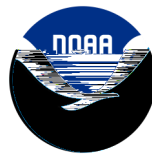




# The Ozark Ambassador

National Weather Service Springfield, Missouri



## Preparing For Winter

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### Ozark Ambassador Team

**Kelsey Angle**  
Meteorologist in Charge

**Steve Runnels**  
Warning Coordination  
Meteorologist

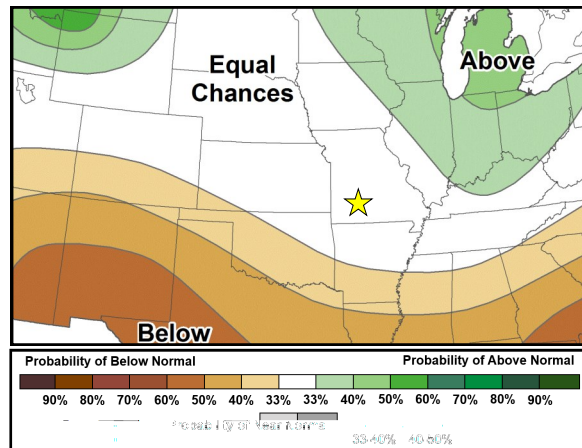
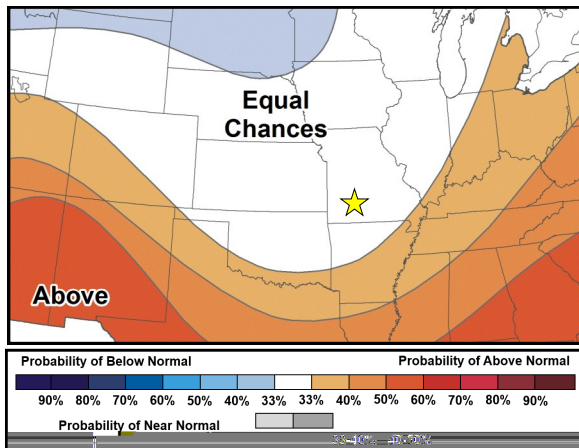
**Jason Schaumann**  
Science and Operations  
Officer

**Kyle Perez**  
Weather-Ready Nation  
Ambassador Leader

### Winter Weather Websites

- [Probabilistic Forecasts](#)
- [DSS Packet](#)
- [Weather Story](#)
- [Weather Prediction Center](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center](#)
- [Storm Prediction Center](#)

## Winter 2024-2025 Outlook



The Winter 2024-2025 Outlook favors equal chances of above/below normal temperatures and precipitation for the region. When the longer term outlooks have equal chances, it recommended to follow the 6 to 10 and 8 to 14 day outlooks for more details on the pattern. For more information check out the [Climate Prediction Center Outlooks](#).

## Recap of Winter Weather Preparedness Week

<b>Terminology and Products</b>	<b>Ice Storms and Ice Safety</b>	<b>Snow and Snow Safety</b>	<b>Extreme Cold and Wind Chills</b>	<b>Have a Plan and Getting Information</b>

This year's Winter Weather Preparedness Week in the state of Missouri provided NWS partners and the public an opportunity to prepare for Winter. Winter storms and cold temperatures can be extremely dangerous. We urge people to continue to review the Winter hazards and their safety plans so they are prepared for the upcoming Winter season. Additional safety information can be found on [NWS Springfield Winter Weather Preparedness Webpage](#) and [SEMA Webpage](#).

