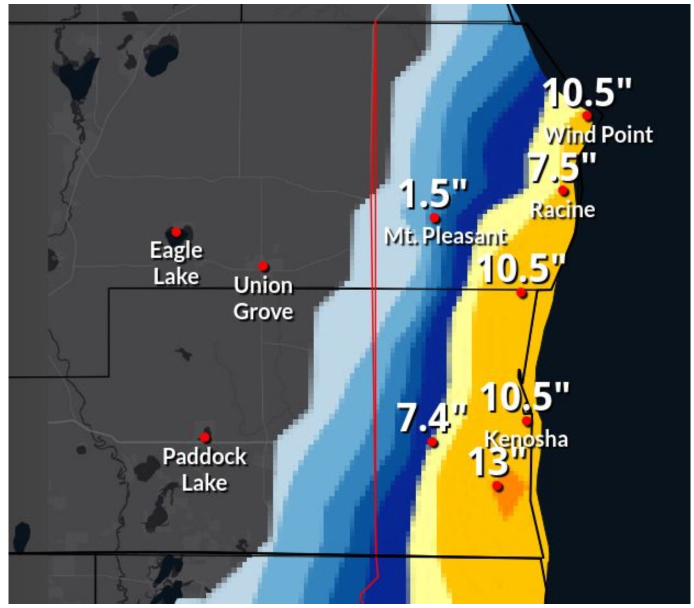
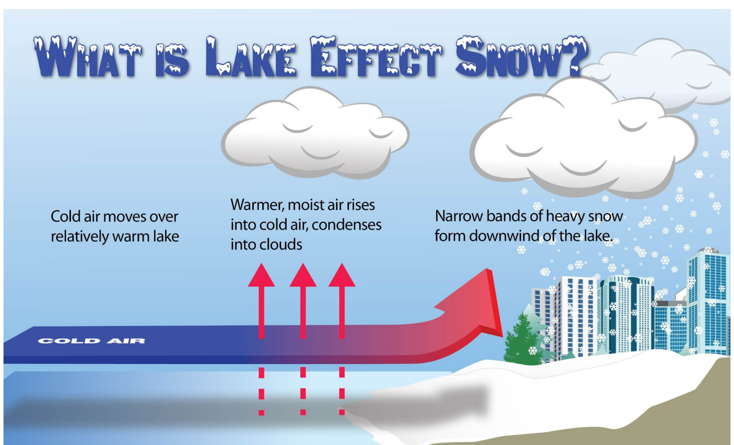
Racine & Kenosha Co Lake Effect Snow

Overnight Hours - November 9-10, 2025

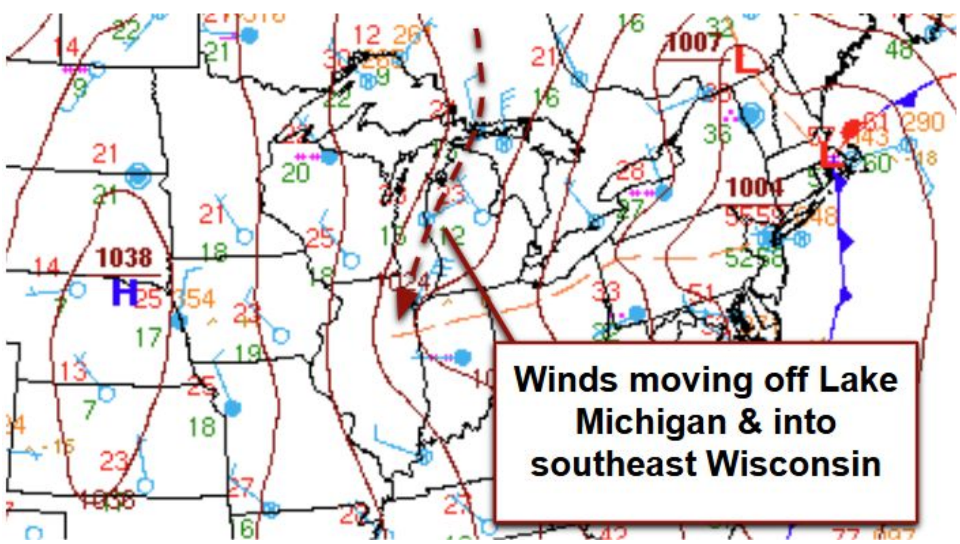
Event Overview: A narrow, north to south-oriented band of lake effect snow developed over western Lake Michigan during the evening of November 9, 2025. Steered by northeast winds, the snow band shifted into southeast Wisconsin following midnight. Its arrival brought sustained periods of moderate to heavy snowfall primarily to eastern Racine and Kenosha Counties through sunrise. The sustained snows brought impressive accumulations to spots east of I-94, where 6-12”+ totals were reported. As is common in lake effect snow events, totals quickly decreased to below an inch moving west of I-94. The snow band pulled away by the mid-morning hours on November 10.

Estimated Snow Totals





Lake effect snow infographic from the National Weather Service



3 AM CST 11/10 surface analysis from the Weather Prediction Center

Event Setup: Settling in behind a series of upper disturbances, an early season Arctic air mass had moved into southern Wisconsin by the evening of November 9. The chilly air combined with still very warm water temperatures over Lake Michigan to generate instability, which allowed air to rise freely in the marine boundary layer. The upward motions helped transfer water vapor from the surface of the lake into developing cumulus clouds. With time, enough moisture built up to support snow shower development over western Lake Michigan. With low pressure in the Northeast and high pressure in the Northern Plains, north-northeast winds pulled these snow showers into Racine and Kenosha Counties. Hourly snowfall rates between 1-2 inches allowed for snow to quickly accumulate.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
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