

Winter Storm Forecast Update

January 11, 2024
3:49 PM

Key Messages:

- Confidence in a significant winter storm in our area continues to increase in two rounds:
 - **Round 1:** Friday Morning North of US-24
 - **Round 2:** Friday Afternoon-Night Areawide
- Round 1 will lead to hazardous travel conditions during the Friday morning commute with snow rates of 1-2"/hr
- Round 2 will be characterized by falling snow near/north of I-80, with rain south of I-80 and near the lakeshore in Illinois, followed by a transition to snow areawide after dark.
- A sharp cold snap will arrive this weekend with dangerous wind chills.

NEW

What Has Changed:

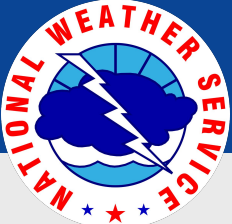
- Winter Storm Warnings and Winter Weather Advisories issued for our forecast area

Next Scheduled Update:

- Friday, January 12th by 4:30 AM CST



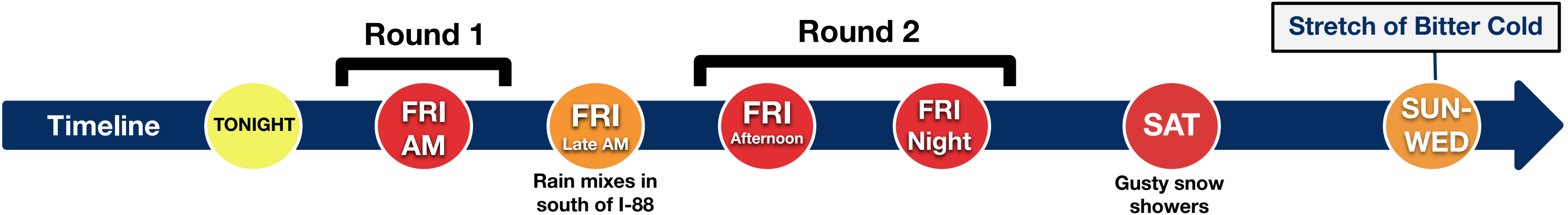
Photo: Colleen Heneghan Boyer



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Timeline of expected winter impacts late tonight through Sunday



Round 1

Friday Morning: 2 am - 8 am CT
Including Friday Morning Commute

Burst of Wet Snow along/north of US-24
Rates of 1-2" per hour

REDUCED VISIBILITY

HAZARDOUS TRAVEL

COMMUTE IMPACTS

Round 2

Friday Afternoon through Friday night
Including Friday Evening Commute

Switch Back to All Snow Areawide
Westerly wind gusts to 45 mph by evening

NEAR ZERO VISIBILITY

SNOW COVERED ROADS

DANGEROUS TRAVEL

**** Lower snowfall amounts likely along the Illinois lakeshore. ****





Approximate Precipitation Type and Intensity Timeline

Dry

Find your general location on the map, identify the number, and look at the corresponding line for a rough timeline of precipitation types and intensities.



6

1-2"/hr rates dependent on rain/snow line!

- 1 La Salle, Morris, Grundy, Will
- 2 DuPage and Central/North Cook, Lake
- 3 Southern Cook, Lake (IN), Porter
- 4 Rockford Area, Kane, McHenry
- 5 Pontiac, Watseka, Kankakee Area
- 6 Benton, Newton, Jasper



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Round 2: Early Friday Morning

