Watches/Warnings/Advisories
  ▫ Example of Impact-Based

Products/Resources Available To You
  ▫ Information you can access on our website
  ▫ iNWS - interactive NWS
  ▫ NWS Chat
  ▫ MASA Weather Page

Decision Support Services
  ▫ Webinars
  ▫ Email Blasts
Products And Services
Available To
Decision-Makers

- Call Us! (952-361-6671 or 1-800-692-2110)
  - We answer the phone 24 hours a day. Remember, we are a 24/7/365 operation!
- Social Media- Follow us on Facebook/Twitter
- Utilize NWSChat
- Email us nws.twincities@noaa.gov
Products And Services
Available To
Decision-Makers

- Warnings/Advisories/Watches
  - How are they defined?
  - Pros/Cons
  - Statistics
WATCH: Weather having a significant impact on society is possible but details are uncertain.
▪ WARNING: Weather having a **significant** impact on society is **imminent or highly likely**. Dangerous conditions expected.
▪ ADVISORY: Weather having a moderate impact on society is imminent or highly likely. Hazardous conditions expected, but should not be dangerous if precautions are taken.
NWS Warning Criteria (discretion)

- Ice Storm: \( \frac{1}{4} \)" ice or more
- **Wind Chill**: -35 F
- High Wind: 40 mph sustained, 58 mph gusts
- Heat: 100 heat index (105 outstate)
- Flood: river reaches flood stage or long-term areal
- Flash Flood: life threatening
- Severe Tstm: 58 mph and/or 1" hail
- Tornado: radar or spotter
Winter Storm Warning
- Snow of 6” or more in 12 hours
- Or Snow of 8” or more in 24 hours
- Or ½” or more of sleet
- Or a combination of heavy snow, sleet, significant wind, or freezing rain
Winter Storm Watch/Blizzard Watch
- Watches are issued once the forecaster reaches 50% confidence in an event reaching the criteria.
- We continue to move to forecaster discretion based on impacts
- The process is evolving... “NWS will evolve from static definitions toward a services model”
Pros Of Watch Products

- Pros
  - Provides you with a “heads up” 36+ hours ahead of time
  - Well communicated
  - Area and time defined
Cons Of Watch Products

- Cons
  - Can be misinterpreted
  - Watches = 50% of criteria being reached. What does this mean to the user?
  - Many expect a Watch to become a Warning. This is a misinterpretation of the product
Heavy snow occurred across the metro from 6AM-9AM on a Thursday morning.

Amounts were generally under 6”, but a Winter Storm Warning was issued the night before due to expected societal impacts from the timing and intensity of the snow.
Thursday Morning Commute Expected to be Severely Impacted

Quick Hitting Snow:
- Severe travel delays Thursday morning
- Snow accumulations of 2 to 5 inches, except in a strip from Glencoe to Rice Lake: 4-6 inches

Timing:
- Snow begins between 3-6 am
- Becomes heavy quickly thereafter
- Heavy snow during entire morning commute
- Snow ends mid to late morning


January 30th, 2014
Timing Snowfall in for Thursday Morning

Radar at 12:30 am

Around 4am

Around 7am

Around 10am

National Weather Service – Twin Cities/Chanhassen, Minnesota


@NWSTwinCities

January 30th, 2014
AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION...UPDATED
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TWIN CITIES/CHANHASSEN MN
836 PM CST WED JAN 29 2014

UPDATE...
ISSUED AT 836 PM CST WED JAN 29 2014

SIGNIFICANT UPDATES HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE FORECAST LATE TONIGHT
AND EARLY THURSDAY. SHORT TERM MODELS AND THE 00Z NAM HAVE COME
CONSIDERABLY FARThER NORTH AND HAVE BECOME MORE INTENSE WITH THE
BAND OF SNOW. IT WILL BE A QUICK HITTING SYSTEM...BUT IT WILL BE
ACCOMPANIED BY VERY HEAVY SNOW DURING THE MORNING RUSH WHICH WILL
LIKELY BRING SEVERE IMPACTS.

