



RGV/Deep S. Texas Cold/Wintery Precipitation Briefing

2:00 PM CT
Wednesday January 19, 2022

What's Changed: First Briefing
Next Briefing: 2:00 PM, January 20th

Disclaimer: The information contained within is time-sensitive. Do not use after 1:00pm EDT Wednesday.



Bottom Lines

Cold/Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022

- **“Sharp Change”**: 50 degree apparent (“feels like”) temperature drop from today through Thursday afternoon. From April to January in 24 hours.
- Feels Like Temperatures falling **to between 20 and 25 overnight Thursday**, continuing below 30 through at least noon Friday
- **Wintry precipitation**: A mix of ice (rain freezing on contact) and sleet (melted snow that refreezes before reaching ground) expected to develop across the Rio Grande Plains, Brush Country, and Brooks/Kenedy/northern Hidalgo/inland Willacy **late Thursday evening and continue through mid morning Friday**
- **Wintry precipitation**: A possibility for **icing, perhaps mixed with sleet**, extending into the **populated Rio Grande Valley, between 3 AM and 9 AM Friday**
- **Gale warnings** for the Gulf of Mexico for strong winds and rough/high seas



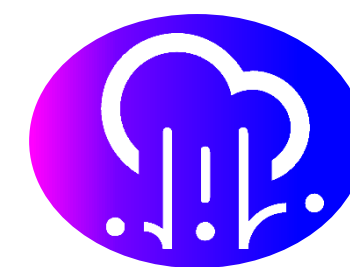
Timeline

Cold/Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022



Thursday

- Sharply Colder; “Feels Like” Temperatures in the low to mid 30s by 3 PM and around 30 by sunset
- Patchy light rain or drizzle; possible slick roads from oil build up



Friday

- Wintry precipitation ending/tapering off by 9 AM but potentially as late as noon
- Feels like temperatures rising slowly, in the 20s through noon and into the low to mid 30s during afternoon
- Actual temperatures struggling to or just above 40 by afternoon.

