

Snow Squall Warning Service Update for Winter Season 2019-2020

NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) began new warning services on NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) as of November 1, 2018.

Snow Squall Warning

All WFOs may issue short-fused, polygon-based **Snow Squall Warnings**.

Issuance criteria: WFOs will issue Snow Squall Warnings for intense but limited duration periods of moderate to heavy snowfall accompanied by gusty surface winds and resulting in greatly reduced visibilities and whiteout conditions.

Snow accumulation generally will not be significant, but snow may accumulate quickly on cold road surfaces. Rapidly falling temperatures in conjunction with the snow may cause dangerous driving conditions. Criteria for issuing this warning will likely vary by region. Snow Squall Warnings will not be issued for areas when Winter Storm or Blizzard Warnings are already in effect.

NWR Service Enhancements

NWS offices will broadcast the Snow Squall Warning with Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) and the 1050 Hz Warning Alarm Tones.



In general, residents with SAME-equipped Public Alert™ receivers will receive the following notifications if their receiver is properly programmed with the appropriate Federal Information Processing Series (FIPS) codes:

- The receiver will activate with the SAME alert tones.
- Receivers with a text screen will display **Unknown Warning**.
- Receivers with color-coded, alert level indicators will illuminate the **Warning** indicator.

Concerning the Emergency Alert System (EAS)

The NWS appreciates support from broadcasters to further convey these warnings to the public. NWS alerts will include “Immediate Broadcast Requested.” However, the Snow Squall Warning will not be sent by broadcasters to the EAS.

Concerning Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

Upgrades are pending at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and wireless carriers that will soon allow NWS Snow Squall Warnings to reach cell phones, when enabled to receive government alerts, and located in or immediately near an area under a Snow Squall Warning.

For dissemination questions, please contact:

Tim Schott
NWS Dissemination Services
Timothy.Schott@noaa.gov
301-427-9336

For policy questions, contact:

NWS Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch Chief
Michelle.Hawkins@noaa.gov
301-427-9374

For details specific to your area, contact your local Warning Coordination Meteorologist:

www.weather.gov/stormready/contact

Related Websites

NWR Home Page

www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/

NWR Service Change Notices

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn18-90swq_dsw_operaaa.pdf

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