



2015 Preparedness, Safety, and Web Resources



Building a Weather-Ready Nation





Agenda



- Winter weather definitions
 - Watches, warnings, advisories
- Safety
- Web Resources



Watches

Purpose: Winter weather watches provide 12 to 48 hour notice of a hazardous weather event which has the potential to threaten life or property.

Time Frame: They are normally issued for the 2nd and/or 3rd periods of the forecast. Fourth period watches are restricted to the most significant events.



Types of Watches

- ***Winter Storm***

- Synoptic or lake enhanced snow of 8" in 12 hours or 10" in 24 hours
- Anticipated freezing rain with ¼" accumulation
- Any combination of hazards expected to produce warning conditions

- ***Blizzard***

- Sustained winds or gusts ≥ 35 mph
- Falling and/or blowing snow
- Visibility $< \frac{1}{4}$ mile for 3 hours or more

- ***Lake Effect Snow***

- Lake effect snow of at least 8" in 12 hours or 10" in 24 hours



Warnings

Purpose: Winter weather warnings are issued when hazardous winter weather is occurring, imminent or has a high probability of occurring.

Time Frame: They are normally issued for the 1st and 2nd periods. Occasionally, with high confidence for significant events, warnings will extend into the 3rd period.

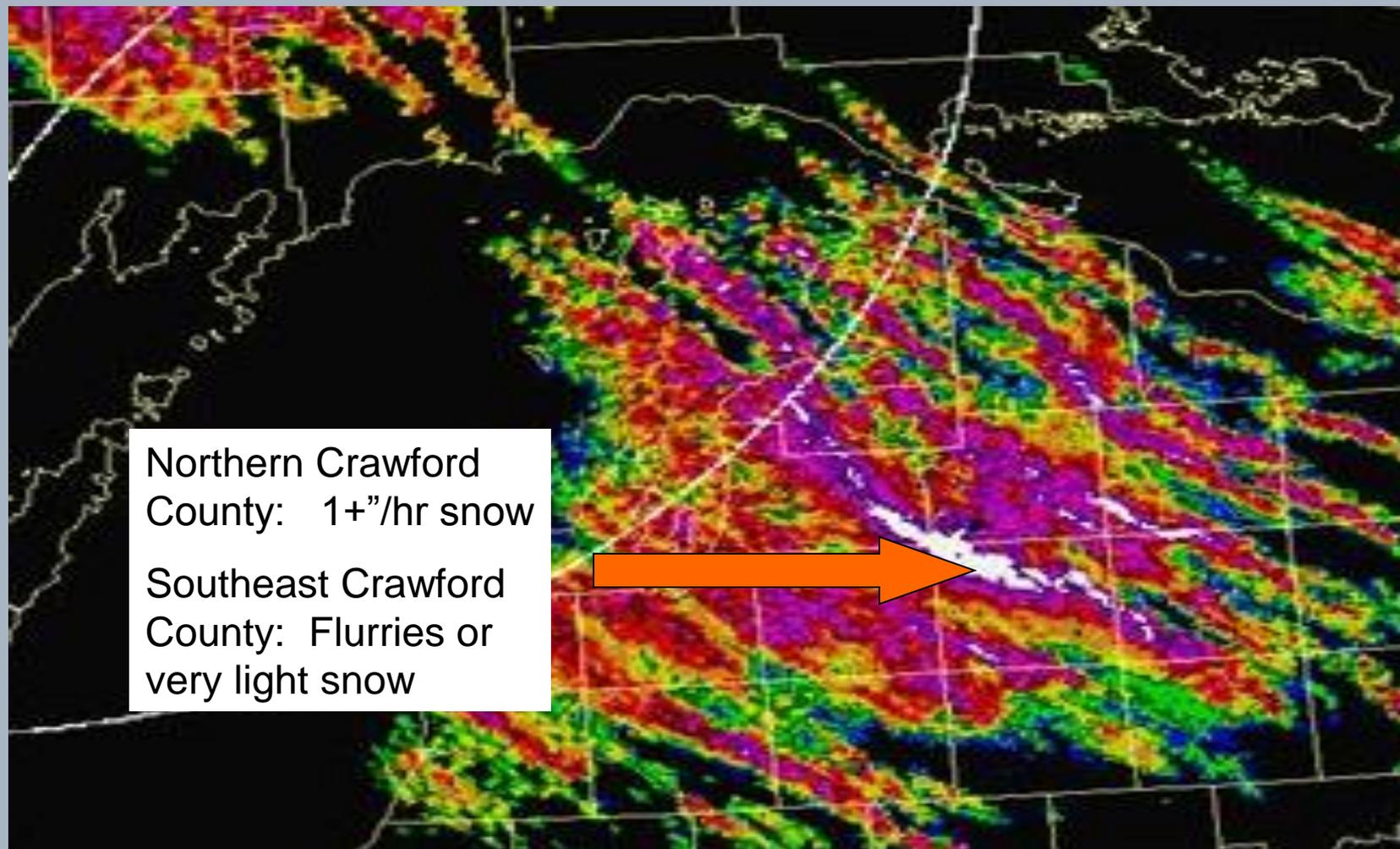


Types of Warnings

- ***Winter Storm***
 - Synoptic or lake enhanced snow of 8" in 12 hrs. or 10" in 24 hrs.
 - A combination of hazards that will produce dangerous conditions
- ***Blizzard***
 - Sustained winds or gusts \geq 35 mph
 - Falling and/or blowing snow
 - Visibility $<$ $\frac{1}{4}$ mile for 3 hours or more
- ***Ice Storm***
 - Freezing rain with accumulations of at least $\frac{1}{4}$ "
- ***Lake Effect Snow***
 - Lake effect snow of at least 8" in 12 hrs. or 10" in 24 hrs.
 - Winds $<$ 35 mph
- ***Wind Chill***
 - Wind chill $<$ -35°F across U.P. or $<$ -30°F for Lower
 - Winds must be $>$ 10 mph



Why Separate Lake Effect Snow from System Snow Headlines?





Advisories

Purpose: Advisories provide people with advance notice of hazardous winter weather events which could lead to life-threatening situations if caution is not observed.

Time Frame: They are normally issued for the 1st and 2nd periods.



Types of Advisories

- ***Winter Weather***
 - Any combination of weather that will produce hazardous conditions
 - If primarily snow, total must be $> 3''$ but $< 8''$ in 12 hrs
- ***Lake Effect Snow***
 - Lake effect snowfall $> 3''$ but $< 8''$ in 12 hrs
- ***Wind Chill***
 - Wind chill between -25°F and -35°F across the U.P. and between -20°F and -30°F for Lower Peninsula.
- ***Freezing Rain***
 - Freezing drizzle or rain posing danger to motorists
 - Ice accumulation $< \frac{1}{4}''$
 - No mixed precipitation



Winter Weather Safety



Winter Weather Safety