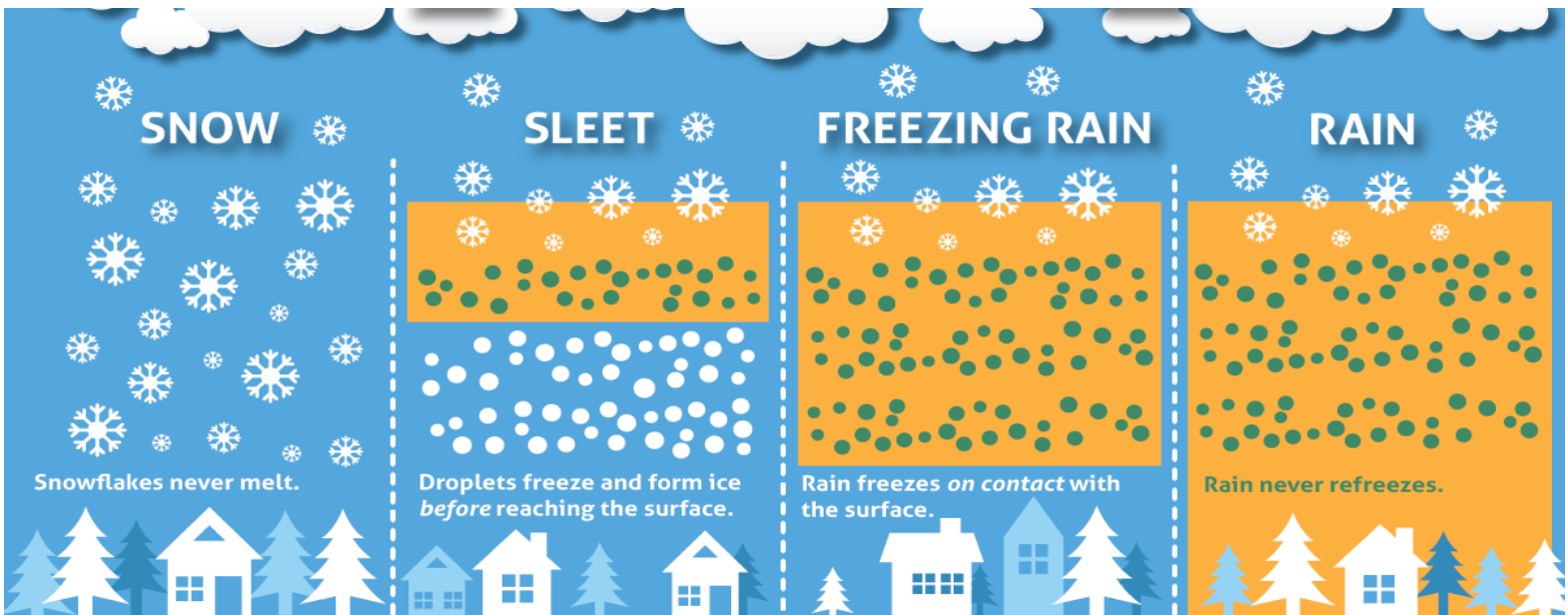
Find more Winter preparedness information at [weather.gov/safety/winter](https://www.weather.gov/safety/winter)

# Winter Products and Science

## Winter Storm Products Overview

<p><b>Winter Storm Watch</b></p> <p>Conditions are <b>favorable for a winter storm event</b> within the next 24 to 72 hours.</p> <p><b>Travel difficulties</b> are possible.</p> <p><b>Be Ready</b></p> <p><small>NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION</small></p>	<p><b>Winter Weather Advisory</b></p> <p><b>Potentially dangerous winter weather</b> is expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or is occurring.</p> <p><b>Travel difficulties</b> are expected.</p> <p><b>Stay Aware</b></p>	<p><b>Winter Storm Warning</b></p> <p><b>Dangerous winter weather</b> is expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or is already occurring.</p> <p><b>Considerable travel problems</b> are expected.</p> <p><b>Take Action</b></p>	<p><b>Ice Storm Warning</b></p> <p><b>Significant ice accumulations</b> are expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or are already occurring.</p> <p><b>Do Not Travel</b></p> <p><b>Take Action</b></p>	<p><b>Blizzard Warning</b></p> <p><b>Blizzard</b> conditions are expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or are already occurring — including white out conditions.</p> <p><b>Do Not Travel</b></p> <p><b>Take Action</b></p> <p><small>NWS Springfield, MO</small></p>
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## Understanding Winter Precipitation