Key Messages



Wet, Slushy Snow North of US-24

Periods of 1"-2" per hour in Orange and Red Shaded Areas



REDUCED
VISIBILITY



HAZARDOUS
TRAVEL



COMMUTE
IMPACTS



Friday Morning: 2 am - 8 am CT

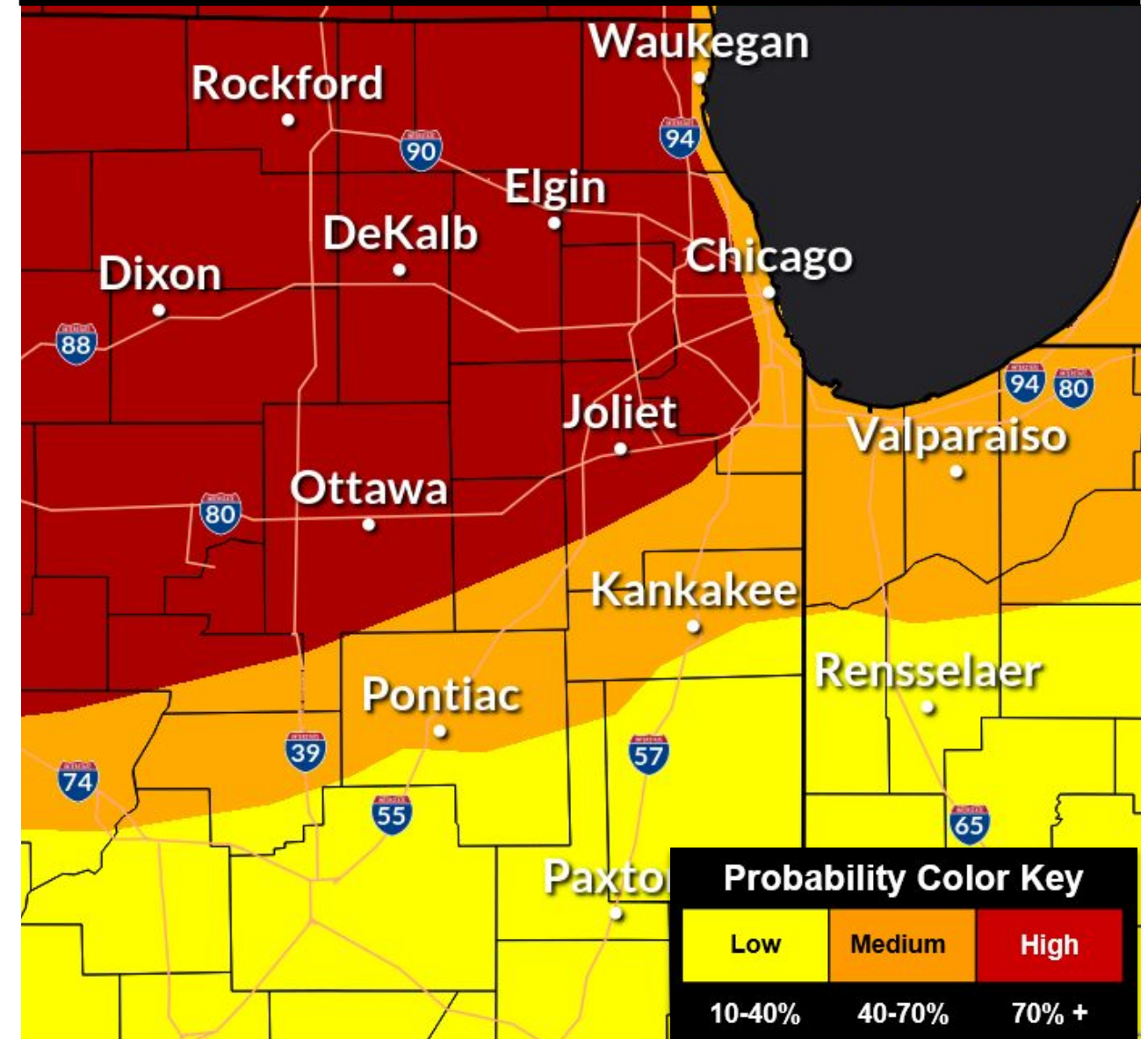
Including Friday Morning Commute

Snow will change to rain across yellow and orange shaded areas Friday morning

What You Should Do

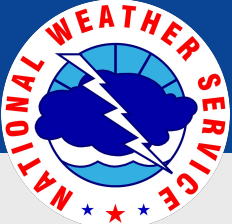
- ✓ Consider postponing travel.
- ✓ Slow down and increase following distance if you must travel.

Chances for Hazardous Commute



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Chicago, IL



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Round 2: Friday Afternoon and Overnight

What To Expect



Accumulating and Blowing Snow

Westerly wind gusts up to 40 to 45 mph Friday night after most snow falls



SNOW
COVERED
ROADS



DANGEROUS
TRAVEL



Friday through Saturday Morning

Worst impacts likely late Friday afternoon - early Saturday



Northern IL and Northwest IN

Highest confidence for areas near/northwest of I-55/I-94 (red shaded area)

