

Special Report

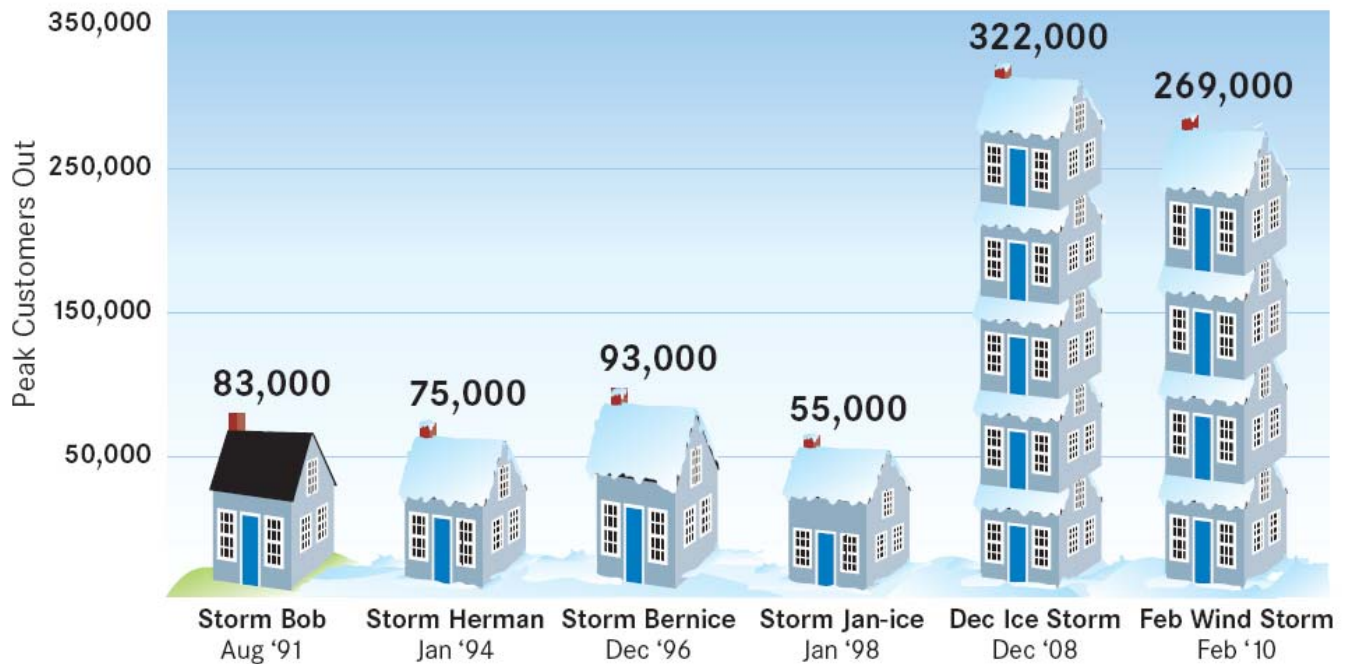
February 2010 Wind Storm How Was this Storm Different?

It was the second-worst storm in PSNH's history.

More than 269,000 PSNH customers lost power in the February 2010 wind storm, making it the second-worst storm in PSNH's 84 years of service, surpassed only by the record ice storm of December 2008.

Wind gusts throughout New Hampshire crested near or above hurricane-force gales of 74 miles per hour, bringing down thousands of trees that blocked roadways and caused extensive damage to power lines and equipment. Flooding also occurred in some areas.

Storm Comparison Data



Damage to the electric system was not as devastating as in the December 2008 ice storm.

Both the 2008 ice storm and the 2010 wind storm were large, powerful systems that caused widespread outages throughout New Hampshire and the Northeast region. In terms of damage to PSNH's electric system, however, the ice storm was far more devastating.

Preliminary information indicates that the February 2010 wind storm caused about 1,900 primary "troubles" on PSNH's system, compared to more than 6,000 primary troubles in the December 2008 ice storm. A "trouble" is a section of the electric system that requires repair. A single trouble can be as small as a service line detached from the side of a home (secondary trouble), or as large as a 10-mile stretch of poles and wires completely knocked to the ground (primary trouble).