At or Below 32°F

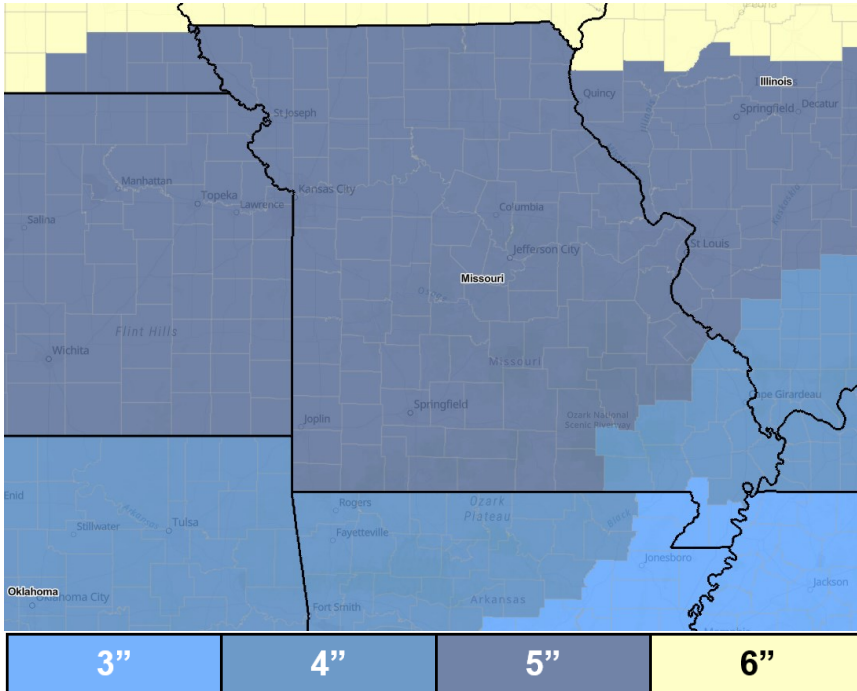
Above 32°F

[weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)



# Winter Products Changes and Updates

## Winter Storm Warning Criteria



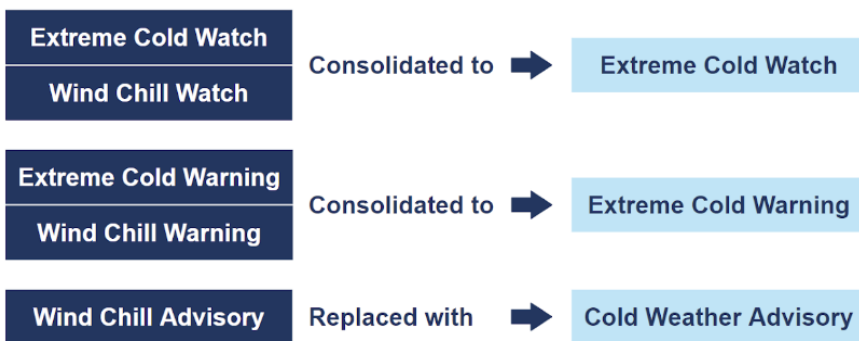
In the Contiguous US, warning criteria thresholds for heavy snow, measured in inches, have been updated to serve as the basis for winter storm watches and warnings. The updates were made to improve decision support services, collaboration, and communication. There is now an interactive heavy snow criteria map that is centrally updated and managed, allowing users to easily find their local criteria. Minor changes to criteria should have only limited impact to end users. Offices can still issue watches and warnings based on anticipated impacts.

**Winter Storm Warning criteria** for the Springfield, MO County Warning Area is **5 inches or more of snowfall.**

[Check out this webpage for more information on Winter Storm Warning criteria across the US.](#)

