# Strong Winter Storm Tonight thru Sat

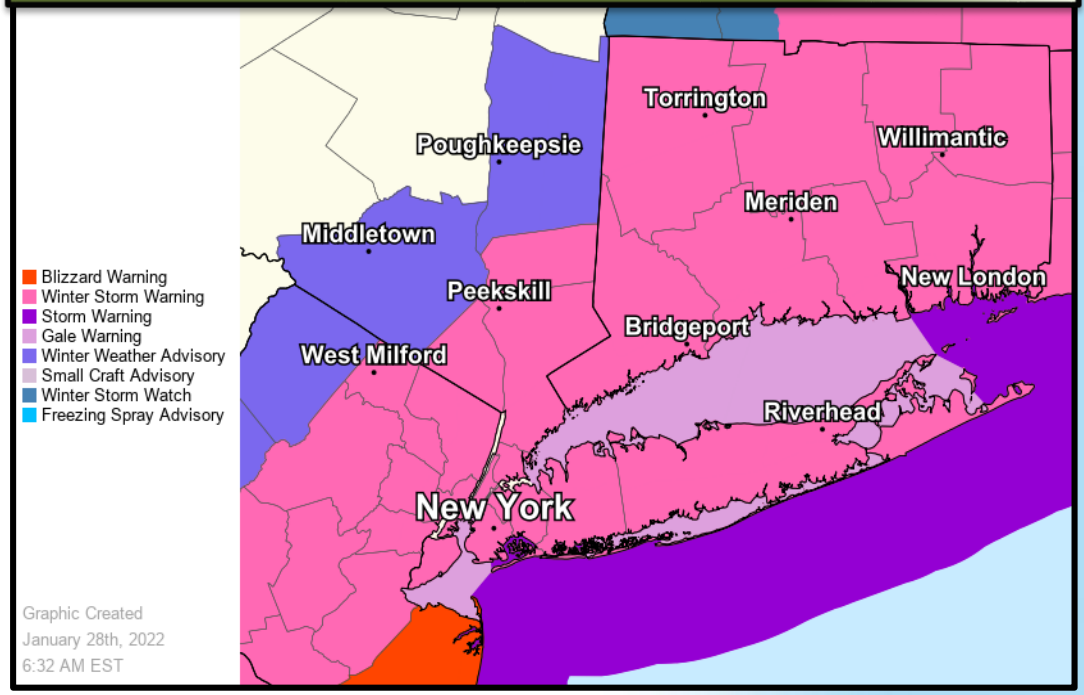
**Briefing Number 4**

**Overview -**
A strong storm system will bring moderate to heavy snowfall and strong winds to much of the area tonight through Saturday.

**What's Changed?**
Winter Storm Warnings now in effect for most of the area. Winter weather advisories for Lower Hudson Valley.

Storm Warning now in effect for the ocean waters and eastern LI Sound for Saturday.