THE LOW CURRENTLY IS LOCATED OVER SOUTHWESTERN SD AND WILL TRACK
ALONG THE SD/NE BORDER INTO SOUTHEASTERN MN BY MIDDAY THURSDAY.
THE SNOW IS CURRENTLY FALLING IN A RELATIVELY DATA SPARSE AREA OF
SOUTHEASTERN MT...BUT MILES CITY HAS REPORTED 1/2-3/4 MILE SNOW
FOR THE PAST FEW HOURS. AS THIS DISTURBANCE ROTATES EASTWARD...THE
700 MB TROUGH WILL DEEPEN OVER MN AT 12Z AND CONTINUE TO DO SO
OVER WI BY 18Z. DEEP OMEGA WITHIN THE DGZ AND A FAIRLY HIGH AMOUNT
OF MOISTURE FOR LATE JANUARY WITH PW VALUES OF AROUND 0.4 INCHES
ABOvE THE 75TH PERCENTILE/ SHOULD WORK TO PRODUCE VERY INTENSE
SNOW RATES AT TIMES. THESE SNOW RATES COULD REACH 1-2 INCHES PER
HOUR DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE EVENT...SURE TO WREAK HAVOC WITH THE
MORNING COMMUTE. THE HOPWRF...HRRR...AND RAP ALL GENERALLY AGREE
WITH THE LOCATION/AXIS OF HEAVY SNOW STRETCHING FROM GLENCOE TO
THE TWIN CITIES AND RICE LAKE. NEW 00Z NAM HAS COME INTO LINE WITH
THIS IDEA AS WELL SO CONFIDENCE HAS INCREASED ENOUGH TO POST A
WARNING ALONG THIS AXIS AND AN ADVISORY ELSEWHERE. FUTURE
ADJUSTMENTS MAY BE NECESSARY AS THE REST OF THE 00Z MODEL SUITE
IS GENERATED.
NWS Products

- Winter Weather Advisory
- Snow of 3-6”
- Blowing Snow causing significant visibility restrictions
- Sleet of less than ½”
- Exceptions to these guidelines exist based on forecaster judgment
  - Impacts
• Blizzard Warning
  ▪ 35+ mph (sustained or frequent gusts)
  ▪ Visibility frequently < ¼ mile
  ▪ Considerable falling OR blowing snow
• What’s missing?
  ▪ Snowfall amount
Pros Of Warning Products

- Pros
  - Clearly defines an area and time when impacts will occur
  - Clearly defines the hazard
  - Communication of these products
    - Well advertised - easy for you to get this information
  - Consistency
Cons Of Warning Products

- Cons
  - County based - we are limited to county borders
  - Difficult to get away from issuing based on static definitions
  - Often lacks a description of forecaster confidence
  - Can be difficult to interpret large blocks of text
Products And Services Available To You

- Additional Useful Resources
  - Mobile Devices
  - Hourly Weather Graph
  - AFD- Area Forecast Discussion
  - Graphical Forecasts
  - EHWO- Enhanced Hazardous Weather Outlook
  - Snowfall Probabilities
  - iNWS- interactive NWS
  - NWS Chat
  - MASA Weather Page
Useful Resources

- The Hourly Weather Graph/Table
- An interactive graph showing hourly details for weather elements for any location
- A great tool in aiding decision-making
- When will the snow be the heaviest?
- What exact timeframe will windchills be the coldest?
The Hourly Weather Graph

Temperature (°F)

Wind Chill (°F)

Dewpoint (°F)

Precipitation Potential (%)

Relative Humidity (%)

Sky Cover (%)

Gusts (mph)

Surface Wind (mph)

Cloud Cover

Rain

Thunder

Show
How To Get To The Hourly Weather Graph

1) Go to our national website: weather.gov
How To Get To The Hourly Weather Graph

2) Submit your local city or zip code in the box in the upper left hand corner.
How To Get To The Hourly Weather Graph

3) Your local forecast comes up, find the “hourly weather graph” on the right hand side.
## A Table Instead Of a Graph?

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Relative Humidity (%)</td>
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<td>Snow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freezing Rain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sleet</td>
<td>--</td>
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</table>
This product explains the thinking behind the forecast and is generated by the forecaster after they’ve completed their forecast.