## Cold-Related Products

### Extreme Cold Consolidation



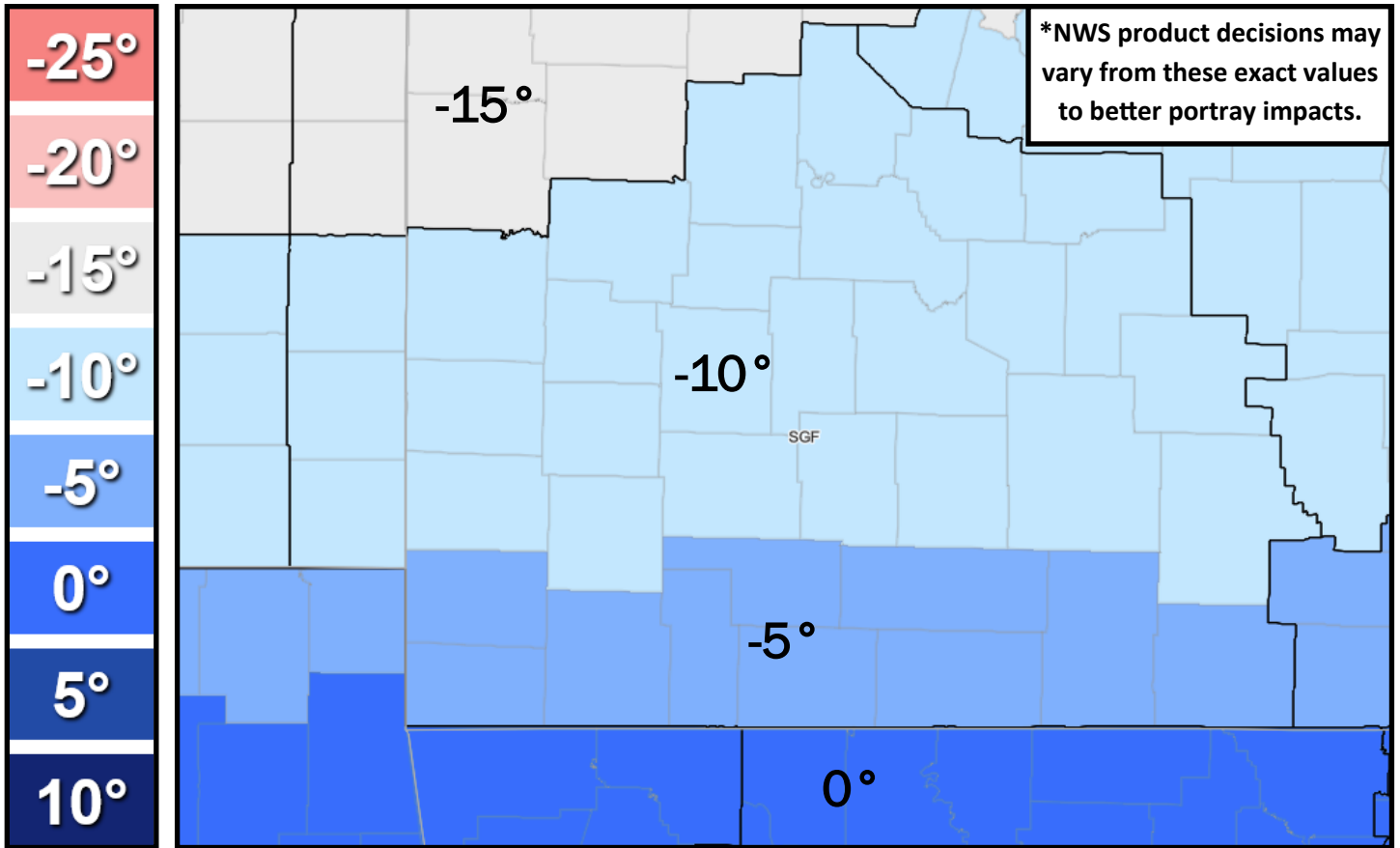
### What Do You Need to Know?

- As part of the ongoing National Weather Service (NWS) Hazard Simplification Project, the NWS is acting upon data collected during public and partner engagements, surveys, and social science research leading to consolidation of Wind Chill and Extreme Cold products and Freeze and Hard Freeze Products.
- The new NWS Cold Product Suite will allow NWS to communicate that cold is dangerous with or without wind. Wind chill will not go away although emphasis will be placed on “cold is cold” for public safety.
- Consolidation of NWS Freeze and Hard Freeze products into one streamlined Freeze Watch/Warning with enhanced language for hard freeze conditions as needed will simplify and improve messaging and service delivery.
- The scope of the NWS Frost/Freeze services is focused on vegetation and agriculture taking into account growing season, impacts, and precautionary/preparedness actions.

