Dangerous Cold and Winter Storm Briefing #6

January 24, 2026
3:30 PM EST

For Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the Eastern Shore of Maryland

Decision Support Briefing #6

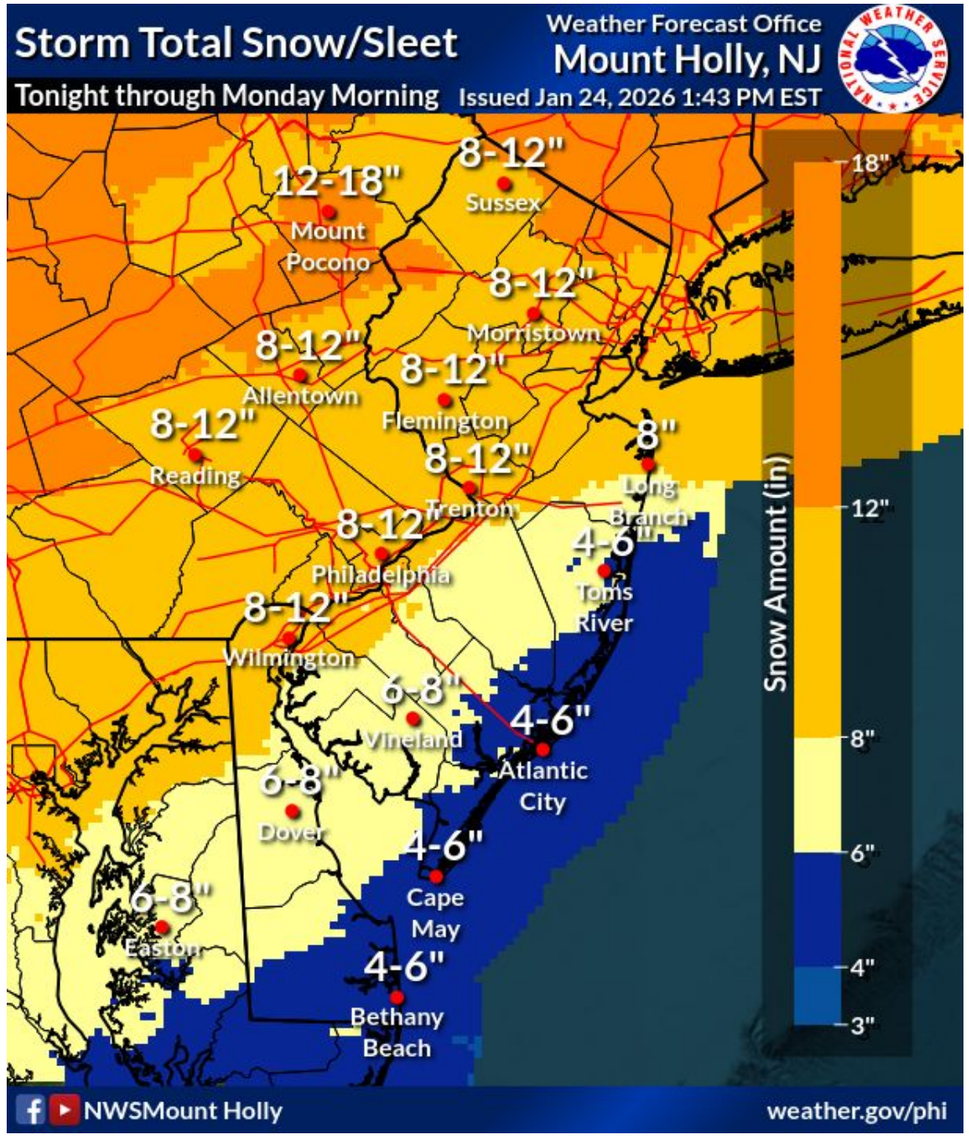
➔ As of 3:30 PM 1/24/2026

NEW Important Updates

➔ Snowfall amounts reduced slightly again as confidence continues to increase in widespread mixing with sleet occurring. **Impacts are unchanged as the combination of snow/sleet/freezing rain will bring major disruptions to the area.**

➔ Narrow corridor of highest ice accumulations shifted slightly northwestward, slightly closer to the I-95 corridor, particularly in MD, DE, and southeastern PA. **Confidence remains low on where the highest ice totals will be**.

➔ Gale Watch upgraded to a **Gale Warning** for ***all*** marine zones Sunday through Sunday evening.



