Situation Report

Saturday, April 11, 2020

12:51 AM

National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana

Saturday Spring Storm

Snowfall is becoming widespread across the region from north to south. Cold temperatures, blowing snow, reduced visibility and moisture freezing on surfaces is creating poor road conditions.

Message of the Day:

Snowfall is becoming widespread across the region from north to south. Cold temperatures, blowing snow, reduced visibility and moisture freezing on surfaces is creating poor road conditions.

Important Forecast Changes

The previous forecast is on track. There has been very little change. The Winter Weather Advisory will begin just a few hours later for portions of southwest Montana.
Winter Weather Returns to Montana

Key Points

Hazards: Snow, heavy at times, along with gusty winds. Temperatures fall below freezing. Wet roads freeze and become snow covered.

Areas Impacted: All of North Central and Southwest Montana.

Timing & Duration: Snow is occurring across north central Montana and continue to spread southwestward. Most of the accumulating snowfall will diminish by late Saturday evening.

Impacts: Travel will be very difficult at times. Areas of snow and blowing snow are significantly reducing visibility. Icy and/or snow covered roads are causing travel difficulty. Due to the wet nature of the snow, cold temperatures, and gusty winds, impacts to the ranching industry with regard to young livestock are expected. Additionally, heavy wet snow and gusty winds could cause impacts to outdoor medical tents. When the snow melts, some minor runoff problems are possible.
Snowfall Forecast

Expected Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast
Valid: Through Saturday Evening

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This image shows the potential impacts possible to newborn livestock through this morning.

The combination of wet snow, cold temperatures and gusty winds will create extreme conditions for newborn livestock.
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Confidence

• **High** – Significant accumulating snow for many areas; gusty winds cause some areas of blowing and drifting snow; low visibility; wet roadways freeze over; icy and or snow covered roadways, colder temperatures lasting into early next week.

Probabilistic Information At:
[www.weather.gov/tfx/winter](http://www.weather.gov/tfx/winter)

### Winter Weather Quick Facts and Preparedness:

**Quick facts you should know about winter weather:**

- Snow can occur at temperatures as high as 46 degrees if conditions are right.
- The record for most snowfall in the Lower 48 in a 24 hour period is 75.8” at Silver Lake, Colorado in 1921.
- Blizzard conditions are met when visibility in falling and blowing snow reaches ¼ mile or less and sustained wind speeds of 35 mph or greater occur for 3 hours or more.
- As little as 1/16” of ice can begin to impact roadways and sidewalks.
- As the wind increases, the body is cooled at a faster rate. The “wind chill” is a way for meteorologists to communicate what the combination of wind and temperature “feels like” to exposed skin.

**Preparedness:**

- A **Winter Storm Watch** is issued when conditions are favorable for significant winter weather and/or blizzard conditions. **Time to prepare!**
- A **Winter Storm Warning** is issued when a combination of heavy snow, blowing snow, and possibly ice mixed with snow is expected to impact the area. **Time to act!**
- A **Blizzard Warning** is issued when the combination of strong wind, low visibility, and heavy snow will significantly impact daily life.

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