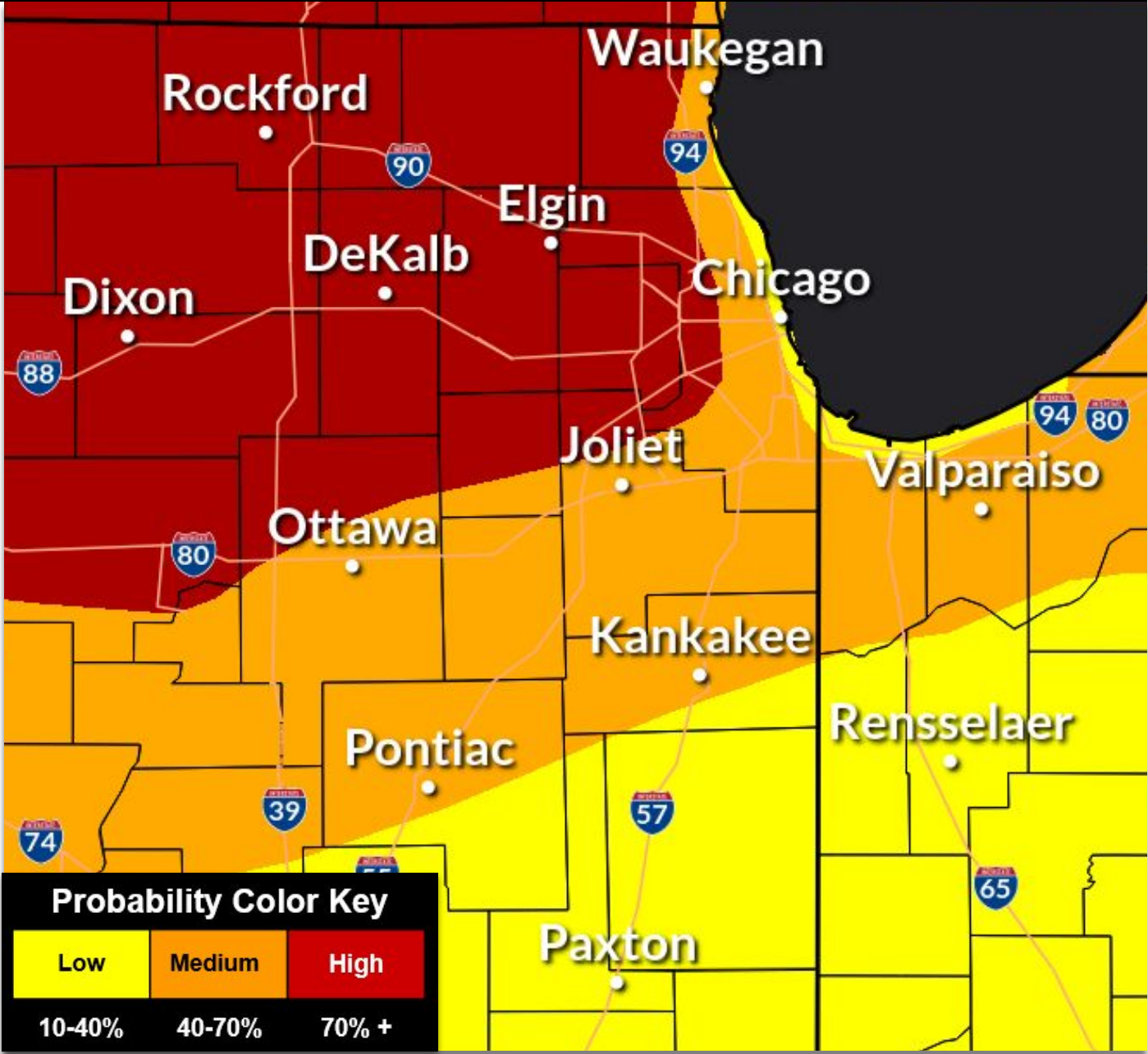


Rain/snow line will dictate highest accumulations, with cut-off in highest amounts near I-80 or I-88.

What You Should Do

- ✓ Prepare for possible travel impacts.
- ✓ Stay up to date on the forecast.

Probability of Snow Accum > 6"



