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Public Information Statement 25-49
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
130 PM EDT Mon July 21 2025

TO: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPORT
 Other NWS Partners and NWS Employees

FROM: Stephen Bieda III, Ph.D., Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services
 Branch

SUBJECT: Soliciting Comments on Proposed Changes to the Winter Storm
Severity Index through August 22, 2025.

The National Weather Service (NWS) is soliciting comments on proposed
changes to the Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI) through August 22,
2025. Those changes include:

- The removal of the "Ground Blizzard" component as its
underlying scientific principles are integrated into the
"Blowing Snow" component.
- The removal of the "Flash Freeze" component due to
challenges with standard definition and verification

The purpose of the WSSI is to provide NWS forecasters, partners, and the
public with an indication of the severity of winter weather hazards and
the potential for related societal impacts. The WSSI does not depict
official warnings and should always be used in context with official NWS
forecasts and warnings.

The WSSI will be updated every two hours at approximately 0100
Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), 0300 UTC, 0500 UTC, etc. No
communication system changes are required to view this web-based
information.

Additional information is provided in the Product Description
Document (PDD) at the link below:

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/8b89519397aa22148881bb7de053af0d

The WSSI website is available here:

<https://www.weather.gov/wssi>

Comments, feedback, and questions on these proposed changes to the WSSI
are welcome through August 22, 2025 by sending an email to:

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Branch Chief, Development and Training Branch
National Weather Service - Weather Prediction Center
College Park, MD
Email: james.a.nelson@noaa.gov

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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