



NWS Atlanta Winter Weather Product Definitions and Colors on Our Website



Outlook

Product	Conditions Expected
Hazardous Weather Outlook	Issued 3-7 days before an event for a 30% or greater chance of a hazardous winter weather event that may require a watch/warning in a later forecast. Issued as ATLHWOFFC. May issue Special Weather Statement (ATLSPSFFC) at forecaster discretion.

Watch

Product	Conditions Expected
Wind Chill Watch	Issued 12-48 hours in advance of an event for a 50% or greater chance of wind chill values of -10°F or less. Issued as ATLWSWFFC.
Winter Storm Watch	Issued 12-48 hours in advance of an event for a 50% or greater chance of conditions favorable for a significant winter storm (including heavy sleet, heavy snow, or ice storm). Winter storm conditions include 2 or more inches of snow, 1/2 inch or more of sleet, or 1/4 inch or more of freezing rain*. Issued as ATLWSWFFC.
Blizzard Watch	Issued 12-48 hours before an event for a 50% or greater chance of blizzard conditions. Blizzard conditions include sustained or frequent wind gusts of 35mph or greater and considerable falling and/or blowing snow reducing visibility to less than 1/4 mile for 3 hours or more. Issued as ATLWSWFFC.

Advisory

Product	Conditions Expected
Winter Weather Advisory	Issued up to 36 hours before an event for an 80% or greater chance of a winter precipitation event (snow, freezing rain/drizzle, sleet or blowing snow) which causes inconveniences but does not meet warning criteria. Issued as ATLWSWFFC.
Freezing Rain Advisory	Issued up to 36 hours before an event for an 80% or greater chance of a freezing rain event which causes inconveniences but does not meet warning criteria. Issued as ATLWSWFFC.
Wind Chill Advisory	Issued up to 36 hours before an event for an 80% or greater chance of wind chill values less than or equal to 5°F but does not reach warning criteria (less than or equal to -10°F). Issued as ATLWSWFFC.

Warning

Product	Conditions Expected
Wind Chill Warning	Issued up to 36 hours before an event for an 80% or greater chance of wind chill values less than or equal to -10°F. Issued as ATLWSWFFC.
Winter Storm Warning	Issued up to 36 hours before an event for an 80% or greater chance of a winter weather event that meets at least one of these criteria: 2 or more inches of snow, 1/2 inch or more of sleet, or 1/4 inch or more of freezing rain*. Issued as ATLWSWFFC.
Ice Storm Warning	Issued up to 36 hours before an event for an 80% or greater chance of a 1/4 inch or more of freezing rain*. Issued as ATLWSWFFC.
Blizzard Warning	Issued up to 36 hours before an event for an 80% or greater chance of sustained or frequent wind gusts to 35mph or greater and considerable falling and/or blowing snow reducing visibility to less than 1/4 mile for 3 hours or more. Issued as ATLWSWFFC.

*A Winter Storm Watch or a Winter Storm/Ice Storm Warning may be issued at forecaster and emergency management discretion when significant impacts are expected but the snow, sleet, or freezing rain criteria are not necessarily met.