

# HAZARD SIMPLIFICATION



## What Does NWS Consolidation Mean For the Extreme Cold, Freeze, and Wind Chill Product Suites?



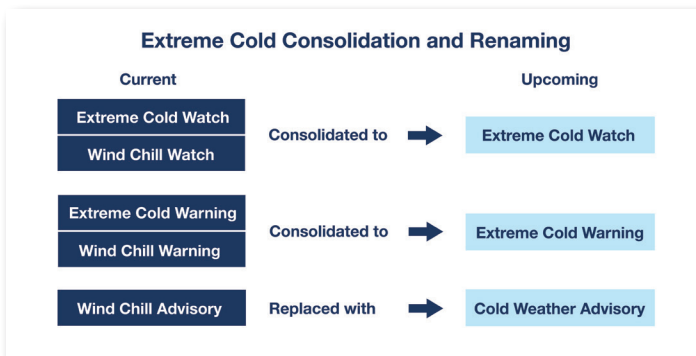
NWS is simplifying its suite of cold weather products to improve messaging of these hazards and provide better decision-making services.



### What are we doing?

Wind Chill Watch/Warning/Advisory will be consolidated into the Extreme Cold Watch/Warning and Cold Weather Advisory. Hard Freeze Watch and Warning will be consolidated into the Freeze Watch/Warning.

**Nationwide Implementation in Fall 2024 - On or about October 1, 2024**



## 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.

# What would this look like?

Changes highlighted in yellow

## New Freeze Warning with Hard Freeze Wording

URGENT - WEATHER MESSAGE  
National Weather Service New Orleans LA  
359 AM CST Fri Jan 19 2024

LAZ059-065>067-191800  
/O.NEW.KLIX.FZ.W.0003.240120T0600Z-240120T1500Z/  
Upper Lafourche-Upper Terrebonne-Lower Terrebonne-Lower Lafourche-  
Including the cities of Thibodaux, Raceland, Larose, Houma,  
Bayou Cane, Chauvin, Cocodrie, Dulac, Montegut, Galliano,  
Cut off, Golden Meadow, and Leesville  
359 AM CST Fri Jan 19 2024

...FREEZE WARNING IN EFFECT FROM MIDNIGHT TONIGHT TO 9 AM  
CST SATURDAY...

\* **WHAT...Hard freeze with temperatures as low as 21 expected.**

\* WHERE...Upper Lafourche, Upper Terrebonne, Lower Terrebonne  
and Lower Lafourche Parishes.

\* WHEN...From Midnight tonight to 9 AM CST Saturday.

\* IMPACTS...Frost and freeze conditions will kill crops, other  
sensitive vegetation and possibly damage unprotected outdoor  
plumbing.

## New Cold Weather Advisory

URGENT - WEATHER MESSAGE  
National Weather Service Denver CO  
200 PM MST Thu Feb 23 2024

COZ050-051-241300-  
/O.NEW.KBOU.CW.Y.0004.240224T0000Z-240224T1600Z/  
Sedgwick County-Phillips County-  
Including the cities of Holyoke, Sedgwick, Julesburg, Amherst,  
Haxtun, and Ovid  
200 PM MST Thu Feb 23 2024

...**COLD WEATHER ADVISORY** IN EFFECT FROM 5 PM THIS AFTERNOON TO  
9 AM MST FRIDAY...

\* WHAT...Very cold wind chills expected. Wind chills as low as  
20 below zero.

\* WHERE...Julesburg and Holyoke.

\* WHEN...From 5 PM this afternoon to 9 AM MST Friday.

\* IMPACTS...The cold wind chills will cause frostbite in as  
little as 30 minutes on exposed skin.

## New Extreme Cold Warning

URGENT - **WEATHER MESSAGE**  
National Weather Service Duluth MN  
147 PM CST Wed Feb 1 2024

MNZ010>012-019>021-020800-  
/O.NEW.KDLH.**EC.W**.0001.240203T0000Z-240203T1800Z/  
Koochiching-North St. Louis-Northern Cook and Lake-  
Central St. Louis-Southern Lake-Southern Cook-  
Including the cities of International Falls, Ely, Isabella,  
Hibbing, Two Harbors, Silver Bay, and Grand Marais  
147 PM CST Wed Feb 1 2024

...**EXTREME COLD WARNING** IN EFFECT FROM 6 PM THURSDAY TO NOON CST  
FRIDAY...

\* WHAT...Dangerously cold wind chills expected. Wind chills as  
low as 45 to 50 degrees below zero.

\* WHERE...Koochiching, North St. Louis, Northern Cook and Lake,  
Central St. Louis, Southern Lake and Southern Cook Counties.  
This includes the Tribal Lands of the Grand Portage  
Reservation and the Bois Forte Band, Lake Vermilion and, Nett  
Lake areas.

\* WHEN...From 6 PM Thursday to noon CST Friday.

\* IMPACTS...The dangerously cold wind chills could cause frostbite  
on exposed skin in as little as 5 minutes.



## What are the benefits?

- Streamline forecast process
- Unify terms across the United States
- Simplified messaging by using a single product type for Extreme Cold and Wind Chill
- Simplified messaging by using a single product for Freeze and Hard Freeze
- Ability to message that cold is dangerous with or without wind
- Ability to offer clearer Watch/Warning/Advisory maps

## Learn More!

NWS partners should watch for partner webinars coming this summer, and reach out to your local NWS office with questions or to learn more.