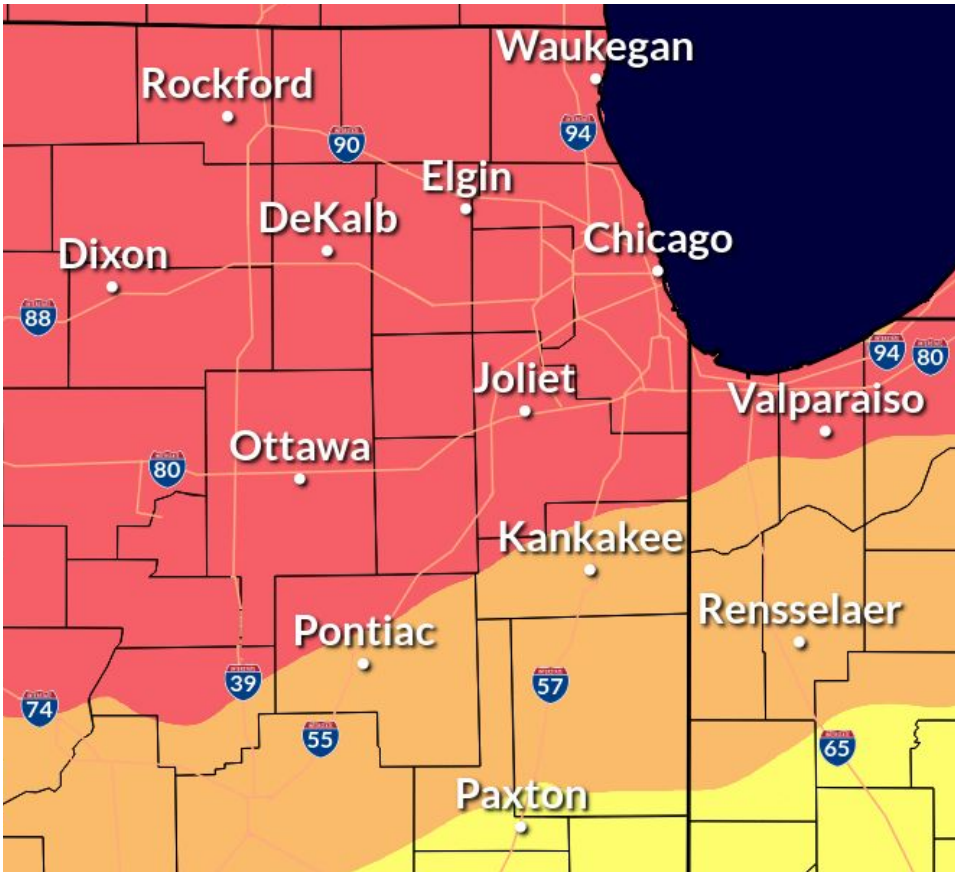


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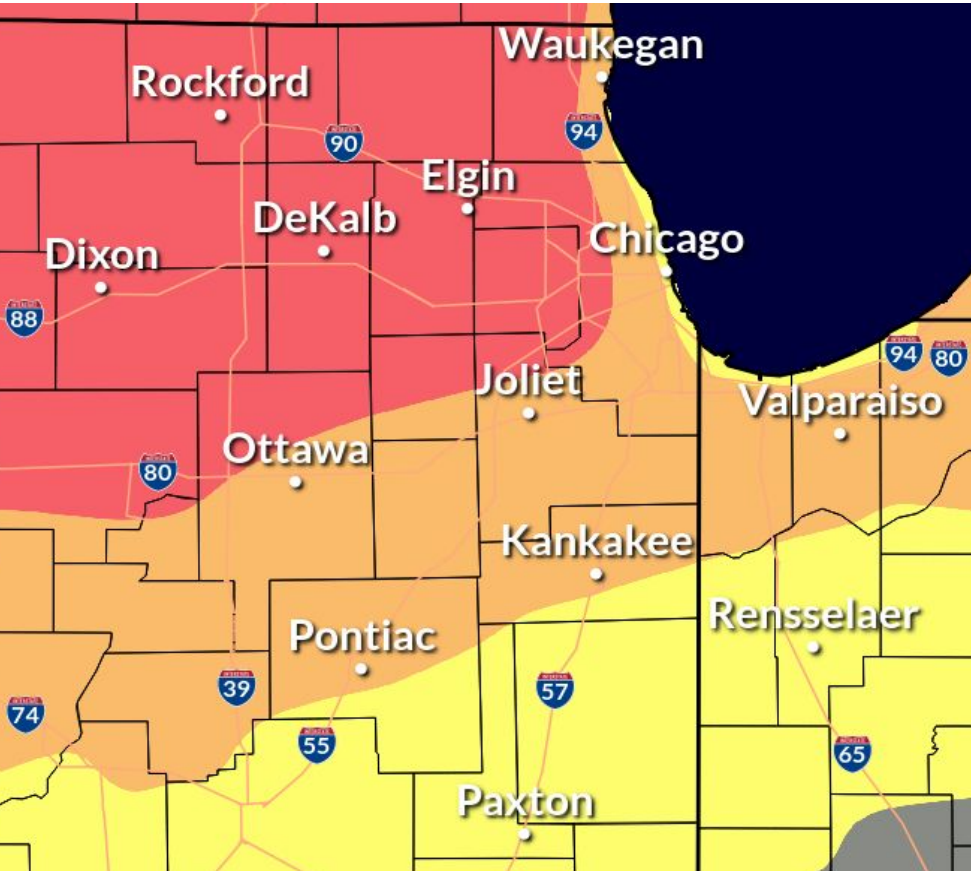
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Storm total snow accumulation probabilities Friday through Saturday

