

County of Lancashire – Weather Incidents Since 2002

Introduction

The following table describes weather related incidents that have been reported in the local press and have had a direct impact on Lancashire as a whole. The list is not exhaustive but it begins to sketch out a picture of the types of weather events and incidents that have occurred since 2002 and are having a real impact on people and localities. Weather incidents affect people and localities in many different ways and can cause distress to individuals, damage to local infrastructure and heritage and cost money both for residents and to the services dealing with the impacts. The table simply displays details of the incident as it was reported in the press and does not attempt to determine the significance of any incident in terms of financial costs, loss of habitat or loss of life for example. Many incidents reported in the press tend to refer to weather events that have widespread implications for many locations rather than focussing on an individual street or town and these incidents are included within the general 'Lancashire incidents report'. (link to Lancashire wide report for full picture)

We continually update the weather incidents database and welcome any information on weather events that affect towns, roads, individuals etc so that we can add details of these to provide a fuller picture of what is happening on the ground. If you would like to tell us about a weather incident that has affected you then please complete the 'weather monitoring form' and return to the Environmental Policy Team.

Weather incidents table – 2002 to present day

Date	Weather Event	Location	Details of Incident	Information Source
01/01/2002	Snow & Ice		Snow and freezing temperatures caused problems throughout the county at the weekend, with many roads left untreated. The adequate provision of gritting is questioned, and later news items report proposals for higher council taxes to fund comprehensive gritting.	Lancashire Telegraph
04/01/2002	Snow & Ice		Car crashes resulting from icy roads.	Lancashire Telegraph
07/01/2002	Snow & Ice		Early wintry weather increases demand for salt for gritting.	Lancashire Telegraph
11/02/2002	Heavy Rain		Roads and homes hit by floods.	Lancashire Telegraph
17/06/2002	Heavy Rain		Torrential rain causes widespread flooding and disruption.	Lancashire Telegraph

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10/09/2002	Heavy Rain		51 flooding incidents reported across the county, with 2 specific businesses affected mentioned.	Lancashire Telegraph
28/10/2002	Strong Winds		Some disruption and damage caused by strong winds.	Lancashire Telegraph
31/12/2002	Heavy Rain		Heavy Rain over Christmas period led to a number of flood response schemes being set up including, a quick response emergency vehicle, flood alarm systems at Garstang and reconstruction of river banks at Walton-le-Dale. New £3,000 emergency vehicle introduced by LCC. Cost of river bank reconstruction and flood alarm system.	Lancashire Evening Post
07/01/2003	Snow & Ice		Assorted ice related problems in the area.	Lancashire Evening Post
08/01/2003	Snow & Ice		Motorway pile up in icy conditions, air ambulance called out. Other ice-related injuries.	Lancashire Evening Post
04/02/2003	Snow & Ice		Cars abandoned as snow and ice forces M65 and parts of the M66 to be closed. Long tail backs as drivers get stuck in wintry conditions. Blackburn with Darwen Council criticised for slow response.	Lancashire Telegraph
04/02/2003	Snow & Ice		Delays and accidents caused by snow and ice, with criticism of the lack of adequate gritting.	Lancashire Evening Post
07/02/2003	Snow & Ice		Chaos brought to roads as snow and ice forced closure of the motorway and blocked roads. Council's criticised for not responding quick enough. Emergency Services required.	Lancashire Telegraph
24/03/2003	Dry Weather		Dry conditions have led to dozens of grass fires over the weekend.	Lancashire Telegraph

