

# NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WINTER STATEMENTS



Updates to  
Thresholds for  
the 2015-  
2016 Winter  
Season

# CHANGES TO WINTER WEATHER THRESHOLDS AND CRITERIA

- Several changes were made to Winter Weather Triggering Thresholds for the National Weather Service
  - Forces driving the changes included:
    - More uniform thresholds between NWS offices not only in Pennsylvania, but also collaborating with all Northeast NWS offices
    - Desire (and requests) for more uniform messaging in homogeneous media markets
    - Desire for a more collaborated message from NWS
      - Attempt to eliminate some harsh NWS product type changes on political boundaries (i.e. state boundaries, county boundaries).
    - Realization of increasing impacts of certain winter weather, especially on higher population centers in the Lower Susquehanna Valley region of the Commonwealth.
    - Clearer messaging on social media

# THRESHOLD CHANGES FOR 2015-2016

## ■ Ice Storm Warning

- Changed from  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch for the following counties:
  - Cameron, Clinton (northern), McKean, Potter, Sullivan, Tioga and Warren.

## ■ 12 Hour Winter Storm Warning - Snow

- Changed from 7 inches to 6 inches for the following counties:
  - Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming.
- Changed from 6 inches to 5 inches for the following counties:
  - Adams, Chester (western), Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, York

## ■ 24 Hour Winter Storm Warning - Snow

- Changed from 9 inches to 8 inches for the following counties:
  - Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming.
- Changed from 8 inches to 7 inches for the following counties:
  - Adams, Chester (western), Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, York

## ■ Wind Chill Advisory

- Changed from the range [-15°F to -24°F] to [-10°F to -24°F] for the following counties:
  - Adams, Chester (western), Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, York

# 12-HOUR THRESHOLD: WINTER STORM WARNING FOR SNOW



At least this much snow should be expected in 12 HOURS for a Winter Storm Warning for Snow to be issued

Warnings and Advisories are usually issued between 12 and 24 hours before the impacts of the snow begin to be felt.

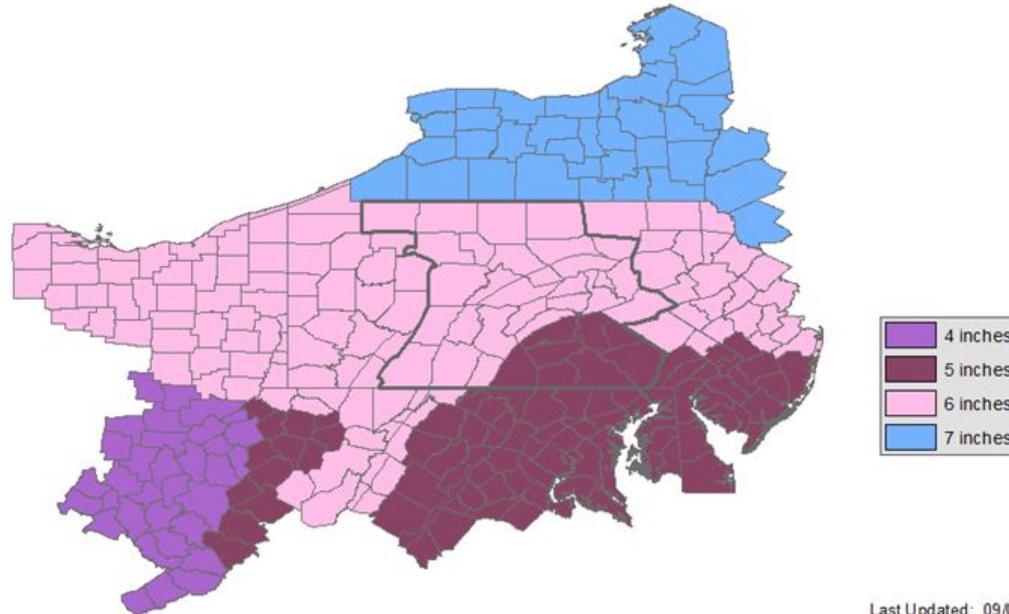
A Winter Storm Watch means it is possible (but not certain) that a Warning will be forthcoming.