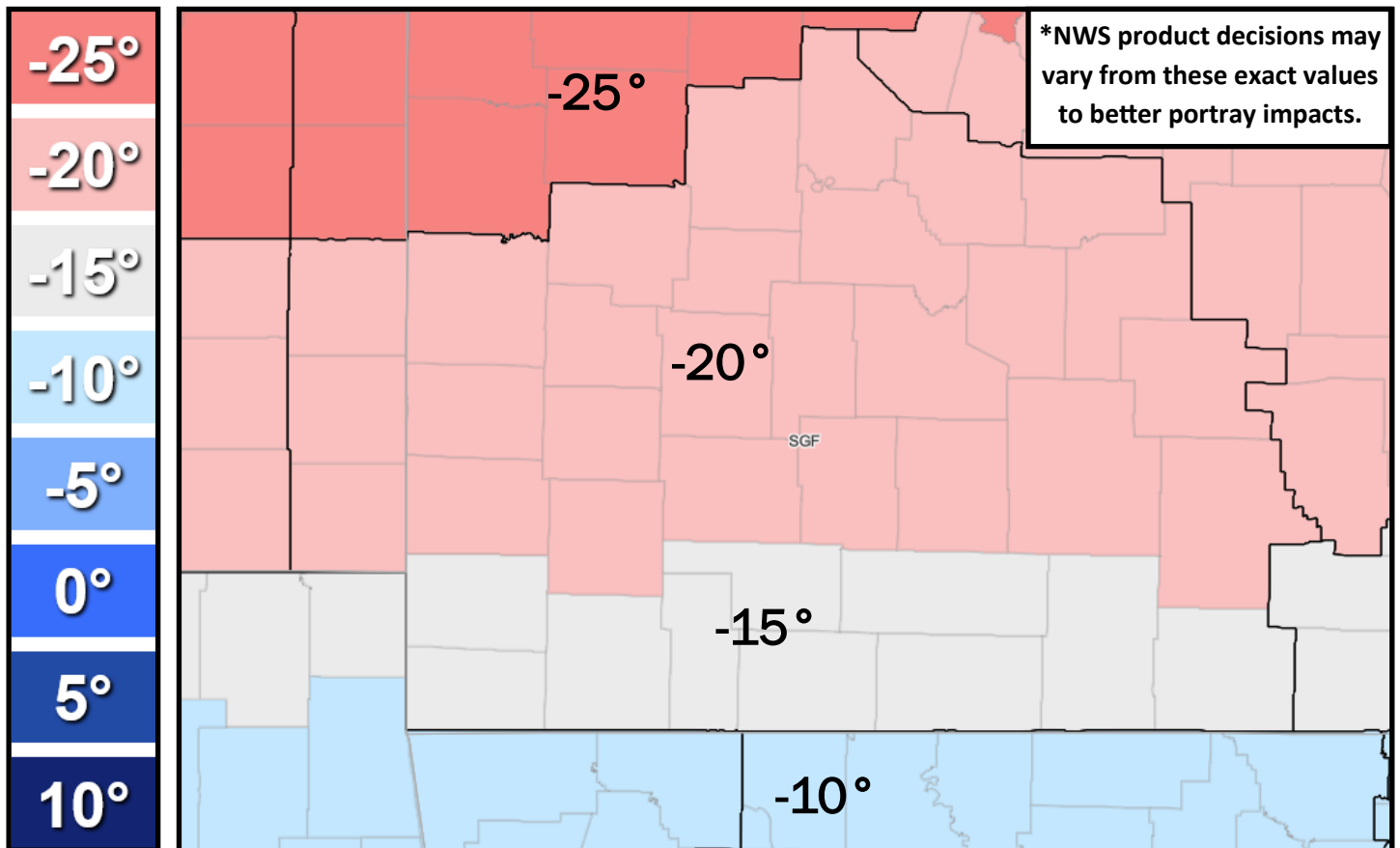
### Freeze Consolidation



### Cold Weather Advisory Guidance



### Extreme Cold Warning Guidance



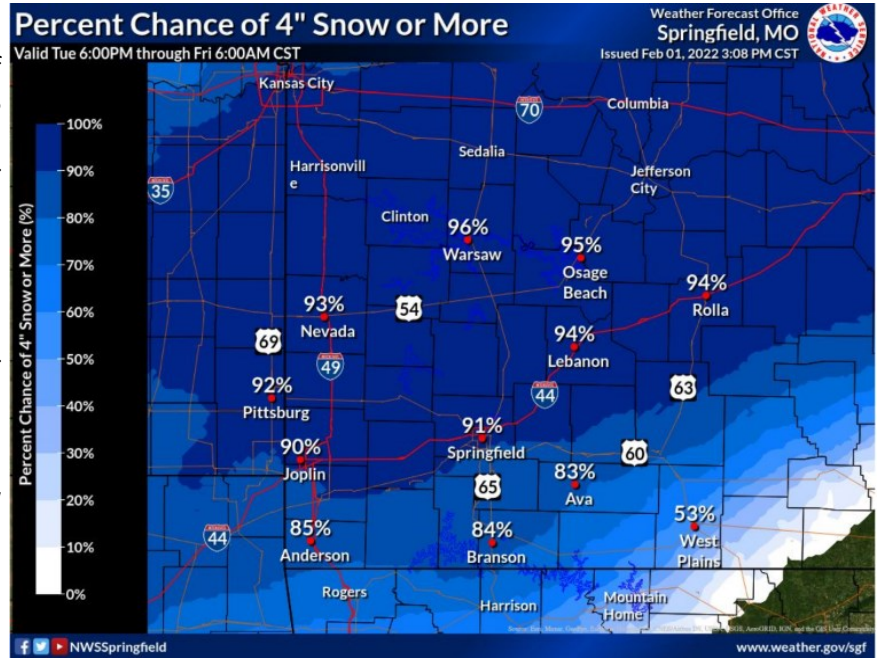
# Winter Forecasting

## Probabilistic Snowfall Forecasts

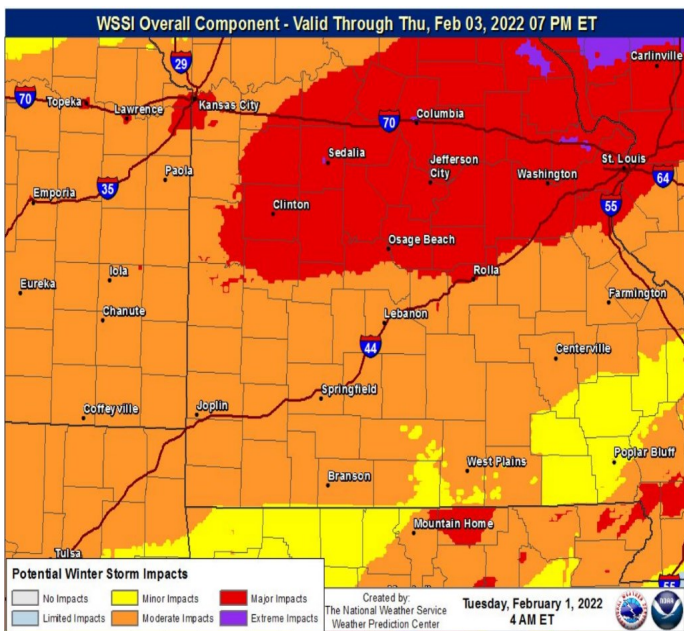
The purpose of these experimental probabilistic snowfall products is to provide customers and partners a range of snowfall possibilities, in complement to existing NWS deterministic snowfall graphics, to better communicate forecast uncertainties during winter weather events. For more information and probabilistic snowfall forecasts, check out [weather.gov/springfield/winter](http://weather.gov/springfield/winter).