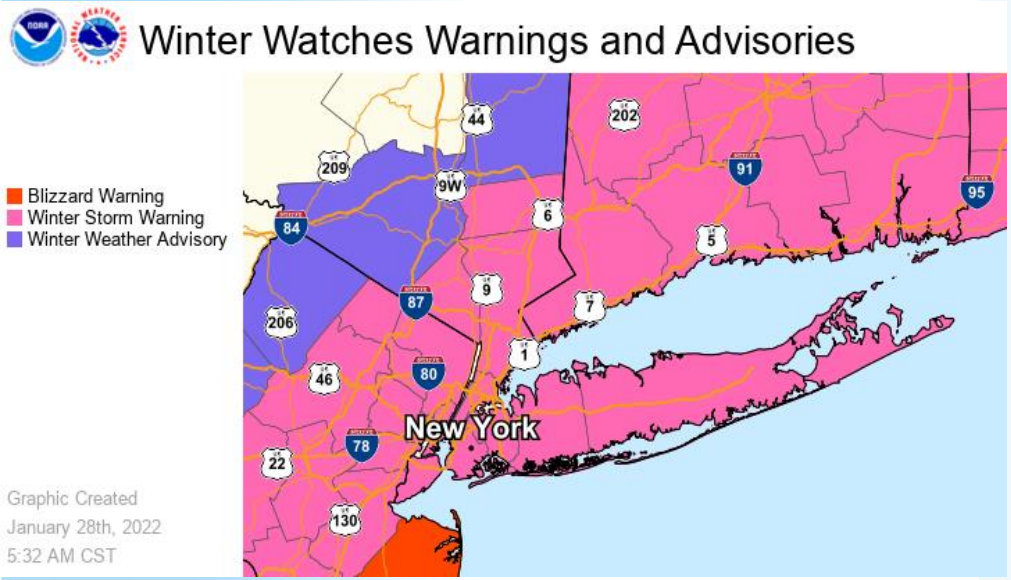
## *Current Hazards*



# Main Points

| Hazard | Impacts | Location | Timing |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Heavy Snow**<br>10-16” | • Snowfall Rates of 1-2”/hr possible<br>• Difficult travel<br>• Blizzard conditions possible | SE CT, Long Island | • Snow developing tonight<br>• Periods of heavy snow likely tonight into Sat PM<br>• Snow tapering Sat Eve |
| **Snow**<br>5-10” | • Snowfall Rates of up to 1”/hr possible<br>• Hazardous Travel<br>• Blowing snow | NYC, NE NJ, SW CT, and much of Lower Hudson Valley, | • Snow developing tonight<br>• Periods of moderate snow late tonight into Sat Aft<br>• Snow tapering late Sat Aft |
| **Strong Winds**<br>25-35G55mph E LI/SE CT<br>20-25G45mph NYC/NJ metro & rest of coast | • Scattered downed tree limbs and power lines. Isolated downed trees. | Coastal Areas, including NYC/NJ metro | Peak winds Saturday morning into early Saturday evening |
| **Coastal Impacts**<br>1 to locally 2 ft flooding above ground level (AGL) | • Minor to locally moderate coastal flood impacts<br>• Scattered dune erosion | Greatest threat along twin forks, north shore of LI and barrier islands.<br><br>Dune Impacts: Oceanfront | Times of high tide Saturday AM/PM and Sunday AM |
| **Marine**<br>Gale conditions expected. Storm conditions on Saturday. | • Seas 10-15 ft on the Ocean<br>• Seas 4-6 ft central/eastern Long Island Sound and twin forks | Nearshore Waters | Tonight into Saturday Night |

# Moderate to Heavy Snow




## Forecast Challenges:

Confidence is increasing in forecast snowfall amounts, but there is still uncertainty on the western extent and duration of moderate and heavy snow banding late tonight into Saturday.

## Hazards and Impacts:

**Long Island and SE CT**

- ✓ **Snow Accum:** 10-16”
- ✓ **Snowfall Rates:** 1-2”/hr possible
- ✓ **Snow Character:** Powdery snow
- ✓ **Temps:** Dropping into lower 20s tonight and holding thru Sat. Lower teens Sat Night.
- ✓ **Impacts:** Dangerous Travel, Blizzard conditions possible

**NYC, NE NJ, SW CT, much of Lower Hud**

- ✓ **Snow Accum:** 5-10”
- ✓ **Snowfall Rates:** Up to 1”/hr possible
- ✓ **Snow Character:** Powdery snow
- ✓ **Temps:** Dropping into teens to around 20 tonight and holding thru Sat. Around 10 F Sat Night.
- ✓ **Impacts:** Difficult Travel, Blowing snow

