



The Ozark Ambassador

National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office Springfield, Missouri



Being Prepared this Winter

Inside this Issue:

Preparing for Winter	1
Winter Weather Products	2
How to Measure Snow and Ice	3
Winter Weather Safety	4
Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador Spotlight	5
Sending Reports and Contact Information	6

Ozark Ambassador Team

Kelsey Angle
Meteorologist in Charge

Steve Runnels
Warning Coordination
Meteorologist

Jason Schaumann
Science and Operations
Officer

Kyle Perez
Weather-Ready Nation
Ambassador Leader and
Newsletter Editor

Winter Weather Websites

[Weather Story](#)

[Situation Report](#)

[Snow Probability](#)

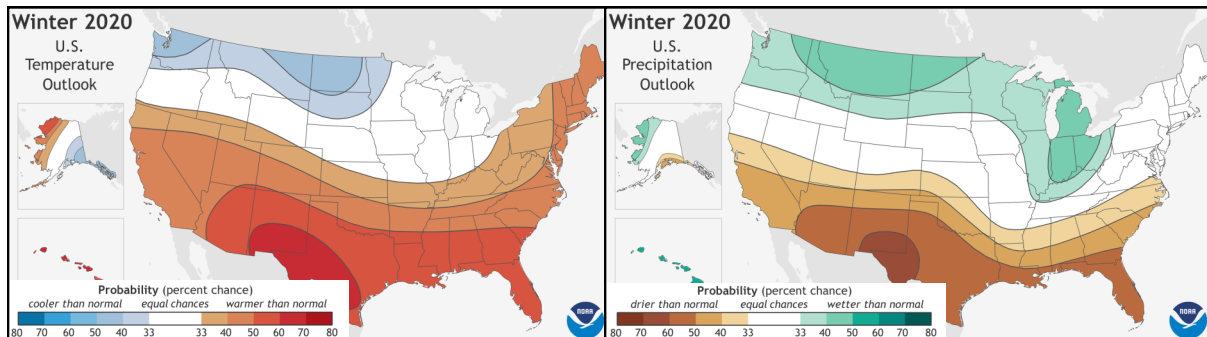
[Winter Awareness](#)

[Climate Prediction Center](#)

[Weather Prediction Center](#)

[Storm Prediction Center](#)

Winter Outlook



Key Takeaways: Near average to above-average temperatures across Missouri for December through the end of February. As for precipitation, we have equal chances of below, near, or above-average precipitation. Additionally, drought conditions are expected to continue or worsen across a large portion of southwest Missouri through January. For more information on the winter weather outlooks, visit: [Winter 2020-2021 Climate Outlook](#).

Missouri Winter Weather Awareness Week

November 16 – 20, 2020

The National Weather Service along with the Missouri Department of Public Safety (DPS), Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), the Missouri Highway Patrol (MHP), and the State Fire Marshal, have designated November 16-20, 2020 as Winter Weather Awareness Week for the state of Missouri. Winter storms and cold temperatures can be extremely dangerous. We urge people to use this day to review the hazards and safety rules of Winter weather so they are prepared for the upcoming Winter season. Additional safety information can be found on [NWS Springfield Winter Weather Awareness Webpage](#) and [SEMA Webpage](#).