# WINTER STORM **WARNING**

## REGIONAL 24 HOUR SNOW ACCUMULATION CRITERIA

### 12 hr Winter Storm Warning Criteria



Regional View

# 24-HOUR THRESHOLD: WINTER STORM WARNING FOR SNOW



At least this much snow should be expected in 24 HOURS for a Winter Storm Warning for Snow to be issued

(These values are 2" higher than the 12-hour thresholds)

Warnings and Advisories are usually issued between 12 and 24 hours before the impacts of the snow begin to be felt.

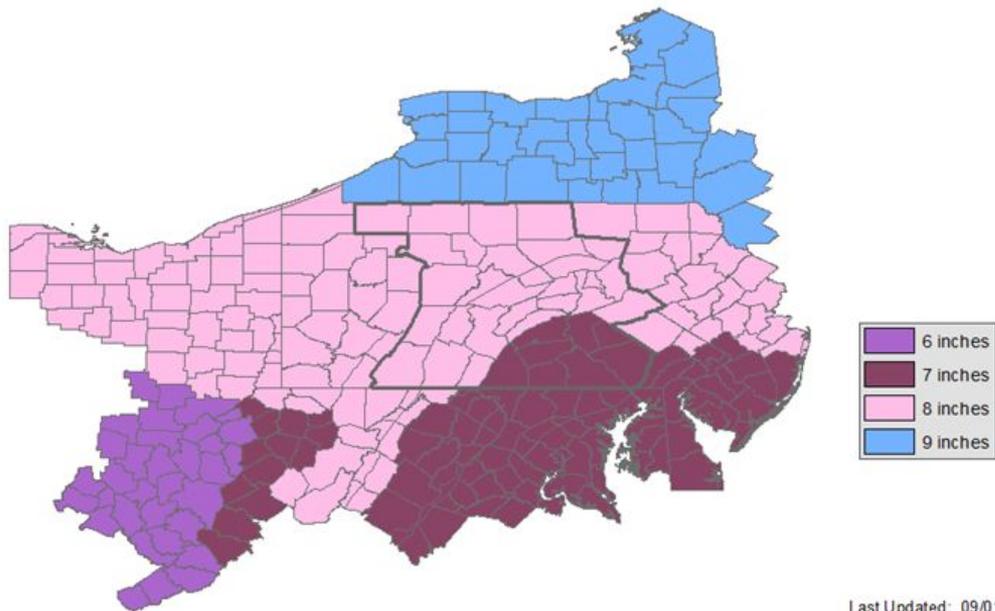
A Winter Storm Watch means it is possible (but not certain) that a Warning will be forthcoming.



# WINTER STORM **WARNING**

## REGIONAL 24 HOUR SNOW ACCUMULATION CRITERIA

### 24 hr Winter Storm Warning Criteria



Last Updated: 09/01/2015

Regional View

# WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY FOR SNOW



At least this  
much snow  
should be  
expected in 12  
HOURS for a  
Winter Weather  
Advisory for Snow  
to be issued

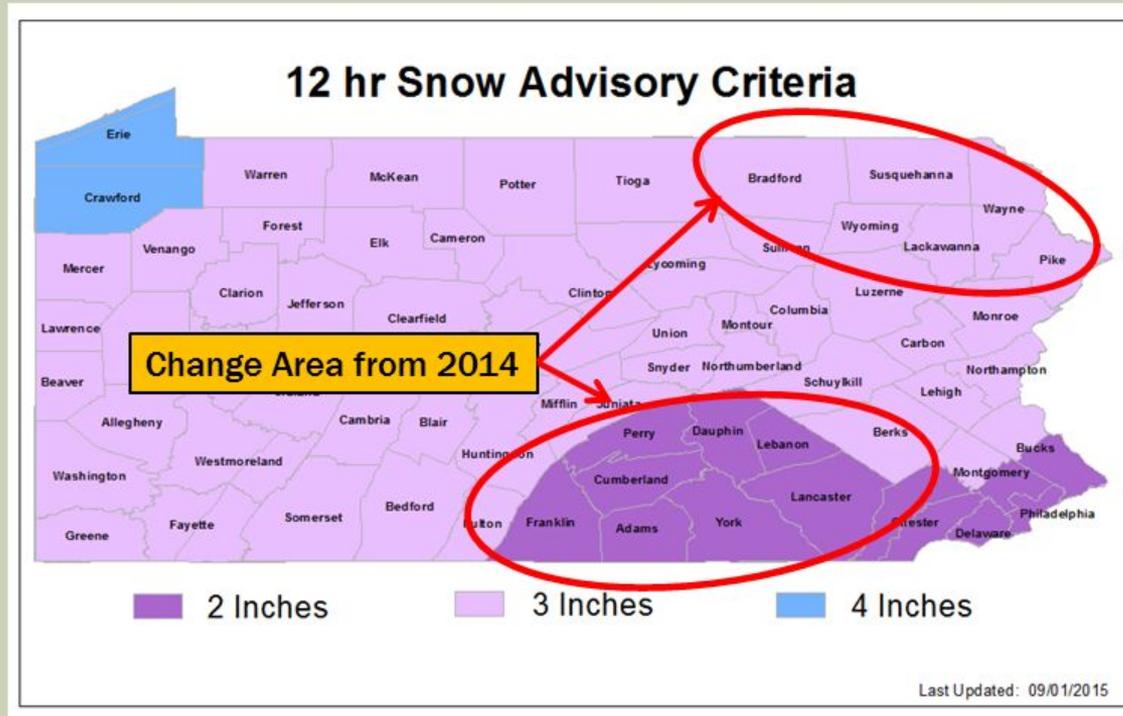
(These values are ~2"  
lower than the 12-hour  
Warning thresholds)

