm advertised today is too intense and future computer forecast model runs will reduce its potential impact on the region; however, until that happens, a close watch on that potential storm is warranted.

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