Winter Weather Products

Understanding NWS Winter Products

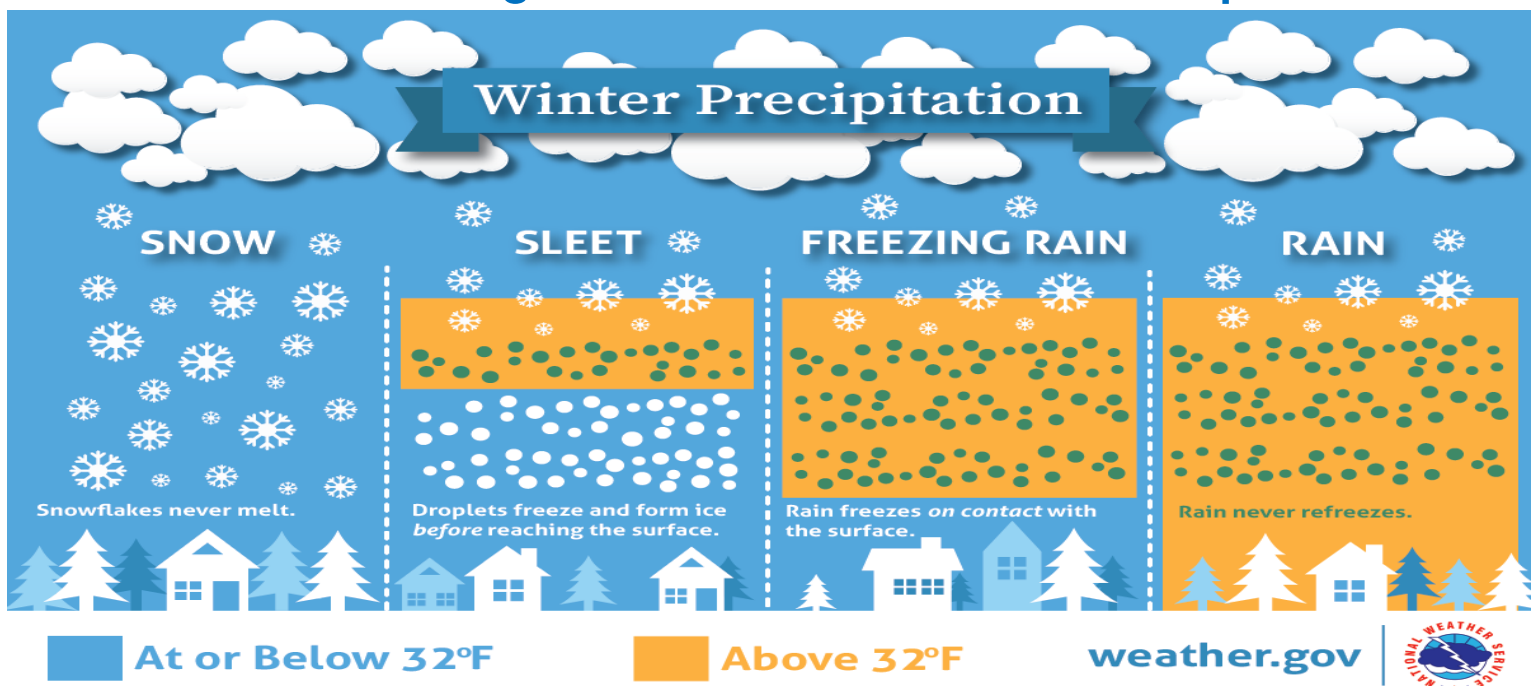
Winter Storm Watch	Winter Weather Advisory	Winter Storm Warning	Ice Storm Warning	Blizzard Warning
Conditions are favorable for a winter storm event within the next 24 to 72 hours. Travel difficulties are possible.	Potentially dangerous winter weather is expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or is occurring. Travel difficulties are expected.	Dangerous winter weather is expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or is already occurring. Considerable travel problems are expected.	Significant ice accumulations are expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or are already occurring. Do Not Travel	Blizzard conditions are expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or are already occurring — including white out conditions. Do Not Travel
Be Ready	Stay Aware	Take Action	Take Action	Take Action

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

NWS Springfield, MO

Winter weather related Warnings, Watches and Advisories are issued by your local National Weather Service office. Each office knows the local area and will issue Warnings, Watches or Advisories based on local criteria. For example, the amount of snow that triggers a "Winter Storm Warning" in the Northern Plains is typically much higher than the amount needed to trigger a "Winter Storm Warning" in our region.

Understanding Science of Winter Precipitation



How to Measure Snow and Ice?

Measuring Snow



Six Basic Steps for Properly MEASURING SNOW

Accurate and timely snowfall measurements are extremely important to your National Weather Service office, your community, local media, and many others. Here are the six steps you need to know for measuring snow:

1 Supplies



Ruler or yard stick
24" X 24" white board, flag

2 Planning



Find an open area away from tall objects, but sheltered from wind

3 Set-up



Set up before snow begins
Put your board out and mark it with the flag

4 Measuring Snow



Record your total to the nearest tenth of an inch
Wipe the board off after measuring
Measure once daily at the same time, after measuring place the board on top of snow

5 When Snow Stops



Measure as soon as the snow stops to avoid lower totals due to melting, settling and drifting

6 Reporting



weather.gov social media
SEND us your report!