Watches, Warnings, and Advisories

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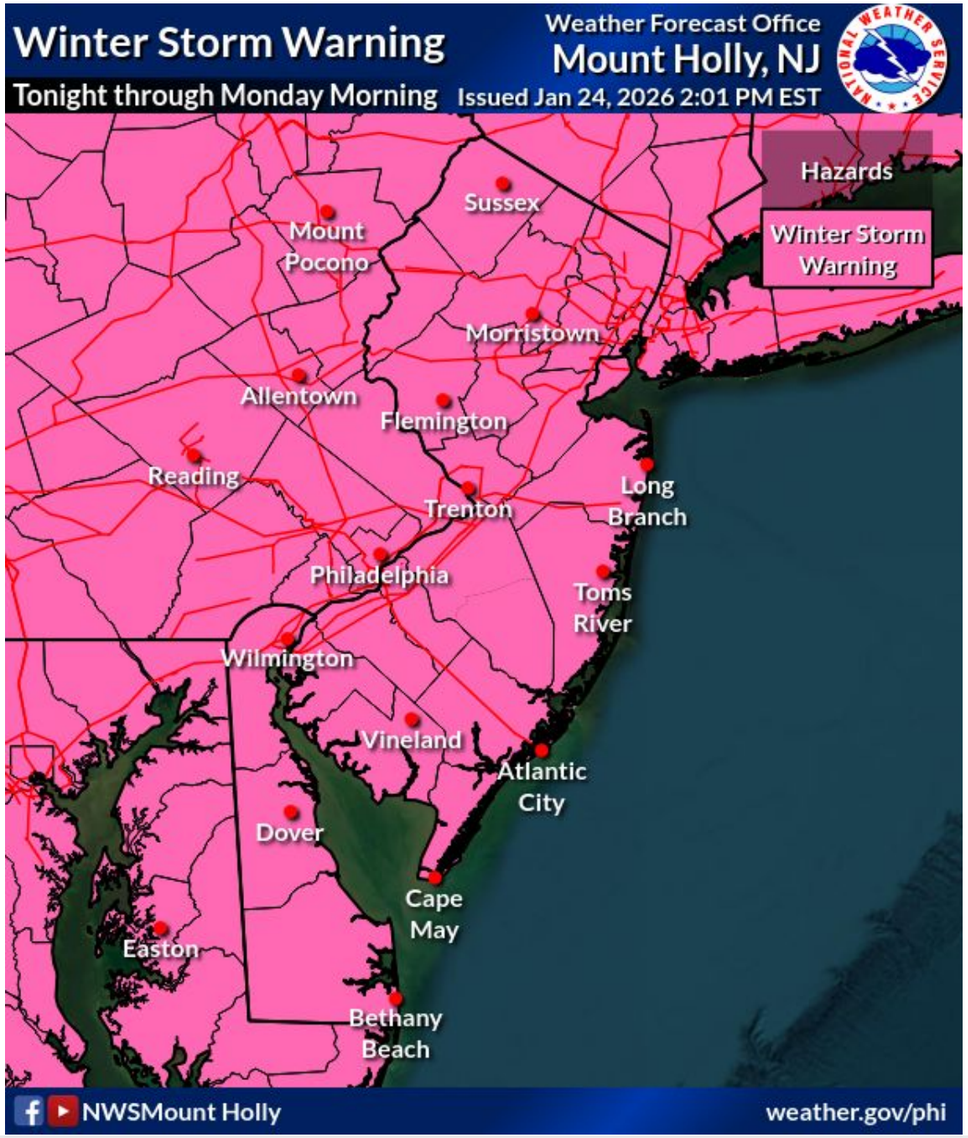
Through This Weekend



Key Messages

- A ***Winter Storm Warning*** is in effect for the entire area for late tonight through early Monday afternoon.

- **Significant snow and sleet accumulations are expected across the entire area, with some freezing rain accumulation in some areas as well.**

Marine Hazards

Through Next Week

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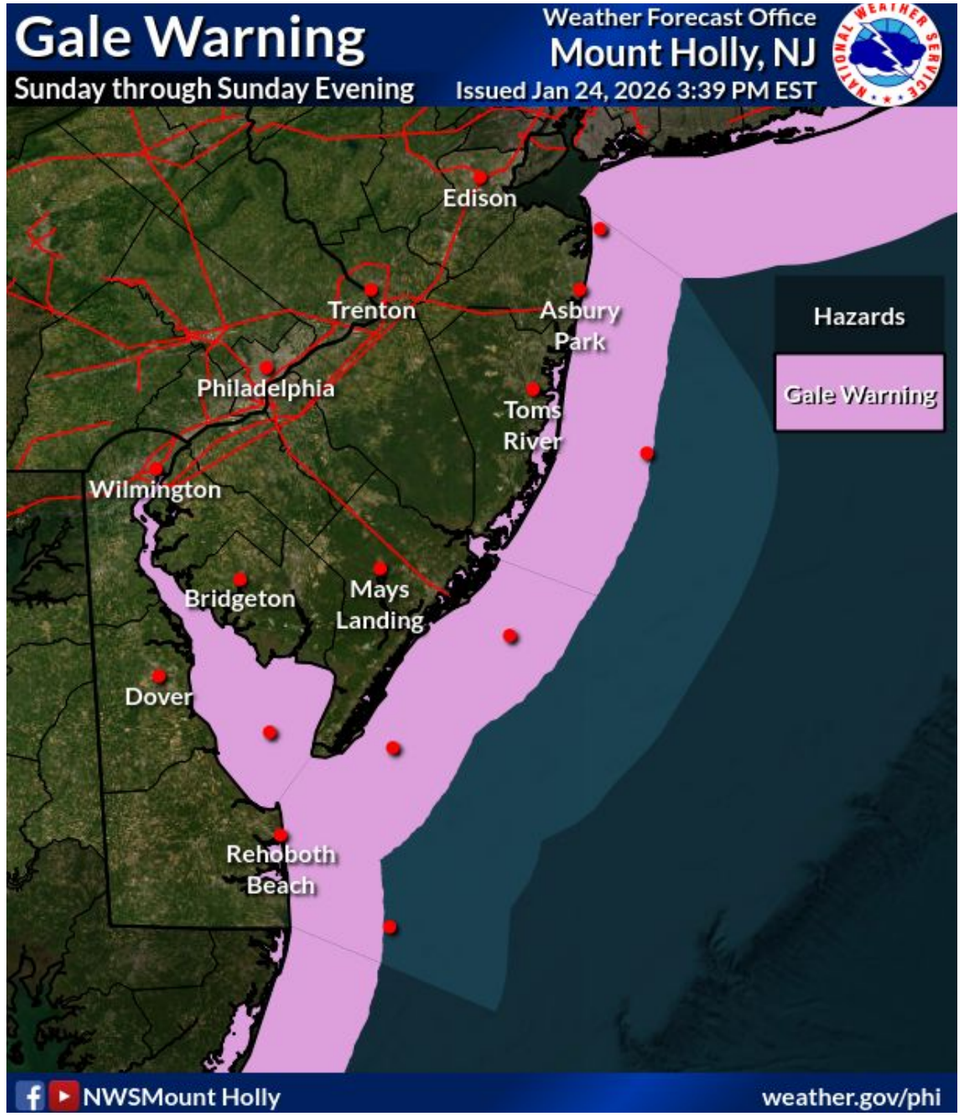

Key Messages

- Gale Watch upgraded to **Gale Warning**, in effect Sunday through Sunday evening.
- Heavy snow leading to very low visibility tonight through Sunday.
- Periods of freezing spray possible next week.
- Air temperatures in the 10s and 20s will persist through all of next week, likely resulting in ice development across shallow and sheltered coastal waters. Greatest threat of ice development will be along the tidal Delaware River, Delaware Bay, and back bays of NJ and DE, potentially rivalling the ice impacts that occurred in January 2018. This will create difficult conditions for vessel navigation.

