

Dangerous Cold and Winter Storm Briefing #5

January 24, 2026
5:00 AM EST

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

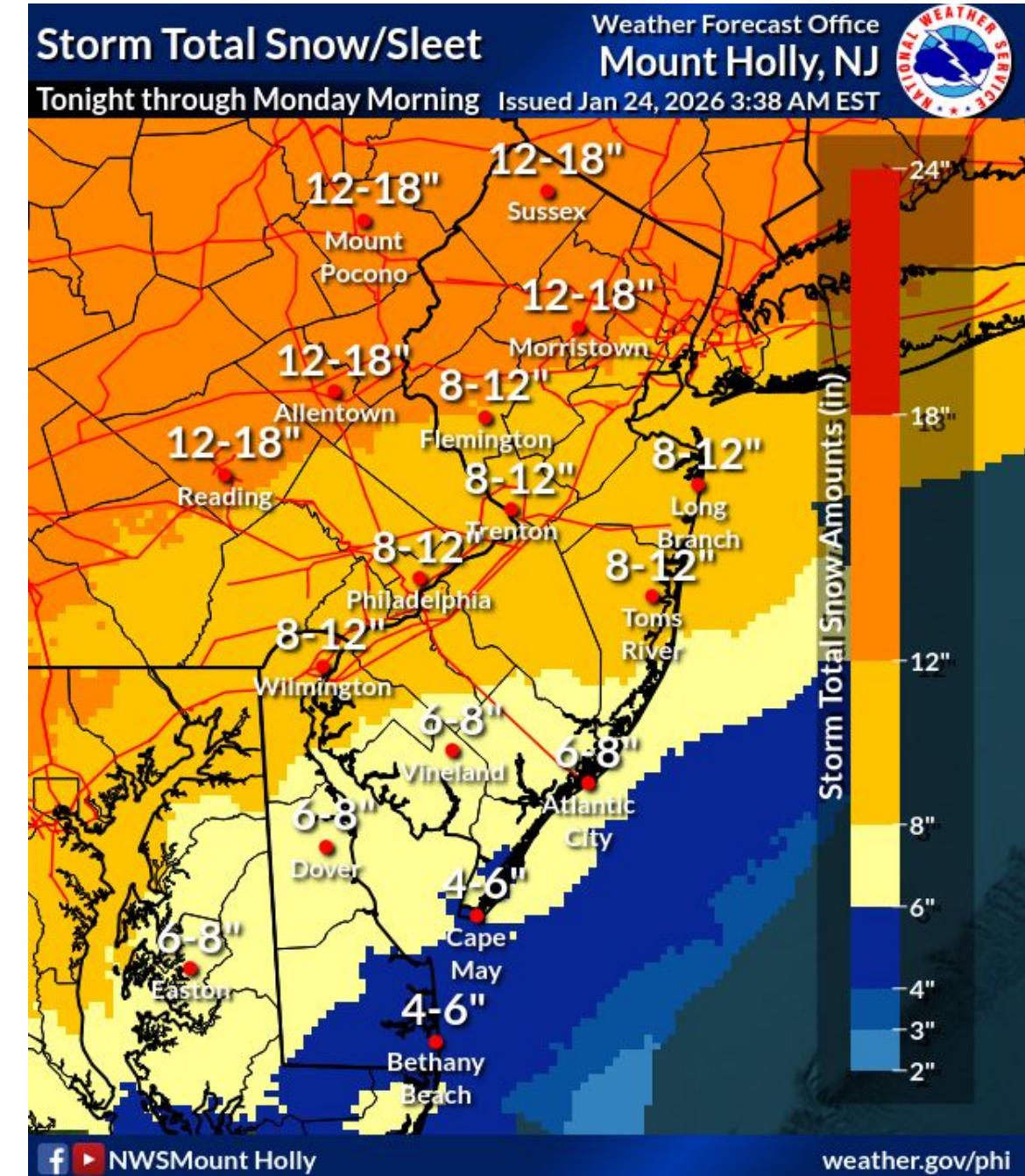
Decision Support Briefing #5

→ As of 5 AM 1/24/2026

NEW

Important Updates

- Snowfall amounts reduced slightly, with highest reductions south and east of the I-95 corridor as confidence increases in mixing 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 southeastward, now more over South Jersey and Delmarva rather than the I-95 corridor. Confidence is low on where the highest ice totals are.