- The AFD is updated at least 2x per day
- Updated ~4 AM and ~4PM
An AFD Example

.SHORT TERM... (THIS EVENING THROUGH THURSDAY)
ISSUED AT 249 PM CST WED JAN 29 2014

ACCUMULATING SNOW EXPECTED TO BEGIN OVERNIGHT ACROSS THE
SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA AND MOVE WEST TO EAST ACROSS THE REMAINDER OF
SOUTHERN MINNESOTA AND WESTERN WISCONSIN DURING THE MORNING
TOMORROW. THE MORNING COMMUTE WILL BE HEAVILY IMPACTED...AS THE
HEAVIEST SNOW LOOKS TO REACH THE METRO FROM ROUGHLY 6AM-9AM. A
WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY WAS POSTED AFTER COLLABORATION WITH ARX AND
DMX...WITH THE HEAVIEST SNOW AMOUNTS EXPECTED IN THE ARX CWA.
STILL...ALBERT LEA THROUGH RED WIND...AND OVER TO EAU CLAIRE ARE
EXPECTED TO SEE ROUGHLY 3-4 INCHES OF SNOW... WHICH WILL BE HEAVY AT
TIMES DURING THE PEAK TRAVEL TIME THURSDAY MORNING. THE 29.12 RUN
OF THE ECMWF INCREASED QPF TO THE NORTH AND BETTER MATCHES THE NCEP
MODELS. PREVIOUS FORECAST LOOKED VERY GOOD...SO ONLY MINOR TWEAKS
WERE MADE...MAINLY TO THE TIMING WHICH DELAYED THE ONSET OF THE SNOW
BY ABOUT TWO HOURS. UPPER LEVEL DYNAMICS LOOK GOOD TOMORROW MORNING
ACROSS THE AREA... WITH THE BEST UPPER LEVEL FORCING MOVING ACROSS
SOUTHERN MN OVERNIGHT AND INCREASING OVER SOUTHEASTERN MN INTO
WESTERN WI. THE GOING FORECAST CALLS FOR THE HIGHEST AMOUNTS IN
THIS AREA... PRIMARILY FALLING FROM 12Z TO 18Z TOMORROW. HOWEVER... THIS IS
A LOW CONFIDENCE IN FORECAST DUE TO LACK OF AGREEMENT AMONG HIGH-RESOLUTION
MODEL GUIDANCE. THE LIFT STILL LOOKS GOOD ON THE 295K SURFACE AS THE STRONG
UPGLIDE BEGINS TO COINCIDE WITH A SATURATED ENVIRONMENT BY 09Z ACROSS
WESTERN MN. FOR THE METRO... 2"-3" STILL LOOKS ON TRACK ACROSS THE SOUTHERN
PORTION... WITH CLOSER TO 1"-2" ACROSS THE NORTH. WINDS WILL TURN NORTHWEST
AND GET BLUSTERY TOMORROW AFTERNOON AS THE SNOW MACHINE SHUTS OFF.
Area Forecast Discussion

- Go to our local website: weather.gov/twincities
- Hover over “Forecasts” on the top center, and click on “Forecast Discussion”
We produce a “Weather Story” updated every evening and early morning, sometimes more.

In addition to reading our forecast products, you may find these very beneficial ahead of a winter storm.

You can find the weather story on our home page and our Facebook and Twitter accounts.
Friday Snowstorm Is Shifting East

As of now the **heaviest snow** will be in west central MN to northeast MN Friday morning to Friday night.

This track will likely change slightly over the next few days, so check the forecast for updates.

Created 6:00am Nov 15, 2016
National Weather Service – Twin Cities
WINTER STORM COMING

Snowfall Amounts Fri-Sat

**FRI 3am**
- Light Snow Begins

**FRI 12pm**
- Moderate to Heavy Snow Begins

**SAT 12am**
- Light to Moderate Snow

**SAT 6am**
- Light Snow Blowing Snow Temps Crash

**SAT 12pm**
- SnowEnding Blowing Snow Continues

- Brainerd: 3” - 6”
- Alexandria: 6” - 8”
- Twin Cities: 8” - 10”
- Albert Lea: 6” - 8”
- Mason City: 3” - 6”

ISSUED: 5:23 AM - Thursday, December 15, 2016
Powerful Storm Friday
Blizzard for Western MN

Hazards Map
- Blizzard Warning
- Winter Storm Warning
- Storm Warning
- Gale Warning
- Winter Weather Advisory
- Wind Advisory
- Winter Storm Watch

Snowfall Totals
- Less than an inch
- 1 to 2 inches
- 2 to 3 inches
- 3 to 4 inches
- 4 to 6 inches
- 6 to 8 inches
- 8 to 12 inches
- 12 to 18 inches

Not much snow but wind lowers visibilities

National Weather Service
Twin Cities/Chanhassen, MN
Issued: 5:45 PM - Thursday, November 17, 2016
Snow Returns on Tuesday

Winter Storm Watch
Tuesday into Wednesday

Potential Snow Accumulations

Stay tuned as the Watch could be expanded to the north and east

Tuesday morning thru Wednesday morning

weather.gov/TwinCities
Enhanced Hazardous Weather Outlook

- Map depiction of weather threat level for different weather variables.
- Includes how each threat level is defined.
Enhanced Hazardous Weather Outlook

- Map depiction of weather threat level for different weather variables.
- Includes how each threat level is defined.
Interactive National Weather Service
  ▪ Weather alerts to your mobile device via text message and email
  ▪ Select your alert area and which alerts you want

https://inws.ncep.noaa.gov
You can sign up for NWS Chat
  ▪ Must first request access via the website
  ▪ https://nwschat.weather.gov/
Our office identifier is “MPX”
  ▪ Join the “MPX Chat” room
Chat rooms are monitored 24/7
We respond to questions and often post more and quicker updates concerning the weather
Sign up and chat with a meteorologist anytime day or night!
(27 Oct 9:41 AM) nwsbot: MPX issues Short-term Forecast (NOW)

(27 Oct 9:41 AM) nwsmpx-jacob.b: Good morning. Latest forecast trends show the best "forcing" for precip will be across central and northern MN

(27 Oct 9:42 AM) nwsmpx-jacob.b: Therefore thinking that the south/east will be dry today...