Measuring Ice

Flat Ice Measurement

Find a flat surface that has been undisturbed from the surrounding environment or other objects. Measure ice accumulation with a ruler.

Radial Ice Measurement

Break off a small twig or branch from a tree in which ice has accumulated. Measure the thickness of ice on each side of the branch with a ruler. Then average the two measurements to get the total ice accumulation.

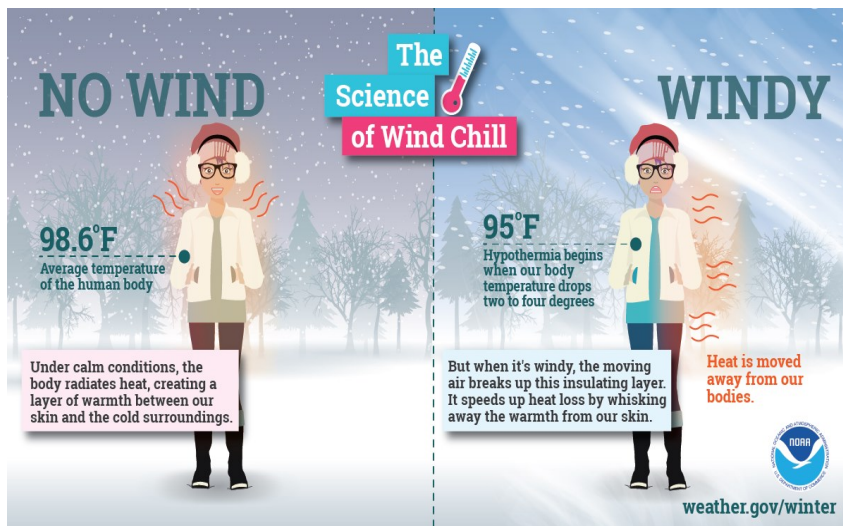
All measurements should be rounded to the nearest 0.1".
Any measurements below 0.1" are reported as a trace.

Winter Weather Safety

Dressing for Cold

Frostbite: occurs when the skin becomes cold enough to actually freeze. A loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, or the nose are symptoms of frostbite.

Hypothermia: (Low Body Temperature) can occur during long periods of exposure when the body temperature drops below 95 degrees F. A person will become disoriented, confused, and shiver uncontrollably, eventually leading to drowsiness and apparent exhaustion. In severe cases, death is possible.



Wind Chill

Wind Chill is the term used to describe the rate of heat loss on the human body resulting from the combined effect of low temperature and wind. As winds increase, heat is carried away from the body at a faster rate, driving down both the skin temperature and eventually internal body temperature. While exposure to low wind chills can be life threatening to both humans and animals alike, the only effect that wind chill has on inanimate objects, such as vehicles, is that it shortens the time it takes to cool to the actual air temperature.

Driving in Winter

Get your car winterized before Winter arrives. The following items should be checked; ignition system, cooling system, fuel system, battery, lights, tires, heater, brakes, wipers, defroster, oil, exhaust. Keep water out of your fuel tank by keeping it full.

Carry a Winter storm kit in you car. The graphic to the right displays several items you should consider keeping in your emergency supply kit.

If the storm exceeds or tests your driving ability, seek available shelter immediately.

Plan your travel. Try not to travel alone and drive in convoy when possible.



Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador Spotlight



Stormdar Weather

Randy Luna and Corey Taylor
Ambassador Since—July 2017

Q: What made you interested in becoming a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador?

A: For us, it's the ability to be able to work together with the NWS by being a local source of weather information dissemination.

Q: A successful Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador is being ready, responsive and resilient. Describe risks, actions and how Stormdar Weather amplifies the NWS weather information.

Risks:

A: As people in the Ozarks know, all modes of risky weather occur here, whether it be severe thunderstorms and flooding, strong winds and fire dangers, to winter events such as icy roads. Being weather aware is vital and we take pride in disseminating the most up-to-date information provided by the NWS.

Actions:

A: Being able to do live-streaming via Facebook has shown to be one of the most valuable assets in providing almost real-time information and safety procedures relating to hazardous weather events (severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, Winter storms).

