

HAZARD SIMPLIFICATION

Should Advisories Go Away?

What's the problem?



Social science research has determined that the current NWS Watch/Warning/Advisory system is confusing to many core partners and the public.



Advisory is the least understood alerting term, and is often conflated with **Watch**.

There are too many NWS products being used to convey similar weather information (e.g. Winter Weather Advisory vs. Special Weather Statement vs. Short Term Forecast).

What are we proposing?

A simple, two-tier system where the NWS only “raises the flag” for the BIG events.

Prepare
for a possible
significant event



Take Action
for an imminent
or occurring
significant event

All information below this Watch/Warning level, previously disseminated via Advisories, Special Weather Statements, and Short Term Forecasts, is just part of the

Sea of Hazard Information

Now streamlined and issued as a plain language statement

What would this look like?

changes highlighted in yellow

Current: Winter Weather Advisory Product

WSWLWX
URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE
National Weather Service Baltimore MD/Washington DC
207 PM EST Wed Jan 3 2018

MDZ011-013-014-016-507-508-VAZ057-040500-
/O.EXA.KLWX.WW.Y.0001.180104T0300Z-180104T1600Z/
Southern Baltimore-Prince Georges-Anne Arundel-Charles-
Northwest Harford-Southeast Harford-King George-
207 PM EST Wed Jan 3 2018

**...WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY IN EFFECT FROM 10 PM THIS
EVENING TO 11 AM EST THURSDAY...**

* WHAT...Total snow accumulations of 2 to 4 inches are expected.

* WHERE...Portions of central, northern and southern Maryland and central Virginia.

* WHEN...From 10 PM this evening to 11 AM EST Thursday.

* IMPACTS...Snow will quickly stick on roads and sidewalks, making the Thursday morning commute dangerous. Visibility will be reduced to under 1 mile at times in snow. Bitterly cold conditions will follow for late Thursday through the weekend causing snow to remain on untreated surfaces.

Proposed: Plain Language Statement

WSWLWX
Winter Weather Statement
National Weather Service Baltimore MD/Washington DC
207 PM EST Wed Jan 3 2018

MDZ011-013-014-016-507-508-VAZ057-040500-
/O.EXA.KLWX.WW.S.0001.180104T0300Z-180104T1600Z/
Southern Baltimore-Prince Georges-Anne Arundel-Charles-
Northwest Harford-Southeast Harford-King George-
207 PM EST Wed Jan 3 2018

...2 to 4 inches of snow this evening into tomorrow morning...

* WHAT...Total snow accumulations of 2 to 4 inches are expected.

* WHERE...Portions of central, northern and southern Maryland and central Virginia.

* WHEN...From 10 PM this evening to 11 AM EST Thursday.

* IMPACTS...Snow will quickly stick on roads and sidewalks, making the Thursday morning commute dangerous. Visibility will be reduced to under 1 mile at times in snow. Bitterly cold conditions will follow for late Thursday through the weekend causing snow to remain on untreated surfaces.

What are the benefits?

- Expanded use of concise bullets and plain language in NWS messaging.
- Two-tier Watch/Warning system better matches the PREPARE or ACT operational structure used by emergency managers for significant events.
- Simplified messaging by using a single product (statements) to deliver information for less significant events.
- Ability to offer clearer Watch/Warning/Advisory maps.
- New statements would utilize Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) and Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) for better tracking and machine readability.

Your feedback is critical!

NWS partners should watch for partner webinars coming this spring, and reach out to your local NWS office with questions or to learn more.

The public and other stakeholders should watch for a public survey coming to weather.gov to collect comments on this proposal.