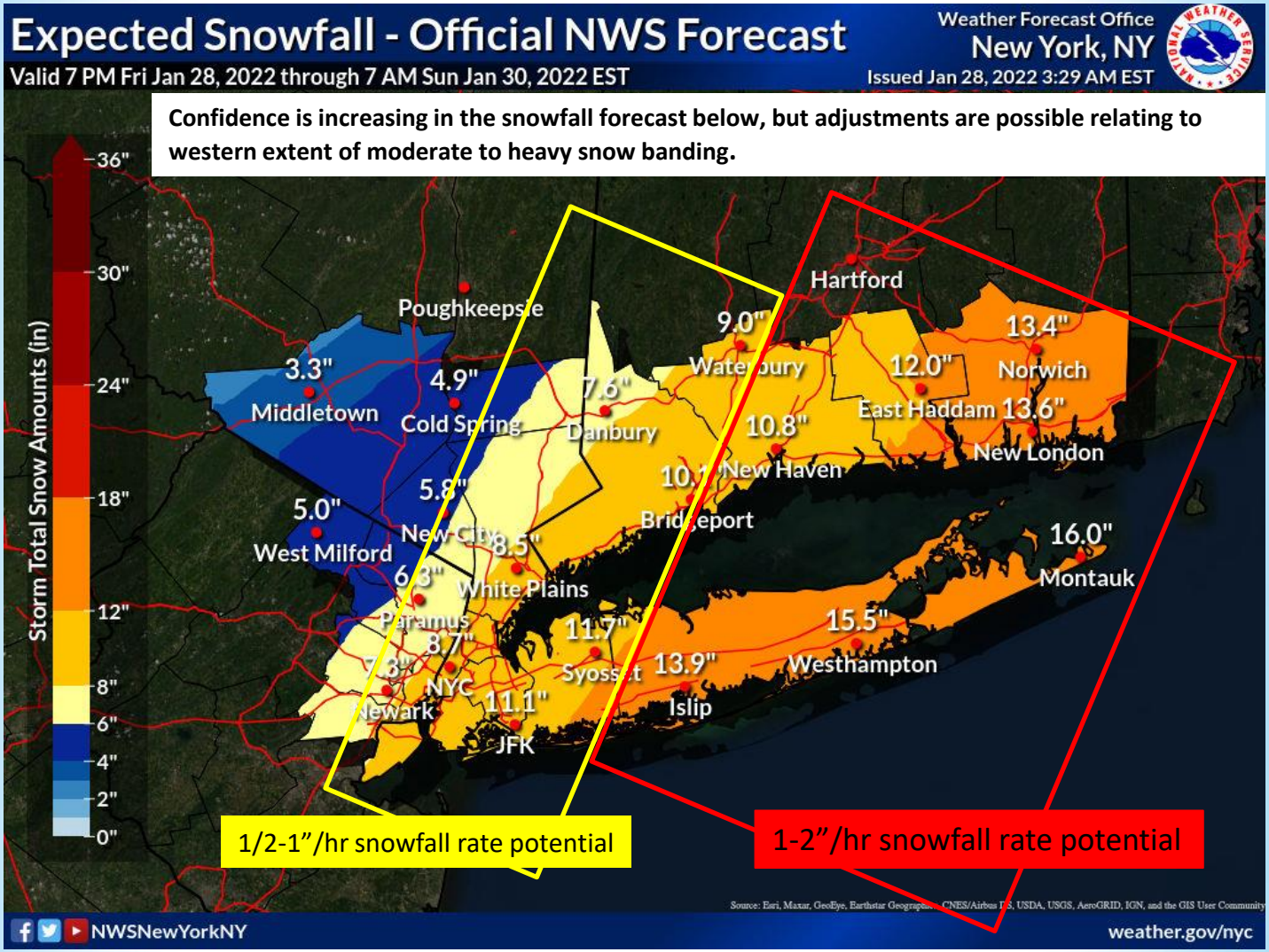
**Orange and W Passaic County**

- ✓ **Snow Accum:** 2-5”
- ✓ **Snow Character:** Powdery snow
- ✓ **Temps:** Dropping into lower to mid teens tonight and holding thru Sat. Single digits Sat Night.
- ✓ **Impacts:** Hazardous Travel, Blowing snow

