



The Ozark Ambassador

National Weather Service Springfield, Missouri



Preparing For Winter

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Winter Weather Websites

[Probabilistic Forecasts](#)

[DSS Packet](#)

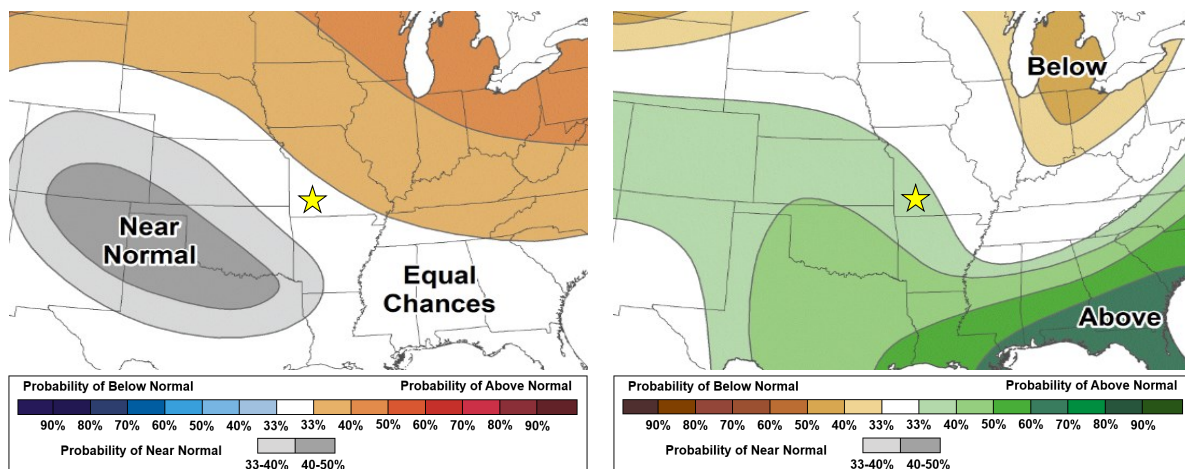
[Weather Story](#)

[Weather Prediction Center](#)

[Climate Prediction Center](#)

[Storm Prediction Center](#)

Winter 2023-2024 Outlook



The Winter 2023-2024 Outlook forecasts favors equal chances of above/below normal temperatures and leans above normal precipitation for the region. For more information check out the [Winter 2023-2024 Climate Outlook](#).

Winter Weather Preparedness Week November 6-10, 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Terminology and Products	Ice Storms and Ice Safety	Snow and Snow Safety	Extreme Cold and Wind Chills	Have a Plan and Getting Information