Main Points

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Hazard	Impacts	Location	Timing
Heavy Snow and Sleet	Heavy snow and sleet accumulations will lead to very difficult travel conditions. Widespread closures and impacts to infrastructure.	Eastern PA, NJ, DE, and the Eastern Shore of MD.	Tonight through Monday morning.
Freezing Rain/Ice	Snow and sleet will mix with or change to freezing rain, resulting in hazardous driving conditions. Potential for isolated to scattered power outages.	The I-95 corridor southeastward into southern NJ and Delmarva. Some mixing possible as far inland as the I-78 corridor.	Sunday afternoon and evening.
Blowing Snow	Minor blowing and drifting snow could lead to reduced visibilities and snow drifts.	Eastern PA, NJ, DE, and the Eastern Shore of MD.	Sunday into Monday.
Cold/Wind Chill	A prolonged period of dangerous cold could result in hypothermia or frostbite if outside for long stretches. Impacts to infrastructure possible.	Eastern PA, NJ, DE, and the Eastern Shore of MD.	Through next weekend.
Flash Freeze/ Black Ice	No flash freeze is expected with this event. Snow and ice covered surfaces will be slow to melt, with well below freezing temperatures through next weekend.	Eastern PA, NJ, DE, and the Eastern Shore of MD.	Through at least next weekend. Temperatures could briefly rise above freezing on Sunday over Delmarva and southern NJ.
Coastal Flooding	Isolated spotty minor tidal flooding of vulnerable roads and other areas possible.	The Atlantic Coasts of NJ and DE.	The Sunday night high tide cycle.

Overall Impacts

Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI)

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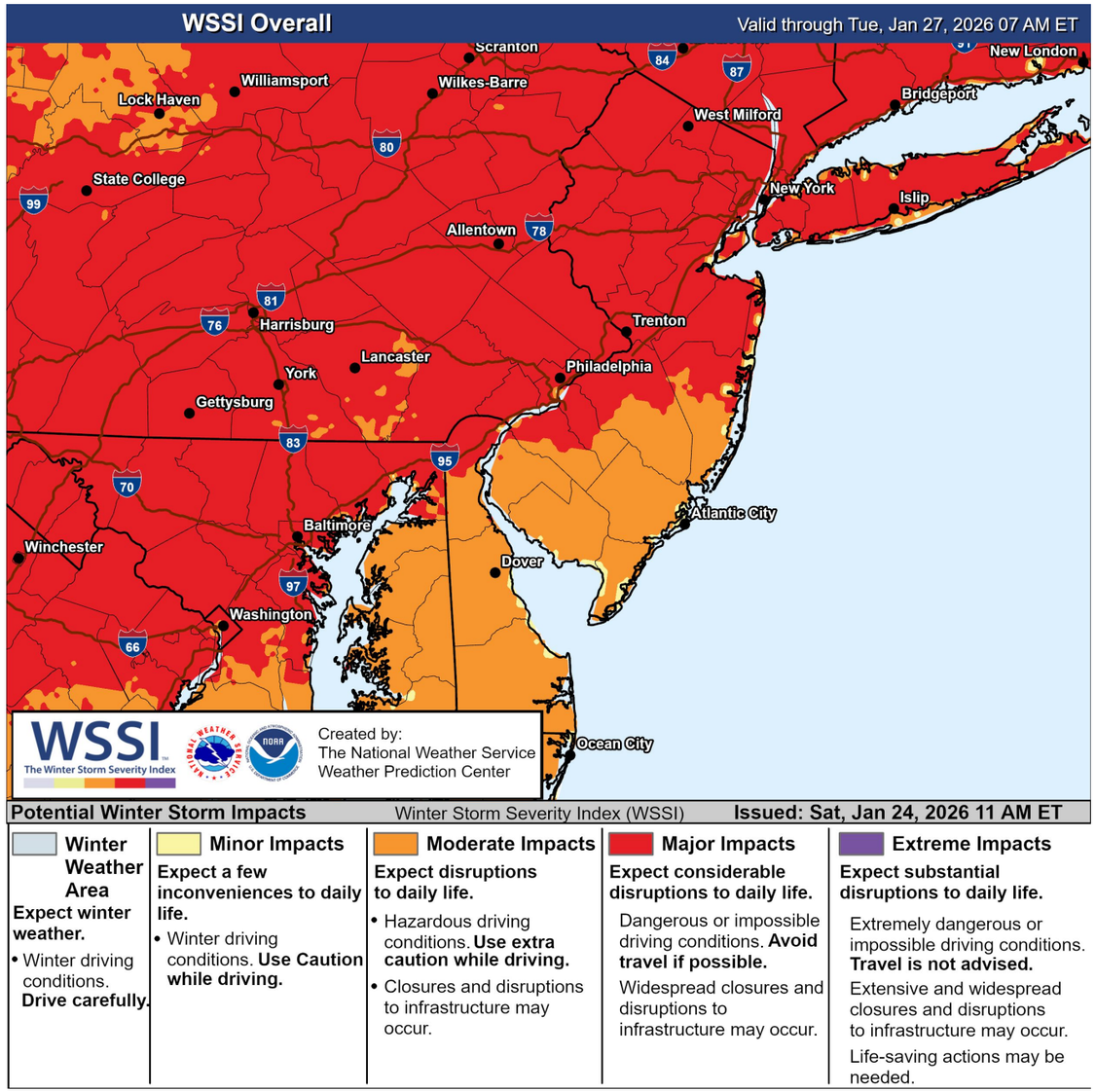