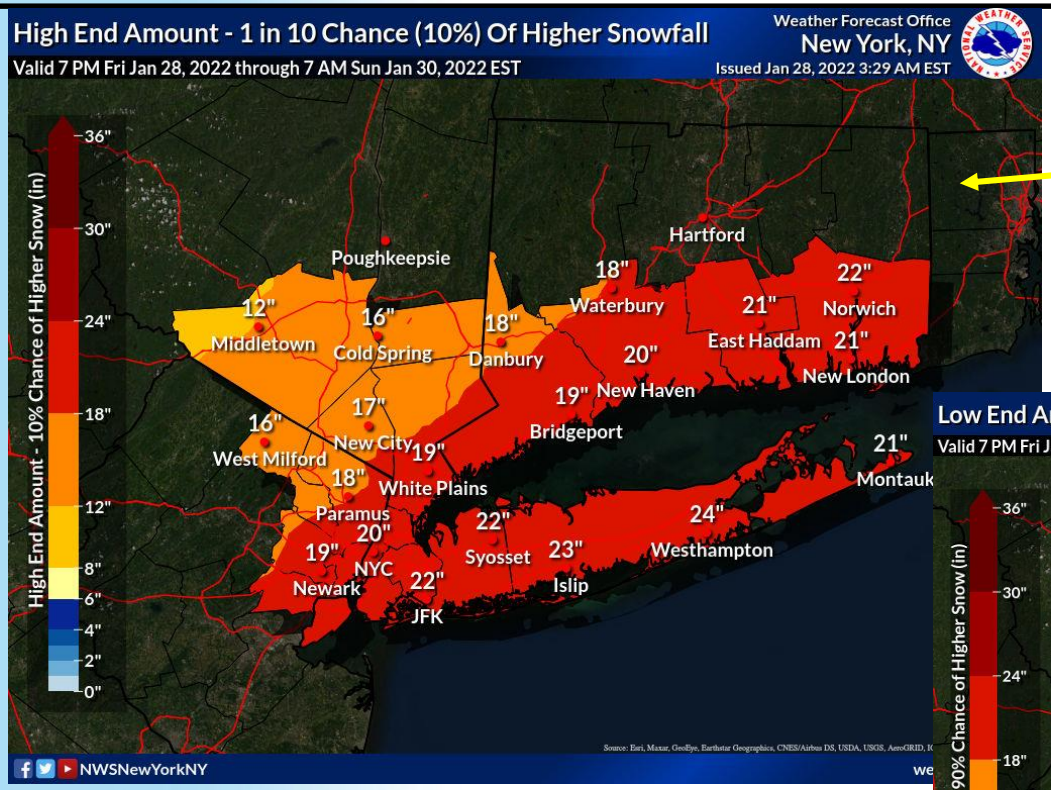
**Timing:**

- ✓ Snow developing tonight. Heaviest snow from tonight through Saturday Aft/Eve. Snow ending late Sat aft/eve.