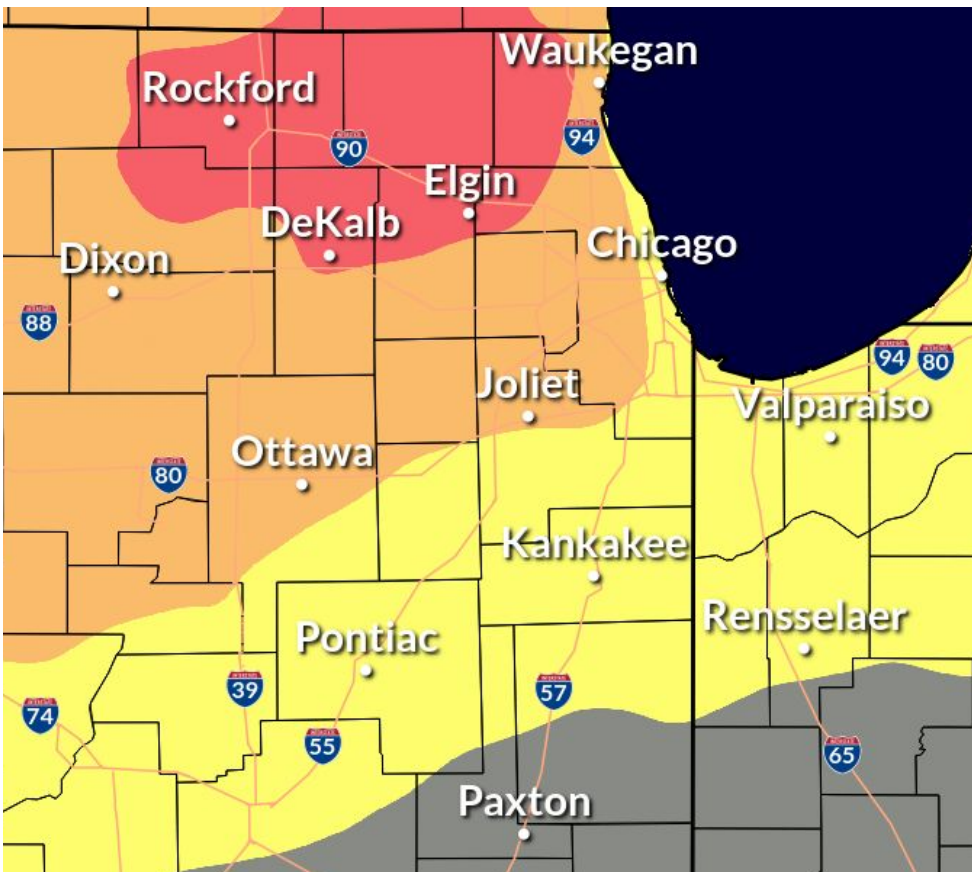
Probability of 4" or More of Snow



Probability of 6" or More of Snow



Probability of 8" or More of Snow



- *Temperatures (snow to liquid ratio) will impact totals*
- *Sharp gradient in accumulation closer to the lake with lesser amounts expected near the lakeshore*

