Winter Storm Today into Tonight

Decision Support Briefing #2
As of 6 AM
Wednesday, February 20, 2019

What Has Changed?
✓ Minor adjustments to forecast snow and ice amounts.
# Main Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazard</th>
<th>Impacts</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Timing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Snow</td>
<td>Snow will create hazardous travel conditions today. Roadways will be snow covered during the period of heaviest snow. Travel conditions for much of the day will be impacted, with particular concern regarding the evening commute.</td>
<td>NJ, east-central and southeast PA, DE, northeast MD.</td>
<td>Snow will gradually overspread these areas from southwest to northeast this morning, from around 7AM to 12PM, with the most intense snow expected in the late morning and early afternoon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sleet and Freezing Rain</td>
<td>A period of sleet and freezing rain following the initial period of snow may exacerbate already hazardous travel conditions.</td>
<td>Areas NW of I-95.</td>
<td>Snow will transition to an extended period of sleet and freezing rain starting mid-afternoon and last into this evening.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A light glaze of ice will be possible along with minor sleet accumulations during the transition from snow to rain.</td>
<td>Areas along and SE of I-95.</td>
<td>Snow will transition to a brief period of sleet and/or freezing rain this afternoon before switching to rain by this evening.</td>
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</table>
Summary of Greatest Impacts

Snow: NJ, E PA, DE, NE MD
- None
- Limited
- Elevated
- Significant
- Extreme

Wintry Mix: E PA, N and W NJ, N DE, NE MD
- None
- Limited
- Elevated
- Significant
- Extreme
Expected Snowfall Accumulations

Uncertainty in Snowfall Forecast:

- As with previous storms this winter, uncertainty exists in the snowfall accumulation forecast owing primarily to critical timings of transitions between snow, ice, and rain.

- While confidence in exact snowfall totals is medium, confidence is higher on a period of significant and widespread travel impacts, especially from mid to late-morning through the early evening.
Probabilistic Snowfall Forecast

Low End Potential
9 in 10 (90%) Chance of Higher Snowfall Than Depicted Below

High End Potential
1 in 10 (10%) Chance of Higher Snowfall Than Depicted Below

Low End Amount - 9 in 10 Chance (90%) Of Higher Snowfall
Valid: 02/20/2019 07:00 AM - 02/21/2019 01:00 AM

High End Amount - 1 in 10 Chance (10%) Of Higher Snowfall
Valid: 02/20/2019 07:00 AM - 02/21/2019 01:00 AM
Expected Ice Accumulations

Ice accumulation notes:
- Icing of a few hundredths to a tenth of an inch is generally insufficient to produce tree damage or power outages, but any amount of ice is capable of creating very hazardous road conditions.
Onset Time Notes:

- This map represents our best estimate for when snow will begin today.
- Owing to cold temperatures this morning, snow should begin accumulating on all untreated surfaces soon after it begins falling.
A winter storm will impact the area beginning this morning and lasting through tonight. Travel impacts are likely for much of the day. The heaviest snow will likely fall mid-late morning into this afternoon, with snow and/or mixed precipitation likely impacting the evening commute over much of the area, although the morning commute may also be impacted in Delmarva and extreme SE PA.

All areas will likely see snow at the onset. A transition to a mix of sleet and freezing rain, and then finally rain, will occur through this afternoon and evening for most areas. Rain will then continue tonight and end early Thursday morning. Over far northern NJ and the Poconos, precipitation may remain as a mix of sleet and freezing rain overnight.

Uncertainty still exists in exactly how much snow will fall. However, confidence is high in an extended period of poor travel conditions today.

Localized minor coastal flooding is possible during this morning’s high tide cycle, but this is not expected to be a widespread or significant concern. Strong winds are also not expected to be a concern with this storm.
Next Briefing
Likely last briefing, unless there are significant forecast changes.

Briefing Webpage:
www.weather.gov/media/phi/current_briefing.pdf

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