

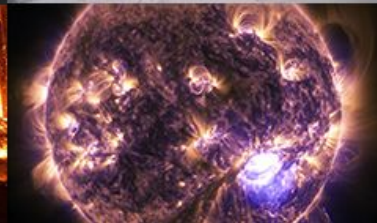
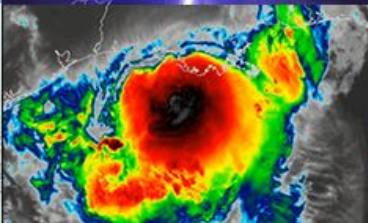
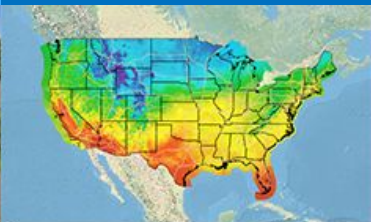
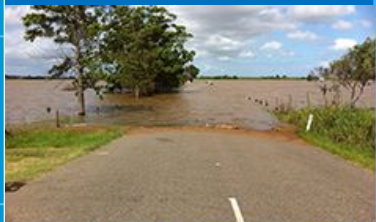


**NATIONAL
WEATHER
SERVICE**

Snow Squall Safety and Preparedness for New Yorkers



Presenters: Jessica Storm
Meteorologist and Outreach Team Co-Lead at BTV (Burlington, Vermont)





What are snow squalls?





Snow squalls are quick intense moderate to heavy bursts of snow accompanied by gusty winds resulting in **reduced visibilities and whiteout conditions.**



Rapidly falling temperatures combined with the snow can cause **dangerously icy conditions on roadways.**



What is a

SNOW SQUALL?

Intense burst of snow and winds

Short duration (1-3 hours)

Whiteout visibility

Rapidly deteriorating road conditions



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WWW.WEATHER.GOV/SAFETY

IOWA DOT





Snow Squalls vs. Snowstorms



Snow squalls typically **last 30-60 minutes** and arrive **suddenly**



Snowstorms can last **several hours or even days** and can be anticipated **several days out in time**



Impacts from Snow Squalls



- Quick **reductions in visibility**
- Sudden **icy conditions** on roadways
 - Can cause roads to turn into a sheet of ice in just a few minutes, even if the roads only appear wet beforehand
 - Stopping distances on an ice roadway are multiplied by 10
- **High-speed wrecks, pileups,** and subsequent injuries and fatalities can occur.





SNOW SQUALLS STRIKE QUICKLY



Snow Squalls:

- Can occur at any time of day, but are most frequent from midday through late afternoon
- Can happen on days with otherwise fair weather conditions
- Most common between November and March



From sunshine to a whiteout:

conditions change rapidly in a snow squall



A few minutes later...



#SnowSquallSafety



12.29.2009










What can you do to prepare for **snow squalls** even before getting on the road?





Every fall, do the following to prepare:

- **Install good winter tires** with sufficient tread
 - Ensure the tires have correct **air pressure**
 - Replace any worn tires
 - Those who live in higher terrain areas should consider studded tires
 - **Replace windshield-wiper fluid** with a wintertime mixture
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 



Every fall, do the following to prepare:

- **Replace windshield wipers** if necessary
- Ensure your vehicle is properly maintained and **ready to roll** during winter weather
 - Consider adding an **emergency road kit** and portable car battery jump starter



Ready ✓

Build an Emergency Car Kit



#WINTERREADY





CELL PHONE,
CHARGER



FIRST AID KIT



JUMPER CABLES



TIRE CHAINS
OR SNOWTIRES



FLARES

BUILDING AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT FOR YOUR CAR



WATER,
SNACKS



FLASHLIGHT



BOOTS, MITTENS,
WARM CLOTHES



BLANKET



TOW ROPE



FULL TANK
OF GAS



BAG OF SAND
OR CAT LITTER



SHOVEL,
ICE SCRAPER,
SNOW BRUSH

WHY?