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31/03/2003	Dry Weather		Firefighters issued a safety warning after the dry weather during March left them inundated with calls, many of them grass fires. They spoke out after ten fire engines spent four hours at Rivington, tackling a mile of grass fires on Saturday -- days after a similar incident in moorland at Pickup Bank. And over the weekend, firefighters in Blackburn tackled as many as six grass minor fires in one shift.	Lancashire Telegraph
15/04/2003	Heavy Rain		Warmer winters lead to hedgehogs ending their hibernation early	Lancashire Evening Post
16/04/2003	Dry Hot Weather		A breeding ground for rare birds could have been damaged in a fire which swept across 250 hectares of land in the Trough of Bowland last weekend, say nature experts. Dry conditions resulted in planned heather-burning by tenant farmers raged almost out of control on Bowland Fell, part of the North Pennine Moors Special Protection Area.	Lancashire Telegraph
17/04/2003	Dry Hot Weather		Resorts and leisure attractions throughout the North-west are anticipating a record-breaking Easter after a week of amazingly warm weather. Hoteliers in Blackpool and Southport reported a late rush of bookings. Last year there were about 2.6 million trips made to English resorts and attractions, with visitors spending about £400 million.	Lancashire Telegraph
18/04/2003	Dry Hot Weather		Outbreak of moorland fires. Some public access areas closed.	Lancashire Evening Post
19/04/2003	Dry Hot Weather		Grass fires attributed in part to the recent dry weather.	Lancashire Telegraph

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21/04/2003	Dry Hot Weather		The driest March for over 100 years and the hot April sunshine were said to be major contributors to the fires, which have caused extensive damage. Several trees and bushes were destroyed by the fires and peat was said to be burning.	Lancashire Telegraph
08/07/2003	Dry Hot Weather		Experts say that warm weather will spark a frenzy of accidents in the garden.	Lancashire Telegraph
15/07/2003	Dry Hot Weather		Record breaking temperatures, 29C, with increased tourism	Lancashire Evening Post
16/07/2003	Dry Hot Weather		Hospitals reported patients being treated for sunburn due to spending too much time in the sun. Supermarkets reported an increase in sales of bbqs, beer etc during the period of hot weather.	Lancashire Telegraph
18/07/2003	Heavy Rain		Flash floods affected houses and roads.	Lancashire Evening Post
18/07/2003	Heavy Rain		Lots of houses flooded. Damage in one house estimated at £5,000.	Lancashire Evening Post
05/08/2003	Dry Hot Weather		Hot weather affects the railway lines, necessitating speed restrictions.	Lancashire Evening Post
06/08/2003	Dry Hot Weather		Ice-cream manufacturers, swimming pool managers and shopping centre staff have all reported increased sales and customers during the period of hot weather. Also United Utilities reported increased demand for water during the hot weather.	Lancashire Telegraph
06/08/2003	Dry Hot Weather		The high temperatures have caused rail operators to place speed restrictions on many stretches of railway lines following fears that the high temperatures may cause the tracks to buckle.	Lancashire Telegraph
12/08/2003	Dry Hot Weather		Hot weather in East Lancashire has led to more people spending more money.	Lancashire Telegraph
27/08/2003	Dry Hot Weather		A hospital spokesman attributed a higher number of 999 calls over summer to the warm and dry weather.	Lancashire Telegraph

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30/08/2003	Dry Hot Weather		Recent heatwave has caused an increased number of deaths in senior citizens across the county.	Lancashire Telegraph
28/09/2003	Storms		Gales brought devastation to the county. Gusts up to 70mph hit the coastal areas of Morecambe and Blackpool and also blasted Preston.	Lancashire Evening Post
17/10/2003	Dry Hot Weather		Boaters were asked to conserve water as recent dry weather has caused the canal levels to fall.	Lancashire Telegraph
24/10/2003	Dry Hot Weather		East Lancashire householders have been told to be careful with water after the Met Office warned a year of dry weather has left supplies below average. Water companies have issued specific advice in a bid to prevent the area running short over Christmas.	Lancashire Telegraph
28/10/2003	Dry Hot Weather		Lack of rain and prolonged periods of dry weather is responsible for 2003 being one of the driest years on record. Reservoir levels across Lancashire and the North West are severely diminished.	Lancashire Telegraph
28/10/2003	Dry Weather		Water shortage caused by a dry summer leaves reservoirs depleted.	Lancashire Evening Post
15/11/2003	Storms		Gales and heavy rain struck East Lancashire causing some minor flooding of roads and slight tree damage.	Lancashire Telegraph
19/11/2003	Dry Hot Weather		Emergency water supplies may be introduced after a long dry summer. Water chiefs from United Utilities propose pumping water from the Lake District.	Lancashire Telegraph
25/11/2003	Low Temperatures		Overnight sub-zero temperatures led to ice forming on the overhead cables, causing operational problems for Metrolink. Delays were felt across the region.	Lancashire Telegraph

