



Blizzards are dangerous winter storms that are a combination of blowing snow and wind resulting in low visibility. The upper Midwest, including Illinois, regularly experience blizzards.

The [January 26-27, 1967 blizzard in Chicago](#) was the worst snowstorm on record in Illinois with 23 inches of snow with wind gusts averaging 53mph. The combination of snow and wind caused snowdrifts of 4 to 6 ft high. 73 fatalities can be attributed to this snowstorm with temperatures dropping to 20 below. Airports were shutdown for several days with impassable roads.

The [2011 Groundhog Day Blizzard](#) stranded 900 cars and buses on Chicago's Lake Shore Drive. The combination of 21-inches of snow with winds speeds reaching 35 mph causing 11 fatalities.

- Check on your neighbors and others who may need extra help
- Reference your local National Weather Service forecast
- Check your local winter road conditions using [GettingAroundIllinois.Gov](#)
- Winterize your vehicle by updating your vehicle's [preparedness kit](#)
- Expect to encounter slippery/dangerous roads
- Your travel/commute could be delayed
- Limit your time outside
- Dress in layers and cover up exposed skin
- Gusty winds could cause blowing debris or bring trees down
- Bring your pets indoors



BLIZZARD

WARNING

A storm that contain large amounts of snow OR blowing snow with winds in excess of 35mph and visibility of less than ¼ mile for an extended period of time (at least 3 hours).



EXTREME COLD

WARNING

Issued when dangerously cold air, with or without wind, is expected. Conditions could lead to frostbite or hypothermia.



DID YOU KNOW?

A blizzard that results from snow that has previously fallen is called a ground blizzard.

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