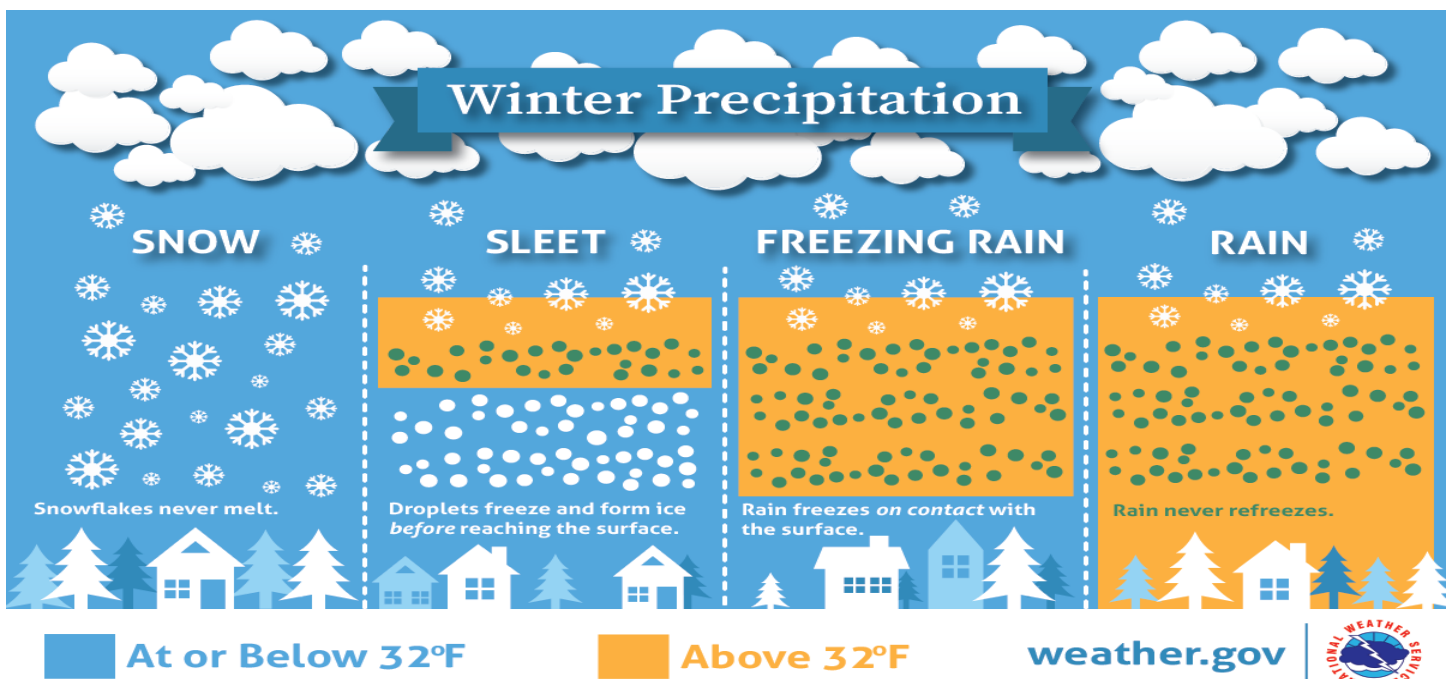
Join us and our partners the week of November 6-10, 2023 for Winter Weather Preparedness Week in the state of Missouri. Winter storms and cold temperatures can be extremely dangerous. We urge people to use this week to review the Winter hazards and their safety plans so they are prepared for the upcoming Winter season. Additional safety information can be found on [NWS Springfield Winter Weather Preparedness Webpage](#) and [SEMA Webpage](#).

Winter Products and Science

NWS Winter Weather Products

Winter Storm Watch	Winter Weather Advisory	Winter Storm Warning	Ice Storm Warning	Blizzard Warning
Conditions are favorable for a winter storm event within the next 24 to 72 hours. Travel difficulties are possible.	Potentially dangerous winter weather is expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or is occurring. Travel difficulties are expected.	Dangerous winter weather is expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or is already occurring. Considerable travel problems are expected.	Significant ice accumulations are expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or are already occurring. Do Not Travel	Blizzard conditions are expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or are already occurring — including white out conditions. Do Not Travel
Be Ready	Stay Aware	Take Action	Take Action	Take Action
<small>NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION</small>				<small>NWS Springfield, MO</small>

