From: Davis, Susanna

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

Subject: NCEM Winter Weather Update (January 7, 2021) - PM

Date: Thursday, January 07, 2021 05:08:09 PM

Attachments: NCEM Winter Weather Update (January 7, 2021) - PM.pdf

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Good Evening,

The expected snowfall amounts continue to trend upward. Travel will become hazardous tonight for western NC and the NW Piedmont with the potential for hazardous travel across the rest of the Piedmont and northern Coastal Plain Friday evening into Saturday morning.

While this is not expected to be a strong wind event, gusty winds (15-25 mph) are forecast. Heavy, wet snow and gusty winds will increase the chance for downed trees and subsequent power outages.

Western NC

- Snowfall totals continue to trend upward for western NC. Storm totals range from 3-9” across the Mountains, except for 1-3” across the valleys of the far southwest. As much as 2-6” of snow is forecast across the Foothills, and 2-4” for the NW Piedmont. Up to 2” of snow may accumulate within the Winter Weather Advisory, but some southern portions (south of the I-85 corridor) may see little to no snow accumulate.
- Moisture will increase rapidly across the west with precipitation chances ramping up quickly through midnight.
    - Areas outside of the mountains will likely start with rain followed by a transition to snow along and north of the I-40 corridor.
    - Areas from the Blue Ridge Escarpment through the Piedmont could see a narrow band of mixed precipitation, most likely sleet but a brief period of freezing rain cannot be ruled out. Forecast accumulations are minimal but will

decrease the amount of snowfall for these regions.
    - There is potential for locally high snowfall rates to develop near the I-77 corridor into the Piedmont late morning through early afternoon. These areas of quickly accumulating snowfall are very hard to predict, but are expected in this general region.
    - Mountain snow showers may linger through early Saturday morning and light additional accumulations are possible near the TN/NC border.
- A Winter Storm Warning remains in effect through Friday night for most of the Mountains and Foothills with a Winter Storm Watch in effect for the far SW Mountains. A Winter Weather Advisory is now in effect for southern portions of the Mountains and Foothills (including the Charlotte Metro region).

<u>Central NC</u>

- Accumulating snow is becoming more likely for the NW Piedmont as well as the northern Piedmont and Coastal Plain. The best chance for accumulating snow and hazardous travel is in regions along and north of the I-85 corridor.
    - A Winter Storm Warning remains in effect from early Friday morning through Friday night for the Triad Region. A Winter Weather Advisory has been issued for portions of the Piedmont that includes the Triangle region.
- Precipitation will spread into the area overnight tonight and continue through Friday. Some snow may mix with rain Friday morning for regions south of the I-85 corridor.
- A lull in precipitation is expected by midday Friday, but precipitation will begin again during the afternoon with rain transitioning to snow by late afternoon to early evening from west to east. Uncertainly remains in the timing of the expected changeover from rain to snow near the Triangle region.
    - Total snow accumulations of 2-3”, with isolated areas up to 4” are possible within the warning area (NW Piedmont) tonight through Friday night.
    - Areas south and east of the I-85 corridor (Winter Weather Advisory) may see 1-2” of snow accumulate, with generally a trace to 1” along the southeast edge of the advisory area. The Winter Weather Advisory may be expanded eastward overnight tonight to include regions of the eastern Piedmont and into the Coastal Plain.

<u>Eastern NC</u>

- Mostly rain is forecast for eastern NC with the potential for some snow and sleet to mix in at times early Friday morning for inland areas. There will be another chance for a mix of rain and frozen precipitation for far inland counties (along and north of Hwy 70) Saturday morning.
    - While no accumulations or impacts are expected with any frozen precipitation that falls Friday, light accumulations with minimal impacts are forecast Saturday morning.
- As much as 0.5-1” of rain is forecast for the east, with the heaviest rainfall expected along the immediate Coast.
- Increasing NE winds Friday could result in coastal flooding, particularly along the southern Pamlico Sound and the Neuse/Bay Rivers through Saturday morning. High surf could result in minor beach erosion north of Cape Hatteras.

After this system exits, dry weather returns for the weekend into early next week before another low pressure system moves through the region. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Susanna

Susanna Davis
North Carolina Department of Public Safety
Legislative Affairs Director
4201 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4201
(919)825-2717 Office
(919)817-3385 Cell
Susanna.Davis@ncdps.gov
www.ncdps.gov

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