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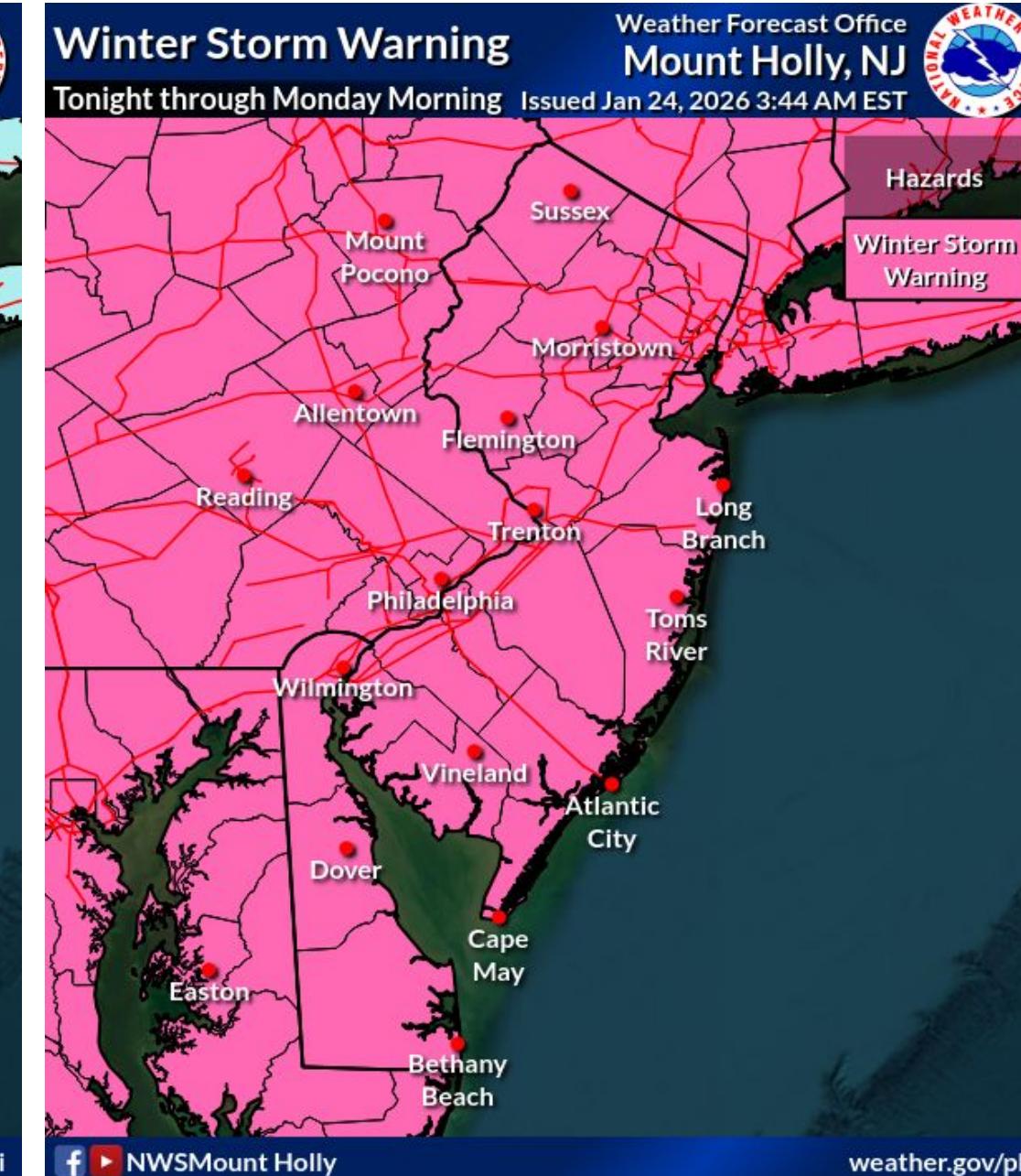
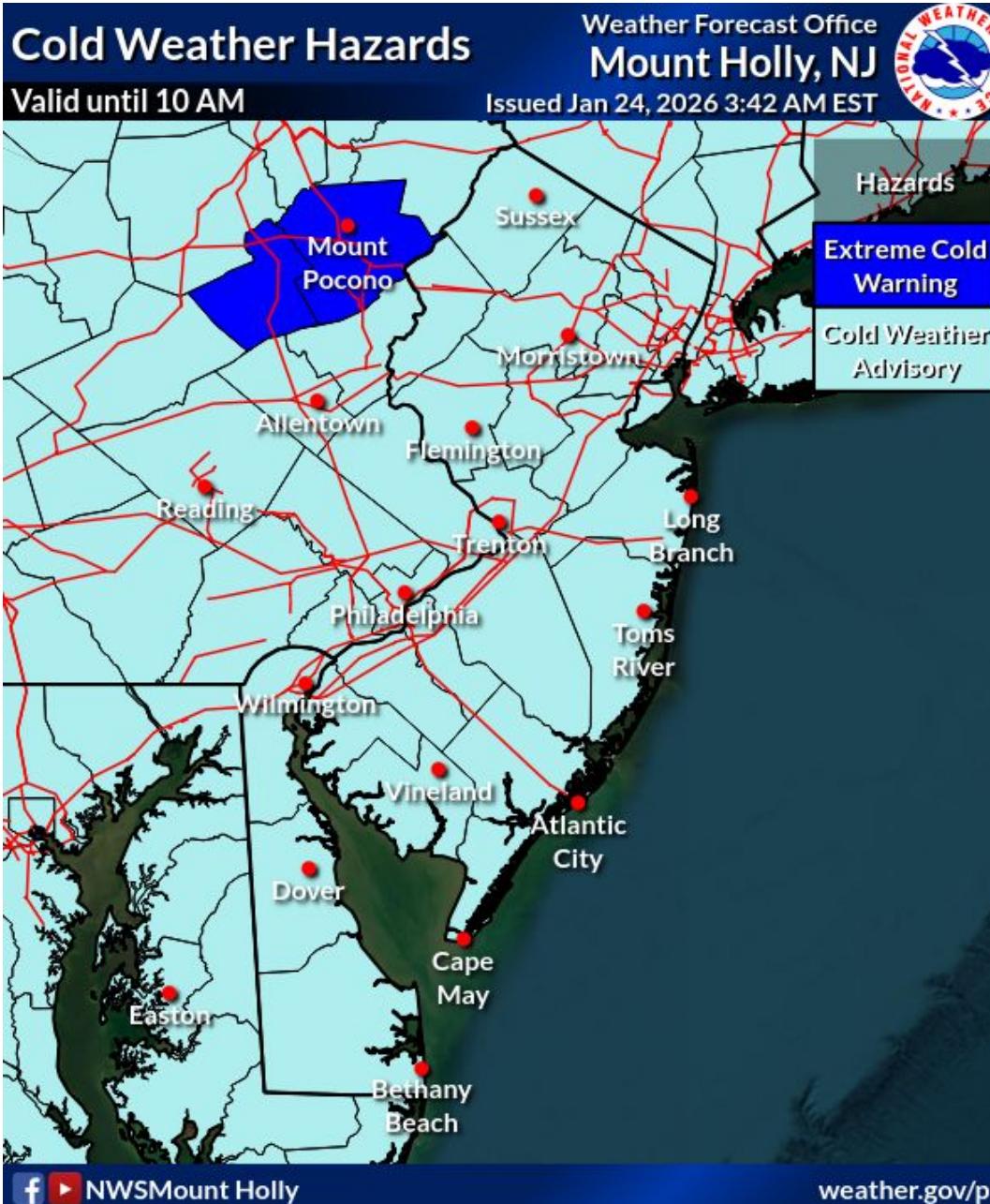
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Watches, Warnings, and Advisories

January 24, 2026
5:00 AM EST

Through This Weekend



Key Messages

- **Extreme Cold Warning** is in effect for the southern Poconos as wind chills around -20° continue through most of the morning
- A **Cold Weather Advisory** is in effect for the rest of the area for until 10 AM.
- A **Winter Storm Warning** is in effect for the entire area for tonight through Monday morning. **Significant snowfall accumulations are expected across the entire area, with some sleet and freezing rain accumulation in some areas as well.**



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Marine Hazards

Through Next Week

January 24, 2026
5:00 AM EST



Key Messages

- **Small Craft Advisory** and **Freezing Spray Advisory** in effect tonight through this morning.
- **Gale Watch** in effect Sunday through Sunday evening.
- Light to moderate freezing spray continues through midday.
- Heavy snow leading to very low visibility Saturday night 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.



