

Situation Report



Wintry Mix Thursday; Dangerous Cold this Weekend



Extended Period of Dangerous Cold Expected

Several Days of sub-zero Wind Chills



Coldest Saturday night into Monday morning



Coldest conditions in two years (January 2019)

ACTIONS

- ✓ Prepare buildings and vehicles
- ✓ Adjust plans to limit prolonged time outdoors
- ✓ Monitor forecasts through the week

National Weather Service - Chicago









MON

-11 to -5° wc -20 to -30°

wc -15 to -25°

Weather.gov/Chicago

-1 to 5°

Tuesday, February 2nd, 2021 3:00pm CST

Message of the Day:



- Dangerous cold expected Friday into Monday Coldest conditions since January 2019
- Wind chills below zero for several days
- Mixed-precipitation event with some accumulating snow Thursday into Thursday night, especially north of I-88
- Strong winds and blowing snow possible Thursday night

Important Forecast Changes



This is the first issuance for these events.



(1)

Wintry Mix Thursday; Dangerous Cold this Weekend Key Points



Hazards: Wintry precipitation with accumulating snow; Dangerous cold. Temperatures will be favorable for the rapid accumulation of river ice. This may lead to ice jam formation.



Areas Impacted: Area wide, with impactful accumulating snow favored north of I-88



Timing & Duration:

Snow: Thursday morning and Thursday evening

Blowing snow: Thursday night

Dangerous Cold: Friday through Monday; especially Sat. night into Mon.



Impacts: Hazardous road conditions with the snow and blowing snow. Dangerous conditions for frostbite and hypothermia with the cold.



Certainty & Considerations: High confidence in travel impacts Thursday, low-medium on the timing of precipitation type changes during the day, but high in a changeover to snow and gusty winds Thursday night.



Historical Perspective: This will be the coldest conditions in the region since January 2019, which was a record-setting period of cold. Conditions are not expected to be as severe as in January 2019.



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Winter Weather Impacts Likely Thursday into Early Friday

Accumulating Snow, Strong Winds, Some Ice Accumulation Potential

WHAT TO EXPECT

An intensifying storm system will likely bring a variety of winter weather hazards.

- <u>Accumulating Snow</u>: A few to several inches possible (see map for favored area)
- Light Icing: Possible Thu. AM
- Strong Winds: Gusts up to 35-40+ mph
 Thu. night → poor visibility & blowing snow
- <u>Plummeting Temps Thu. Night</u>: Icy roads possible and sub-zero wind chills by Fri. AM

ACTIONS

✓ Prepare for possible travel impacts.

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Rockford Rockford Elgin DeKalb Joliet Valparaiso Ottawa Pontiac Probability Color Key Low Medium High Paxton

Probability of 2"+ Snowfall by Fri. AM

Thursday Precipitation Timeline

- Light precipitation will start off as snow for many areas, especially north of I-80
- Some light freezing rain may occur, though this is of low confidence
- Precipitation will change to rain Thursday afternoon for areas south of I-80 with high confidence, medium confidence for rain or a rain-snow mix to occur as far north as I-88
- Expect all areas to change to snow Thursday evening
- Strong winds to 35-40 mph will overlap snow for several hours which may create dangerous travel conditions



Other Resources

- Winter Weather Safety & Preparedness safety graphics and messaging
- <u>Latest on this Event</u> 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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Building a Weather-Ready Nation