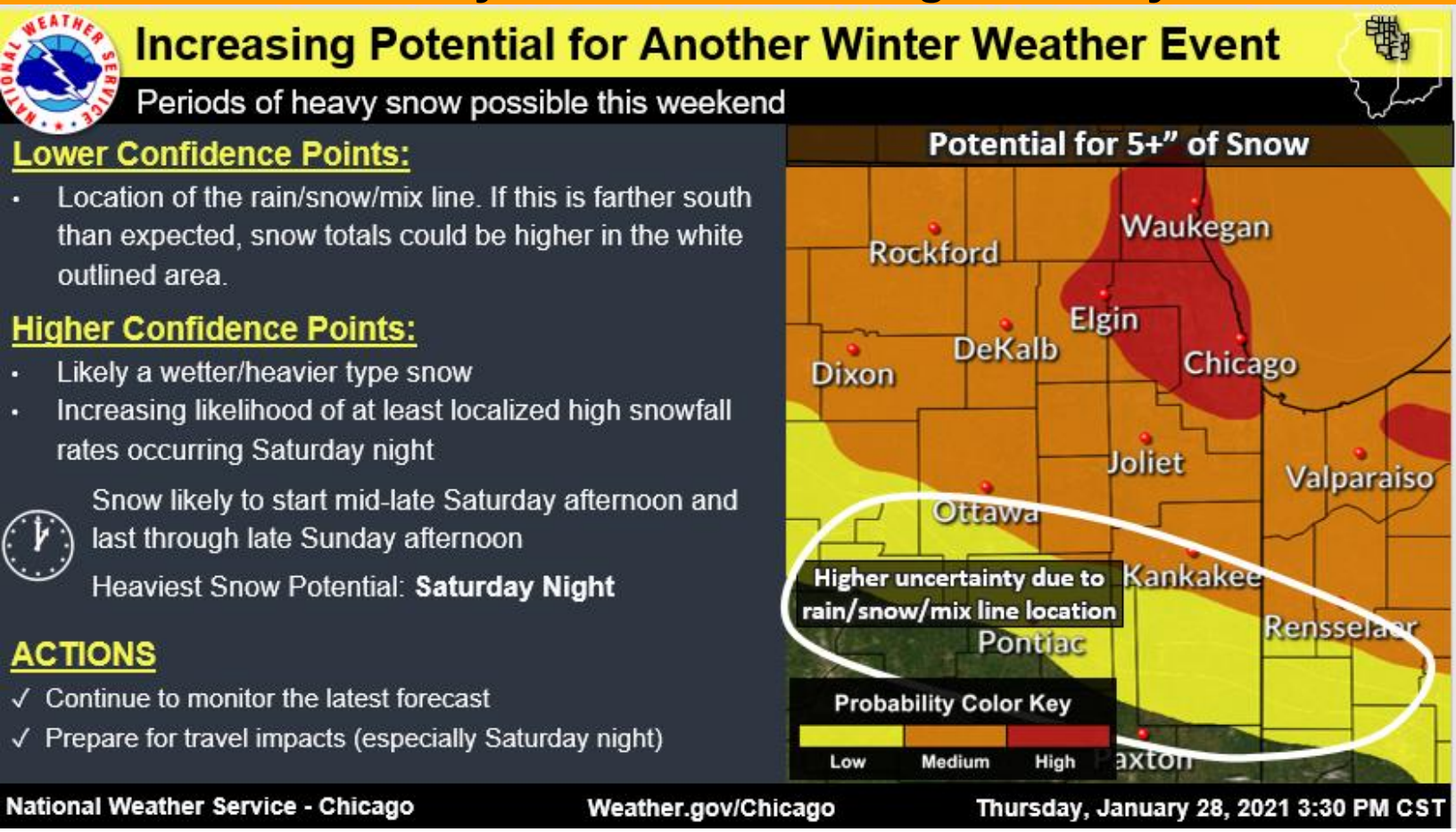
National Weather Service
Chicago, IL
Thursday, January 28, 2021 4:30 PM CST

Situation Report

Winter Storm With Significant Snowfall Possible Late Saturday Afternoon Through Sunday



Message of the Day:

- Increasing potential for a period of Heavy Wet snow late Sat afternoon and night, with lighter accumulating snow persisting on Sun.
- Significant snow accumulations (5+ inches) possible for a good portion of northern IL and northwestern IN, especially along and north of I-80.
- Highest uncertainty in snowfall amounts is for areas south of I-80, where a mix with, or change over to, rain could occur Saturday night.

NEW

Important Forecast Changes

- This is the first issuance.

Click for a description of this product

Click to evaluate this product

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Key Points



Hazards: Heavy wet snow, especially along and north of I-80 late Saturday afternoon and night.



Areas Impacted: Greatest threat generally along and north of I-80. South of I-80 snow is possible, but precipitation type is likely to mix with, or change to, rain Saturday night with southward extent toward central IL and IN. This will likely result in a sharp drop off in snow amounts with southward extent.



Timing & Duration: At this time it appears the heaviest period of wet snow will occur from late Saturday afternoon (after 3 or 4 pm) and persist into Saturday night. This looks to be the timing of the highest potential impacts. Snow is likely to persist across the area on Sunday before ending Sunday evening, but lighter rates appear likely during this period.



Impacts: Significant travel impacts possible due to snow covered roads and low visibilities from heavy snow rates Saturday night. Hazardous travel conditions also may persist into Sunday.



Certainty & Considerations: A sharp cutoff in snow amounts may occur over southern sections of the area well south of I-80 due to the possible transition to a period of rain Saturday night. For this reason, we have lower confidence with snow amounts south of I-80.

Other Resources

- **Winter Weather Safety & Preparedness** – safety graphics and messaging
- **Latest on this Event** – forecast and observations graphics and links for this winter event
- **Weather Watcher Webpage** – ideal for someone in charge of monitoring the weather ahead of and during an event
- **Enhanced Hazardous Weather Outlook** – helps to determine which days you need to be mindful of hazardous weather
- **NWS Headline Definitions**

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