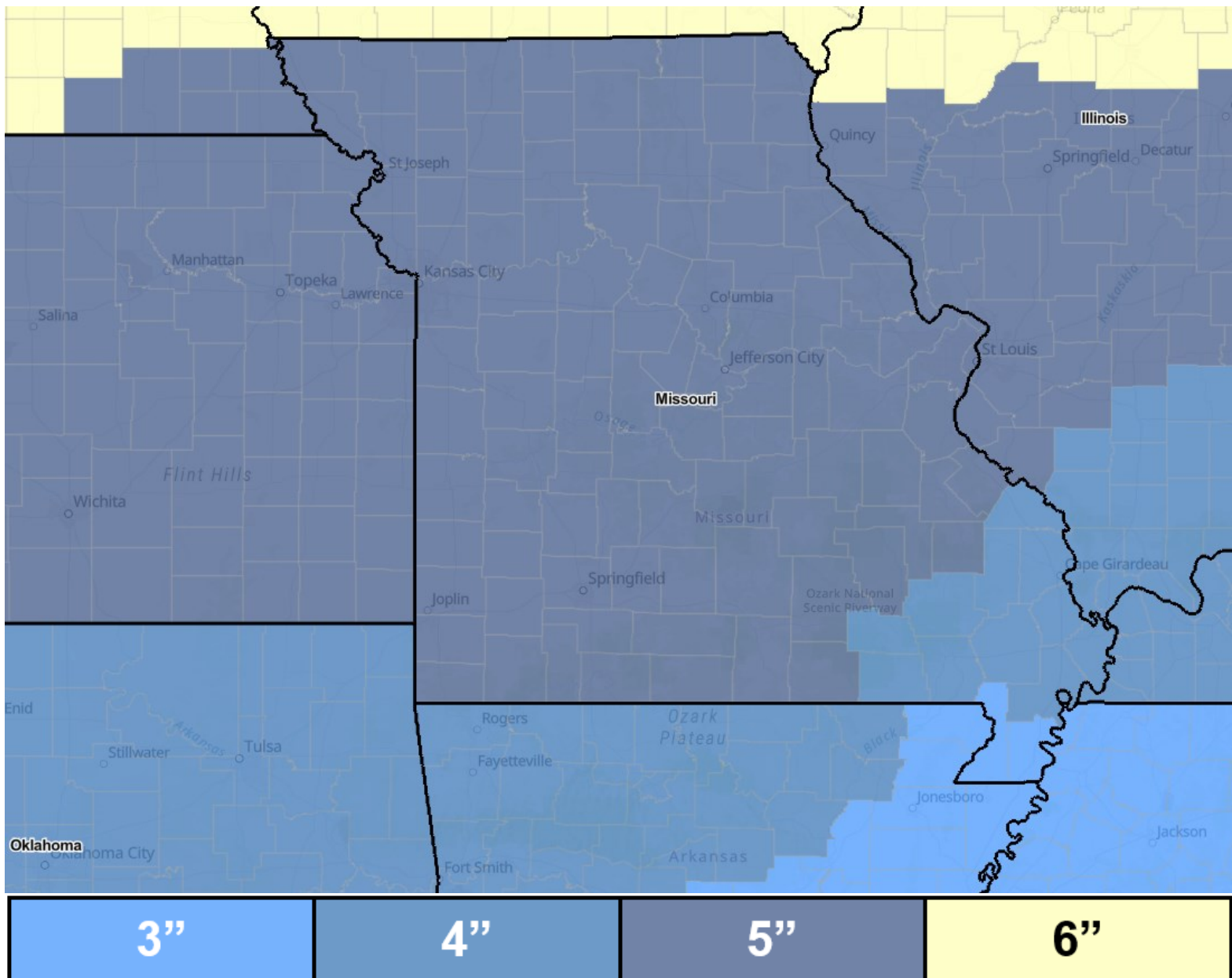
Understanding Winter Precipitation



Winter Products Changes

New Winter Storm Warning Criteria

In the Contiguous US, warning criteria thresholds for heavy snow, measured in inches, have been updated to serve as the basis for winter storm watches and warnings. The updates were made to improve decision support services, collaboration, and communication. There is now an interactive heavy snow criteria map that is centrally updated and managed, allowing users to easily find their local criteria. Minor changes to criteria should have only limited impact to end users. Offices can still issue watches and warnings based on anticipated impacts.