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Main Points

January 24, 2026
5:00 AM EST

Hazard	Impacts	Location	Timing
Heavy Snow 	Heavy snow 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.
Sleet/Ice 	Snow will mix with or change to sleet and 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 minor flooding of vulnerable roads and other areas possible.	The Atlantic Coasts of NJ and DE.	The Sunday night high tide cycle.



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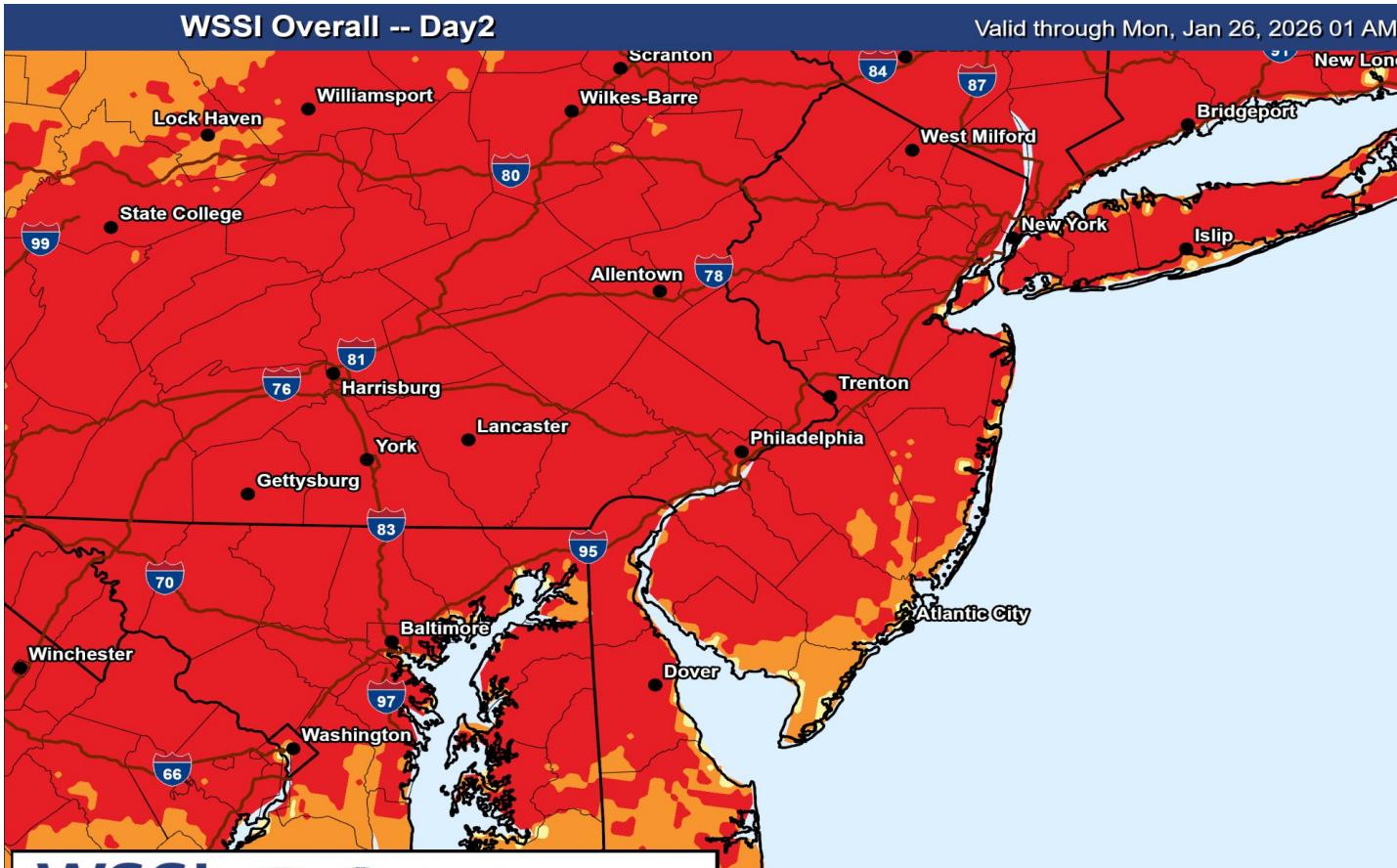
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Overall Impacts

Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI)

January 24, 2026
5:00 AM EST



Potential Winter Storm Impacts		Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI)		Issued: Sat, Jan 24, 2026 03 AM ET
<p>Winter Weather Area Expect winter weather. • Winter driving conditions. Drive carefully.</p>	<p>Minor Impacts Expect a few inconveniences to daily life. • Winter driving conditions. Use Caution while driving.</p>	<p>Moderate Impacts Expect disruptions to daily life. • Hazardous driving conditions. Use extra caution while driving. • Closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.</p>	<p>Major Impacts Expect considerable disruptions to daily life. Dangerous or impossible driving conditions. Avoid travel if possible. Widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.</p>	<p>Extreme Impacts Expect substantial disruptions to daily life. Extremely dangerous or impossible driving conditions. Travel is not advised. Extensive and widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur. Life-saving actions may be needed.</p>

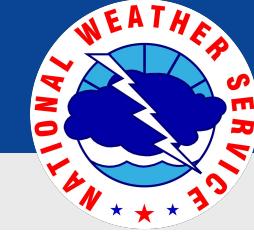
Key Messages

- High confidence in widespread MAJOR impacts expected for most of the region.
- Heavy snow and 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 0.3" (mainly for the I-95 corridor, southern NJ, and Delmarva).