- Things to have in your auto emergency kit for winter:
 - Shovel
 - Flares and reflectors
 - Jumper Cables
 - Bag of kitty litter (for traction if stuck)
 - Flashlight and extra batteries
 - Empty coffee can, candles, matches
 - Blankets
 - Extra clothing including mittens
 - Non-perishable food (candy bars, power bars, etc.)



Winter Weather Safety

- If ever stranded in your vehicle during a blizzard:
 - **Stay in your car or truck.** Disorientation occurs quickly in wind-driven snow and cold.
 - **Run the motor about ten minutes each hour for heat.** Open the window a little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked.
 - **Make yourself visible to rescuers.** Turn on the dome light at night when the engine is running. Tie a colored cloth (preferably red) to your antenna or door. Raise your hood to indicate trouble after the snow stops falling.



Winter Weather Safety

- If you lose heat in your home during a winter storm:
 - Seal off unused rooms by stuffing towels/blankets under the doors
 - Cover windows with extra sheets and blankets
 - Use only devices designed for indoor heating when using alternative heat sources
 - Be very careful with kerosene heat sources due to the carbon monoxide threat (crack a window in house if needed)



Web Resources



NWS Gaylord

- www.weather.gov/gaylord
- Your local National Weather Service office
- Local forecasts, watches, warnings & advisories
- Snow graph located in the “Top News”
 - Updated daily for all of northern Michigan’s climate sites:
 - Alpena, Houghton Lake, Sault Ste. Marie, Gaylord, Traverse City, West Branch, and Petoskey
- Recreational Forecast
 - Updated daily at 5 and 11 am/pm for all of our CWA



NOHRSC

National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center

- www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/nsa
- National or Regional Snow Analysis
 - Data available from 2003-present
- Useful for comparing snowfall/snow depth from last week, last year, etc.

CoCoRaHS

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow

- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- "Volunteers working together to measure precipitation across the nation."
- Another good source for rain and snow totals
 - Data back to 1998

A few non-NWS sites that you
may find useful

MI Drive

Michigan Department of Transportation

- <http://mdotnetpublic.state.mi.us/drive/>
- Good source for travel information in all seasons
- Accident information and webcams for road conditions and present weather

John Dee

- <http://www.johndee.com/>
- Not government website and this is not an endorsement
- Focused on recreational information
- Quick access to webcam network



Questions?



- NWS Gaylord web page:
 - www.weather.gov/gaylord
- NWS Gaylord phone number:
 - 989.731.3384
- Email questions:
 - james.keysor@noaa.gov