

## Winter Storm Alerts

It is important to monitor weather sources to be informed when a winter storm is possible and to be familiar with the terms used to describe the likelihood, immediacy and conditions of a potential storm.

### Alerts and Their Meanings

Types of winter storm watches and warnings include:

- **Winter storm watch:** Be alert, a storm is likely.
- **Winter weather advisory:** Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous, especially to motorists.
- **Frost/freeze warning:** Below freezing temperatures are expected and may cause damage to plants, crops or fruit trees.
- **Winter storm warning:** Take action, the storm is in or entering the area.
- **Blizzard warning:** Snow and strong winds combined will produce blinding snow, near zero visibility, deep drifts and life-threatening wind chill--seek refuge immediately.
- **Wind chill:** Wind chill is an estimation of how cold it feels outside when the effects of temperature and wind speed are combined.

### Stay Informed

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provides multiple ways to stay informed about winter storms:

- NOAA Weather Radio is a network of radio stations that continuously broadcast weather information from the nearest National Weather Service office. NOAA Weather Radio requires a special radio receiver or scanner (found at most electronics and sporting goods stores) capable of picking up the signal. Broadcasts are found in the VHF public service band at these seven frequencies (MHz):
- The NOAA National Weather Service website ([www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)) also provides information on the weather outlook.

If you are notified of a winter storm watch, advisory or warning, follow instructions from your local authorities.

### Resources

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA): [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency: [www.ready.gov/winter-weather](http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather)

Some content on this page was gathered from documents found on the website for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)

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