From: Davis, Susanna

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Cc: Davis, Alicia; Davis, Justin T. (NCDPS)

Subject: NCEM Winter Weather Update (January 6, 2021)

Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2021 08:33:44 AM

Attachments: NCEM Winter Weather Update (January 6, 2021).pdf

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Good Morning,

Confidence continues to increase that wintry precipitation will impact portions of the state late Thursday and through the day Friday. However, confidence in the snowfall totals remain highly uncertain due to questions regarding the exact track of the system and the amount & timing of cold air that will filter into NC. It still appears the greatest snow accumulations and impacts will be across the mountains of North Carolina, with lesser amounts over the Piedmont and northern portions of the state. Currently, no Winter Storm Watches or Winter Weather Advisories are in effect, but that could change by later today.

Western NC:

- Precipitation will begin to move into far southwestern NC late Thursday afternoon, with the greatest precipitation Thursday night through Friday, before ending from west to east later in the day Friday and Friday night.
- Mostly snow is expected across the mountains, with a rain/snow/sleet mix expected across the Foothills and far western Piedmont. There may be a brief period of freezing rain at the onset for portions of the northern Foothills and along the Escarpment, but any ice accumulation would be very light and short in duration.
- Widespread snowfall totals of 2-4" are currently expected across much of the mountains, with some locations receiving 4-6+", especially at the highest peaks. Generally 1-2" of snow is forecast for the Foothills and western Piedmont, with isolated higher totals possible.
- Snow and sleet will likely cause hazardous road conditions Thursday night – Friday night. Heavy wet snow could lead to isolated power outages, but no significant wind impacts are expected.

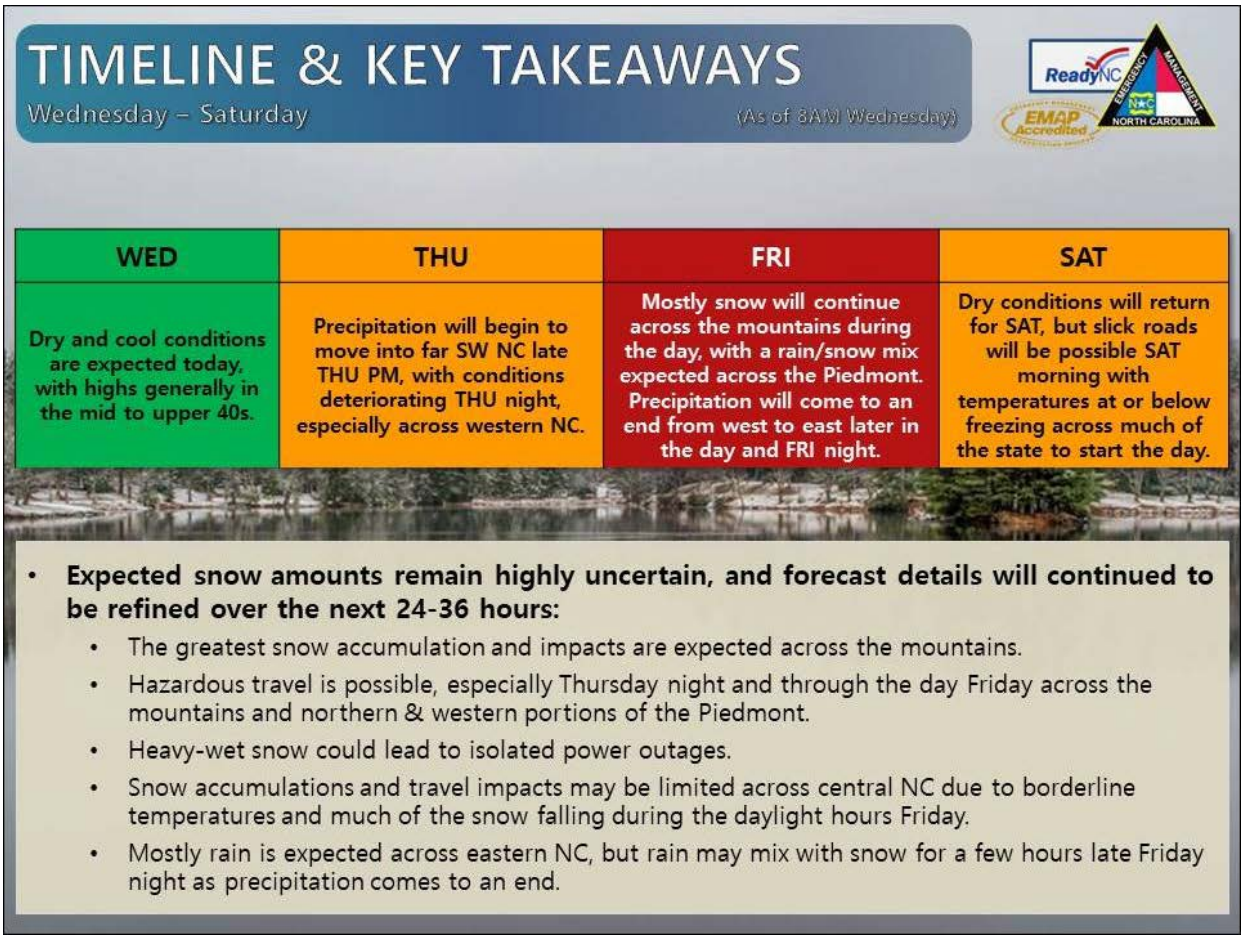
Central NC:

- Precipitation may begin as a period of a rain/sleet mix Thursday night, before transitioning to a rain/snow mix late Thursday night and continuing through the day Friday. Northwestern areas may see more snow than rain and southeastern areas will see more rain than snow.
- Areas along and north of the I-85 corridor will have the greatest chance of seeing accumulating snow, but snow could still fall between the US-1 and I-95 corridors.
- Generally, most areas will see less than 1", but 1-2" will be possible for western portions of the Triad and areas north of I-85. Localized higher totals cannot be completely ruled out if an area of banding develops as the system moves off our coast.
- With most of the precipitation falling during the daylight hours Friday, snow may struggle to accumulate in some areas, but slick roads will still be possible, especially along and north of the I-85 corridor and during heavier bursts of snow.
- Temperatures will fall below freezing Friday night as the precipitation comes to an end, which could lead to additional slick roads.

Eastern NC:

- Mostly rain is expected across eastern NC late Thursday – Saturday morning, but rain could mix with snow for a few hours as precipitation comes to an end Friday night and Saturday morning for inland areas.
- Most areas will not see accumulating snow, but a light dusting is currently forecast for areas just east of the I-95 corridor across the northern half of the state.
- Rainfall amounts will generally be 0.5-1.0", with the highest totals along the coast.

The next NCEM Winter Weather Update will be sent by 5PM today. Please let me know if you have any questions.



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