



AL HARTMANN | The Salt Lake Tribune

Drivers endure a messy commute Monday along I-80 near the mouth of Parleys Canyon. An advisory sign flashes that chains are required for semis traveling up the canyon.

Lake effect snow makes for a nasty commute

Winter weather advisory » Clearing skies and high winds coming to the Wasatch Front.

By **BOB MIMS**
The Salt Lake Tribune

Boosted by the dreaded Great Salt Lake Effect, a Monday morning storm smothered northern Utah with fresh snow that left area roads treacherous and as white as the knuckles of commuters.

Utah Highway Patrol troopers scurried to more than 230 freeway crashes and slideoffs — including one with life-threatening injuries — in Salt Lake, Davis and Utah counties alone, according to Sgt. Todd Royce. Traffic stalled for hours as a

20-car pileup shut down eastbound traffic on Interstate 80 near the border between Tooele and Salt Lake counties, Royce said, and several other multi-vehicle crashes slowed motorists on Interstate 15 along the Wasatch Front.

The National weather Service expected scattered snow showers late Monday into early Tuesday morning, but the storm system had expended most of its fury as it moved east.

Accumulations of 3-10 inches were added to the blanket of valley and bench snow on Monday. Before relenting, the storm brought 20 inches by early Monday to Snowbird Ski Resort, 16 inches to Brighton and Alta, 9 to Solitude and 8 to Park City slopes.

A late Monday afternoon surge brought renewed snowfall to the Wasatch Front, with another 2 inches of the white stuff predicted to pad the 3 to 10 inches reported at various locales early Monday morning. Daytime highs were in the upper-20s as a frigid, arctic pattern settled over the region. Overnight lows were to dip into the low single digits.

Tuesday was to bring clearing skies, but the cold weather — 20s in the daytime, nearing zero overnight — will remain. Winds of 20-30 mph will make



STEVE GRIFFIN | The Salt Lake Tribune

Cross-country skiers break trail at Mountain Dell Golf Course in Parleys Canyon on Monday.

Wasatch Front residents shiver even more.

Indeed, NWS issued a High Wind Warning beginning Monday night and extending through Tuesday afternoon for Davis, Weber, Cache and Salt Lake counties. Downslope gusts of 60 mph and more were expected along the northern Wasatch Front.

Southern Utahns also were feeling the cold. While daytime highs Monday and Tuesday

were in the low- to mid-40s, overnight lows were forecast to dip into the 20s. Utah's Dixie, at least, was not expecting snow.

However, all that wet, heavy mountain snow translated to increased risks for potentially deadly snowslides in the state's mountains.

The Utah Avalanche Center rated that risk statewide at "considerable."

The Utah Division of Air

Quality had the good news: all that storm activity scoured pollution from the urban valleys, earning a "green," or healthy grade for all monitoring stations heading into the new week.

For more extensive forecast information visit the Tribune's weather page at www.sltrib.com/weather/.

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UTAH FORECAST » BRUTAL AND FRIGID WINDS



FRANCISCO KJOLSETH | The Salt Lake Tribune

An overturned semi truck lies on its side in Farmington. Extreme winds with gusts up to 70 mph caused numerous problems in Davis County on Tuesday, leaving homes and businesses without power

High winds, cold make Wasatch Front an icy hell

Treacherous travel »
Wind, wind chill and storm warnings as semis and power lines topple.

By **BOB MIMS**
and **ERIN ALBERTY**
The Salt Lake Tribune

Tuesday's subfreezing temperatures had northern Utahns shivering, but brutal, frigid winds early Wednesday will

chill the marrow in their bones.

A wind chill warning was in effect through the northern Wasatch Mountains, with overnight wind chill readings forecast to drop to almost -50 degrees in Rich County. Meanwhile, after Tuesday's hurricane-force gusts ripped down power lines and toppled vehicles, winds down the Wasatch front were expected to continue tearing into cities in Salt Lake, Davis, Weber and Box Elder counties

into early Wednesday morning. Gusts of 50 to 60 mph could pull wind chill readings down to -20 to -25 in northern Utah.

Tuesday's icy blasts left thousands of homes and businesses without power for hours in Weber, Davis and Salt Lake counties. Several semi-trailer rigs were blown over, and troopers banished high-profile vehicles from Interstate 15 in Davis County, with winds reaching as

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ALSO » ICY CONDITIONS, UNSAFE SPEED BLAMED FOR FATAL ACCIDENT » B2



FRANCISCO KJOLSETH | *The Salt Lake Tribune*

A Centerville resident picks up the pieces of her roof Tuesday that were ripped off by extreme winds with gusts up to 70 mph.

Weather

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high as 78 mph in Farmington.

"The rest areas up there [were] packed with parked semis," said Utah Highway Patrol Sgt. Todd Royce.

Other high gusts recorded by the National Weather Service on Tuesday: 76 mph near Lagoon; 69 in Centerville; 60 mph in the mountains above the University of Utah in Salt Lake City; 56 in Ogden; and 54 at the Brigham City Airport.

Tuesday's winds brought mail delivery to a halt in Centerville and delayed curbside trash pickups in Centerville and Salt Lake City, where upended recycling bins left some neighborhoods festively littered as discarded giftwrap and holiday cards swirled and tumbled over drifting snow.

The winds, coupled with recent heavy mountain snowfall, also elevated avalanche warnings, including a rare caution from the Utah Avalanche Center not just for the backcountry slopes, but the eastern foothills and the mouths of the region's canyons as well.

"Pay attention to any drifting that may occur along the high terrain," the Center warned. "This could form slabs on west facing terrain



AL HARTMANN | *The Salt Lake Tribune*

A bundled-up man steps off the bus Tuesday morning and hits the ground running to get out of the cold at 200 South and Main Street in Salt Lake City. High winds and low temperatures made the commute a bitter experience.

where we don't usually see them. Also, people without good avalanche assessment skills should avoid steep snow-covered slopes in the foothills where wind is drifting snow."

Forecasters issued a High Wind Warning for the northern Wasatch Front, particularly for Brigham City, Ogden, Layton, Bountiful and north Salt Lake, through 4 a.m. Wednesday.

A Winter Storm Warning was ordered for a stretch of southwestern and southcentral Utah, including Green River, Cedar City, Kanab, Lake Powell, Panguitch and Bryce Canyon. That advisory was to run through 4 p.m. Thursday. Forecasters

predicted 10-20 inches of snow, with Highway 12, Escalante and Boulder bearing the brunt of the storm.

It appeared Utah would see little relief from the cold through the remainder of 2014. In the Salt Lake and Tooele valleys, for example, daytime highs will struggle to reach 20 degrees on Wednesday, after overnight lows hovering near zero.

All that wind at least is keeping the air clean — if you are brave enough to stick your nose out from under the parka hood long enough to sniff. The Utah Division of Air Quality awarded "green," or healthy grades for all monitoring stations heading into the mid-week.