Key Messages

- **High confidence in widespread MAJOR impacts expected for most of the region.**
- **Heavy snow and sleet as well as some ice accumulation will make travel dangerous or impossible. Expect widespread road closures and significant delays on major interstates and highways.**
- **Some isolated power outages possible with ice accumulations potentially ranging from 0.1” to 0.25” (mainly for the I-95 corridor, southern NJ, and Delmarva).**

Snow Onset Timing

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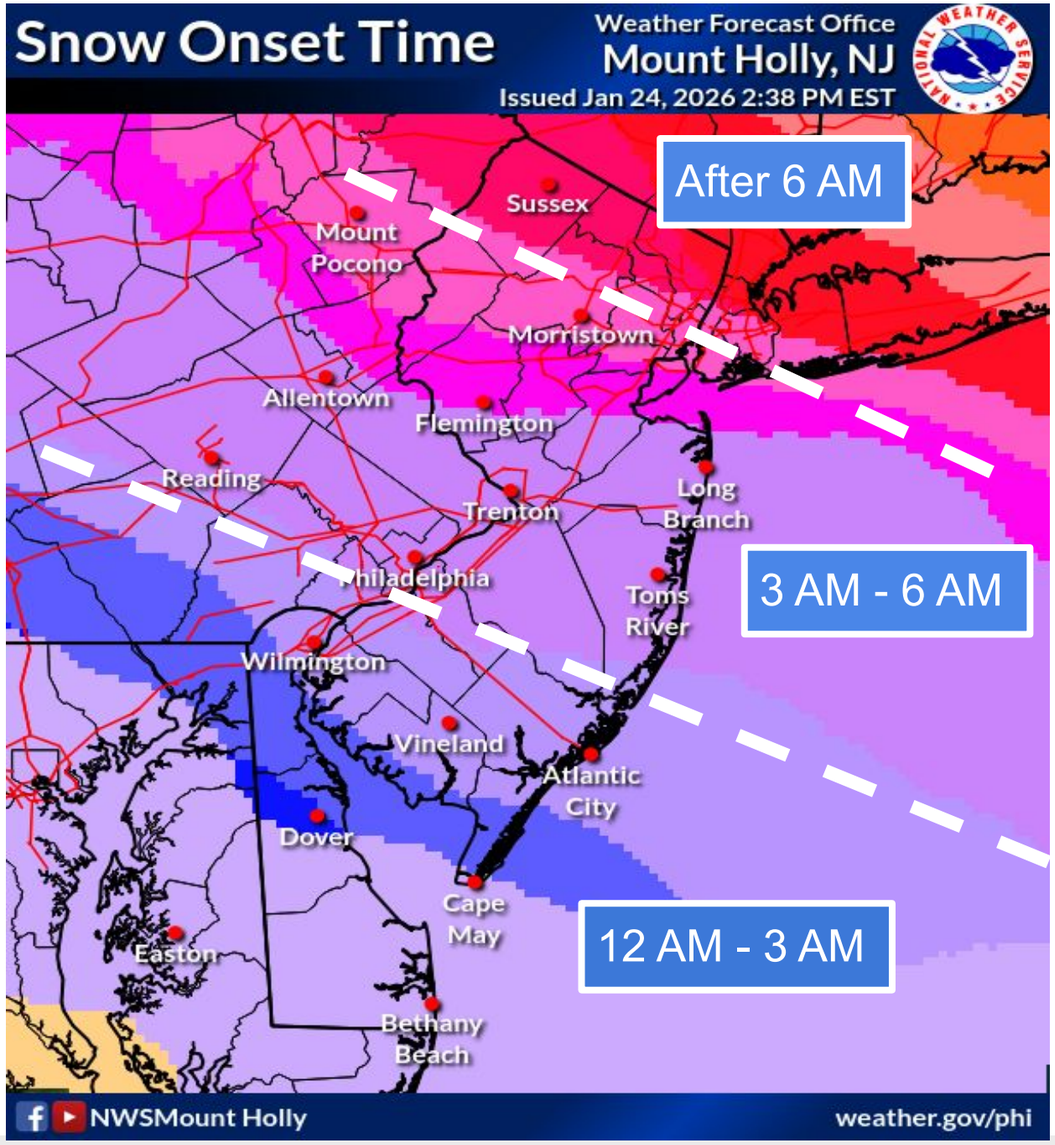
Snow moves from south to north



Snow beginning late tonight into early Sunday morning.