Probability Color Key		
Low	Medium	High
10-40%	40-70%	70% +





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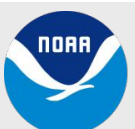
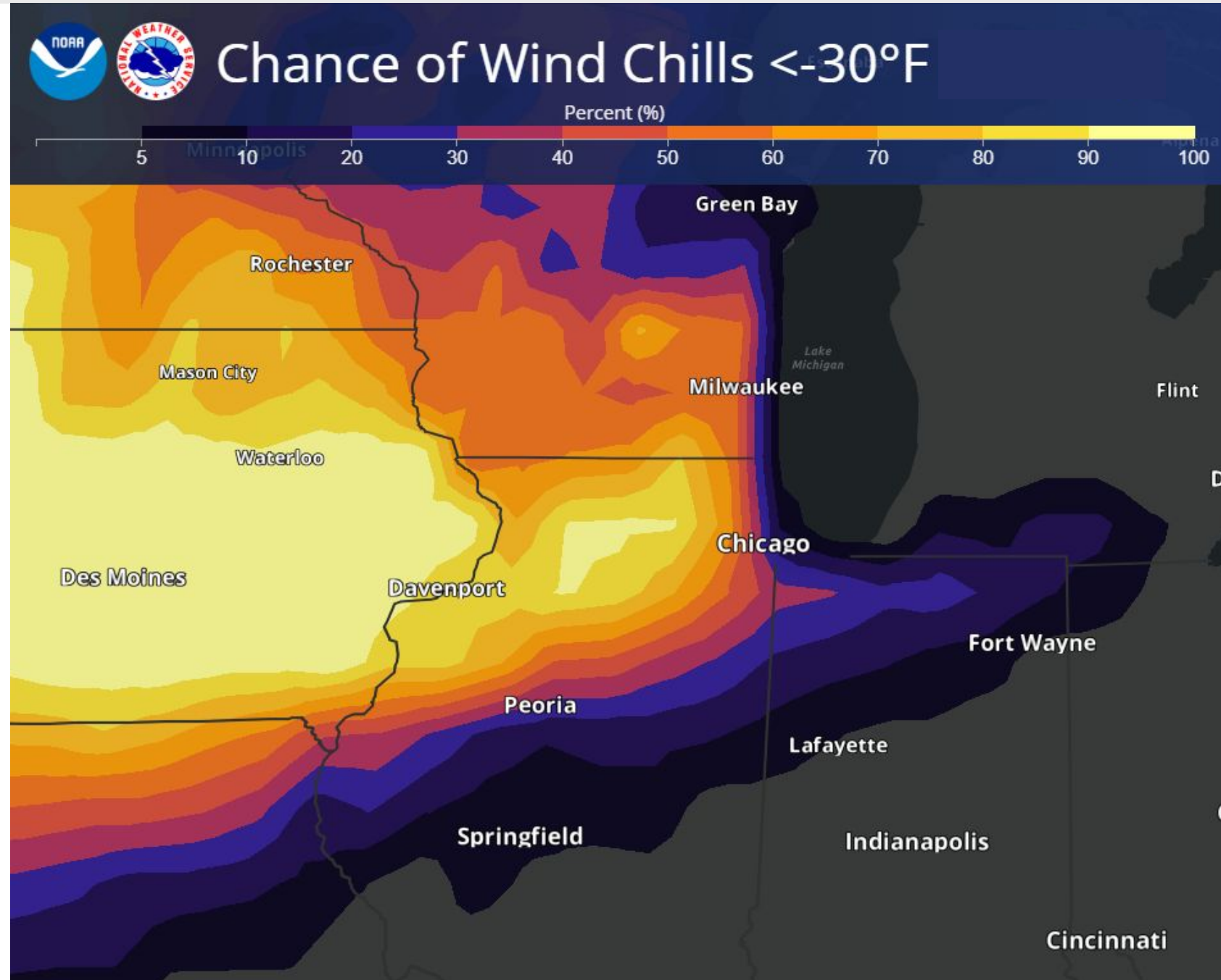
Bitterly to Dangerously Cold Temperatures This Weekend into Early Next Week

Key Messages

- **The coldest temperatures are expected Sunday Night through Tuesday night**
- Highs and lows may fall to the single digits and below zero, respectively.
- The lowest wind chills may fall below -30°F particularly Monday and Tuesday morning.
- Ice jams may develop on area rivers

What You Should Do

- ✓ Prepare for bitterly cold temperatures.
- ✓ Plan ahead for possible cold related impacts.





