

## **Synopsis**

Frigid temperatures tonight as the winds back down with lows in the city mostly in the mid-teens . . . single digits along the coast . . . and 5 above to near zero inland. It clouds up quickly for Saturday with snow becoming likely during the afternoon from west to east. The storm intensifies quickly Saturday night with higher impacts being felt further east across eastern Long Island and eastern Connecticut in terms of snow. Any snow will end from west to east Sunday as the storm pulls away. The wind and the coldest readings in quite some time will be the story for Sunday and into Sunday night . . . with temperatures getting dangerously cold on Sunday falling through the teens to single digits and wind chills getting as cold as 15 to 25 below by Sunday evening.

## **Timing and Precipitation**

A WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY IS IN EFFECT FROM 1:00 PM SATURDAY TO 1:00 PM SUNDAY

- The New York City area can expect light snow to begin around midday Saturday increasing to more moderate to heavy snowfall by the evening hours.
- The timeframe for the heaviest snowfall is from approximately 7:00 PM Saturday to around 7:00 AM Sunday before tapering off by Sunday afternoon.
- Near blizzard conditions are possible during periods of heaviest snowfall. The heaviest bands of snow are currently expected to remain east and northeast of the city.
- Snow accumulations of 3 to 6 inches are expected for New York City.

## **Winds**

A HIGH WIND WATCH IS IN EFFECT FROM LATE SATURDAY NIGHT THROUGH SUNDAY AFTERNOON

- Tonight: northwest winds 10 to 15 MPH, becoming southeast around 5 MPH after midnight.
- Saturday: south winds 10 to 15 MPH.
- Saturday Night: very windy; southwest winds 15 to 20 MPH with gusts up to 30 MPH, increasing to northwest 25 to 35 MPH with gusts up to 45 MPH after midnight.
- Sunday: very windy; northwest winds 30 to 40 MPH with gusts up to 55 MPH.
- Sunday Night: windy; northwest winds 20 to 30 MPH with gusts up to 45 MPH, diminishing to 15 to 20 MPH with gusts up to 30 MPH after midnight.

## **Temperatures (High/Low)**

- Tonight: Low 13.
- Saturday: High 32/Low 15; wind chill values as low as 4 below (-4) after midnight.
- Sunday: High 17/Low 1 (i.e. 1 above); wind chill values as low as 8 below (-8) in the morning and wind chill values as low as 19 below (-19) at night.
- Monday: High 20/Low 10; wind chill values as low as 20 below (-20) in the morning.

## **Coastal Flooding**

N/A

## **Flooding**

N/A

## **Weather Products**

- Winter Weather Advisory: 1:00 PM Saturday to 1:00 PM Sunday.
- High Wind Watch: late Saturday night through Sunday afternoon.

## **Forecast Confidence**

- 80 percent confident for at least 3 inches of snow (should not average more than 6 inches of snow).

## **COLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS**

### **Travel Safety Tips**

New Yorkers are also encouraged to take the following precautions:

#### **For Motorists**

- Drive slowly. Posted speed limits are for ideal weather conditions. Vehicles take longer to stop on snow and ice than on dry pavement.
- Use major streets or highways for travel whenever possible; these roadways will be cleared first.
- Four-wheel drive vehicles may make it easier to drive on snow-covered roads, but they do not stop quicker than other vehicles.
- Keep the name and phone number of at least one local towing service in your car in case you break down or become stuck in snow.
- If you get stuck on the road, stay with your car and contact a towing company.

#### **For Pedestrians**

- Exercise caution and avoid slippery surfaces; some ice may not be visible.
- Wear layers including a hat, gloves/mittens, and a scarf to stay protected from the cold. And keep clothes and shoes dry, if a layer becomes wet, remove it.
- Keep fingertips, earlobes, and noses covered if you go outside.
- Have heightened awareness of cars, particularly when approaching or crossing intersections.
- Seniors should take extra care outdoors to avoid slips and falls from icy conditions.