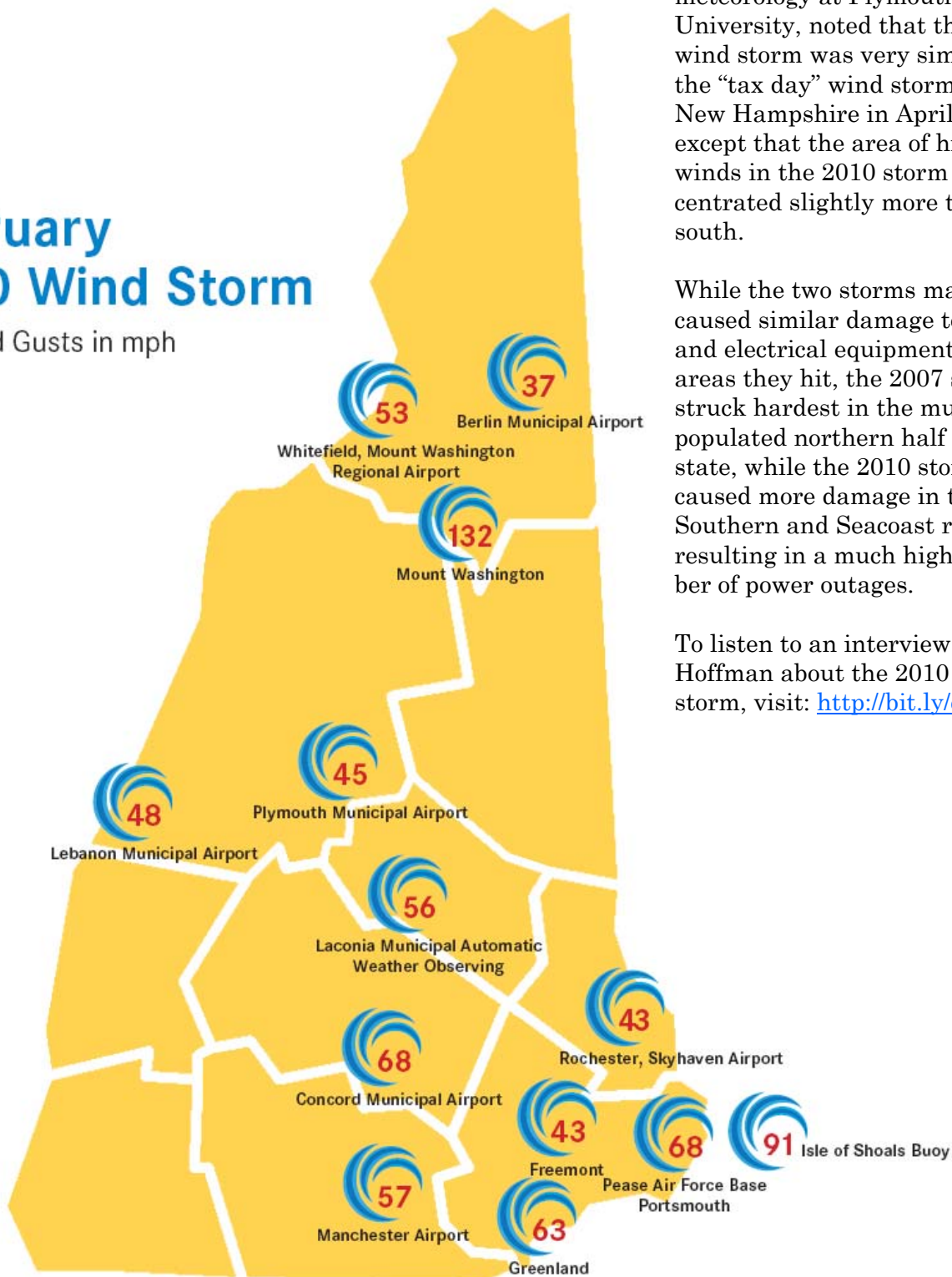
Damage from the 2008 ice storm was so bad that PSNH crews had to rebuild entire sections of PSNH's electric system from the ground up. In contrast, crews have been able to repair much of the equipment damaged in the wind storm.

The storm hit hardest in the most heavily populated areas of the state.

Although the February 2010 wind storm was similar in intensity to other wind storms that have hit New Hampshire in recent years, it varied in one important way: it struck hardest in the most densely populated areas of the state.

February 2010 Wind Storm

Top Wind Gusts in mph



Dr. Eric Hoffman, professor of meteorology at Plymouth State University, noted that the 2010 wind storm was very similar to the “tax day” wind storm that hit New Hampshire in April of 2007, except that the area of highest winds in the 2010 storm was concentrated slightly more to the south.

While the two storms may have caused similar damage to trees and electrical equipment in the areas they hit, the 2007 storm struck hardest in the much less populated northern half of the state, while the 2010 storm caused more damage in the Southern and Seacoast regions, resulting in a much higher number of power outages.

To listen to an interview with Dr. Hoffman about the 2010 wind storm, visit: <http://bit.ly/cOxTiU>.