



Winter Weather Terminology



Key Words to Know - What is the Difference?

OUTLOOK - Hazardous Weather Outlooks are issued everyday, and serve as a “heads-up” that a significant weather event may be possible in the next 7 days.

ADVISORY - An advisory is issued when winter weather events could cause a significant inconvenience, but could also lead to life threatening conditions if not cautious.

WATCH - A watch is issued when winter weather events have the potential to threaten life and property, but the exact timing and location of the storm is uncertain. Watches are normally issued between 12 to 48 hours in advance.

WARNING - A warning is issued when winter weather events are occurring or are imminent and pose a threat to life and property. Warnings are normally issued between 2 and 24 hours in advance.

Winter Weather Product Criteria

Winter Weather Advisory Products (In addition to these thresholds, impacts that cause significant inconvenience or could lead to life threatening conditions if not cautious)

♦ **Freezing Rain Advisory** - Small accumulation of ice (freezing rain and/or freezing drizzle), generally less than 1/4 of an inch

♦ **Winter Weather Advisory**

For Snow - Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches in 12 hours

For Sleet - Accumulation of ice pellets less than 1/2 of an inch

For Snow & Blowing Snow - Snowfall with blowing snow intermittently reducing visibility to less than 1/2 of a mile

♦ **Wind Chill Advisory** - Wind Chill values of -20°F to -29°F





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Watch Products

- ◆ **Blizzard Watch** - Conditions are favorable for a blizzard event in the next 12 to 48 hrs.
- ◆ **Winter Storm Watch** - Conditions are favorable for a winter storm event (Heavy Sleet, Heavy Snow, Ice Storm, Heavy Snow and Blowing Snow or a combination of events) to meet or exceed local Winter Storm Warning criteria in the next 12 to 48 hrs.
- ◆ **Wind Chill Watch** - Conditions are favorable for wind chill temperatures to meet or exceed Wind Chill Warning criteria in the next 12 to 48 hours.

Warning Products (In addition to these thresholds, impacts that pose a threat to life and property)

- ◆ **Blizzard Warning** - Sustained wind or frequent gusts greater than or equal to 35 miles per hour accompanied by falling and/or blowing snow, frequently visibilities less than 1/4 of a mile for at least 3 hours.
- ◆ **Ice Storm Warning** - Widespread ice accumulation of 1/4 of an inch or more.
- ◆ **Winter Storm Warning** - Heavy Snow (snow accumulation of 6 inches or more in 12 hours or 8 inches or more in 24 hours), Sleet (accumulation of ice pellets 1/2 of an inch and greater), Ice (accumulation of 1/4 of an inch or more) and/or heavy Snow and Blowing Snow (wind is below blizzard criteria).
- ◆ **Wind Chill Warning** - Wind chills -30°F or colder

Remember to dress for the season!

- ◆ Try to stay dry.
- ◆ Wear loose-fitting, light-weight, warm clothing in several layers. Trapped air between these layers can insulate. Layers can be removed to avoid perspiration and subsequent chills.
- ◆ Outer garments should be tightly woven, water repellent, and hooded.
- ◆ Always wear a hat, as half of your body heat can be lost from the head.
- ◆ Mittens, snug at the wrist, are better than gloves.