Thursday
January 20

Thursday Night
January 20-21

Friday
January 21

Thursday Night

Through 10 PM



10 PM – Daybreak Fri.

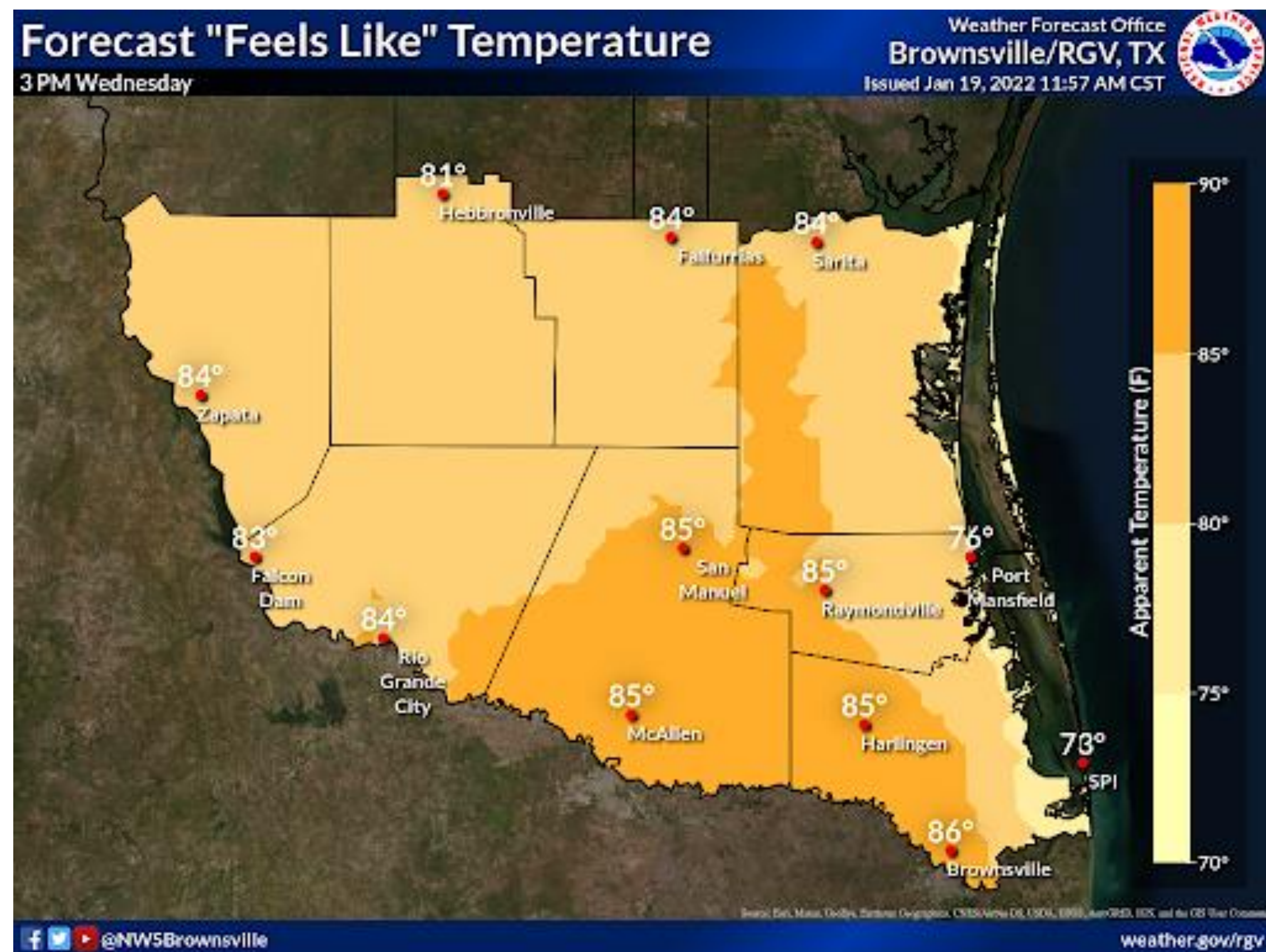


- Cold rain developing through 9-10 PM; “feels like” temperatures falling below 30
- Rain mixing with/changing to ice/sleet across Zapata-Kenedy County between 10 PM and midnight
- Light icing/sleet possible into the populated Rio Grande Valley, mainly along/north of IH-2, between 3 and 6 AM Friday.
- “Feels Like” temperatures dropping to 20-25 after midnight.