**Advisories** may also be  
issued for any  
combination of winter  
precipitation or threat.

Similar to Warnings,  
**Advisories** are usually  
issued between 12 and 24  
hours before the impacts  
of the snow or mixed  
precipitation begin.

**Advisories** may (not) be  
preceded by a Winter Storm  
Watch. A Watch may turn  
into an **Advisory** if the  
amount of snow in an area  
previously covered by a  
Watch is not expected to  
meet Warning thresholds.

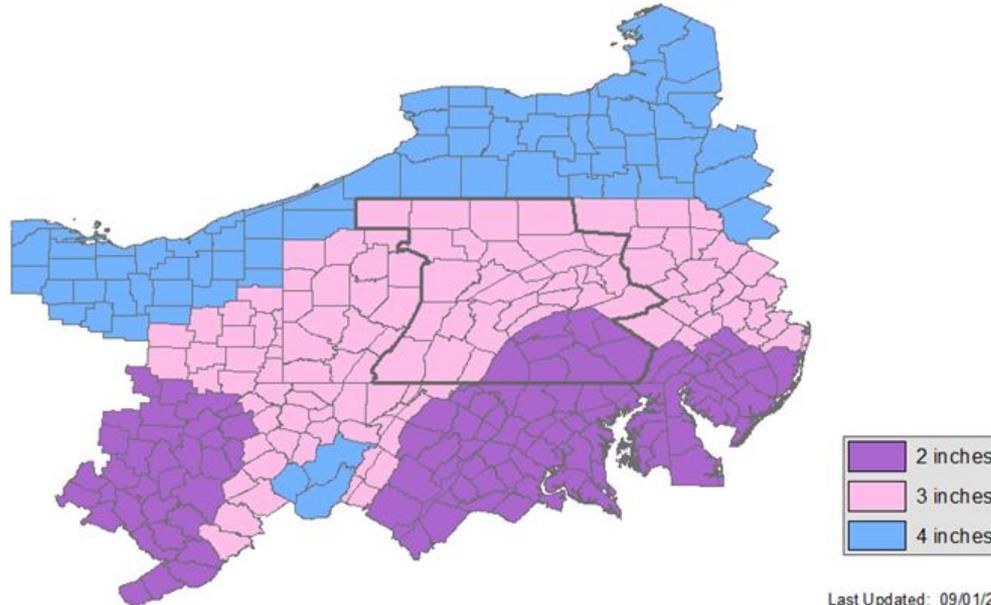
# WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY SNOW ACCUMULATION CRITERIA



# WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY

## REGIONAL SNOW ACCUMULATION CRITERIA

### 12 hr Winter Weather Advisory Criteria



Regional View

# ICE STORM WARNING



At least this much of a glaze of freezing rain should build up on surfaces, trees, power lines, etc. for an Ice Storm Warning to be issued.