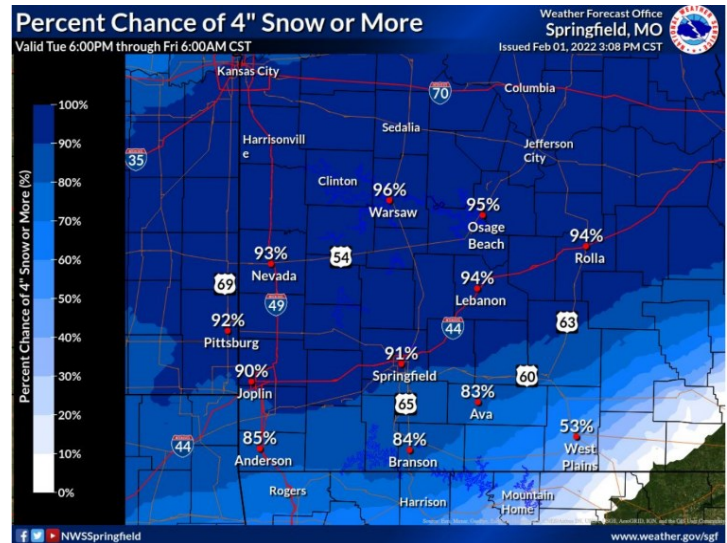
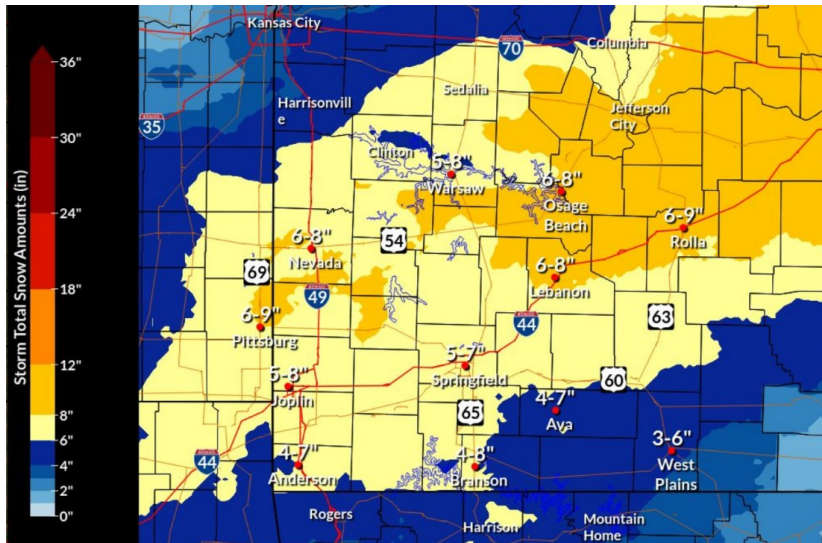


New Winter Storm Warning criteria for the Springfield, MO County Warning Area is **5 inches or more of snowfall**.

[Check out this webpage for more information on Winter Storm Warning criteria across the US.](#)