Amplifying NWS Weather Message:

A: The biggest aspect in being successful in social media is to be a no-hype trusted source. Also, we make sure to put the information in a form that is easily understood by everyone through the use of Facebook and our website at StormdarWeather.com. We also have a weekly podcast that discusses previous and upcoming weather events along with our Stormdar Weather School promoting safety and education.

Q: As an ambassador, do you feel like the partnership and ability to collaborate with us at the NWS has helped you become better prepared and resilient to weather hazards?

A: By all means! And we appreciate the NWS weather preparedness graphics that we pass along to our followers. They are a great tool and emphasize the importance of being Weather-Ready.

Q: If you were trying to promote other businesses or organizations to become Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors, what would you tell them is the greatest benefit?

A: The greatest benefit is the ability to be able to connect with people in the area, as we do at Stormdar Weather. Our demographic is primarily for the Branson area as we get millions of visitors every year and we encourage other businesses in Branson to get involved in providing safety information to the public.



Pictured: Randy Luna (left) and Corey Taylor (right).

Share success stories

Collaborate with NWS

Be a Force of Nature
Help Build a Weather-Ready Nation™
Become a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador

Serving as an example

Promoting weather safety

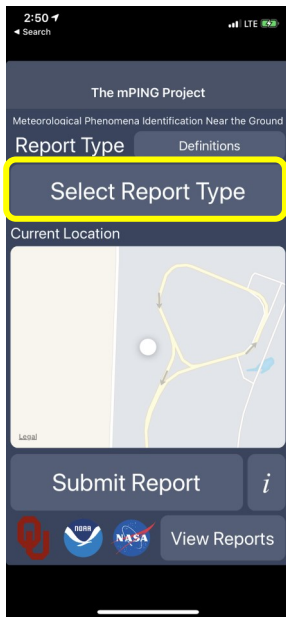
Sending Reports and Contact Information

Sending Reports through mPING

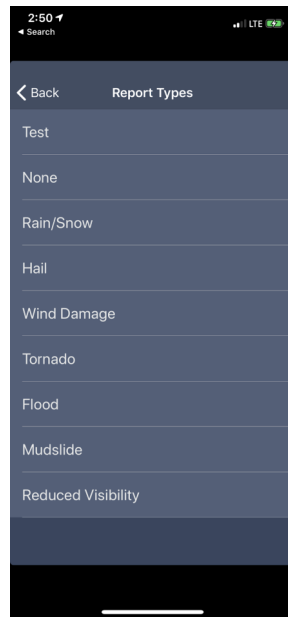


Download the free mPING app from your app store.

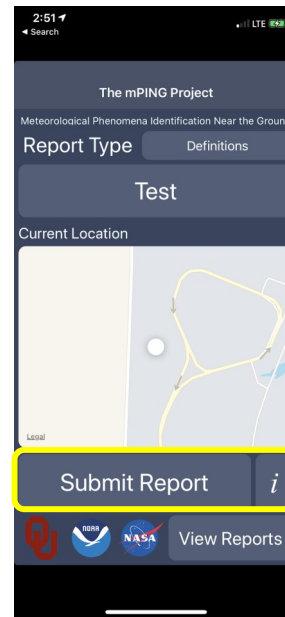
STEP 1:



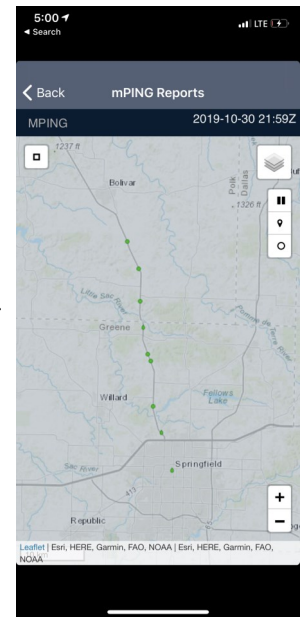
STEP 2:



STEP 3:



STEP 4:



NWS Springfield Contact Information



@NWSSpringfield



weather.gov/springfield



@NWSSpringfield



contact.sgf@noaa.gov



youtube.com/NWSSpringfield



Office: (417) 863-8028
Text: (417) 830-7659

[Become a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador](#)