### **Tips for Staying Warm**

Exposure to cold can cause life-threatening health conditions. Avoid serious conditions, such as frostbite and hypothermia, by keeping warm.

- Wear a hat, hood, or scarf, as most heat is lost through the head.
- Wear layers, as they provide better insulation and warmth.
- Keep fingertips, earlobes, and noses covered if you go outside.
- Keep clothing dry; if a layer becomes wet, remove it.

Seniors, infants, the homeless, and those with chronic medical conditions are at increased risk. If you know of friends, neighbors, or family members who may be at risk, check on them to make sure their heat is working and that they are okay.

### **Helping Others**

Recognize the signs and symptoms of hypothermia and frostbite:

Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition where body temperature is abnormally low. Symptoms may include shivering, slurred speech, sluggishness, drowsiness, unusual behavior, confusion, dizziness, and shallow breathing.

Frostbite is a serious injury to a body part frozen from exposure to the cold. It most often affects extremities like fingers and toes or exposed areas such as ears or parts of the face. Redness and pain

may be the first warning of frostbite. Other symptoms include numbness or skin that appears pale, firm, or waxy.

Provide first aid:

- If you suspect a person is suffering from frostbite or hypothermia, bring him or her someplace warm and call 911.
- If medical help is not immediately available, re-warm the person, by removing any damp clothing and covering them with warm blankets.

### **What to Do if You Lose Heat or Hot Water at Home**

Any New York City tenant without adequate heat or hot water should first speak with the building owner, manager, or superintendent. If the problem is not corrected, tenants should call 311. The Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) will take measures to ensure your heat and hot water is restored.

### **SAFE HOME HEATING TIPS**

Improper use of portable heating equipment can lead to fire or dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. Take precautions to ensure you are heating your home safely.

Fire safety tips:

- Use only portable heating equipment that is approved for indoor use.
- Keep combustible materials, including furniture, drapes, and carpeting at least three feet away from the heat source. NEVER drape clothes over a space heater to dry.
- Always keep an eye on heating equipment. Never leave children alone in the room where a space heater is running. Turn it off when you are unable to closely monitor it.
- Be careful not to overload electrical circuits.
- Make sure you have a working smoke detector in every room. Check and change batteries often.

### **Carbon monoxide safety tips:**

- Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home and check them regularly to make sure the batteries are working. NYC law requires owners to provide and install at least one approved carbon monoxide alarm within 15 feet of the primary entrance to each sleeping room.
- Make sure your heating system is kept clean and properly vented; have worn or defective parts replaced.
- Kerosene heaters and propane space heaters are dangerous and illegal in New York City.
- Never heat your home with a gas stove or oven.
- Never use any gas-powered appliance, charcoal grill, or hibachi indoors.
- Never run a car or truck in a garage or enclosed area. Clear exhaust pipes before starting a car or truck after it snows.
- The most common symptom of carbon monoxide poisoning is headache. However, symptoms may also include dizziness, chest pain, nausea, and vomiting. In severe cases, people can become increasingly irritable, agitated and confused, eventually becoming lethargic and lapsing into unconsciousness.
- If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, open windows, leave your home, get to fresh air immediately, and call 911.

### **PET SAFETY TIPS**

Cold weather is also dangerous for pets. The ASPCA (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) advises people to keep cats indoors, especially at night when temperatures drop, and take measures to keep dogs warm, dry and safe from anti-freeze and sidewalk salt. Thoroughly wipe off your dog's paws and stomach when he comes in out of the sleet, snow or ice, as they can ingest salt, anti-freeze or other potentially dangerous chemicals by licking his paws. Paw pads may also become irritated from snow or encrusted ice. Pets should be inside the home year round, but it is especially important

during the cold weather. Pets who normally live outdoors should be brought inside as protection against the harsh conditions. Outdoor time for dogs to relieve themselves should be limited, walks should be kept as brief as possible, and animals should always wear proper ID tags. There is no distinct time limit for how long dogs should be outside to go to the bathroom; it depends on the dog (breed, size, age, health conditions etc.).