(27 Oct 9:44 AM) nwsmpx-jacob.b: We're still on tap for cool and windy tomorrow...

(27 Oct 11:54 AM) nwsbot: MPX issues Short-term Forecast (NOW)

(27 Oct 1:02 PM) nwsbot: MPX issues Area Forecast Discussion (AFD)
Heads-up email “blasts” are sent out ahead of high-impact events.

Key points
- What you need to know
- What has changed with the forecast
- Our confidence level

These emails are typically sent early in the morning and sometimes late afternoon.
You will be included on these emails!
A Winter Storm Watch remains in effect for south central Minnesota from Noon Tuesday through Wednesday Afternoon. The watch is south of a line from Redwood Falls to Red Wing. Confidence is increasing for accumulating snow of 6 inches or more within the watch area. There is still some uncertainty in overall model placement of the heavier snow band. It could shift north in later model runs so continue to monitor the latest forecast for further updates.

Hazards & Impacts:
- Accumulating snow of 6 inches or more. The snow will be heavy and wet.
- Travel could be hazardous due to the wet snow.
- Some blowing and drifting snow possible following the storm Wednesday.

Snowfall Amounts - Confidence Medium-High
- Potential for 6 to 8 inches across south central MN, with much of that occurring Tuesday evening.

Timing - Confidence Medium-High
- Snow will develop into south central Minnesota Tuesday morning, with the greatest accumulation occurring late Tuesday afternoon and Tuesday night.
- Rain could mix in with the snow briefly Tuesday morning.
- Snow will taper off by Wednesday afternoon.

Watches/Warning/Advisories:
- The Winter Storm Watch that was in effect for south central Minnesota from Noon Tuesday through Wednesday afternoon.

Please call us anytime at 952-361-4871 if you have questions.

Useful Links
NWS Twin Cities Homepage
Current Weather Story
Snow & Ice Accumulation Potential
Weather Prediction Center Winter Weather Forecasts
Interactive Day 4-7 Winter Weather Outlook
Snowfall Probabilities

Chances that the snow will be greater than...

Mouse over desired amount and image will appear below.

- Greater than or equal to:
  - 0.1"
  - 1"
  - 2"
  - 4"
  - 6"
  - 8"
  - 12"
  - 18"

Percent Chance of 6" Snow or More
Valid: 01/24/2017 12:00 AM - 01/25/2017 06:00 PM

National Weather Service
Twin Cities, Minnesota
01/23/2017 03:56 AM CST

Follow Us:  
weather.gov/twincities/winter
## Probability of Ranges Table

### Chance of Snow Accumulation

**Experimental - Leave feedback**  
**01/24/2017 1200AM to 01/25/2017 0600PM**  
**What's this?**

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>At least</th>
<th>Likely</th>
<th>Potential for</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

Can switch to exceedance %
Probabilistic Snowfall Forecasts

weather.gov/mpx/winter
DSS Webinars- you will be invited via email (nws.twincities@noaa.gov)

- Our forecasters host webinars in anticipation of high-impact event. These are typically reserved for high-end weather events.
- Invitations to these webinars are always sent to the same group included on the DSS Emails.
- Forecasters use this opportunity to update you on the latest forecast and our confidence level.
- Example From December
On the MN Association of School Administrators Website, a weather forecast section has been developed with NWS information, much of which was shown earlier in this presentation.
Severe Weather

- Watches/Warnings are highest priority - staffing levels can be increased significantly
- Support for large Outdoor Events
- Convective Outlooks - issued by the Storm Prediction Center

Severe Thunderstorm Watch Until 9 am CDT

Radar at 2 AM CDT

National Weather Service
Twin Cities/Chanhassen, MN
Issued: 2:23 AM - Monday, July 11, 2016
We think you should be a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador!

- Opens up a more direct relationship with the NWS
- You will receive occasional correspondence from a Point of Contact at our office that includes helpful weather safety and preparedness info
- You commit to sharing weather safety & preparedness info in your organization and/or community - force multiplier
- About the WRN Ambassador Program - Sign up now on the spot!
Questions?
nws.twincities@noaa.gov

Shawn DeVinny
shawn.devinny@noaa.gov
Meteorologist
National Weather Service Twin Cities/Chanhassen, MN