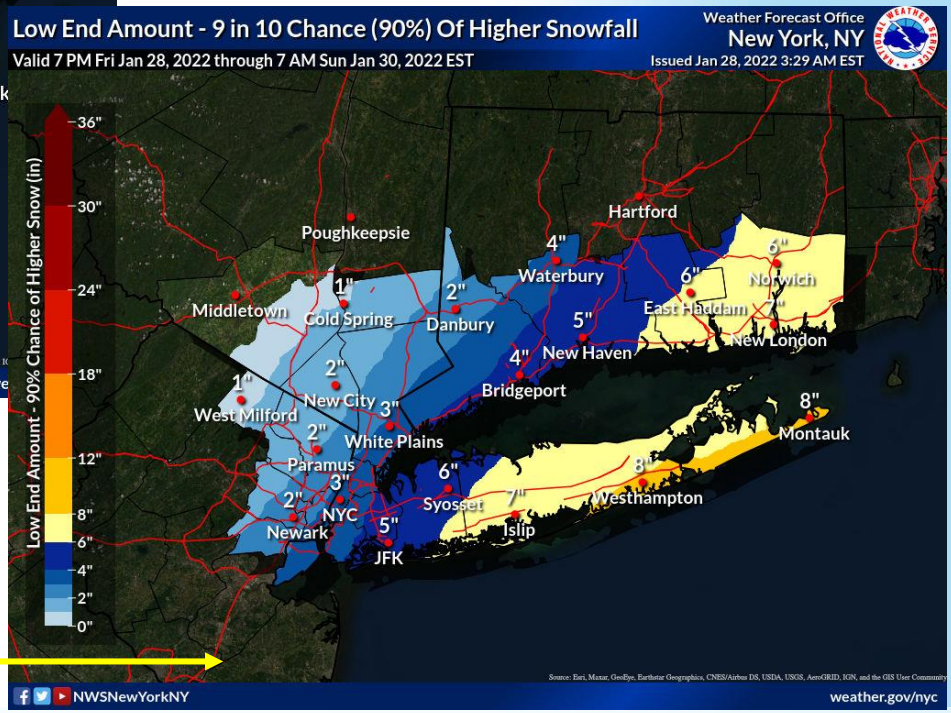
# Official NWS NY Snowfall Forecast



# Probabilistic Snowfall Forecast Scenarios

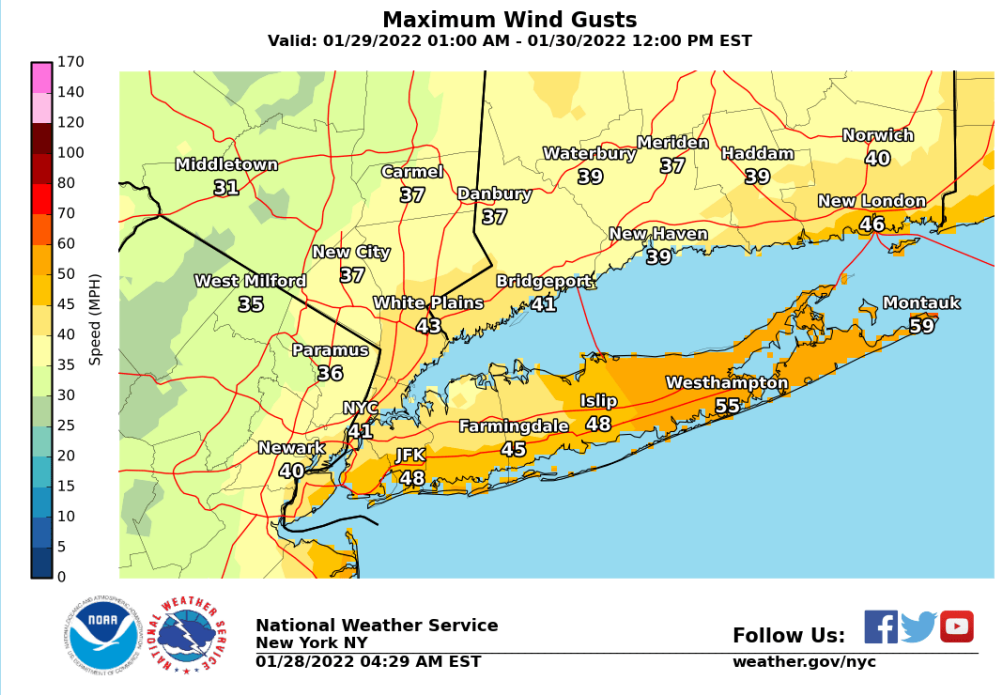



Snow amounts could be close to these levels in spots if the storm continues to trend west and/or heavy snow banding develops/persists over the area.




Snow amounts could be this low if the eastern most storm scenarios occur. The potential for this is decreasing.

# Strong Wind Potential




## Forecast Challenges:

Confidence is increasing in the forecast winds, but wind/gust speeds could increase or decrease by 5 mph or so based on storm track and intensity.

## Hazards and Impacts:

**Eastern LI and Southeastern CT**

- ✓ **Peak Winds: N 25-35g 50-55mph**
- ✓ **Impacts:** Scattered downed tree limbs and power lines. Few downed trees. Power outages possible. **Dangerous travel with Blizzard conditions possible.**

**NYC/NJ metro, SW CT, S Westchester**

- ✓ **Peak Winds:** N 20-30 g 35-45 mph
- ✓ **Impacts:** Difficult travel with blowing and drifting snow.

**Interior portions of NE NJ, Lower Hud, and SW CT**

- ✓ **Peak Winds:** N 15-20 g 25-35 mph
- ✓ **Impacts:** Hazardous travel with blowing snow