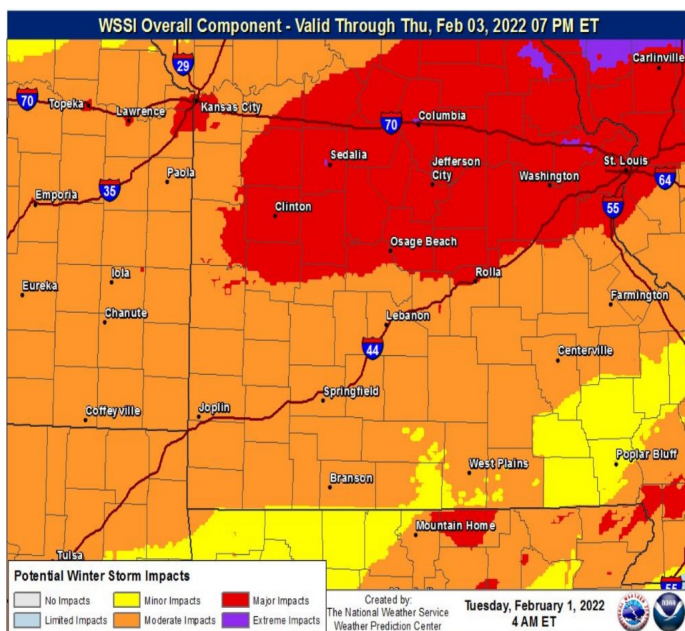
Winter Forecasting

Probabilistic Snowfall Forecasts



The purpose of these experimental probabilistic snowfall products is to provide customers and partners a range of snowfall possibilities, in complement to existing NWS deterministic snowfall graphics, to better communicate forecast uncertainties during winter weather events. For more information and probabilistic snowfall forecasts, check out [weather.gov/springfield/winter](https://www.weather.gov/springfield/winter).

Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI)



Potential Winter Storm Impacts	
Winter Weather Area	Expect Winter Weather. • Winter driving conditions. Drive carefully.
Minor Impacts	Expect a few inconveniences to daily life. • Winter driving conditions. Use caution while driving.
Moderate Impacts	Expect disruptions to daily life. • Hazardous driving conditions. Use extra caution while driving. • Closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.
Major Impacts	Expect considerable disruptions to daily life. • Dangerous or impossible driving conditions. Avoid travel if possible. • Widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.
Extreme Impacts	Expect substantial disruptions to daily life. • Extremely dangerous or impossible driving conditions. Travel is not advised. • Extensive and widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur. • Life-saving actions may be needed.

The WSSI has been developed to have a two-fold focus. The first is for use as a tool to assist NWS operational forecasters in maintaining situational awareness of the possible significance of weather-related impacts based upon the current official forecasts. The second is to enhance communication to external partners, media and the general public of the expected severity of potential societal impacts due to expected winter hazards and their distribution. Individual components can be analyzed which include: Snow Amount, Snow Load, Ice Accumulation, Flash Freeze, Blowing Snow, and Ground Blizzard.

[Winter Storm Severity Index \(WSSI\)](#)

[Rolling 24 Hour Winter Storm Severity Index \(WSSI\)](#)

[Experimental Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index \(ProbWSSI\)](#)

Measuring Snow and Ice

Measuring Snow

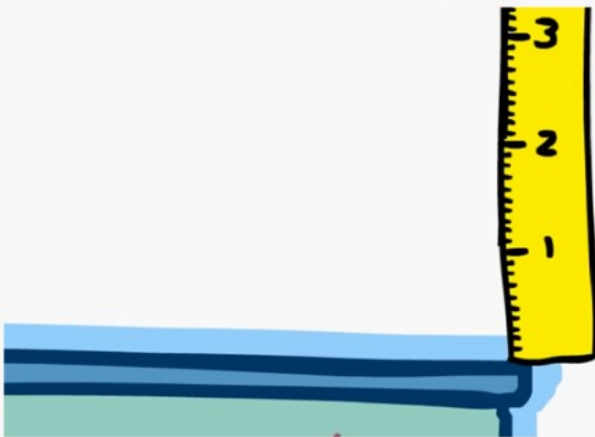
Six Basic Steps for Properly MEASURING SNOW

Accurate and timely snowfall measurements are extremely important to your National Weather Service office, your community, local media, and many others. Here are the six steps you need to know for measuring snow:

- 1 Supplies**
Ruler or yard stick
24" X 24" white board, flag
- 2 Planning**
Find an open area away from tall objects, but sheltered from wind
- 3 Set-up**
Set up before snow begins
Put your board out and mark it with the flag
- 4 Measuring Snow**
Record your total to the nearest tenth of an inch
Wipe the board off after measuring
Measure once daily at the same time, after measuring place the board on top of snow
- 5 When Snow Stops**
Measure as soon as the snow stops to avoid lower totals due to melting, settling and drifting
- 6 Reporting**
weather.gov
social media
SEND us your report!