Probabilistic graphics available on our webpage include:

- Expected Snowfall—Official NWS Forecast (either 25th to 75 percentile or 10th to 90th percentile ranges)
- High End Amount (1 in 10 chance (10%)) and Low End Amount (9 in 10 chance (90%))
- Percent chance of snowfall greater than 0.1", 1.0", 2.0", 4.0", 6.0", 8.0", 12.0", 18.0"



## Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI)



Potential Winter Storm Impacts	
Winter Weather Area	<p><b>Expect Winter Weather.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter driving conditions. <b>Drive carefully.</b></li> </ul>
Minor Impacts	<p><b>Expect a few inconveniences to daily life.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter driving conditions. <b>Use caution while driving.</b></li> </ul>
Moderate Impacts	<p><b>Expect disruptions to daily life.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazardous driving conditions. <b>Use extreme caution while driving.</b></li> <li>• Closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.</li> </ul>
Major Impacts	<p><b>Expect considerable disruptions to daily life.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dangerous or impossible driving conditions. <b>Avoid travel if possible.</b></li> <li>• Widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.</li> </ul>
Extreme Impacts	<p><b>Expect substantial disruptions to daily life.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extremely dangerous or impossible driving conditions. <b>Travel is not advised.</b></li> <li>• Extensive and widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.</li> <li>• Life-saving actions may be needed.</li> </ul>

The WSSI has been developed to have a two-fold focus. The first is for use as a tool to assist NWS operational forecasters in maintaining situational awareness of the possible significance of weather-related impacts based upon the current official forecasts. The second is to enhance communication to external partners, media and the general public of the expected severity of potential societal impacts due to expected winter hazards and their distribution. Individual components can be analyzed which include: Snow Amount, Snow Load, Ice Accumulation, Flash Freeze, Blowing Snow, and Ground Blizzard.

- [Winter Storm Severity Index \(WSSI\)](#)
- [Rolling 24 Hour Winter Storm Severity Index \(WSSI\)](#)
- [Experimental Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index \(ProbWSSI\)](#)

# Measuring Snow and Ice

## Measuring Snow

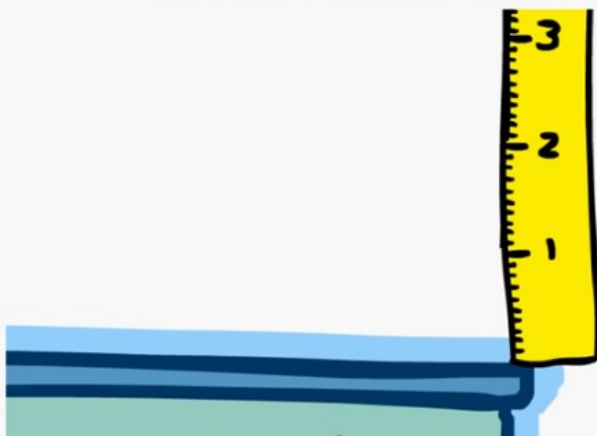
**Six Basic Steps for Properly MEASURING SNOW**

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!

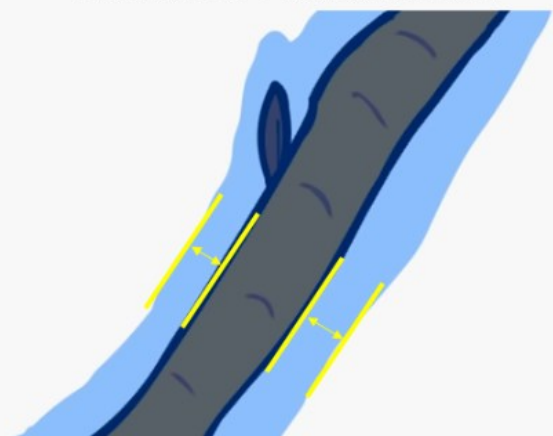
## Measuring Ice

### 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 Preparedness

## Winter Driving and Preparedness



# Trucks & SUVs

can lose traction in ice and snow

**Even four-wheel drive** vehicles can lose traction in bad weather.

**All vehicles** are susceptible to ice and snow. Know your limits.



weather.gov

## Being Prepared for Cold Weather

### Frostbite & Hypothermia: Know Your Actions



If someone might have frostbite or hypothermia, **seek medical attention immediately!**