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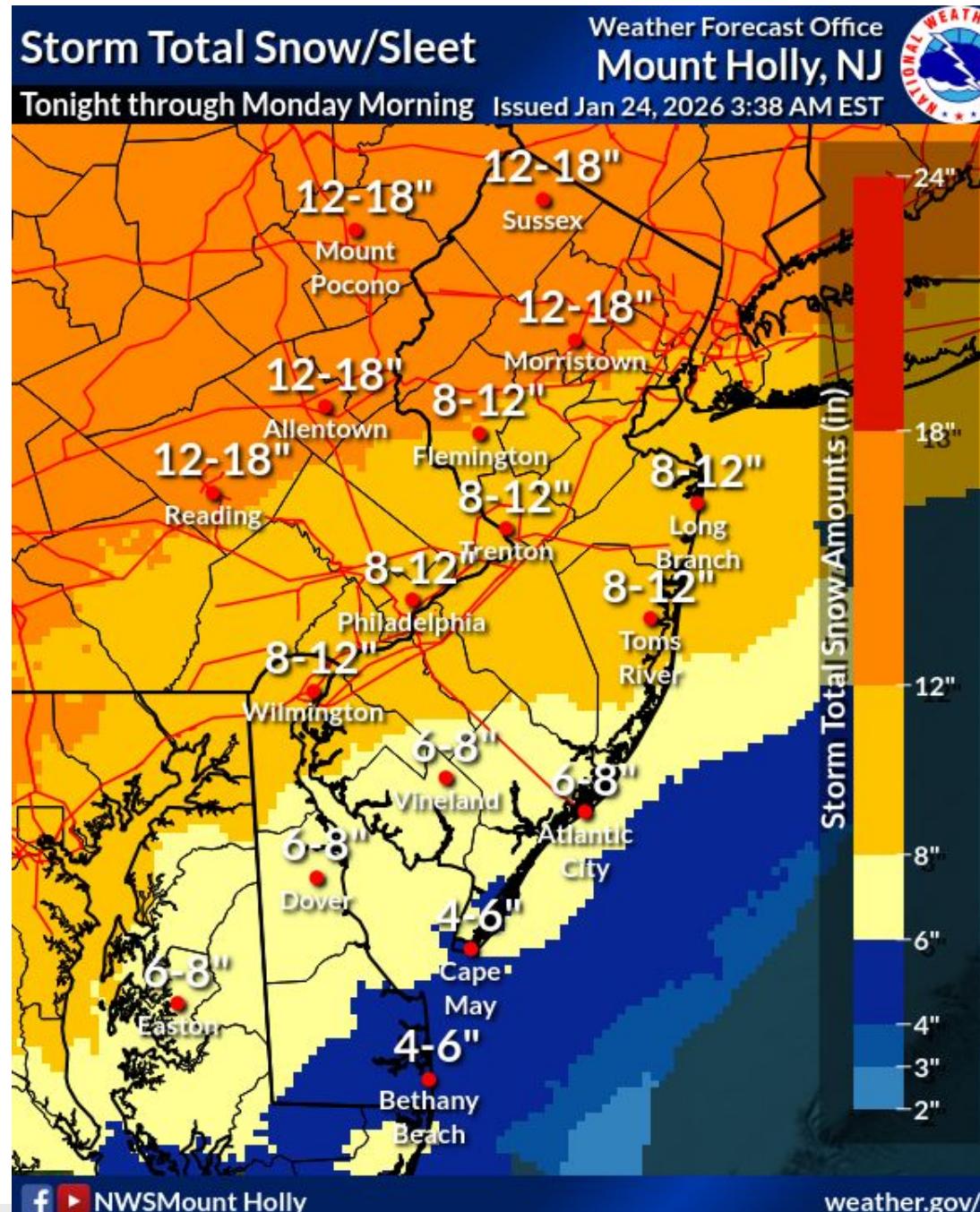
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Storm Total Snow/Sleet Forecast

January 24, 2026
5:00 AM EST

Tonight through Monday Morning



Key Messages

- Widespread snow and sleet totals ranging from 4 to 8" in southern zones and 12 to 16" in northern zones expected. Snowfall rates near 1-2" per hour likely (60-80%) during the daytime period Sunday. Widespread 8-12" 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.