BECAUSE YOU NEVER
KNOW WHEN YOU WILL
ENCOUNTER WINTER WEATHER
OR AN EMERGENCY ROAD
CLOSURE.


AMERICA'S
PrepareAthon!

BE SMART. TAKE PART. PREPARE.





Before heading out:

- **Check the forecast** at [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) and travel with your phone nearby to **receive any potential Snow Squall Warnings** 
- **Consider an alternate route or delaying travel** if snow squalls are forecast or if a Snow Squall Warning is in effect
- **Keep your gas tank full** in case snow squalls or other hazards keep you on the road for longer than you originally anticipated





What might it look like if we are forecasting
snow squalls?





New York



Snow Squalls Expected This Afternoon

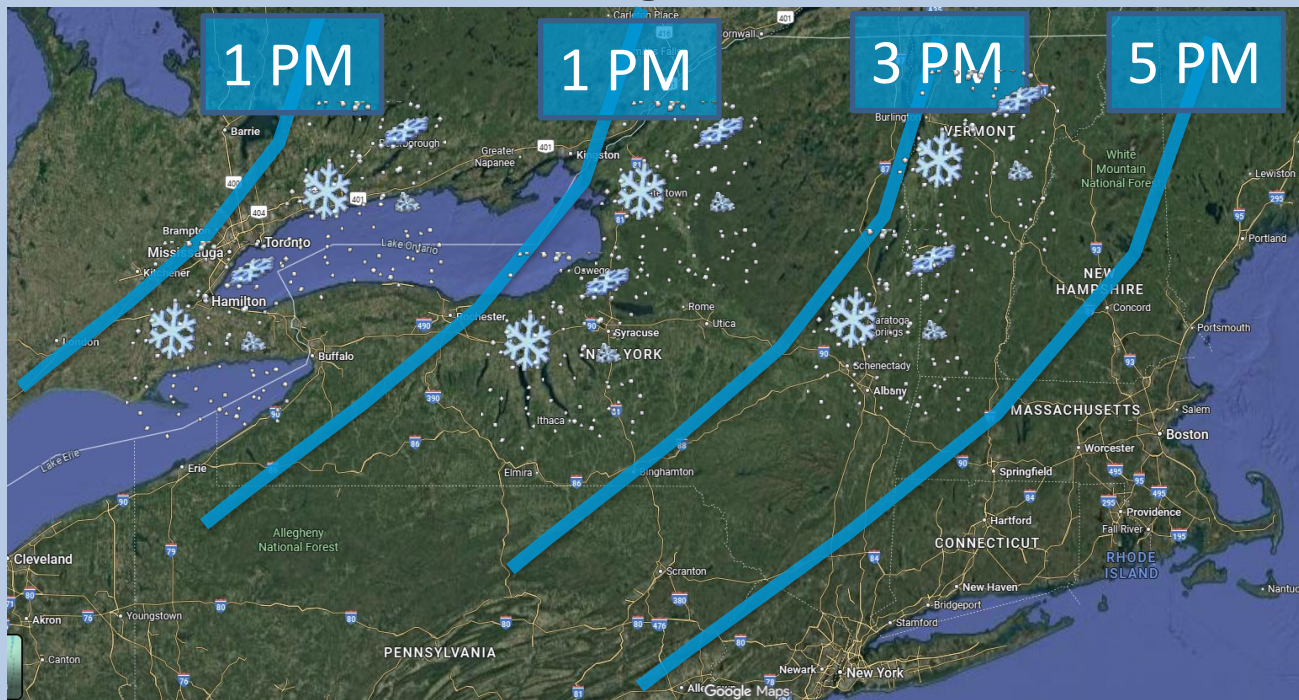
*** Potential for Dangerous Travel Conditions ***

Impacts

- Slippery Travel
- Brief heavy snow with sudden onset and very low visibility
- Gusty winds up to 40 mph
- Icy roads
- Total snowfall: 1-2"

Driving Tips

- **Slow down** & don't tailgate.
- Ensure headlights are on.
- Always wear seatbelt.
- Do not use cruise control in snow or ice.