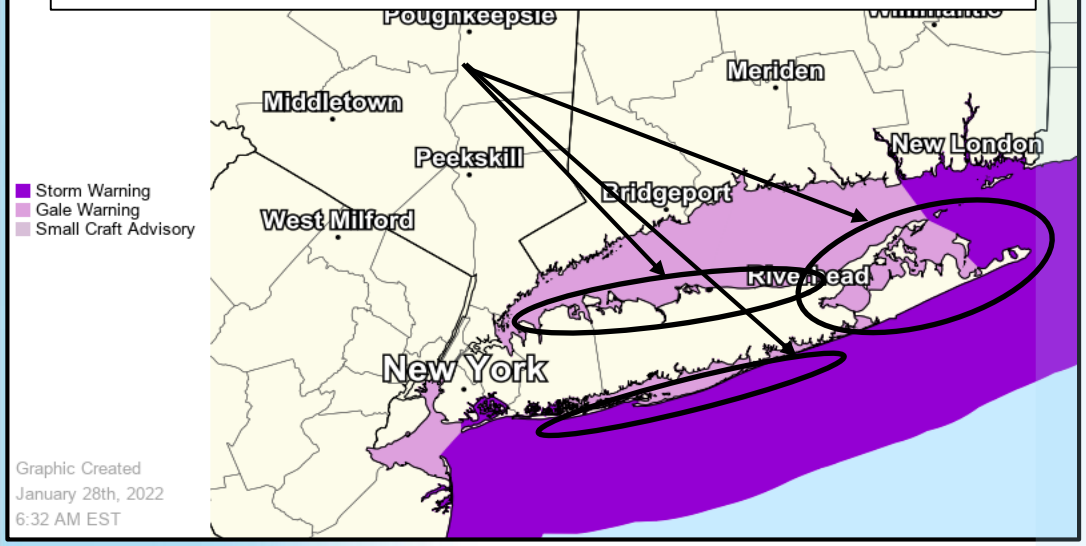
**Timing:**

- ✓ Strongest winds from Saturday morning into Saturday Evening

# Coastal Flooding

## *Marine / Coastal Hazards*

Potential for minor to localized moderate coastal flood impacts Saturday AM/PM and Sunday AM high tides




For the latest coastal flood forecasts (hydrographs and tables) and the tools to visualize the potential coastal impacts (zoomable potential inundation map, impact catalogs, climatology, etc.) in your area of concern please go to the [NWS New York, NY Coastal Flooding Page]

**Coastal Flood Hazards and Impacts:**

- ✓ **Minor to locally moderate coastal flood impacts possible (flooding of 1 to locally 2 ft above ground), for the vulnerable twin forks, north shore of LI and north shore of barrier island shoreline communities for the Saturday AM/PM and Sunday AM high tides.**
- ✓ **Impacts:** Several waterfront road closures possible and flooding of shoreline properties. Minor damage to shoreline structures possible.
- ✓ Elsewhere generally localized minor coastal impacts expected Sat AM/PM high tide, with more widespread minor flooding possible for south shore bay communities Sunday AM

**Shoreline Hazards and Impacts:**

- ✓ 4-8' breaking waves along the oceanfront with scattered areas of dune erosion. Overwashes are not likely.
- ✓ Minor to moderate erosion and wave splashover along the north shore of Long Island and twin forks from 3 to 5 ft surf during Sat AM through Sun AM high tides.

**Timing:**

- ✓ During times of high tide Saturday morning, Saturday evening, and Sunday morning.

**Forecast Challenges:**

- ✓ The magnitude of coastal flooding will depend on the track, strength and speed of low pressure, which will need to be refined over the next 24 hrs.

# Coastal Flooding Thresholds

| | Minor (CF Advisory) | Moderate (CF Warning) | Major (Warning) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Picture | | | |
| Hazard | • **Low threat of property damage**...and no direct threat to life.<br>• **1 to 2 ft of inundation** in shoreline and vulnerable areas. | • **Elevated threat of property damage**...with a risk to life if one places themselves in unneccesary danger.<br>• **2 to 3 ft of inundation** in shoreline and vulnerable areas.<br>• Minor to no inundation of surrounding coastal communities. | • **Significant threat to life and property.**<br>• **3-5+ ft of inundation** in shoreline and other vulnerable areas.<br>• Minor to moderate inundation (1 to 3 ft) of surrounding coastal communities that rarely experience coastal flooding. |
| Impact | • A few shoreline and vulnerable roadways and adjacent properties will experience shallow flooding. | • Several shoreline and vulnerable area home and businesses will experience water inside.<br>• Several low-lying coastal and shoreline roads will be closed.<br>• A few cars may take on water or even be destroyed. | • Evacuations will be necessary for the most vulnerable shoreline and coastal areas.<br>• Many coastal communities will experience damage...with some shoreline and flood prone homes and businesses being destroyed.<br>• Many cars will likely be submerged or washed away.<br>• Several sections of nearshore roads and escape routes will be impassable and a few could be washed out.<br>• Flood waters may extend well inland in low lying areas. |

# Event Summary

- ✓ 10 - 16” of snow likely and strong winds across LI and SE CT Tonight into Saturday Evening. Dangerous travel and blizzard conditions are possible.
- ✓ 5 - 10” of snow and strong winds likely across NYC, NE NJ, SW CT and much of Lower Hudson Valley Tonight into Saturday Afternoon. Difficult travel and blowing snow possible.
- ✓ Minor to locally moderate coastal impacts are possible for the vulnerable twin forks, north shore of LI and north shore of barrier island shoreline communities for the Saturday AM/PM and Sunday AM high tides.
- ✓ Confidence is increasing on forecast snowfall, but there is still uncertainty on the western extent and/or duration of moderate and heavy snow banding late tonight into Saturday.