Sharp Change

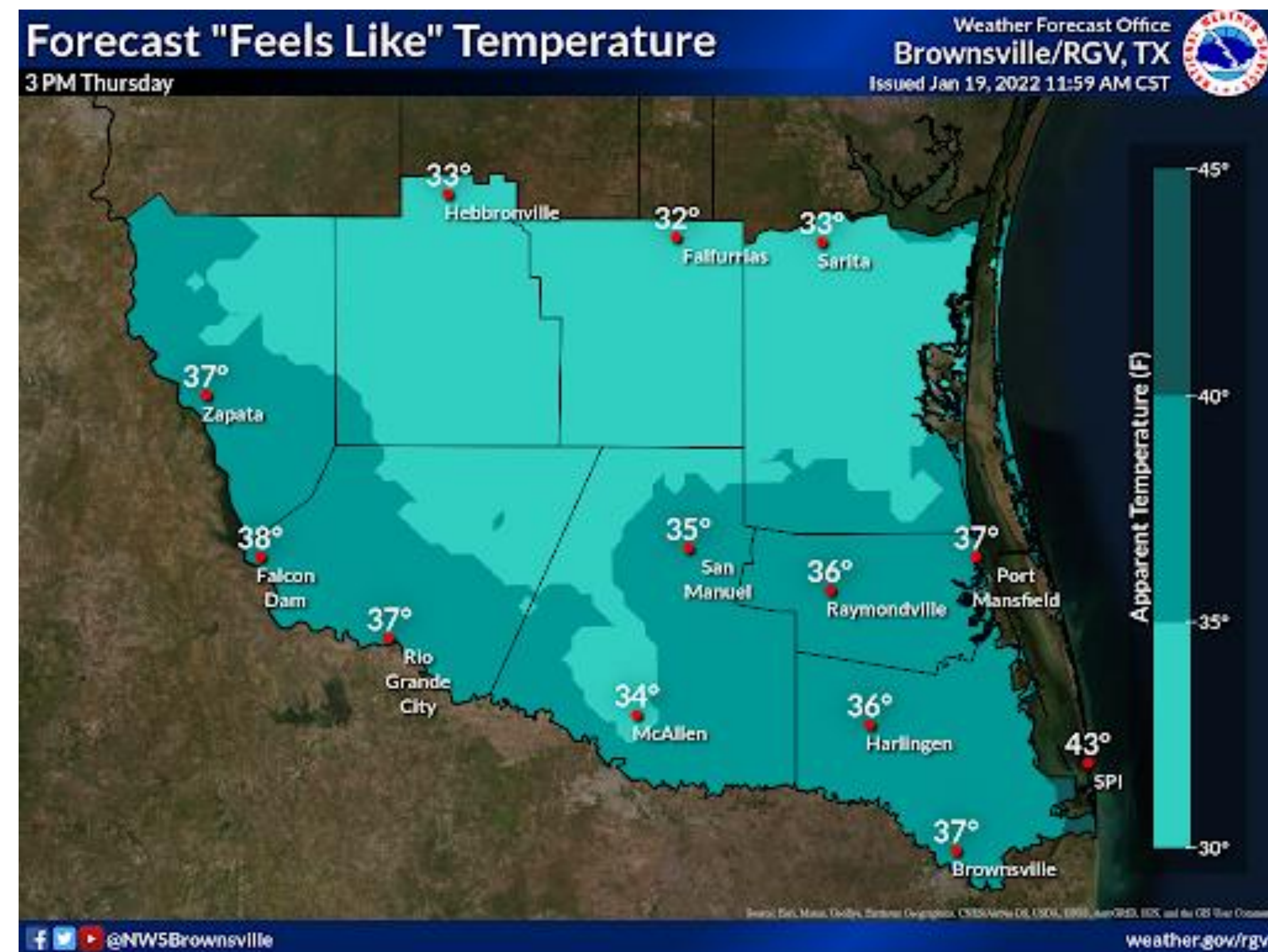
Cold/Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022



3 PM Today (Wednesday)

***A 50 Degree Difference ("Feels Like Temps)!**

Actual Temperatures: A 40 degree difference (80s to 40s)