Note: This is an **example**.

Approximate Arrival Time Of Heaviest Squalls Shown





What an Wireless Emergency Alert looks like on your cell phone for a Snow Squall



Emergency Alert

Yesterday, 4:28 PM

National Weather Service: Snow Squall Warning until 5:00 PM CST. Slow down or delay travel! Be ready for a sudden drop to near zero visibility and icy roads in heavy snow.



Messaging Board Signs Advise Motorists to Adjust their Speed Based on Changing Weather Conditions





Snow Squall Warnings



Snow Squall Warning issued when:

- ¼ mile visibility or less (**whiteout conditions**)
- Sub-freezing road temperatures or potential for flash freeze on road (**slick roads**)
- **Gusty winds and blowing snow**
- We also consider the time of day, day of the week, and other societal factors that determine **level of traffic on roads and related impacts.**





What can you do to prepare for **snow squalls** while on the road?





Be snow-squall-smart!



CAN YOU IDENTIFY A SNOW SQUALL IN THE DISTANCE?



An approaching snow squall may have a milky white appearance that can obscure ridgetops or the horizon.

A snow squall can take on a small, cellular appearance or a long, linear "wall of white."

As a snow squall comes closer, its appearance will become increasingly dark.

If you find yourself driving towards a snow squall on an interstate, make the safe choice. Exit the interstate before entering the snow squall.



#SnowSquallSafety



snow squalls

There is a long history of deadly traffic accidents associated with these intense snow events that are accompanied by strong winds and a quick reduction in visibility.

safety tips

- Avoid or delay motor travel until the squall passes
- Reduce your speed, turn on your headlights and hazard lights, and try to exit the road

"Sneaky" Winter Hazards

The winter season brings many weather events that can "sneak" up on you. These are weather hazards that cause big impacts and make travel difficult without making big news.

Snow Squall Warnings




- Similar to a Severe Thunderstorm Warning - short-lived and can trigger an alert on your phone
 - Issued minutes before the start of the event and typically lasts 30 to 60 minutes
- If you receive one for your location when **not** on the road, avoid or delay motor travel until the squall has passed through




PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SNOW SQUALLS

 **If a Snow Squall Warning is issued, delay travel.**
If you're already driving, safely exit the road at the next opportunity.

If you cannot exit the road in time:

 **Slow down,**
but avoid slamming the brakes

 **Turn on your lights**
(low-beam headlights & hazards, if allowed)

 **Pull over safely to the side of the road,**
and when safe, quickly exit your vehicle and
move as far away from the road as possible



weather.gov





Driving Safety Tips:

- **Stay alert** for rapidly changing road conditions
 - Watch for **brake lights** ahead
 - **Avoid slamming on the brake** when you slow down
 - Turn on **low beams** and **hazard lights**
 - **Stay in your lane** and allow **sufficient distance** between you and the vehicle ahead





Driving Safety Tips:

- **Disable your vehicle's cruise control** when driving on slippery, icy, or snowy roads (like in a **snow squall**)
 - If you lose traction or start to skid, the cruise control will accelerate to maintain your vehicle's speed, causing your wheels to spin even faster





Driving Safety Tips:

- When pulling over to the side of the road (if exiting the road is not an option):
 - **Set the parking brake**
 - **Exit your car, getting far from the road**
- If a power line falls on your car, **stay inside it** until a trained person removes the wire, as you are at risk of electrical shock



Caught in a pileup in a *snow squall*?

- If possible, drive slowly forward and move to the **front of the pileup**
- If stopped, **DO NOT stand outside** your vehicle or near the roadway
- If you can do so safely, **get as far away** from the roadway as possible
- If you cannot safely exit your vehicle, **remain seated inside your vehicle**





Thank you for your time!