Storm Total Snow/Sleet Forecast

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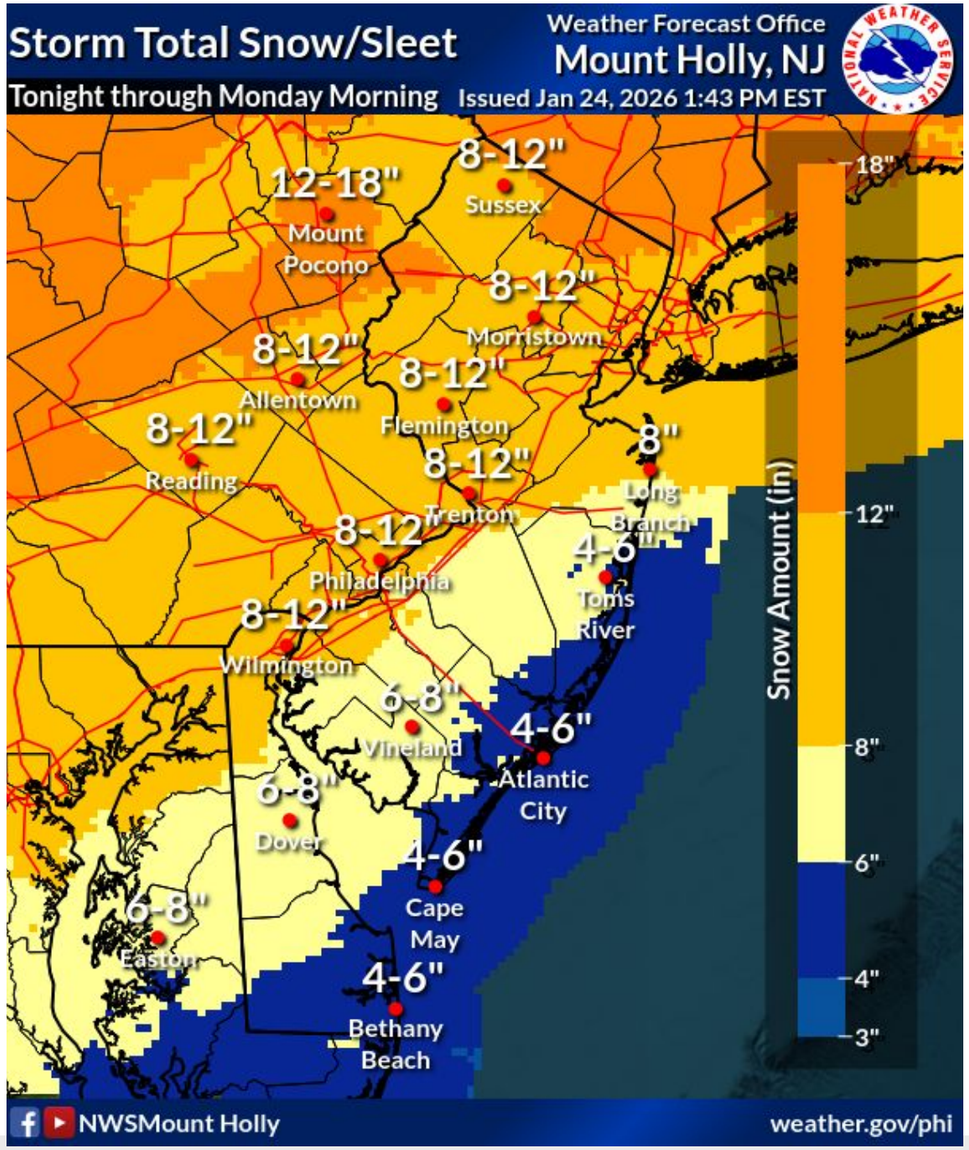
Tonight through Monday Morning



Key Messages

- Widespread snow and sleet totals ranging from 4 to 8” in southern zones and 12 to 15” in northern zones expected. Snowfall rates near 1-2” per hour likely (60-80%) during the daytime period Sunday. Widespread 7-10” anticipated over the I-95 corridor.
- A transition to a wintry mix of sleet and/or freezing rain will occur from south to north, getting as far inland as the Lehigh Valley and the I-78 corridor starting Sunday afternoon into Sunday evening.
- Lower snowfall amounts will occur farther south and closer to the coast, where longer duration of a wintry mix or even plain rain is expected Sunday afternoon and evening.
- Highest amounts farther north, where less mixing is expected.

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Probability of Specific Amounts - Snow

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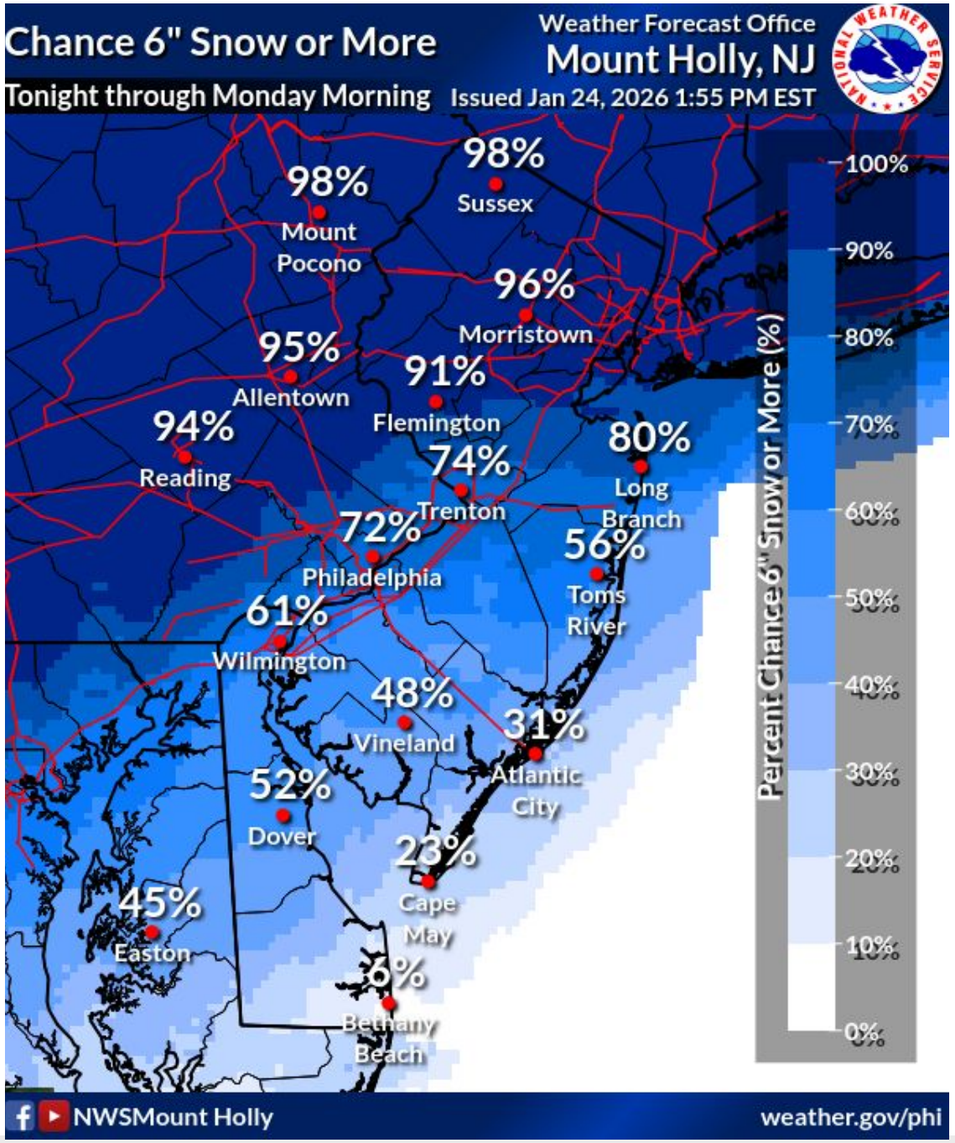