**Get to a warm area**



**Remove wet clothing**



**Warm up with dry layers** of blankets or clothing



Place skin affected by **frostbite in warm water** (NOT hot)



**Frostbite Caution:** Do not use fireplaces or artificial heat sources for warming. Do not rub or put pressure on areas with frostbite.

weather.gov



# Sending Winter Weather Reports

## Ways to Send Reports

### Send Report to NWS

 Call 417-863-8028  
Text 417-830-7659

 [contact.sgf@noaa.gov](mailto:contact.sgf@noaa.gov)

 @NWSSpringfield

 @NWSSpringfield

### [iNWS Storm Reports](#)



NOAA Storm Reports  
Alerting the NWS to local weather

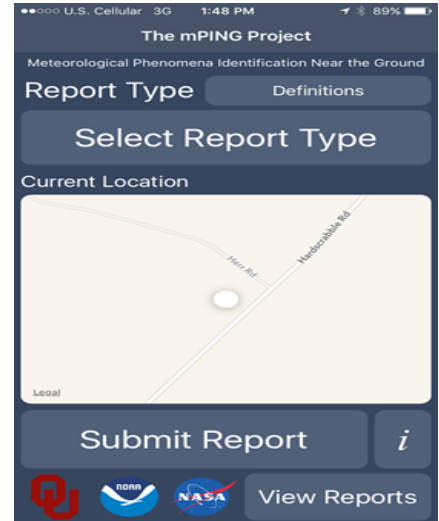
Report Type -> Details -> Location -> Review and Send

Please select a report type

Back Next

[Privacy policy for weather reports](#)

### [mPING App](#)



The mPING Project  
Meteorological Phenomena Identification Near the Ground

Report Type Definitions

Select Report Type

Current Location

Submit Report View Reports

## Join CoCoRaHS Volunteer Program



### What is CoCoRaHS?

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network, is a non-profit, community based, network of volunteers who measure and report rain, hail and snow in their backyards. Additional [About CoCoRaHS info.](#)

### Who uses CoCoRaHS?

CoCoRaHS is used by a wide variety of organizations and

individuals. The National Weather Service, other meteorologists, hydrologists, emergency managers, city utilities (water supply, water conservation, storm water), insurance adjusters, USDA, engineers, mosquito control, ranchers and farmers, outdoor & recreation interests, teachers, students, and neighbors in the community are just some examples of those who visit our Web site and use our data.

### Volunteers of All Ages Welcome!

Everyone can participate, both young, old, and in-between. The only requirements are an enthusiasm for watching and reporting weather conditions and a desire to learn more about how weather can affect and impact our lives. [Check out the volunteers wanted flyer.](#)

## [Join CoCoRaHS Volunteer Program](#)



# Building a Weather-Ready Nation

## Becoming a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador

### What do Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors Do?

#### Promote Preparedness and Resiliency:

- ✓ Follow our social media and share our hazardous weather and safety posts.

#### Collaborate with the NWS:

- ✓ Let us know how we can help you and your community become more weather ready.

#### Serve as an example:

- ✓ Educate employees on workplace preparedness and encouraging personal preparedness at home.



[Click here to Learn More about Becoming an Ambassador](#)

Scan the QR code to Apply today!

## Following the NWS and Winter Safety Resources



Office: (417) 863-8028



[contact.sgf@noaa.gov](mailto:contact.sgf@noaa.gov)



[weather.gov/springfield](http://weather.gov/springfield)



[@NWSSpringfield](https://www.facebook.com/NWSSpringfield)



[@NWSSpringfield](https://twitter.com/NWSSpringfield)



[Youtube.com/NWSSpringfield](https://www.youtube.com/NWSSpringfield)



### Winter Weather Safety Resources

[weather.gov/safety/winter](http://weather.gov/safety/winter)

### Additional Webpage Resources

[Weather Story](#)

[DSS Packet](#)

[GHWO](#)

[Point and Click Forecast](#)

[National Preparedness Month](#)

[Weather Prediction Center](#)

[Storm Prediction Center](#)

[Climate Prediction Center](#)

[National Hurricane Center](#)

[Aviation Weather Center](#)

Follow NWS Springfield

