

CHAPTER 1

What Is a Blizzard?

WINTER WEATHER CAN BE COLD, WINDY, AND SNOWY. SOMETIMES, THERE IS TOO MUCH SNOW, WIND, AND COLD ALL AT THE SAME TIME. THIS KIND OF WEATHER IS A BLIZZARD.

A blizzard is a very strong and **dangerous** snowstorm. The snow falls¹ for many hours. The winds are very, very strong – 56 kilometers an hour or more. And the temperature is very low – far below 0° Celsius.²

To have a blizzard, there must be three things. First, there has to be cold air. Second, there has to be warm air above the cold air. Third, there has to be lot of moisture in the air.

¹**fall:** go down; past tense is “fell”

²**0° Celsius:** zero degrees Celsius; the temperature when water changes to snow

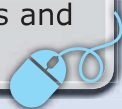
Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-62164-0 — Blizzards: Killer Snowstorm Beginning Book with Online Access
Genevieve Kocienda
Excerpt
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In a blizzard, heavy snow falls for many hours, or sometimes for many days. In Thompson Pass, Alaska, in 1953, 475 centimeters of snow fell in seven days. On January 25, 2011, in New York City, 48 centimeters of snow fell in two days. The city closed all schools and **airports**.



ANALYZE

Why did New York City close schools and airports when there was a blizzard?



CHAPTER 2

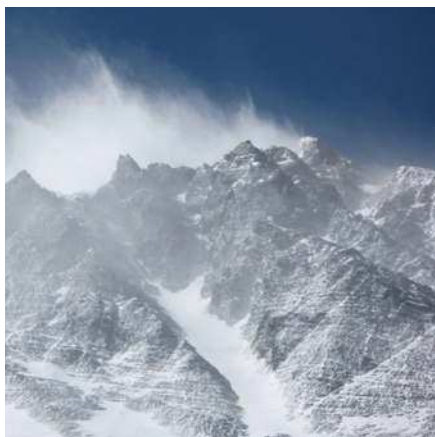
The Cold

RUSSELL COX KNOWS BLIZZARDS CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS.

In March 2004, Russell Cox and his wife, Brenda, went for a walk in the White Mountains in New Hampshire. The weather in these **mountains** changes quickly. It can be very nice one minute, and very bad a few minutes later.

They walked up near the top of one of the mountains. They were in the clouds. Snow started to fall. At first, the snow was light. When they reached the top, the snow was very heavy.

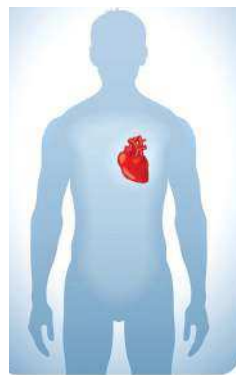




Russell and Brenda started to walk down the mountain. It was dangerous. They walked into a blizzard. The sky was very gray. Everything was the same color. It was almost impossible to see or walk. Russell and Brenda didn't know where they were!

Because the weather was freezing cold, Russell and Brenda started to get hypothermia.

The body's normal temperature is about 37° Celsius. In very cold weather, the body's temperature can go down below normal. Then, a person cannot think. The heart³ becomes slow. Breathing⁴ becomes slow. This is hypothermia. It is very dangerous. You can die from it.