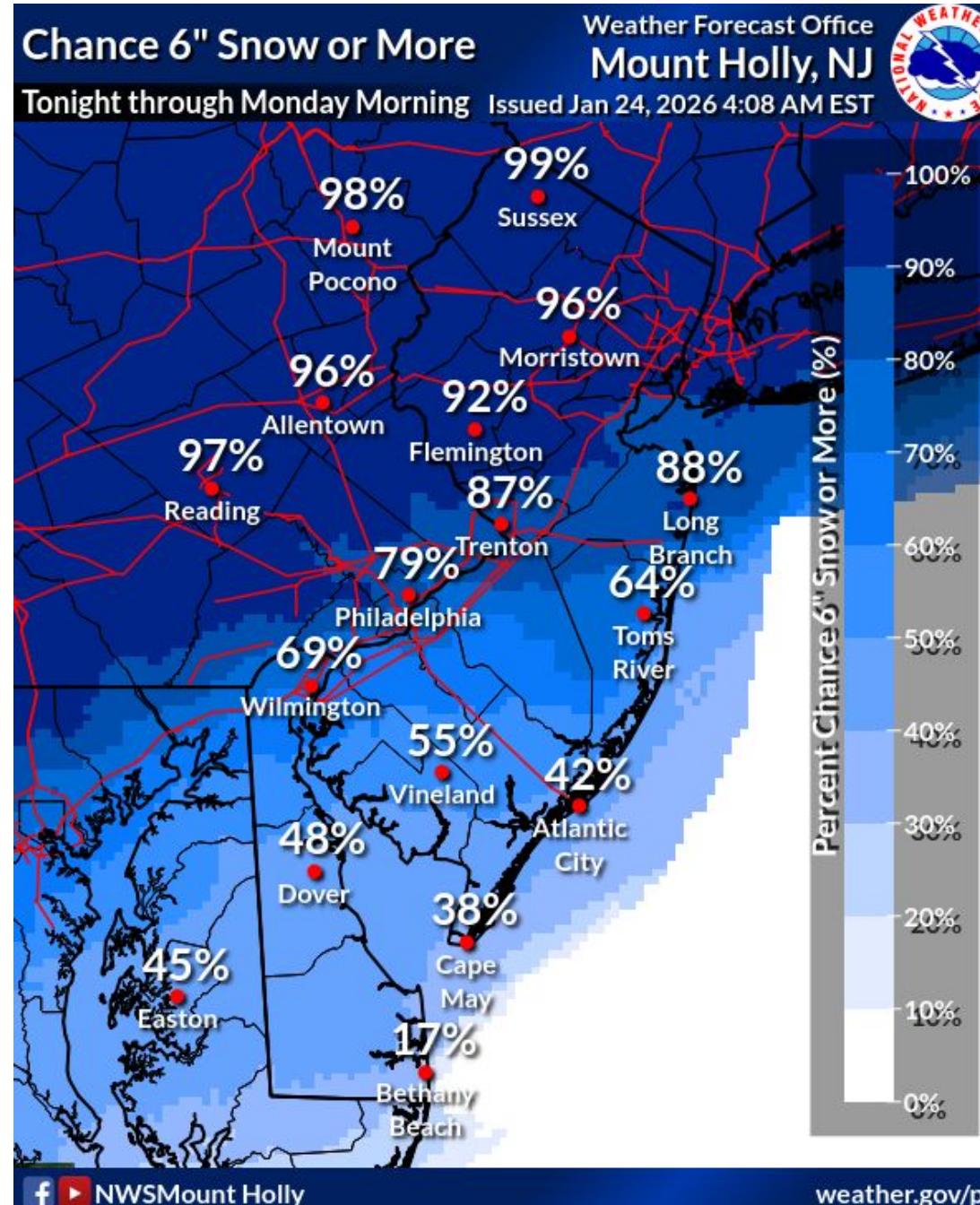
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Probability of Specific Amounts - Snow

January 24, 2026
5:00 AM EST



What do these graphics mean?

