

Event Summary for December 7-10 2009

A sharpening upper trough over the northwestern United States pushed southeastward across the central Rockies before progressing across the Midwest. An arctic airmass held in place over the northern plains and adjacent portions of Canada. The low level circulation deepened rapidly on the 9th as it tracked from central Missouri to southern Lake Michigan, with surface pressures dropping to 977mb over southeastern Wisconsin. The system then pushed northeastward across lower Michigan before gradually filling during the 10th over eastern Ontario and western Quebec. The heaviest snow with this storm aligned northwest of the 850mb low track as it strengthened. An axis of 12 to 18 inch snow amounts was indicated from far northern Kansas to central Iowa, southern Wisconsin, and western Michigan. Strong north to northwest winds in excess of 50 mph led to blizzard conditions over the plains and Midwest. An additional area of snow fell over the interior northeast, as easterly flow north of the approaching warm front resulted in a strong overrunning pattern. Precipitation in this area gradually changed to rain as the low level system tracked across the Great Lakes region. Primarily rain occurred near the coast, while snow totals of 8 to 12 inches were noted over central New England and parts of central and northern New York.