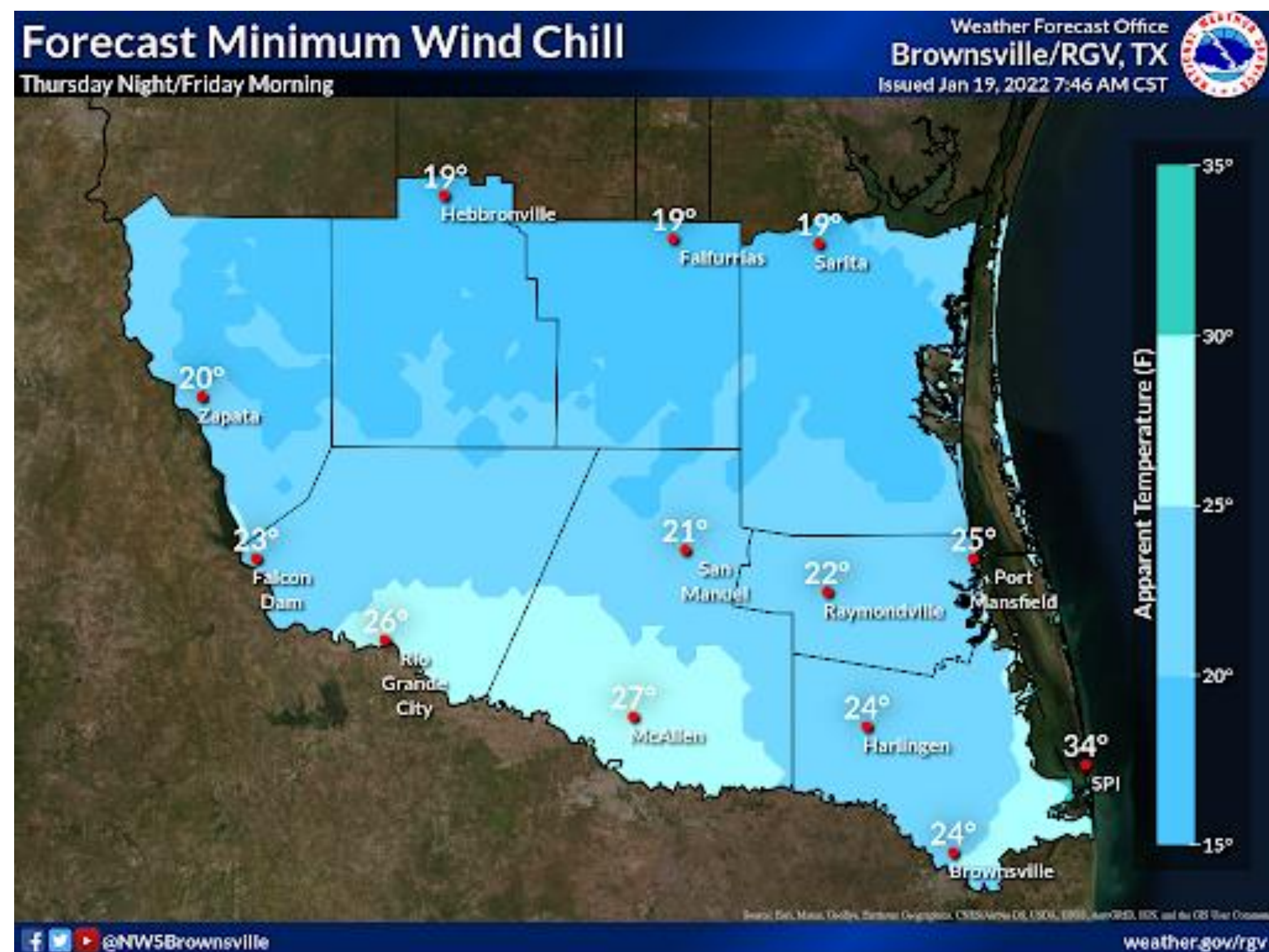


3 PM Thursday (January 20)

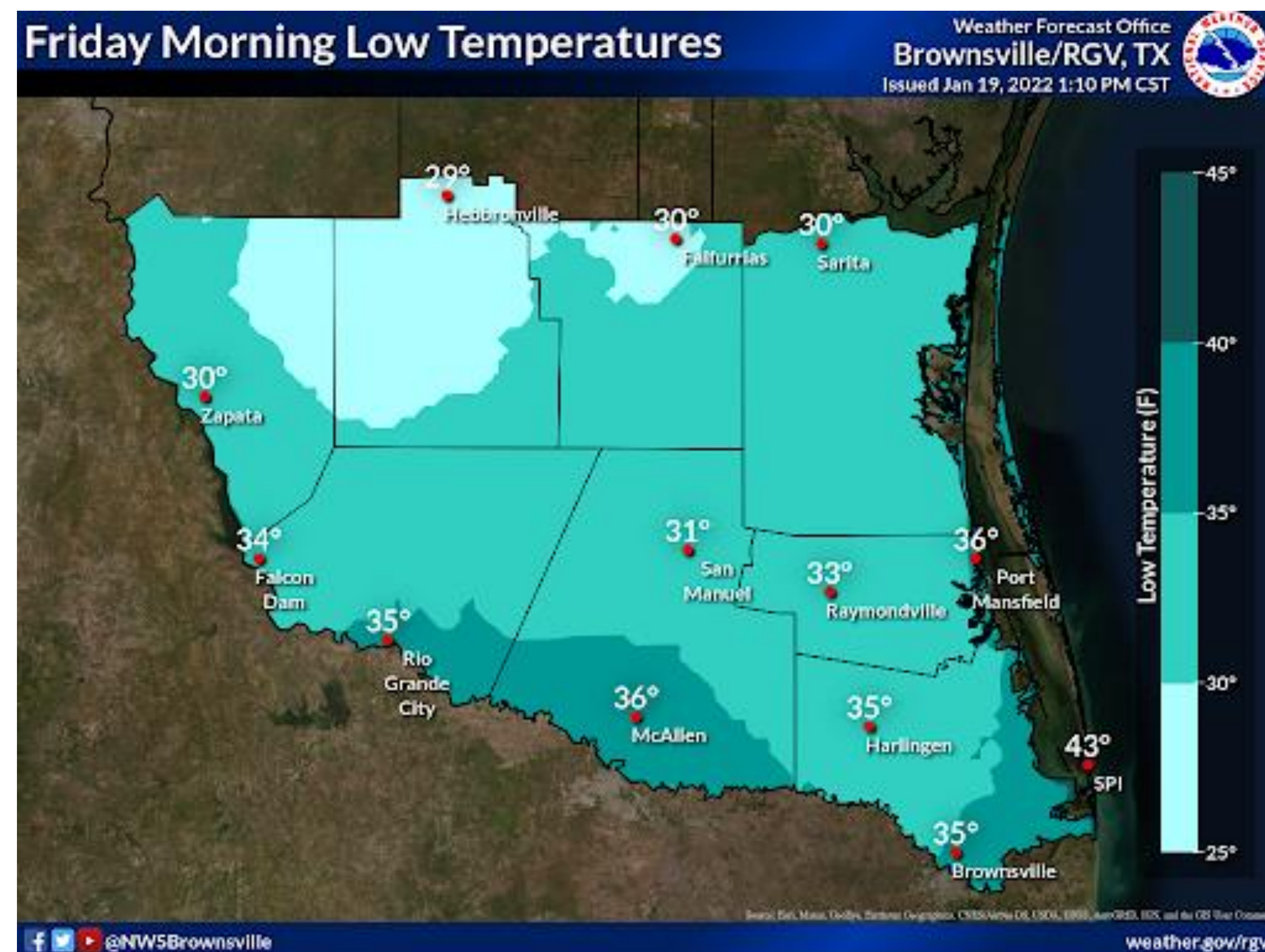


Coldest Temperatures

Cold/Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022



Friday, 6 AM to 9 AM



Friday, 6 AM to 9 AM

Note: Could be locally colder in some locations along IH-2 from Starr through Cameron County