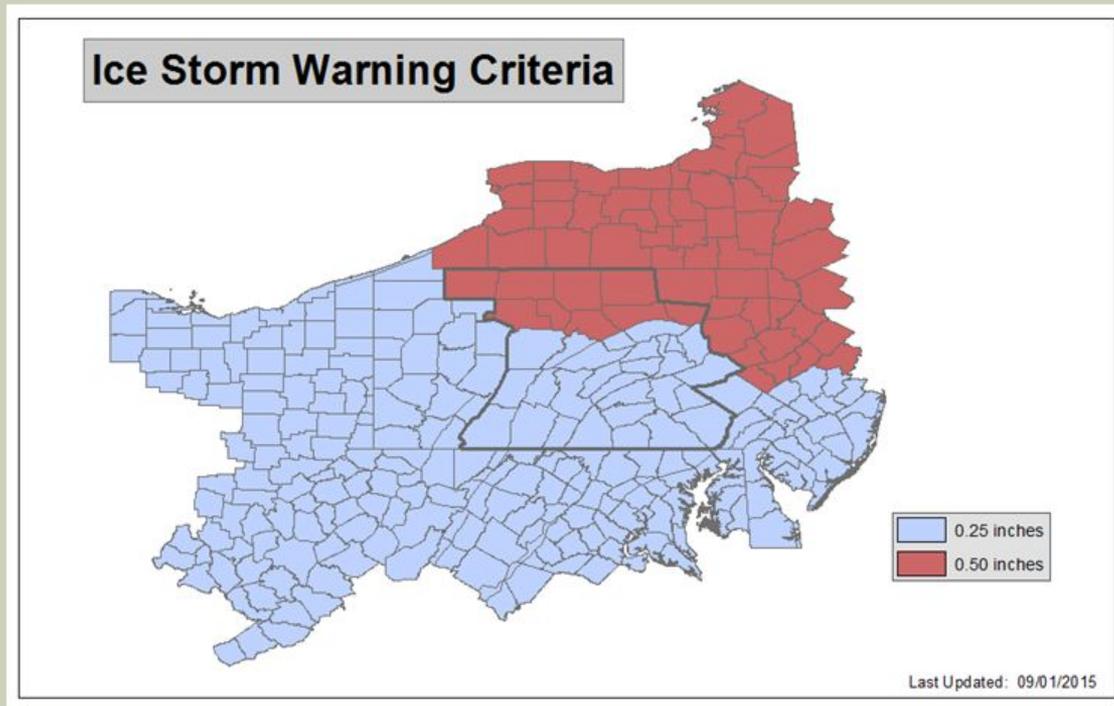
A thick accretion of ice is a very dangerous situation which may cause widespread power outages and prevent travel. As with other Warnings, Ice Storm Warnings are usually issued between 12 and 24 hours before the impacts of the snow begin to be felt.

A Winter Storm Watch may be issued before an Ice Storm Warning if thick ice accretions are possible but not yet certain.

# ICE STORM WARNING



# ICE STORM **WARNING** REGIONAL ACCUMULATION CRITERIA



Regional View

# OTHER WINTER WEATHER ADVISORIES



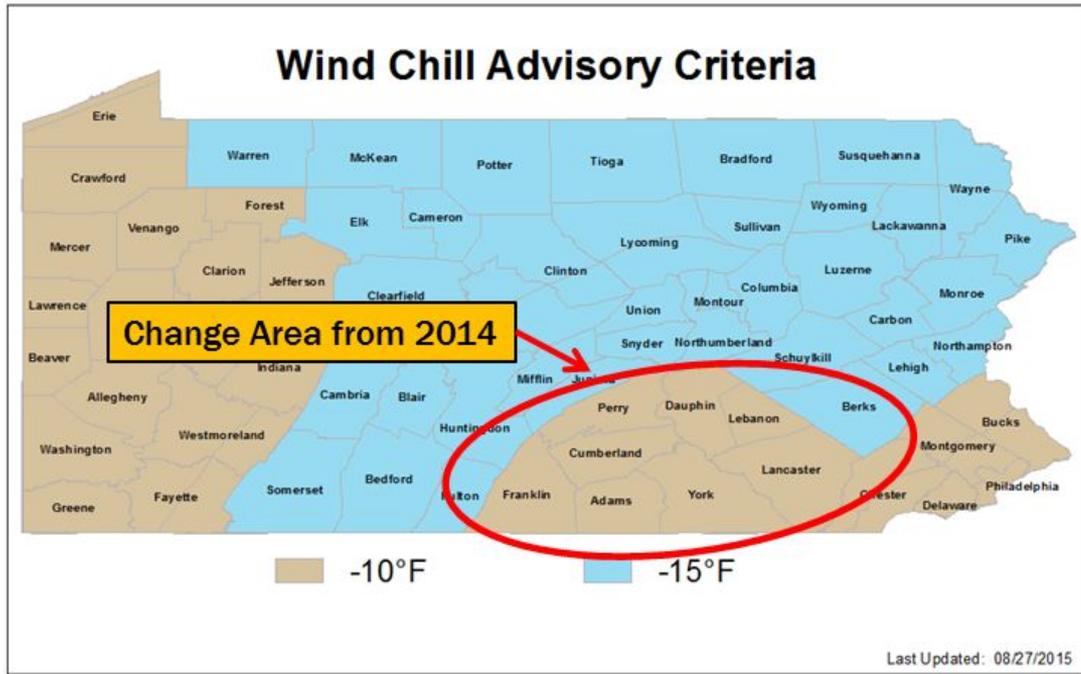
A Winter Weather Advisory may be issued for any (combination of) winter threat(s).