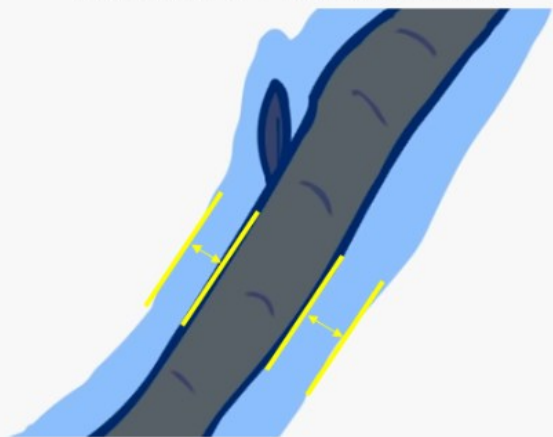
Measuring Ice

Flat Ice Measurement



Find a flat surface that has been undisturbed from the surrounding environment or other objects. Measure ice accumulation with a ruler.

Radial Ice Measurement



Break off a small twig or branch from a tree in which ice has accumulated. Measure the thickness of ice on each side of the branch with a ruler. Then average the two measurements to get the total ice accumulation.

All measurements should be rounded to the nearest 0.1".
Any measurements below 0.1" are reported as a trace.

Winter Weather Preparedness

Winter Driving and Preparedness

ICE & SNOW, TAKE IT SLOW

Each year in the U.S., there are over **1,000 deaths** and **100,000 injuries** due to vehicle crashes during winter weather.

DID YOU KNOW?



Clean off your vehicle before driving.
Flying snow from cars causes accidents.















Keep it slow, and don't use cruise control.
Roads can be slick even if they just look wet.



Leave extra distance between vehicles.
Stay especially far from snow plows.

weather.gov

Vehicle Winter Preparedness Checklist

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Flashlight & Extra Batteries | <input type="checkbox"/>  Blankets/Sleeping Bag | <input type="checkbox"/>  Extra Clothing
Hats, Mittens, Parkas, Boots |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  First Aid Kit | <input type="checkbox"/>  Non-Perishable Food
Granola Bars, Dried nuts, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/>  Sand/Kitty Litter
Used for Traction |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Snow Shovel | <input type="checkbox"/>  Bottled Water | <input type="checkbox"/>  Cell Phone & Charger |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Ice Scraper with Brush | <input type="checkbox"/>  Booster Cables | <input type="checkbox"/>  Flares/Triangles & other Bright Objects |

Being Prepared for Cold Weather

DRESSING FOR COLD WEATHER

Adding layers will help keep you warm as the temperature drops

CHILLY	COLD	EXTREME COLD
 <p>1-2 layers</p> <p>long layer</p> <p>outer layer to keep out wind, rain</p> <p>warm shoes water proof</p>	 <p>2-3 layers</p> <p>gloves</p> <p>1-2 layers</p> <p>warm hat</p> <p>outer layer to keep out wind, wet snow</p> <p>boots water proof</p>	 <p>3+ layers</p> <p>1 insulating</p> <p>gloves</p> <p>2+ layers</p> <p>warm hat</p> <p>face mask</p> <p>outer layer to keep out wind</p> <p>boots water proof</p>

weather.gov/cold

Sending Winter Weather Reports

Ways to Send Reports

Send Report to NWS

 Call 417-863-8028
Text 417-830-7659

 contact.sgf@noaa.gov

 @NWSSpringfield

 @NWSSpringfield

[iNWS Storm Reports](#)