Wintry Precipitation

Cold/Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022

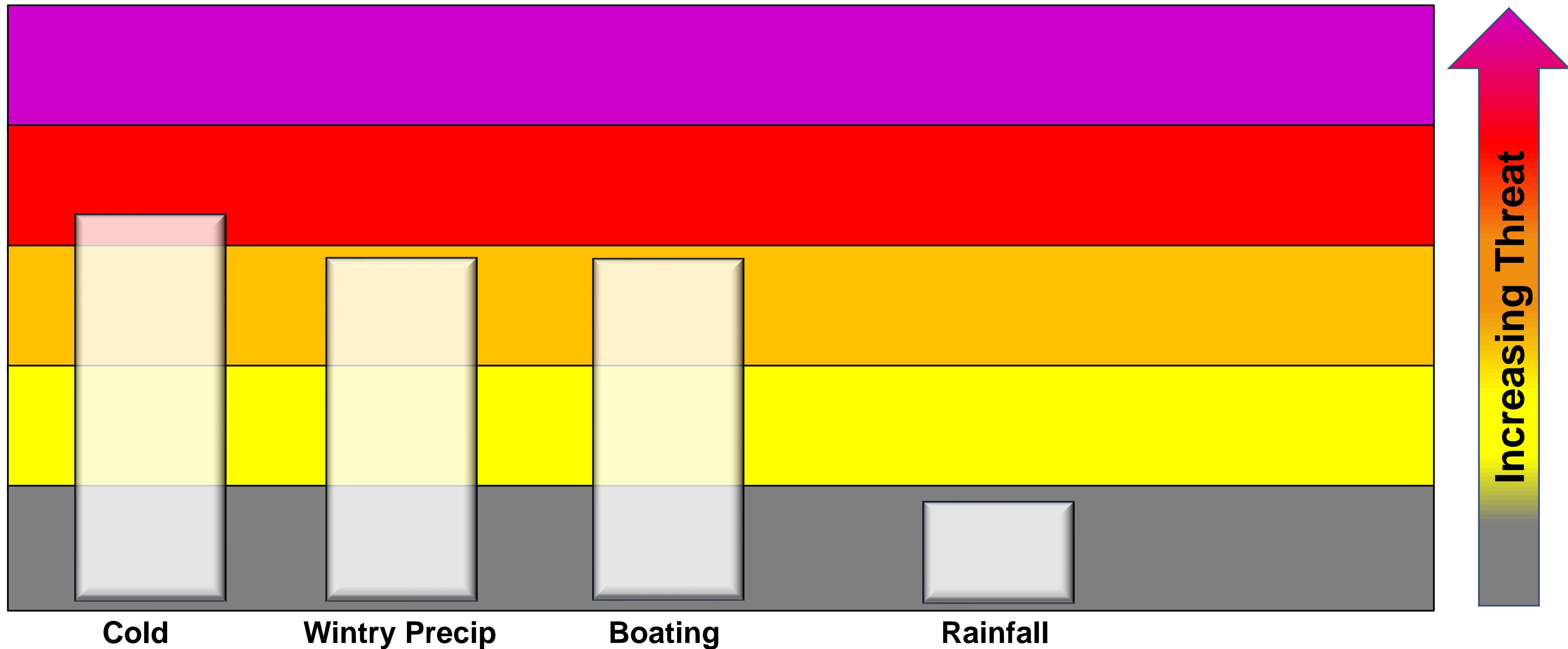


- **Zapata to Kenedy; northern Starr and northern Hidalgo (pink):** Best opportunity for ice accretion (grass/trees/power lines/elevated roads) and sleet.
 - *Confidence: Medium High.* Timing: Midnight-10 AM. Buffer: As early as 9-10 PM Jan. 20 through Noon Jan. 21
- **Rio Grande Valley (purple):** Icing and some sleet possible. Most likely in “cold drainage” locations including southern Starr, Weslaco to N. Harlingen, Hidalgo north of Edinburg/Alton
 - *Confidence: Low-Medium.* Timing: 3 AM to 9 AM Jan. 21. Buffer: Midnight to 11 AM Jan. 21



Threat Levels

Cold/Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022





Key Take Aways

Cold/Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022

- This will be the **coldest period of the 2021/2022** winter so far, but will **NOT** be a repeat of February 14-20, 2021
- **People, pets, and plants should be prepared to be protected** from the cold, beginning early **Thursday (people)** and continuing through **Thursday night/Friday (add plants and pets)**
- The **cold weather** will continue through Saturday morning
- **Motorists planning travel** that may include elevated roads/bridges should postpone from Thursday evening through midday Friday, especially across areas north and west of the populated RGV
- **Minor power outages are likely**, mainly due to heavy use of heating and some stress on the grid. This will **NOT** be a repeat of February 2021