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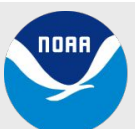
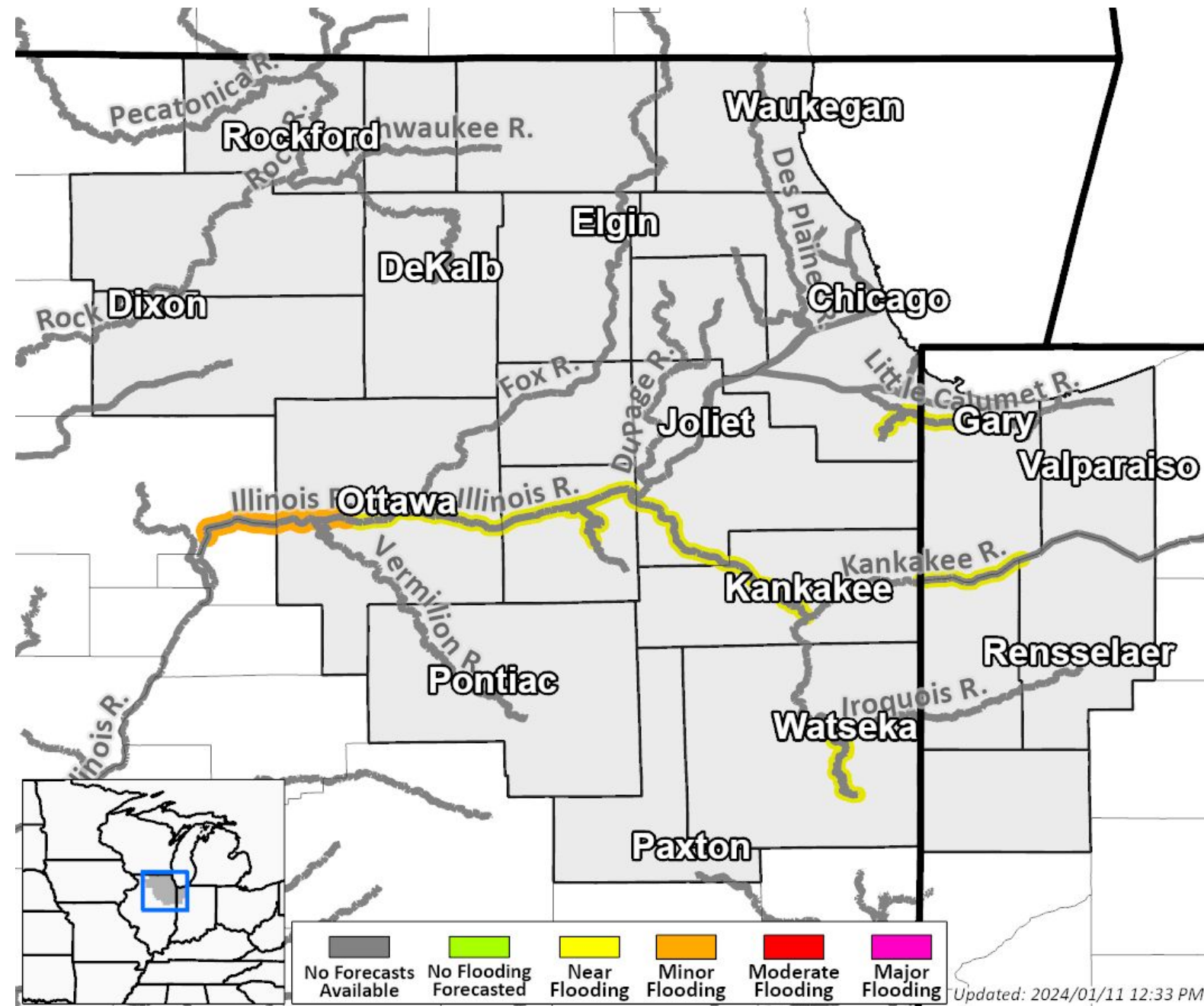
Elevated River Levels This Weekend

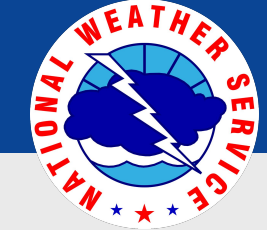
Key Messages

- Rainfall on Friday will cause rises on some rivers this weekend
- Bankfull conditions likely (>50%), isolated minor flooding possible (25-50%)
- Ponding of water in poor drainage areas also possible in areas that receive rainfall

What You Should Do

- ✓ Monitor latest forecasts
- ✓ Clear clogged storm drains and culverts
- ✓ Move property out of flood-prone areas