Similar to Warnings, **Advisories** are usually issued between 12 and 24 hours before the impacts of the snow or mixed precipitation begin.

**Advisories** may (not) be preceded by a Winter Storm Watch. A Watch may turn into an **Advisory** if the amount of snow in an area previously covered by a Watch is not expected to meet Warning thresholds.

# WIND CHILL ADVISORY

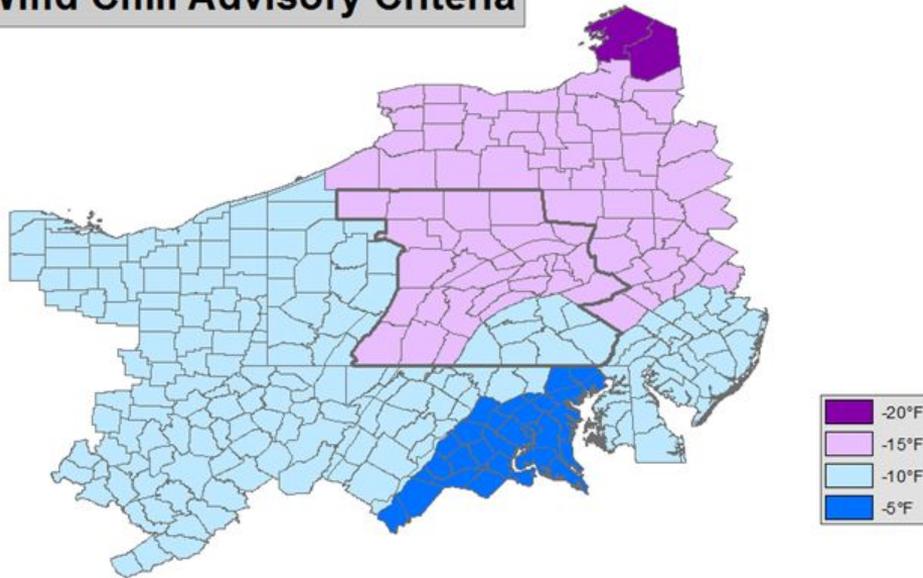
## Wind Chill Advisory Criteria



Last Updated: 08/27/2015

# WIND CHILL **ADVISORY** REGIONAL CRITERIA

## Wind Chill Advisory Criteria

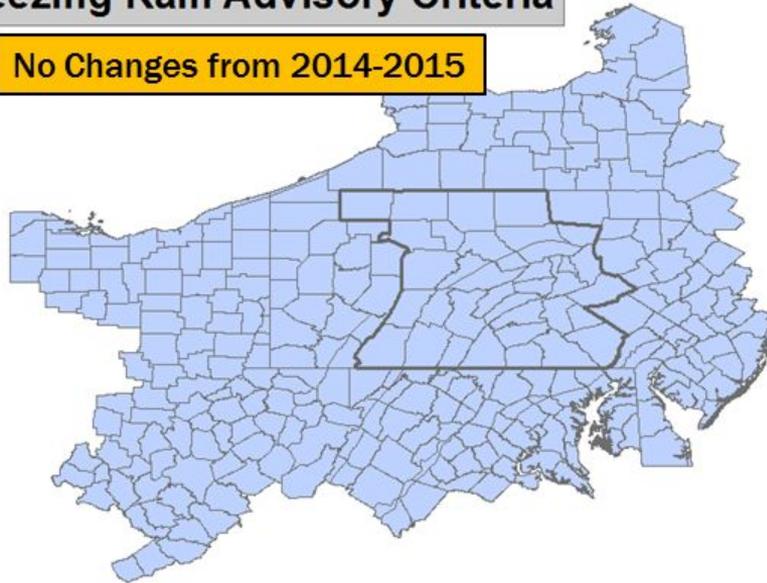


