What are Snow Squalls?

Definition

A snow squall is an intense short-lived burst of heavy snowfall that leads to a quick reduction in visibilities and is often accompanied by gusty winds. They may be characterized by one main squall or multiple squalls.

Impact

The combination of quick reductions in visibilities and sudden slick conditions on roadways can often lead to high speed wrecks, pileups, and subsequently injuries and fatalities. There is also a high economic impact as interstates can be shut down for hours.

Timing

Although they typically occur during the daytime hours, they can occur at any time of day.

Snow Squall Safety/ Preparedness

Remain alert to the latest forecast and travel conditions. Consider avoiding or delaying travel until the snow squall passes your location.

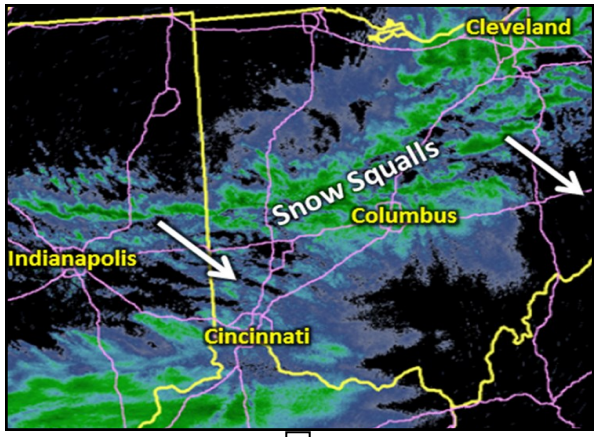
Leave extra time if you must travel during snow squalls as visibilities and road conditions will change rapidly.

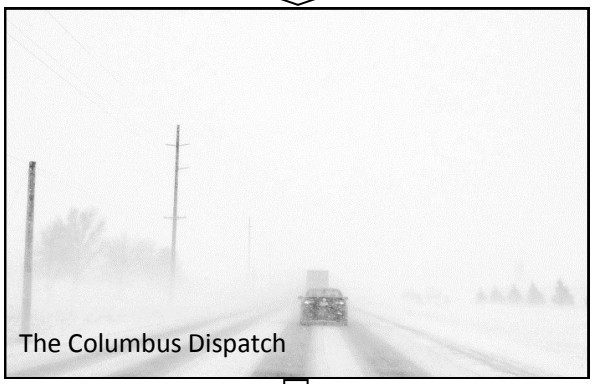
Reduce your speed and turn on headlights! In a matter of seconds unrestricted visibilities can change to near zero.

Don't slam on brakes! With roads being slick, this could contribute to loss of vehicle control and also increase the risk of a chain reaction crash.

Weather Ready Nation

On snow squall days, unrestricted visibilities can turn into whiteout conditions in a matter of seconds. Stay informed and take the necessary safety precautions to mitigate snow squall impacts.



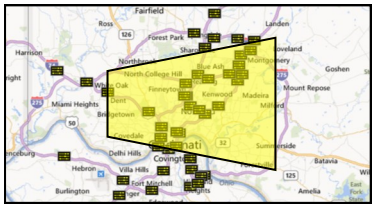


Obtaining Snow Squall Information

NWS and ODOT Partnership to Save Lives with Snow Squall Signs

NWS Wilmington has partnered with the Ohio Department of Transportation to promote awareness and to disseminate critical life saving information of imminent dangerous snow squall hazards to motorists. This process activates road signs based on snow squall warnings. Be alert for rapidly changing conditions, especially when these signs are activated.

The NWS issues snow squall warnings for snow squalls where the highest threat of rapidly changing visibilities are the most likely to occur. This product is located on our homepage at weather.gov/iln and an example can be found below.



Obtaining Snow Squall Information

Social Media

Social media has rapidly become an efficient way to exchange vital information especially when dealing with rapidly evolving weather situations.

Be sure to like NWS Wilmington on Facebook. Also, follow us on Twitter at @NWSILN.

If you have significant weather to report on our social media pages, be sure to include the location and time of the event when you can safely do so. Attaching a picture is extremely helpful as well!

All Hazards NOAA Weather Radio

All Hazards NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) is a way to receive up-to-the-minute weather forecasts and warnings from the Wilmington, OH office and other offices, including non-weather related emergency messages.

For more information go to:

www.weather.gov/iln/nwr

Local Transmitters

Station		Frequency (MHz)
KIG-86	Columbus	162.550
KIH-42	Covington	162.550
WXJ-93	Cridersville	162.400
KZZ49	Maysville	162.425
WXJ-46	Miamisburg	162.475
WXM-69	Otway	162.525
KZZ-48	Owenton	162.450
KHB-52	Richmond	162.500

NWS Smartphone Widget

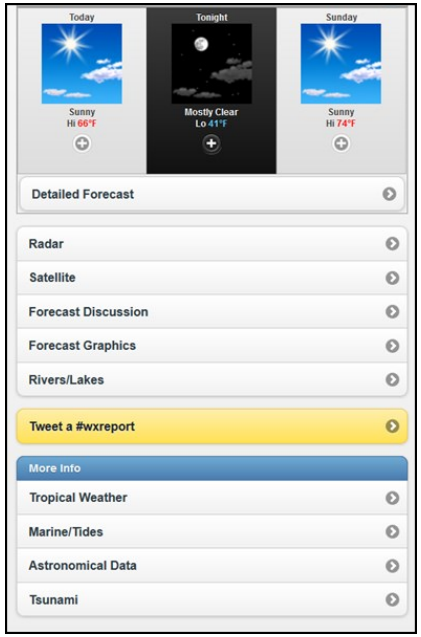
www.weather.gov/iln/er_met_widget

Get the latest forecast, hour- by- hour, along with other forecasts, graphics, and information. Site is mobile and smartphone friendly.

NWS Mobile Website

http://mobile.weather.gov/

Check out the **NWS Mobile Website!**



To submit storm reports

email: spotreport.iln@noaa.gov

National Weather Service
Wilmington, OH Weather Forecast Office
1901 South State Route 134
Wilmington, OH 45177
937-383-0031
Email: spotreport.iln@noaa.gov

National Weather Service
Weather Forecast Office
Wilmington, OH

Snow Squalls
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Working to Save Lives

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