



National Weather Service

Definitions for New York State



WINTER WEATHER



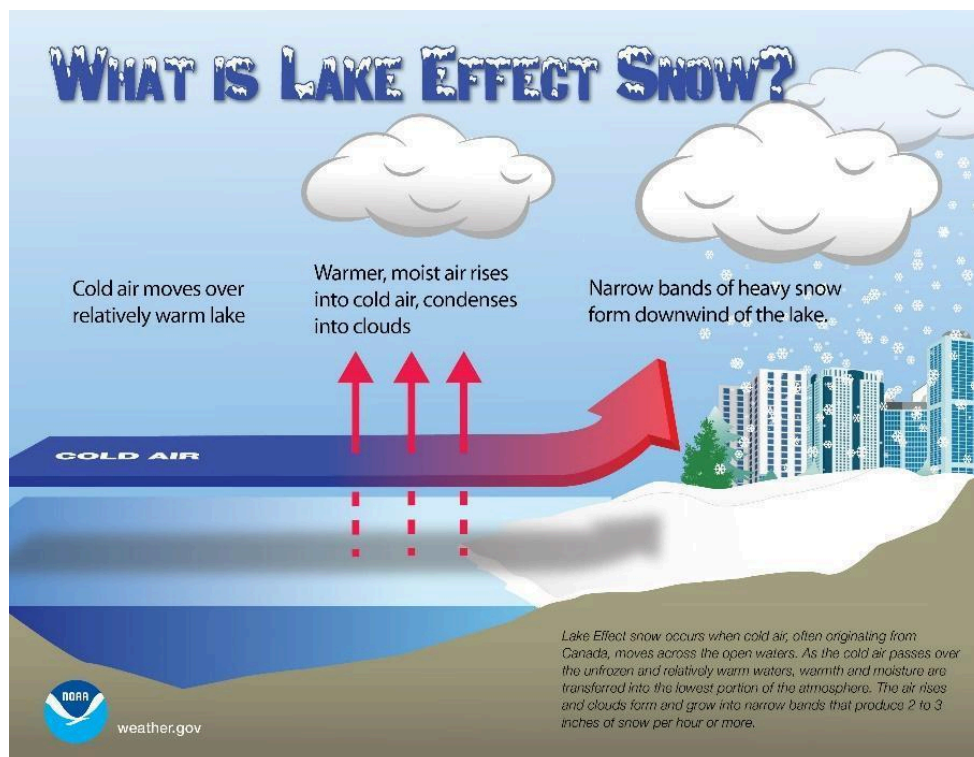
WINTER STORM WATCH: Issued when severe winter conditions are **possible** (heavy snow; snow, sleet and/or freezing rain; lake effect snow and/or potential blizzard. Used when the risk of hazardous weather has increased significantly, but its occurrence, location and timing is still uncertain.

WINTER STORM WARNING: severe winter conditions expected. A warning may still be warranted if a storm is expected to exceed advisory level criteria, but fall short of warning level criteria if significant impacts to transit and/or utilities are expected.

- **Snow and/or sleet accumulations:**

- **7+ inches:** western and central New York, Finger Lakes, Southern Tier, Mohawk Valley and the Capital District into the mid-Hudson Valley
- **6+ inches:** North Country, Lower Hudson Valley, New York City and Long Island

LAKE EFFECT SNOW WARNING: issued when widespread or localized lake induced snow squalls or heavy showers are **expected** to produce significant snowfall accumulation. Lake effect snow usually develops in narrow bands and impacts a limited area. These bands can produce very heavy snow with sudden restrictions in visibility creating hazardous driving conditions.





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BLIZZARD WARNING: Issued when heavy snow is forecast for 3 hours or more and when sustained winds or frequent gusts of 35 mph are also expected combining to produce blinding snow (visibility near zero / whiteouts) and deep snow drifts.

WHAT'S A BLIZZARD?

BLOWING SNOW

- 35+ MPH WINDS
- $\leq 1/4$ MI VISIBILITY
- FOR 3+ HOURS

DID YOU KNOW THAT FALLING SNOW ISN'T NECESSARY FOR A BLIZZARD?

