

# What is a bomb cyclone?

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In news— Recently, Bomb cyclone hit Eastern USA and triggered transport chaos, outages.

**What is a bomb cyclone ?**

- A bomb cyclone is a **large, intense midlatitude storm that has low pressure at its center, weather fronts** and an **array of associated weather, from blizzards to severe thunderstorms** to heavy precipitation.
- **It becomes a bomb when its central pressure decreases very quickly**—by at least 24 millibars in 24 hours.
- **It typically develops in the wintertime, over the ocean or off a coast (in temperate latitudes).**
- Two famed meteorologists, **Fred Sanders and John Gyakum, gave this pattern its name in a 1980 study.**
- Bomb cyclones form through a process called **“bombogenesis”, that occurs when a cold air mass collides with warm waters.**
- As this happens, the pressure drops significantly and a cyclone forms and intensifies.
- When a cyclone “bombs,” or undergoes bombogenesis, this tells us that **it has access to the optimal ingredients for strengthening**, such as high amounts of heat, moisture and rising air.