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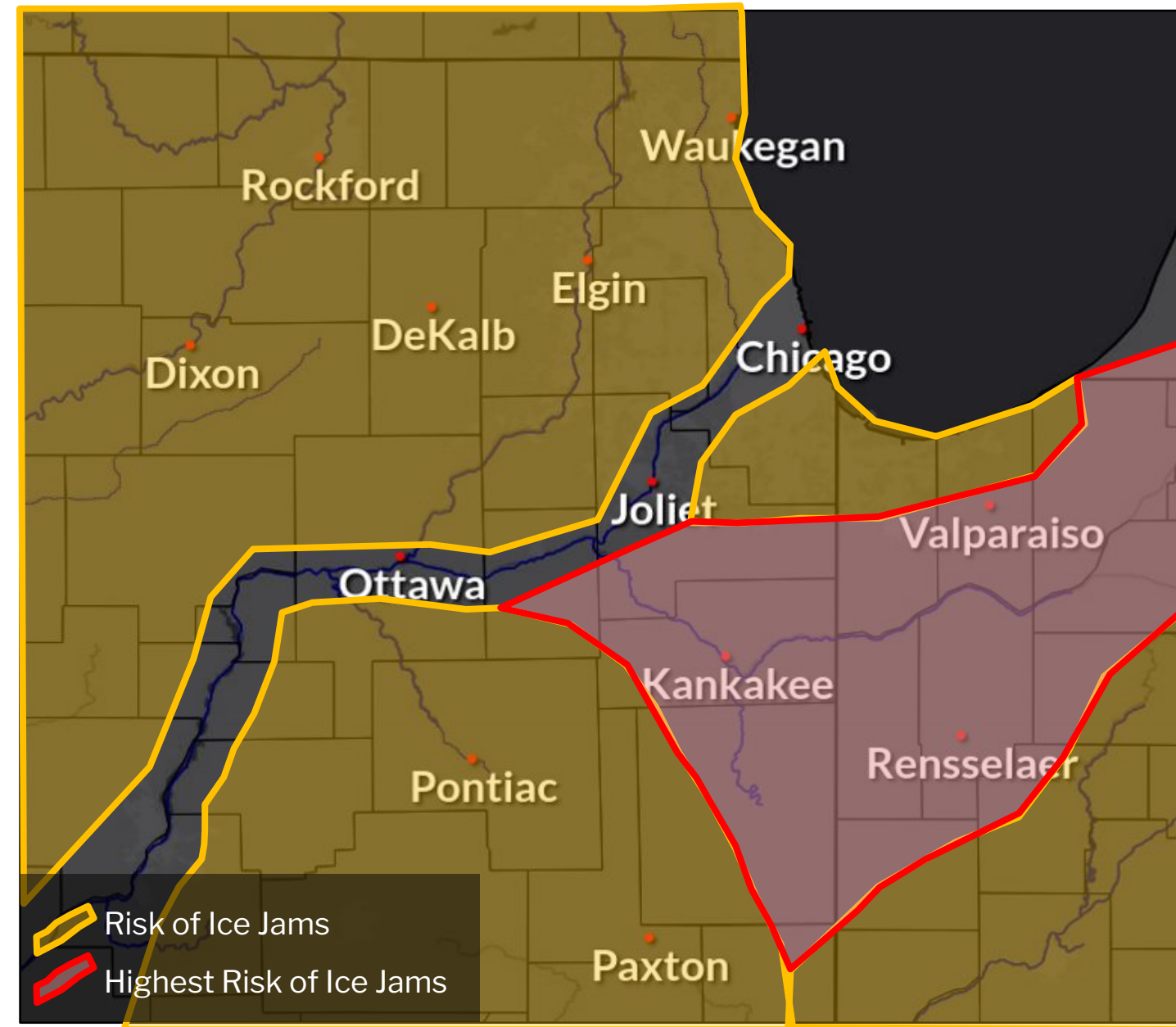
Heavy River Ice and Ice Jams Possible Next Week

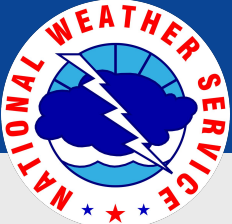
Key Messages

- Rapid river ice formation expected on almost all area rivers by early next week
- Isolated ice jams possible, with highest risk along the Kankakee and Iroquois rivers
- Ice jams can lead to water level fluctuations and significant water rises with little warning

What You Should Do

- ✓ Monitor latest forecasts
- ✓ Move property out of flood-prone areas





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Two rounds of hazardous conditions Friday into Saturday followed by bitter cold next week

Tonight

Periods of 1-2" per hour snow rates N of I-80 near daybreak

L: 22-32°

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
 S of I-88	 LIKELY (50-60%)			
Significant winter storm continues	Gusty winds with snow showers	Wind Chills: -35 to -15°		
H: 33-38°	H: 16-24°	H: -1 to 6°	H: -1 to 5°	H: -1 to 4°
 Blowing Snow				
Dangerous travel conditions!				
L: 15-23°	L: -6 to 1°	L: -15 to -4°	L: -15 to -3°	





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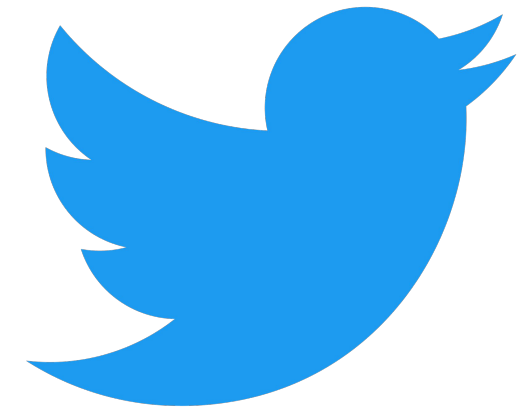
Additional Resources

Additional Resources

- [Winter Weather Safety & Preparedness](#)
Winter-related safety graphics and messaging
- [Winter Weather Liaison Webpage](#)
One-stop-shop for winter weather-related forecast information
- [Graphical Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)
Helps to determine which days you need to be mindful of hazardous weather
- [Official Snowfall Observations](#)
Six hourly snowfall observations for O'Hare, NWS Chicago, & Rockford



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