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28/01/2004	Snow & Ice		Snow showers lead to east Lancashire roads becoming treacherous. Gritters target major routes. Only two minor collisions reported but long ques on the M65 motorway.	Lancashire Telegraph
03/02/2004	Heavy Rain		Torrential rain wreaked chaos across Lancashire. Roads struggled to cope with the downpour.	Lancashire Evening Post
09/02/2004	Storms		Buildings near to coast damaged by storms. Fire brigade required to make safe structures in further danger.	Blackpool Gazette
04/08/2004	Heavy Rain		Fire brigade called out to numerous flooding incidents.	Blackpool Gazette
13/08/2004	storms		Storms have wreaked havoc across Lancashire leaving residents and traders facing a huge cleanup.	Lancashire Evening Post
20/08/2004	Heavy Rain		Flash Floods across the county caused people to flee their homes.	Lancashire Evening Post
26/08/2004	Heavy Rain		Emergency services were called to dozens of homes after a Lancaster canal overflowed in heavy rain and the River Ribble burst its banks in Ribchester.	Lancashire Evening Post
30/08/2004	Heavy Rain		Heavy rainfall and flash floods, recorded as the wettest August since modern records began. Homes and business in up to 5ft of water as drains failed to cope.	Lancashire Telegraph
21/12/2004	Low Temperatures		Freezing fog and icy conditions sparked a series of road accidents around the Fylde and Preston District.	Lancashire Evening Post
21/12/2004	Low Temperatures		Many accidents involving vehicles skidding on ungritted roads. Implication of insurance claims and possibly claims against authorities responsible for gritting.	Blackpool Gazette

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22/12/2004	Low Temperatures		207 emergency call outs in East Lancashire due to low temperatures (last year 120 for the same day) 49 people tripped or fallen, 34 calls relating to road crashes involving ice.	Lancashire Telegraph
22/12/2004	Low Temperatures		Icy weather and freezing fog were to blame for a record demand on the emergency services.	Lancashire Evening Post
27/12/2004	Snow & Ice		Heavy snow fall followed by low temperature lead to icy roads despite round the clock gritting on motorways and A roads. Snow ploughs also used across Lancashire.	Lancashire Telegraph
30/12/2005	Snow & Ice		Fleet of gritters had to be sent out to combat the icy road conditions with temperatures falling as low as -4 in daylight hours. The cold weather triggered increase in sales of de-icer.	Blackpool Gazette
11/03/2006	Low Temperatures		Gritters on standby throughout the weekend - Preston and Lancashire councils Grit brought in from Cheshire	Lancashire Evening Post
13/03/2006	Snow & Ice		Roads icy and heavy snowfall (4 inches) Temperatures falling to -2 oC. Extra traffic police deployed, M6 reduced to one lane - blocked by snow Gritters and snow ploughs needed Minor accidents on the roads	Lancashire Evening Post
19/07/2006	High Temperatures		Temperature of 36 degrees 20mph speed restrictions on trains Increase in sales at local businesses	Lancashire Evening Post
27/07/2006	High Temperatures		High temperatures increase the demand for power for air conditioning and refridgeration. Electricity providers have needed to generate more. An increase in the number of people having time off work during the heatwave	Blackpool Gazette