Safety Information: Heaters

Cold/Wintry Precipitation, January 20-22 (morning), 2022



NWS Brownsville, TX

Space Heater Safety Tips



- Place the heater on a hard, level, nonflammable surface, such as a ceramic tile floor.
- Plug your heater directly into a wall outlet, **DO NOT** use extension cords
- Make sure the heater is at least three feet away from any flammable materials, children and pets.
- Verify your space heater has tip over protection and is UL approval
- **NEVER** leave a space heater on when you go to sleep or leave a room
- **DO NOT** use portable propane space heaters indoors or in any confined space unless they are specifically designed for indoor use.

***Space heaters account for ~85% of all home heating deaths and nearly half of all home heating fires according to the National Fire Protection Agency**



Safety Information: Dressing for Cold

Cold/Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022



- Thursday, Jan. 20 (Day): **Chilly**, then **Cold**
- Thursday Night through Saturday Morning, Jan. 20 (late) through early Jan. 22: **Cold**
- Saturday: **Chilly**



Safety Information: Hypothermia

Tropical Storm Nicholas

Warning Signs of Hypothermia



Confusion



Shivering



**Difficulty
Speaking**

ZZZ...



Sleepiness



**Stiff
Muscles**

weather.gov/cold





Safety Information: Driving

Cold/Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022

rain after a long dry stretch

Oil and debris accumulate on the road when it hasn't rained for a while, so when it first starts to rain, the road becomes slick and people are also not used to driving in it.

safety tips

- Slow down
- Don't use cruise control
- Leave plenty of distance between you and other vehicles

"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.

weather.gov



Rain after a long dry stretch

freezing drizzle

The fine layer of ice that forms during freezing drizzle may be hard to notice on the road, but it is one of winter's most dangerous types of weather.

safety tips

- Slow down
- Don't use cruise control
- Leave plenty of distance between you and other vehicles

"Sneaky" Winter Hazards

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Glaze Ice/Sleet



Safety Information: Pets

Cold/Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022



Don't Forget Your Furry Friends!

Updated: 7 PM CST 18 January 2022

NWS Brownsville, TX



Thursday

Day: Falling to 40
Night: 29 to 36
Precip: 60-90% (Night)
Wind: 15-30 mph

Friday

Day: Rising slowly (40s)
Night: 30-35
Precip: 40-70% (morn)
Wind: 10-20 mph



***PLEASE* provide nourishing food, fresh water, and protection (sturdy shelter with blankets or straw) for outdoor pets!**