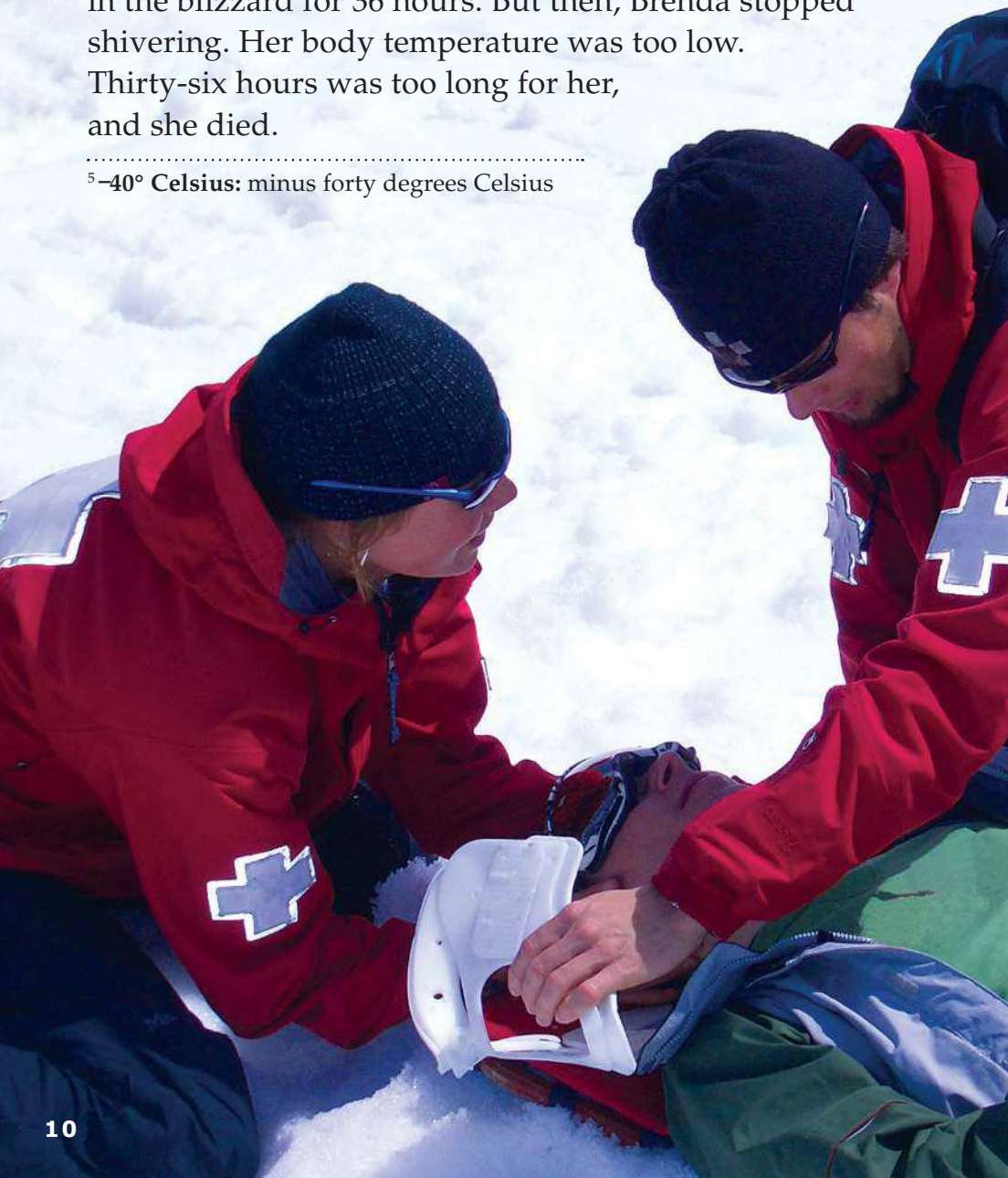
In hypothermia, the heart becomes slow


³**heart:** sends the blood around the body

⁴**breathing:** taking air into the body and out of the body

When the body is very cold, it starts to **shiver**. Shivering is a way to make your body warmer. Russell and Brenda became colder and colder. It was -40° Celsius.⁵ They shivered more and more. They were in the blizzard for 36 hours. But then, Brenda stopped shivering. Her body temperature was too low. Thirty-six hours was too long for her, and she died.

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⁵ -40° Celsius: minus forty degrees Celsius





The next morning, people found Russell and **rescued** him. He **survived**, but he was very sick because of the hypothermia. He had frostbite on his feet.

Frostbite comes from very cold temperatures and strong wind. It damages your body. A part of your body, like a hand or foot, freezes and dies. Doctors must take off this part. Russell lost 70 percent of his right foot and 30 percent of his left foot to frostbite.

Russell learned how dangerous cold can be.

Video Quest



Shivering

Watch this video to learn about hypothermia. What are three things that show a person has it?