What do these graphics mean?

- **The Probability of Specific Amounts graphics indicate the statistical probability of total snowfall reaching or exceeding a specific amount.**

Probability of Specific Amounts - Snow

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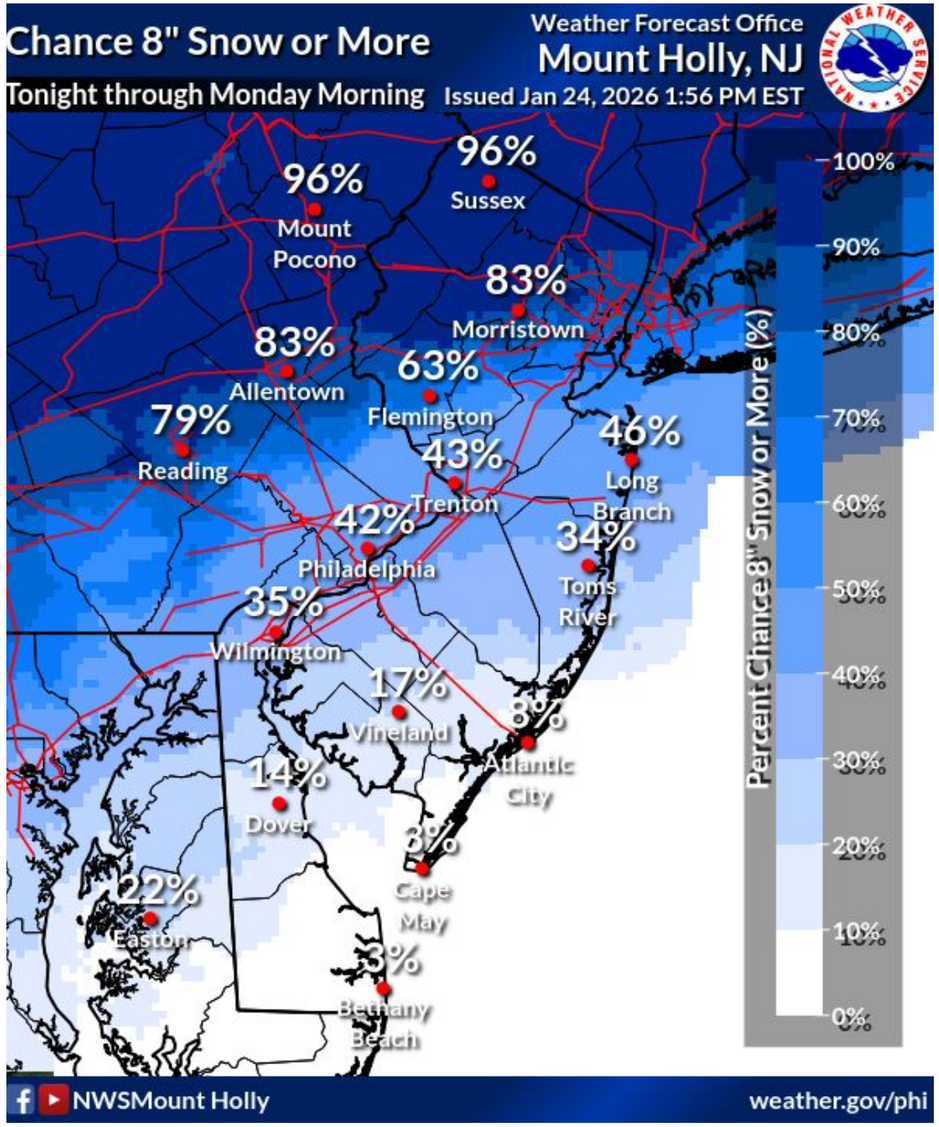

