WINTER WEATHER AWARENESS

Two of the most notable winter storms in South Carolina history occurred 20 years apart on February 8-11, 1973, and March 12-14, 1993. In February 1973, the town of Rimini in Clarendon County set the all-time records for February and daily snowfall with 24 inches. More than 18 inches of snow fell across six counties in the Lowcountry, making the 1973 storm the most significant snowstorm to occur in South Carolina since detailed record-keeping began in 1898. Columbia and Charleston set daily records during the blizzard with 15.7 and 7.1 inches, respectively. Both of these records still stand today.

The "Superstorm of 1993," as it was originally termed, struck South Carolina from the coast to the mountains with coastal erosion, storm surge, severe thunderstorms, and heavy snowfall. The 1993 blizzard blasted South Carolina and much of the East Coast of the United States. Wind gusts with speeds of 90 mph were observed at Myrtle Beach. Snowfall totals over a foot were observed across the Foothills and Mountains with generally 6 to 12 inches common across the entire Upstate. Points south of Columbia received little snowfall but did experience the strong winds that accompanied the storm. Record low sea-level pressure readings were reported at Greenville-Spartanburg (28.74 in.Hg) and Columbia (28.63 in.Hg). The pressure record at Columbia broke the old record from Hurricane Hugo (28.68 in.Hg) in 1989. Thousands of motorists were stranded on Interstate 85 from Atlanta, Georgia, to Richmond, Virginia, as the snow fell at rates of one to three inches per hour across the region. Thousands of power outages left people in the dark and cold across the Upstate and in coastal sections where high winds downed trees and powerlines.

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WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

The State Climate Office provides a basic set of **Winter Weather Preparedness Rules** for times when power outages occur or travel is made impossible by weather conditions outside the home:

PREPARE . . .

- ✓**a 3 to 5 day supply** of non-perishable food items, water, and medicine (including a first aid kit).
- ✓**a supply of heating fuel** (i.e. wood, kerosene), **light sources** (i.e. batteries, flash lights), and **communication equipment** (i.e. radio, television) to stay updated on road and weather conditions.
- ✓**water pipes** by wrapping them with insulation and leave faucets dripping.
- ✓**an emergency kit** for your vehicle. Include items such as a first aid kit, flashlight, ice scraper, shovel, tire chains, jumper cables, rope, ice melt/rock salt, blankets, and a change of clothes. Make sure your car is in proper working order before winter weather strikes.
- ✓**yourself** by dressing in layers and thermally insulated clothing before venturing outside in the cold. PREPARE an alternate plan of action if your home is susceptible to power outages or your area is favored for icy roads (e.g. mountainous regions). Travel to a friend's or relative's home to wait out the storm.

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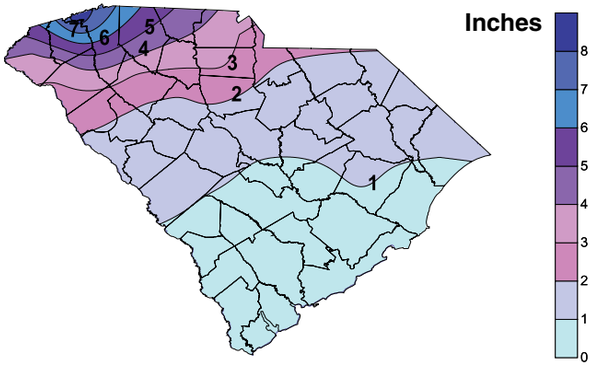
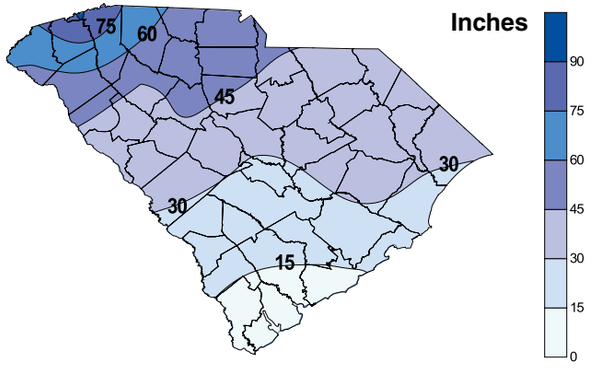
South Carolina Average Annual Snowfall
(1948-2003)



South Carolina Snowfall Climatology
Percent Chance of Snowfall Each Year



Monthly Record Low Temperatures (<32° F) for South Carolina

MONTH	TEMPERATURE	YEAR	Location (County)
January	-19° F	1985	Caesars Head (Greenville)
February	-11° F	1899	Santuck (Union)
March	-3° F	1980	Chesnee (Spartanburg)
April	18° F	1944	Caesars Head (Greenville)
May	30° F	1890	Spartanburg (Spartanburg)
June through August	NO TEMPS < 32° F	N/A	N/A
September	30° F	1974	Long Creek (Oconee)
October	16° F	1965	Chester (Chester)
November	-1° F	1950	Caesars Head (Greenville)
December	-10° F	1983	Hogback Mountain (Greenville)