Storm Reports
Alerting the NWS to local weather

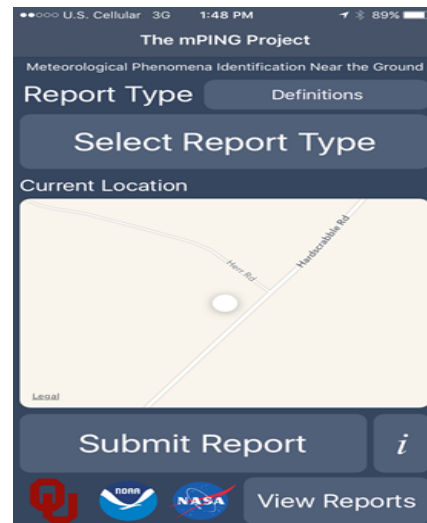
Report Type -> Details -> Location -> Review and Send

Please select a report type ▼




[Privacy policy for weather reports](#)

[mPING App](#)



Join CoCoRaHS Volunteer Program



What is CoCoRaHS?

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network, is a non-profit, community based, network of volunteers who measure and report rain, hail and snow in their backyards. Additional [About CoCoRaHS info.](#)

Who uses CoCoRaHS?

CoCoRaHS is used by a wide variety of organizations and

individuals. The National Weather Service, other meteorologists, hydrologists, emergency managers, city utilities (water supply, water conservation, storm water), insurance adjusters, USDA, engineers, mosquito control, ranchers and farmers, outdoor & recreation interests, teachers, students, and neighbors in the community are just some examples of those who visit our Web site and use our data.

Volunteers of All Ages Welcome!

Everyone can participate, both young, old, and in-between. The only requirements are an enthusiasm for watching and reporting weather conditions and a desire to learn more about how weather can affect and impact our lives. [Check out the volunteers wanted flyer.](#)

[Join CoCoRaHS Volunteer Program](#)

Building a Weather-Ready Nation

Vulnerable Populations Initiative

Goal 1: Identify vulnerable populations in the NWS Springfield area.

Goal 2: Build relationship/partnership within the vulnerable population community of interest. Identify a point of contact.

Goal 3: Take a five step approach to relationship building **TRUST** within the vulnerable population:

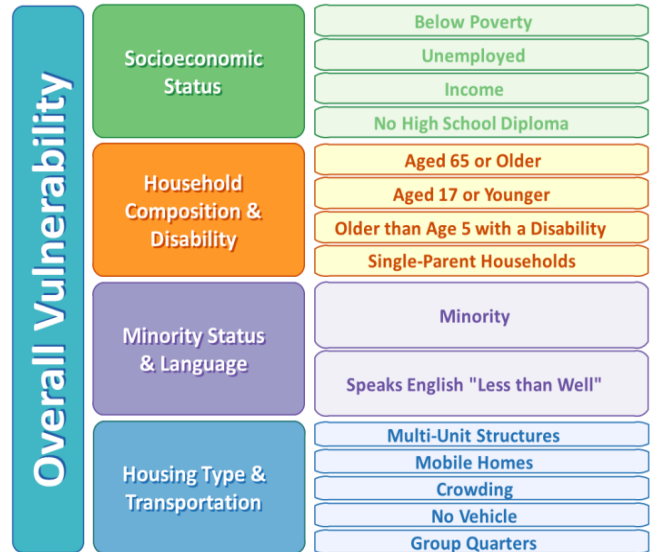
1. **T**eamwork
2. **R**espect
3. **U**nderstand
4. **S**ervice
5. **T**ask

Resources:

[FEMA Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool \(RAPT\)](#)

[CDC Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\)](#)

[Neighborhoods at Risk](#)



2023 WRN Ambassador of Excellence Award



Lake Area Storm Spotters continues to exemplify itself as a leader in the Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador community. In particular, L.A.S.S. has been a leading example of preparedness on social media platforms over the last several years leading to having over 16,500 members as a private organization. This effort includes engaging and educating the community on hazardous weather safety through the sharing of NWS safety messages and initiating homeschool talks and other community weather awareness training classes. L.A.S.S. is a valuable force multiplier in building a Weather-Ready Nation and serves as an example for future ambassadors.

[Click here to Learn More about Becoming an Ambassador](#)



Scan the QR code to Apply today!

Follow NWS Springfield