Safety Information: Pelicans

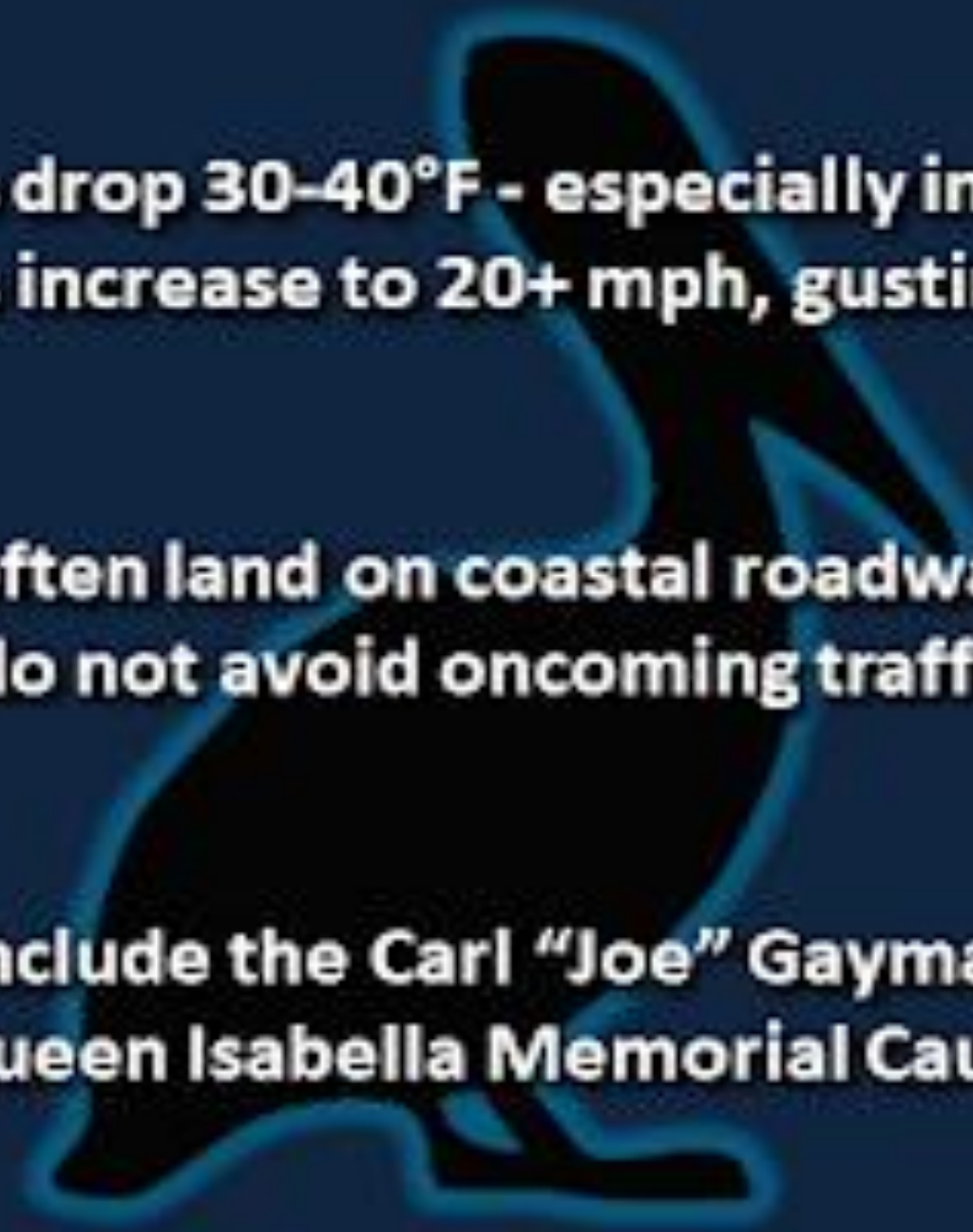
Cold/Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022

Watch for Pelicans

When temperatures drop 30-40°F - especially into the 40s and below
and winds increase to 20+ mph, gusting 30+ mph

Pelicans will often land on coastal roadways and bridges
and do not avoid oncoming traffic well

Favored landing areas include the Carl "Joe" Gayman bridge on HWY48 near
Bahia Grande and the Queen Isabella Memorial Causeway to SPI on HYW100



National Weather Service
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley



- **Timing: Beginning as early as late afternoon Thursday, continuing through mid morning Friday**



Safety Information: Sea Turtles

Cold/Wintry Precipitation, January 20-21, 2022

Watch for Sea Turtles

When coastal water temperatures drop drastically to 50-55°F and below

Sea turtles can become “cold-stunned” and float to the surface, unable to avoid watercraft, or wash up and become stranded along coastal shores

If you see any stranded or cold-stunned sea turtles, please contact the sea turtle emergency hotline at

956-243-4361



National Weather Service
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley




- **Timing: Friday through Saturday morning**
- **Area of most concern: Lower Laguna Madre (Cameron County section)**
- **Small chance for impacts along immediate shoreline.**
- **This will NOT be a repeat of February 2021!**





Next Briefing:


Overnight: Email (possible)


Thursday, January 20: Webinar


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