Last Updated: 08/27/2015

# FREEZING RAIN ADVISORY

## Freezing Rain Advisory Criteria

No Changes from 2014-2015



Trace

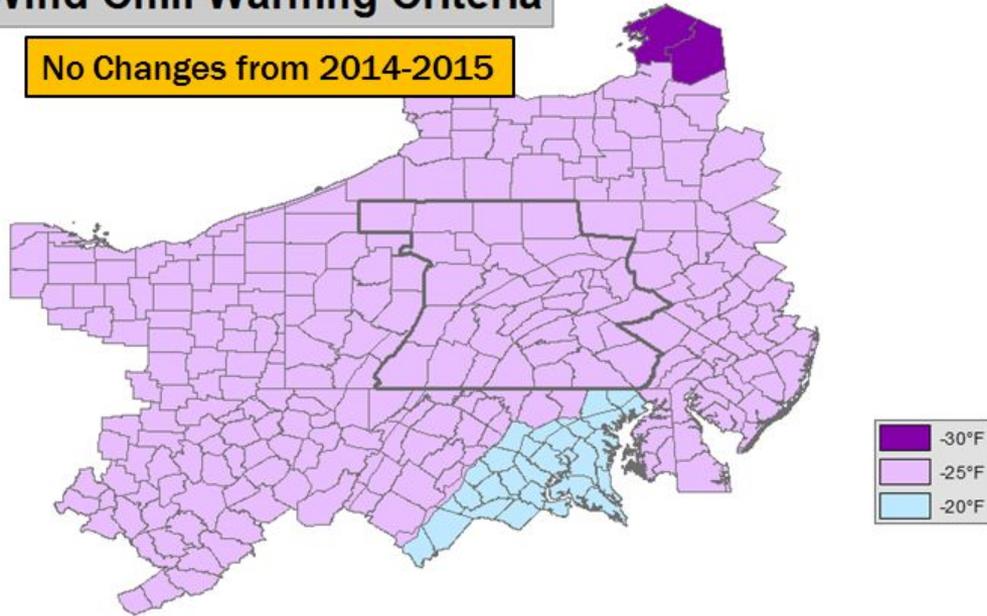
Last Updated: 12/28/2014

Regional View

# WIND CHILL WARNING

## Wind Chill Warning Criteria

No Changes from 2014-2015



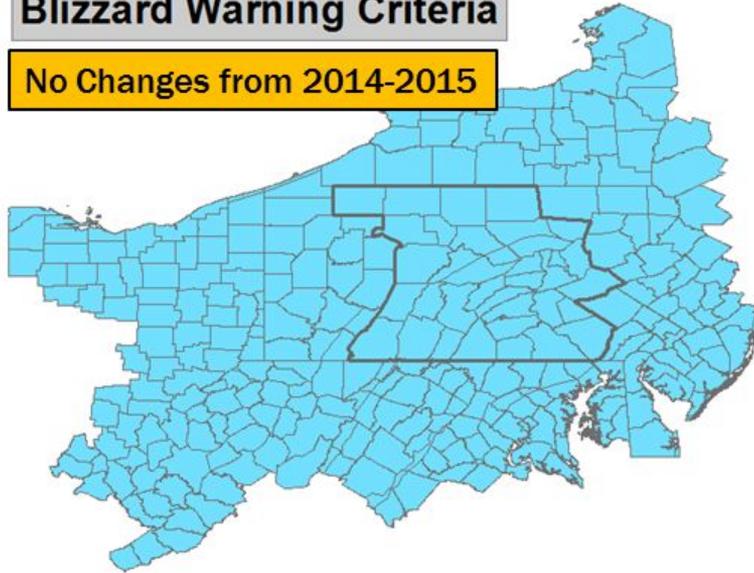
Last Updated: 12/26/2014

Regional View

# BLIZZARD WARNING

## Blizzard Warning Criteria

No Changes from 2014-2015



Sustained Winds or  
Frequent Gusts of  
35+ mph and  
Visibilities of 1/4  
miles or less for  
3+ hours