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



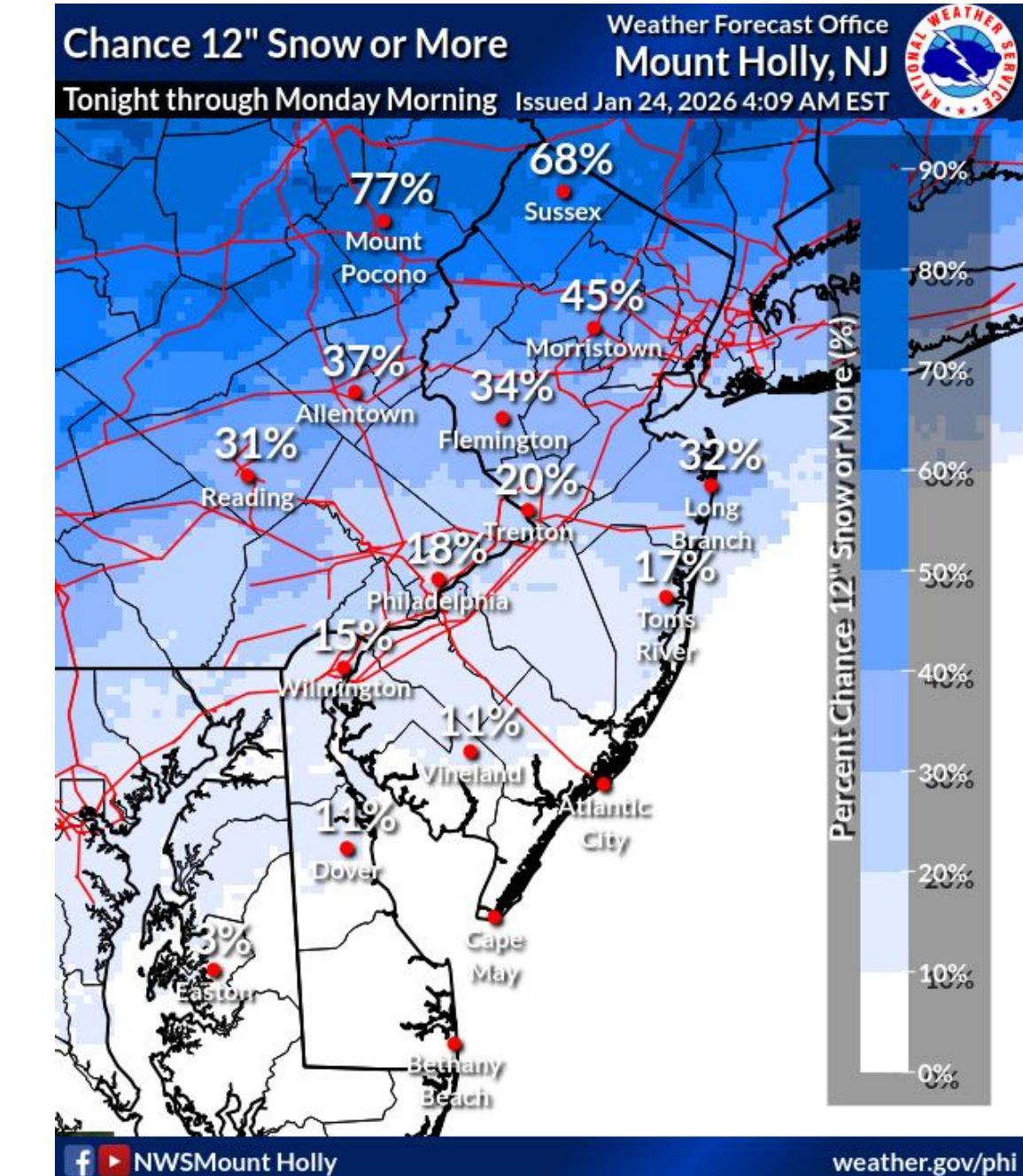
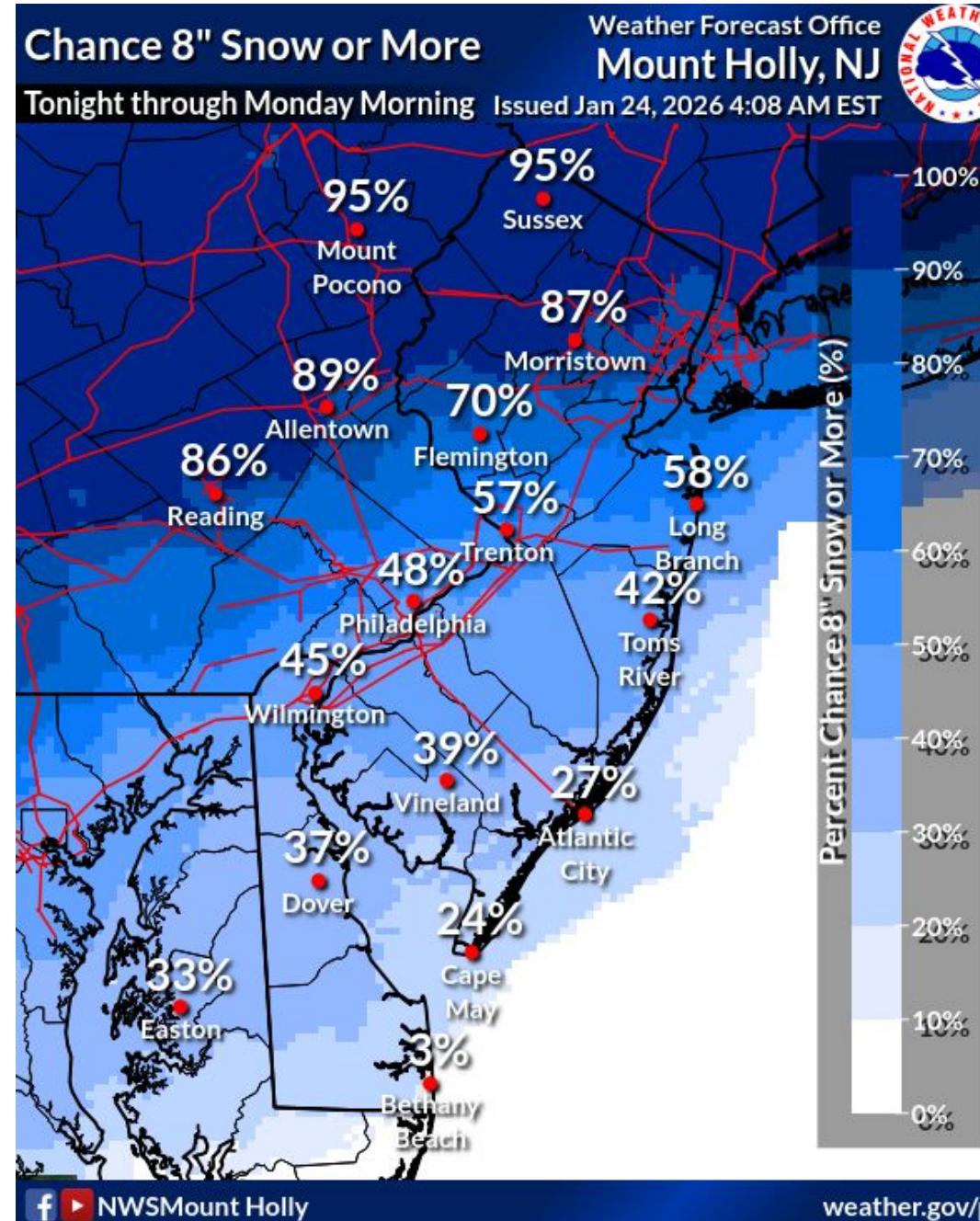
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Probability of Specific Amounts - Snow

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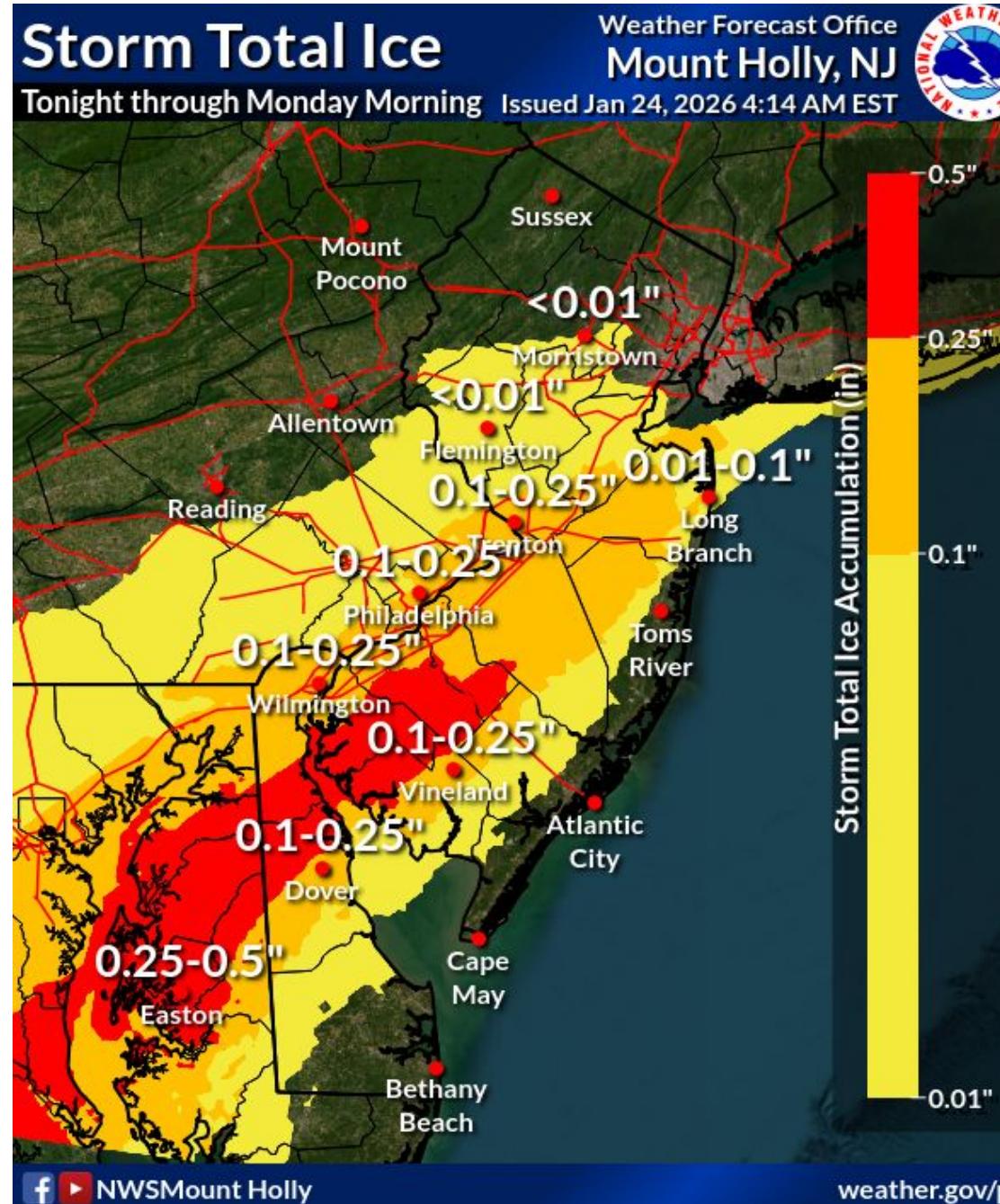
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Storm Total Ice Forecast