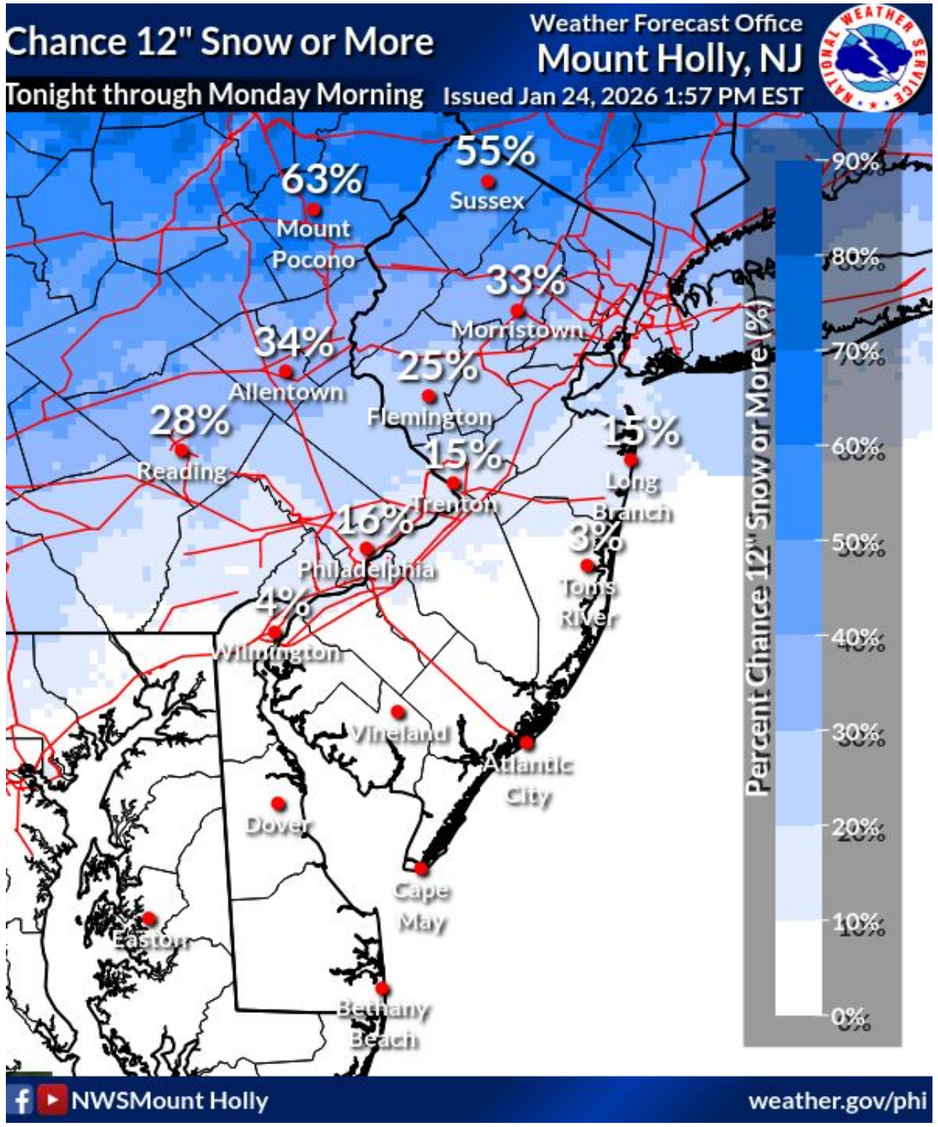

Probabilities of higher amounts have been decreasing due to increasing confidence in mixing of snow and sleet across the region.

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Storm Total Ice Forecast

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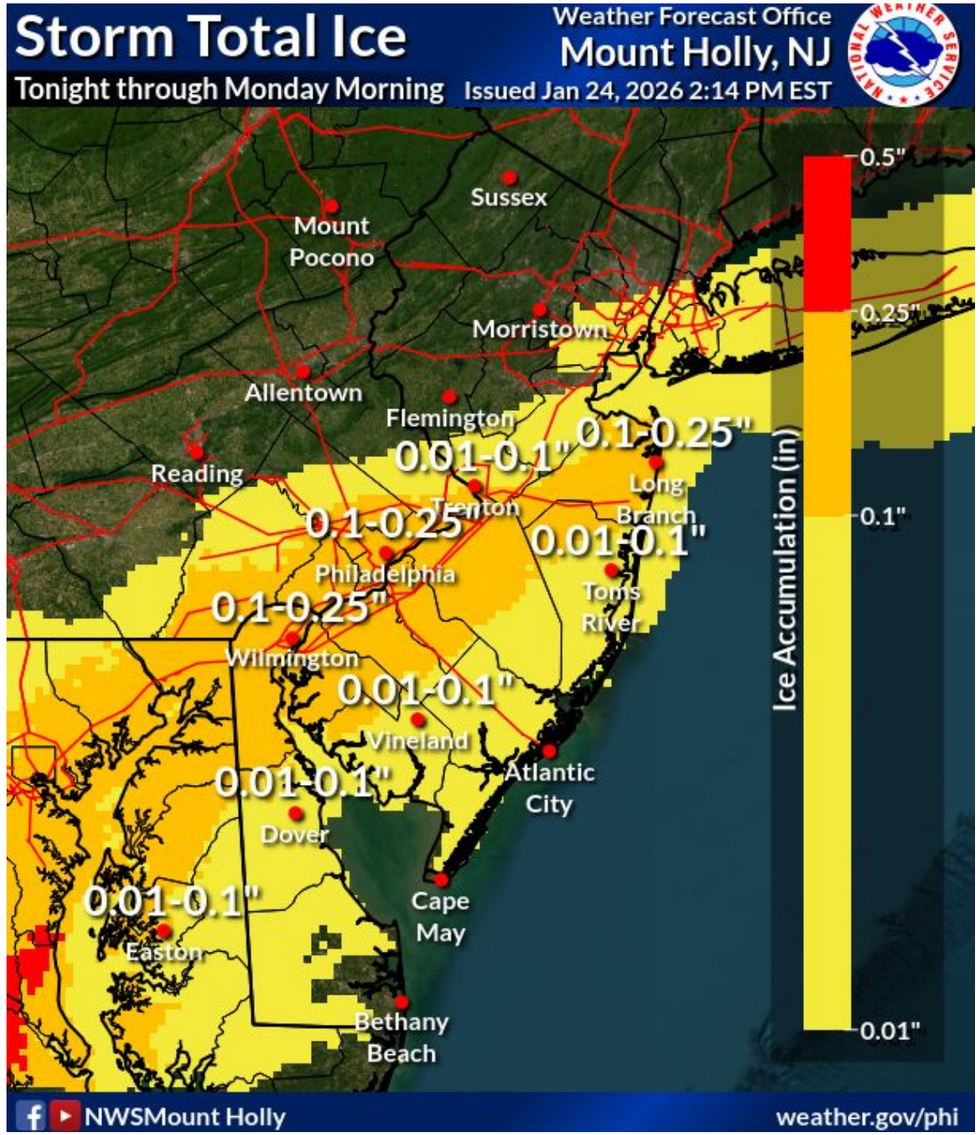
Sunday through Sunday Night



Key Messages

- There remains a threat for notable ice accumulations ranging from 0.1” to 0.25” across the I-95 corridor, southern New Jersey, Eastern Shore of Maryland, and central/northern Delaware.

