

SUMMARY

A weak low pressure system approaches bringing light snow showers to the area by mid-morning today. Another band of snow showers is expected ahead of an arctic front this afternoon and evening. There is a possibility of embedded snow squalls which could produce heavier snow showers. Snow showers will begin to taper off by this evening. North winds will increase with temperatures plummeting into the single digits in the wake of the arctic front tonight. Windy and cold conditions continue into Monday. Light to moderate snow showers likely Saturday into Sunday before sunrise. Behind this snow event strong northwest winds will usher in potentially the coldest air mass of the season.

TIMING AND PRECIPITATION

Today:

- Light snow flurries will begin between 8AM and 11AM this morning.
- Light snow showers will persist throughout the day and will begin to dissipate by 7PM to 8PM tonight.
- Total snow accumulation is dusting to a coating.
- Due to possible embedded snow squalls which can bring isolated heavier snow showers, an inch of snow accumulation can be expected.
- The squall could develop between 3PM and 5PM this afternoon. Snow squall development is still uncertain at this time.

Friday:

- Temperatures will begin to plummet and north winds will begin to increase throughout the day creating very cold conditions into Monday.

Saturday:

- A total of 1-3 inches or 2-4 inches of snow accumulation is expected.
- There is a chance of a narrow heavier band developing that can bring snowfall rates of 6 inches or more. There is still uncertainty of the development of this band.
- Light snow will begin sometime after 12pm or early afternoon and will taper off late Saturday evening and should end by sunrise Sunday morning. Snows between 7 PM and 1 AM.
- Very cold conditions throughout the day with temperatures dropping into the teens on the overnight.
- Windy and very cold conditions until Monday.

WINDS

- Today: Southwest 7-15 MPH becoming northwest in the afternoon, gusts up to 26 MPH.
- Tonight: Northwest 21-26 MPH, gusts up to 38 MPH.
- Friday: Northwest 17-22 MPH, gusts up to 33 MPH.
- Friday night: West 7-14 MPH, gusts up to 25 MPH.
- Saturday: South 7-15 MPH, gusts up to 25 MPH.
- Saturday night: North 20-25 MPH, gusts up to 40 MPH.
- Sunday: North 25-35 MPH, gusts up to 50 MPH.

TEMPERATURES

- Today: High 38 degrees with wind chill values between 20 and 30 degrees.
- Tonight: Low 8 degrees with wind chill values between -10 and zero degrees.
- Friday: High 16 degrees with wind chill values between -10 and zero degrees.
- Friday night: Low 14 degrees with wind chill values between zero and 5 degrees.
- Saturday: High 28 degrees
- Saturday night: Low 14 degrees with wind chills between -5 and zero degrees.
- Sunday: High 16 degrees.
- Sunday night: High 3 degrees with wind chills between -15 and -20 degrees.

COASTAL FLOODING

- None expected

URBAN FLOODING

- None expected

PRODUCTS

- There are no products currently issued or in effect in in the New York City area in relation to this weather event.
- Special Weather Statement may be issued today for potential embedded snow squalls this afternoon.
- A Wind Chill Advisory or Wind Chill Warning may be issued Saturday into Saturday night for the New York City area in anticipation of dangerously cold conditions.

CONFIDENCE

- High for precipitation and cold temperatures.
- Low for embedded snow squalls today and narrow heavier band of snow showers for Saturday.

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.).