January 24, 2026
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Sunday through Sunday Night



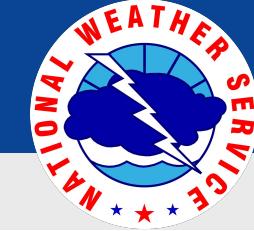
Key Messages

- There remains a threat for notable ice accumulations ranging from 0.1" to 0.3" across the I-95 corridor, southern New Jersey, Eastern Shore of Maryland, and central/northern Delaware.
- The combination of heavy snow followed by sleet/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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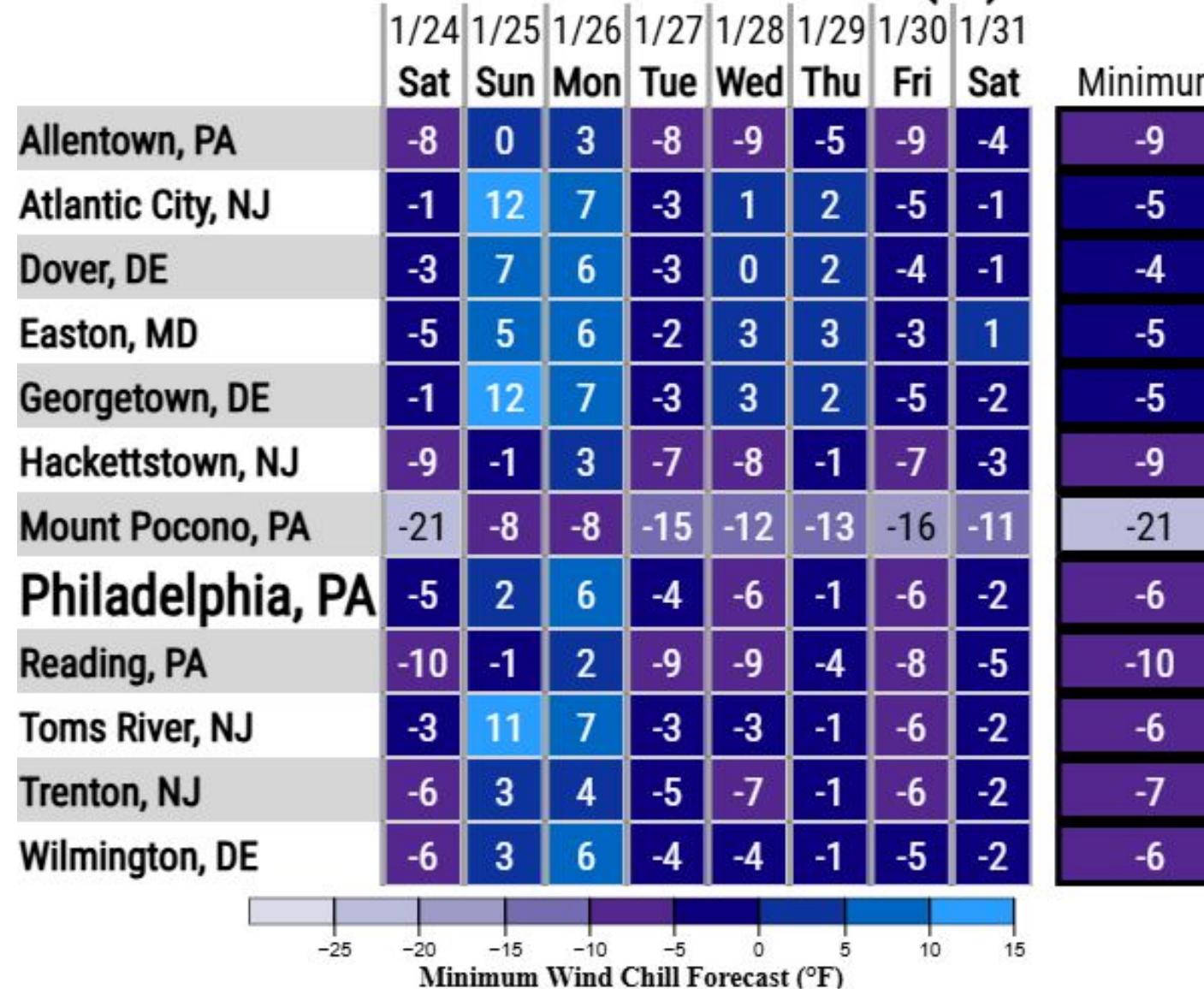


Dangerous Stretch of Cold

January 24, 2026
5:00 AM EST

Through Next Week

Minimum Wind Chill Forecast (°F)



Created: 4 am EST Sat 1/24/2026 | Values are minimums over the period beginning at the time shown.