- The combination of heavy snow and sleet followed by freezing rain and breezy northeast winds gusting 20-30 mph could result in some isolated instances of downed trees and power lines, and power outages.

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Dangerous Stretch of Cold

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Through Next Week

Minimum Wind Chill Forecast (°F)

	1/25 Sun	1/26 Mon	1/27 Tue	1/28 Wed	1/29 Thu	1/30 Fri	1/31 Sat	Minimum
Allentown, PA	0	3	-8	-9	-5	-9	-4	-9
Atlantic City, NJ	12	7	-3	1	2	-5	-1	-5
Dover, DE	7	6	-3	0	2	-4	-1	-4
Easton, MD	5	6	-2	3	3	-3	1	-3
Georgetown, DE	12	7	-3	3	2	-5	-2	-5
Hackettstown, NJ	-1	3	-7	-8	-1	-7	-3	-8
Mount Pocono, PA	-8	-8	-15	-12	-13	-16	-11	-16
Philadelphia, PA	2	6	-4	-6	-1	-6	-2	-6
Reading, PA	-1	2	-9	-9	-4	-8	-5	-9
Toms River, NJ	11	7	-3	-3	-1	-6	-2	-6
Trenton, NJ	3	4	-5	-7	-1	-6	-2	-7
Wilmington, DE	3	6	-4	-4	-1	-5	-2	-5

Minimum Wind Chill Forecast (°F)

Created: 1 pm EST Sat 1/24/2026 | Values are minimums over the period beginning at the time shown.

Key Messages

- A prolonged period of well below normal temperatures is expected to continue after the storm and through next weekend.
- Temperatures in the 10s and 20s during the daytime and single digits to below zero at night through next weekend.
- Dangerously cold wind chills between -10° and 0° are expected to return, leading to an increased risk of hypothermia and frostbite. Wind chills potentially as low as -15 to -20° in the southern Poconos.
- Increased risk of energy infrastructure impacts due to high heating demand following the winter storm.

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Dangerous Stretch of Cold

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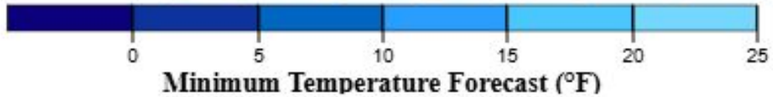
Through Next Week

Minimum Temperature Forecast (°F)

	1/25 Sun	1/26 Mon	1/27 Tue	1/28 Wed	1/29 Thu	1/30 Fri	1/31 Sat	Minimum
Allentown, PA	10	15	2	2	3	4	7	2
Atlantic City, NJ	20	21	13	14	11	11	13	11
Dover, DE	18	18	9	9	8	8	10	8
Easton, MD	18	19	11	13	11	11	13	11
Georgetown, DE	20	19	10	11	13	8	10	8
Hackettstown, NJ	9	13	4	0	2	4	7	0
Mount Pocono, PA	5	9	1	0	0	2	5	0
Philadelphia, PA	14	17	5	5	7	7	9	5
Reading, PA	12	15	2	2	4	6	8	2
Toms River, NJ	17	17	7	7	6	6	8	6
Trenton, NJ	14	16	7	3	5	6	8	3
Wilmington, DE	15	17	6	6	7	7	10	6



Created: 1 pm EST Sat 1/24/2026 | Values are minimums over the period beginning at the time shown.

Key Messages

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- Temperatures in the 10s and 20s during the daytime and single digits to below zero at night through next weekend.
- Dangerously cold wind chills between -10° and 0° are expected to return, leading to an increased risk of hypothermia and frostbite. Wind chills potentially as low as -15 to -20° in the southern Poconos.
- Increased risk of energy infrastructure impacts due to high heating demand following the winter storm.

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Summary of Greatest Impacts

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Key Messages

- A significant winter storm is expected to impact all of eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the Eastern Shore of Maryland starting late tonight continuing through Monday morning. A **Winter Storm Warning** remains in effect for the entire region.
- There is high confidence in ***major*** impacts from snowfall, sleet, and ice accumulations across much of the area, making travel very difficult, and potentially resulting in widespread closures and infrastructure impacts. Widespread snow and sleet accumulations ranging from 4-8” in southern areas to 12-15” in northern areas. Around the I-95 corridor, 7-10” are expected. Snowfall rates near ***1-2” per hour*** expected during the daytime period Sunday.
- Snow and sleet will mix with or change to freezing rain across Delmarva, southern NJ, and into the I-95 corridor beginning Sunday afternoon into Sunday evening. Mixing could occur as far inland as the Lehigh Valley and I-78 corridor. There is increasing confidence in ice accumulations around 0.1-0.25”, which could result in damage to trees and powerlines, and further complicate travel.
- In addition to the potential major winter storm, dangerous cold is expected to continue after the storm through next weekend. Wind chills and temperatures in the single digits to below zero are expected for ***several*** consecutive nights. Prolonged exposure to dangerous wind chills could result in hypothermia or frostbite if precautions are not taken. Impacts to energy infrastructure are possible due to increased heating demand.

Contact and Next Briefing Information

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For NWS Mount Holly

Briefing Webpage

- www.weather.gov/media/phi/current_briefing.pdf

Next Briefing

- By: 7 AM January 25, 2026
- Method: Email

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- Information contained in this briefing is time-sensitive
- Do Not Use After: 7 AM January 25, 2026

Contact Information

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