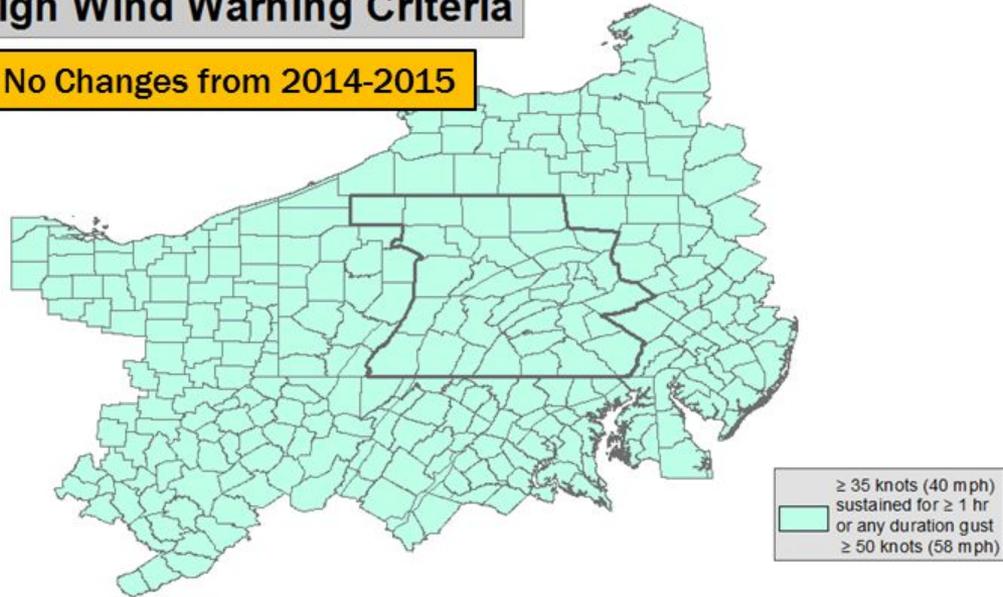
Last Updated: 12/28/14

Regional View

# HIGH WIND WARNING

## High Wind Warning Criteria

No Changes from 2014-2015



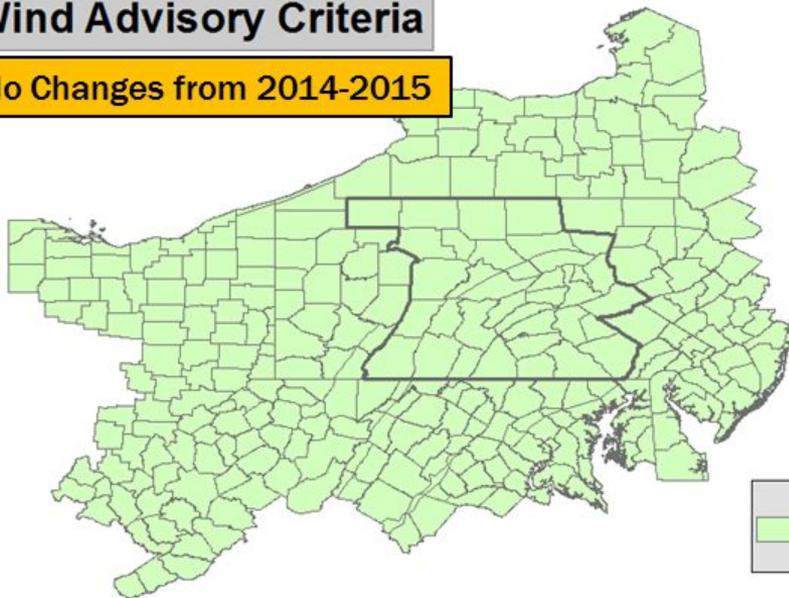
Last Updated: 12/28/2014

Regional View

# WIND ADVISORY

## Wind Advisory Criteria

No Changes from 2014-2015



27-34 knots (31-39 mph)  
sustained for  $\geq 1$  hr or  
any duration gusts of  
40-49 knots (46-57 mph)

Last Updated: 12/26/2014