Key Messages

- **Extreme Cold Warning** is in effect tonight through 10 AM this morning for Carbon and Monroe Counties in PA, with a **Cold Weather Advisory** in place elsewhere.
- Dangerously cold wind chills between -10° and 0° will lead to an increased risk of hypothermia and frostbite. Wind chills as low as -20° in the southern Poconos.
- A prolonged period of well below normal temperatures is expected to continue after the storm and through next weekend, with temperatures and wind chills in the single digits to below zero each night.
- Increased risk of energy infrastructure impacts due to high heating demand following the winter storm.



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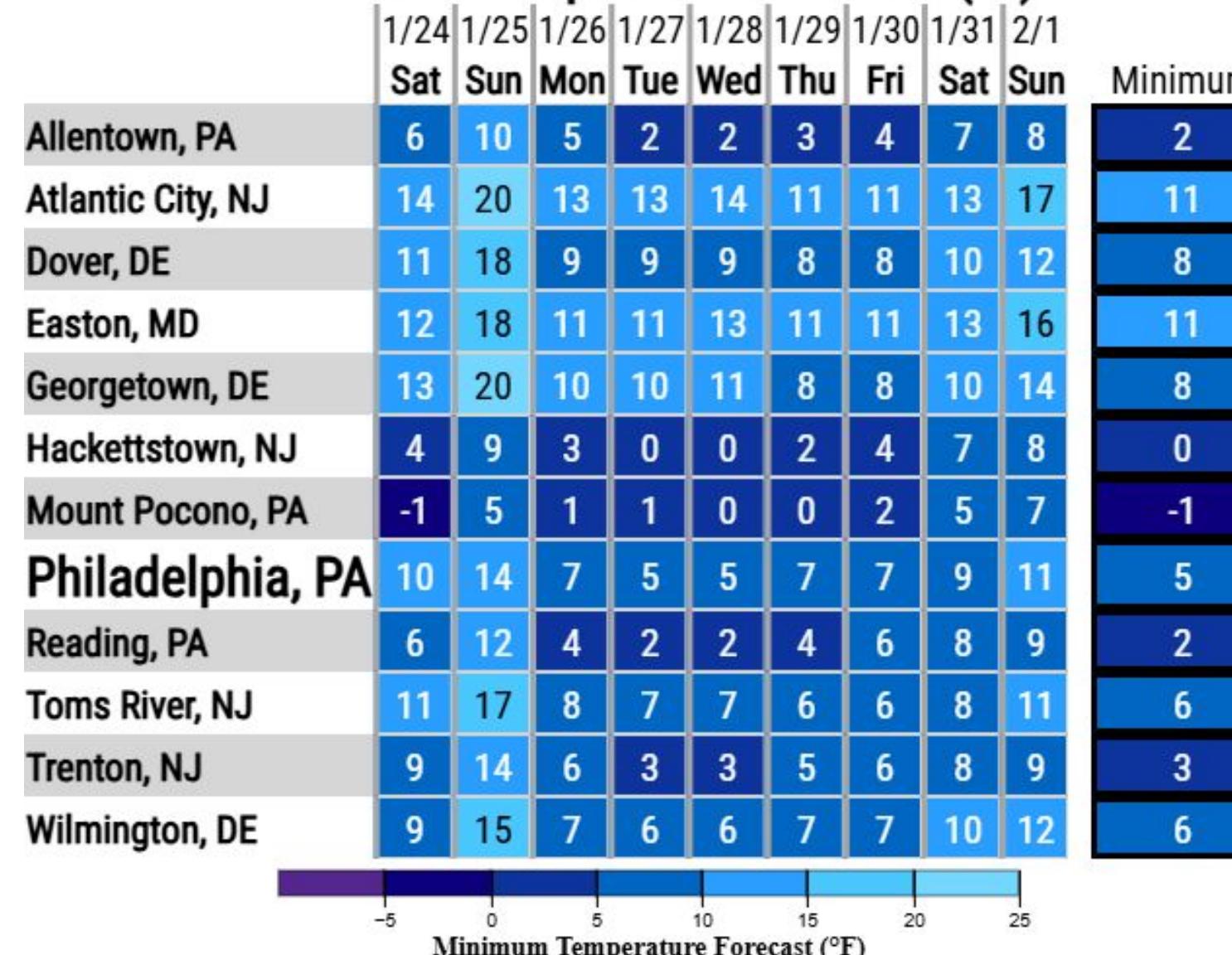


Dangerous Stretch of Cold

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Through Next Week

Minimum Temperature Forecast (°F)



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Key Messages

- **Extreme Cold Warning** is in effect tonight through 10 AM this morning for Carbon and Monroe Counties in PA, with a **Cold Weather Advisory** in place elsewhere.
- Dangerously cold wind chills between -10° and 0° will lead to an increased risk of hypothermia and frostbite. Wind chills as low as -20° in the southern Poconos.
- A prolonged period of well below normal temperatures is expected to continue after the storm and through next weekend, with temperatures and wind chills in the single digits to below zero each night.
- Increased risk of energy infrastructure impacts due to high heating demand following the winter storm.



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Summary of Greatest Impacts

January 24, 2026
5:00 AM EST

Key Messages

- A significant winter storm is expected to impact all of eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the Eastern Shore of Maryland starting 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 12-16" in northern areas. Around the I-95 corridor, 8-12" are expected. Snowfall rates near ***1-2" per hour*** expected during the daytime period Sunday.
- Snow will mix with or change to sleet and 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 0.1-0.3", 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 beginning tonight and continuing through next weekend. An **Extreme Cold Warning** is in effect through 10 AM for Carbon and Monroe Counties in PA, and a **Cold Weather Advisory** is in effect for the remainder of the area. **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.



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Contact and Next Briefing Information

January 24, 2026
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For NWS Mount Holly



Briefing Webpage

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



Next Briefing

- By: 4 PM January 24, 2026
- Method: Email



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