



# Hazard Simplification Through Consolidation and Product Reformatting

## Previous Product

## Now Becomes

## Issued For...

Lake Effect Snow Watch

Blizzard Watch

**WINTER  
STORM WATCH**

*Issued for the **potential** for a **significant winter weather** event (heavy snow (including due to lake effect), sleet, ice, or blowing snow).*

Lake Effect Snow Advisory

Freezing Rain Advisory

**WINTER WEATHER  
ADVISORY**

*Issued when snow, **blowing snow, ice, or sleet** is expected, but condition should not be hazardous enough to meet warning criteria.*

\*\*\*Lake Effect Snow  
Warning

\*\*\***WINTER STORM  
WARNING**

*Issued when a **significant winter weather** event **is expected** (heavy snow, sleet, ice, or blowing snow). \*\*\*NWS Central Region only- does not affect local area\*\*\**



Full Website: <https://www.weather.gov/hazardsimplification/>





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## Previous Example...

KYZ098-099-OHZ081-230730- /O.CON.KILN.WS.W.0001.000000T0000Z-160123T1700Z/ MASON-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF... MAYSVILLE... 628 PM EST FRI JAN 22 2016

...WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL NOON EST SATURDAY...

- HAZARD TYPES...SNOW.
- ACCUMULATIONS...STORM TOTAL SNOW ACCUMULATION OF 6 TO 10 INCHES ARE EXPECTED.
- TIMING...SNOW WILL CONTINUE THIS EVENING AND THEN TAPER OFF LATE TONIGHT INTO EARLY SATURDAY MORNING.
- IMPACTS...HAZARDOUS TRAVEL CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED DUE TO REDUCED VISIBILITIES AND SNOW ACCUMULATIONS.
- WINDS...NORTH WINDS 10 TO 15 MPH WITH GUSTS UP TO 25 MPH WILL OCCUR.
- PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS... REMEMBER...A WINTER STORM WARNING MEANS SEVERE WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE IMMINENT OR HIGHLY LIKELY. STAY TUNED TO NOAA WEATHER RADIO OR YOUR FAVORITE SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR THE LATEST UPDATES. ADDITIONAL DETAILS CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT WWW.WEATHER.GOV/ILN AS WELL AS ON OUR FACEBOOK AND TWITTER PAGES.

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## Future Example...

KYZ098-099-OHZ081-\_\_\_\_\_- /O.CON.KILN.WS.W.0001.\_\_\_\_T\_\_\_\_Z-\_\_\_\_T\_\_\_\_Z/ MASON-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF... MAYSVILLE... \_\_\_\_ PM EST \_\_\_\_\_

...WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL NOON EST SATURDAY...

- **WHAT...** HEAVY SNOW EXPECTED. STORM TOTAL SNOW ACCUMULATION OF 6 TO 10 INCHES ARE EXPECTED.
- **WHEN...** THIS EVENING THROUGH EARLY SATURDAY MORNING.
- **WHERE...** MAYSVILLE
- **ADDITIONAL DETAILS...** HAZARDOUS TRAVEL CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED DUE TO REDUCED VISIBILITIES AND SNOW ACCUMULATIONS.
- PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS... REMEMBER...A WINTER STORM WARNING MEANS SEVERE WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE IMMINENT OR HIGHLY LIKELY. STAY TUNED TO NOAA WEATHER RADIO OR YOUR FAVORITE SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR THE LATEST UPDATES. ADDITIONAL DETAILS CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT WWW.WEATHER.GOV/ILN AS WELL AS ON OUR FACEBOOK AND TWITTER PAGES.

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# Hazard Simplification Through Consolidation and Product Reformatting

## HAZARD SIMPLIFICATION PROJECT **TIMELINE**

A project to understand how well the NWS Watch, Warning, and Advisory (WWA) system is understood by the public. Our goal is to increase public awareness and preparedness to ensure our messaging is as clear and focused as possible.



### Building a Weather-Ready Nation

The NWS releases a strategic plan to build a Weather-Ready Nation.



### Focus Groups Assembled

4 cities, 5 groups desire to consolidate products.



### Hazard Simplification Workshop

115 attendees push for consolidation and a consistent format.



### Case Study Survey

Social scientists find a need to simplify and consolidate products, improve formatting.



### Winter Consolidation Survey

5,400 completed surveys -- consolidation and reformatting received positively.



### Next Steps in Hazard Simplification

Update NWS policy to reflect changes with October 1, 2017 implementation date.

2011

2014

2015

2016

2017

2017-18

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** A great deal of data was collected over the past few years and only a small portion of that data is shared in this timeline. There are additional messaging recommendations from these reports that the Haz Simp team will be exploring further.



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National Weather Service



Hazard Simplification Initiative



# Hazard Simplification Through Consolidation and Product Reformatting



**Q:** Why are you removing hazard-specific products such as the “Freezing Rain Advisory?”

**A:** It's true that the hazard specific headlines will become more generic in the Watch and Advisory terms. However, "Advisory" is the most poorly understood of the WWA terms overall so, for many people, it's not necessarily clear from the headline what level of impact is expected without going into the message anyway.



**Q:** Why are you reducing the number of NWS hazard products?

**A:** One of the primary project goals is to reduce the need to rely on "product headlines" to distinguish among the various impacts we experience across the country. Such reliance has now resulted in some 127 products across our hazard suite which we expect our users to understand. Instead, the new "What" section of the message will enable forecasters to express exactly what they wish to say in terms of hazard and impact - and in plain English.



**Q:** Tell me about the benefits of removing the “Freezing Rain Advisory.” I’m still not convinced.

**A:** Going to just one Winter Weather Advisory eliminates the need to cancel and reissue products for hazards that have a similar impact. For example, forecasters sometimes cancel a Freezing Rain Advisory and reissue a Winter Weather Advisory for minor changes in winter hazard combinations. These types of cancellations and re-issuances can be very confusing to users - and will no longer be needed. Winter weather often includes a mixture of hazards from snow, sleet, freezing rain and blowing snow. Individual products for each hazard make it more difficult for users to understand the changing nature of winter events, and are even more challenging for our forecasters in the current product paradigm.

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