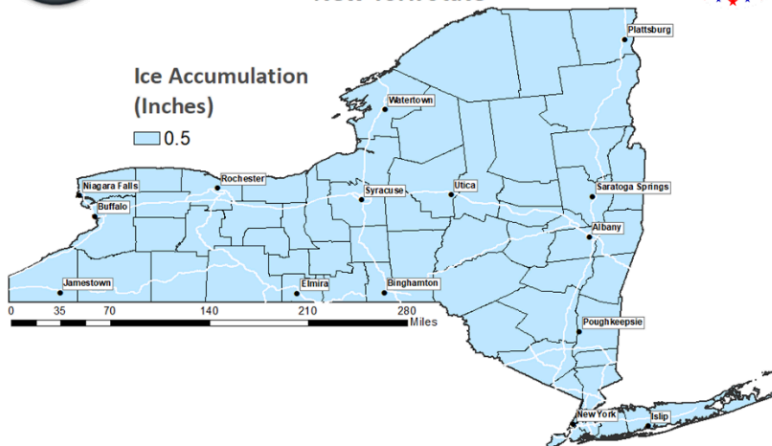
A BLIZZARD THAT RESULTS FROM SNOW THAT HAS PREVIOUSLY FALLEN IS CALLED A GROUND BLIZZARD.

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ICE STORM WARNING: $\frac{1}{2}$ " + of ice accretion is expected



National Weather Service Ice Storm Warning Criteria New York State





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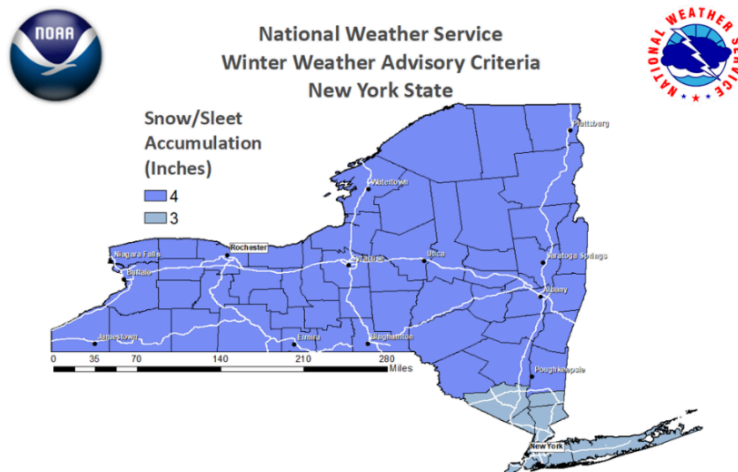


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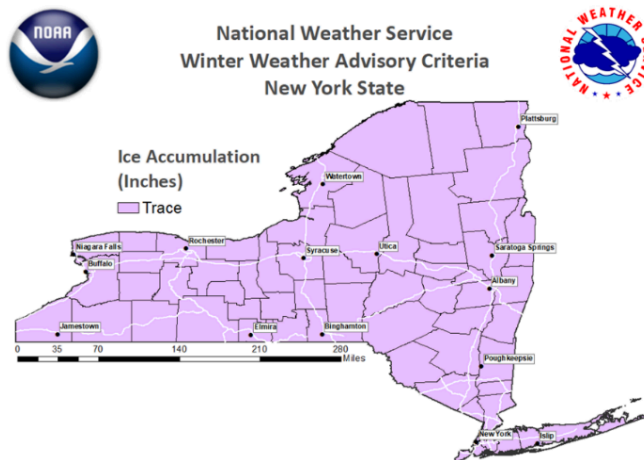


WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY: snow, sleet and/or freezing rain **expected** to cause significant inconvenience and may be hazardous especially on untreated surfaces.

- **Snow and/or Sleet accumulations**
 - **4-6 inches:** New York State excluding the Lower Hudson Valley, New York City & Long Island
 - **3-5 inches:** Lower Hudson Valley, New York City & Long Island



- **Freezing Rain and Freezing Drizzle:** any accumulation of ice





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SNOW SQUALL WARNING: Issued to provide advance notice of intense, but limited duration, periods of moderate to heavy snowfall, accompanied by gusty winds resulting in reduced visibilities and whiteout conditions. Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) is issued when a “Significant” tag is used for when snow squalls pose a substantial threat to safe travel.



SNOW SQUALLS

- Intense bursts of snow and wind
- Short duration
- Whiteout visibility
- Rapidly deteriorating road conditions

National Weather Service **SNOW SQUALL WARNINGS**

- Issued when a snow squall is occurring or imminent
- Typically in effect for 30-60 minutes in a small, targeted area
- Can trigger a Wireless Emergency Alert to your phone
- When issued, slow down or delay travel

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