



Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Situational Awareness Statement # 3

Subject: Winter Storm Tuesday – Final SAS for this event.
Date/Time: February 13, 2024, 12:15 PM

Incident or Event Overview

Situation

As the current winter storm system moves across the Commonwealth, MEMA continues to monitor conditions, make outreach to local communities, and coordinate and fulfill any local requests for resources. In addition, MEMA continues to coordinate with partner agencies regarding snow removal and debris clearance activities, power outages and restoration, and any other unmet needs.

Weather Update:

The National Weather Service (NWS) in conjunction with the MEMA Agency Meteorologist continue to monitor the ongoing winter storm that began early this morning. Since yesterday, the storm's track has shifted further south which has caused snow totals to decrease across areas mainly north of I-90 and increase points southward. As such, heavy snow rates of 1 to 2 inches per hour are expected to continue through the mid-afternoon hours. The storm will begin to pull away from the region this afternoon. Snowfall is expected to taper off from northwest to southeast and fully end by this evening. Drier but cold and blustery conditions are expected for Wednesday through the end of the week.

In addition, given the southerly shift in the storm track, the threat for any instances of moderate coastal flooding has lessened but remains a non-zero threat. Many areas along the coast, especially across the eastern shoreline, are expected to see high-end minor flooding which may cause splash over and ponding of water onto coastal roadways.

Hazard Impacts/Potential Impacts

- Hazardous travel is expected through this evening. High snow rates can quickly deteriorate road conditions as well as lower visibility.
- Heavy, wet snow and strong winds may result in downed trees.
- Heavy snowfall and high winds may result in power outages.
- Minor flooding in coastal areas.
- Dangerous sea conditions for vessels.
- Greatest snow totals *south* of I-90.

Weather Forecast Overview

Watches, Warnings or Advisories for Massachusetts

Last updated: 03:28 EST on 02-13-2024

Winter Storm Warning

Issued: February 13 at 3:28AM EST

Expiring: February 13 at 7:00PM EST

Urgency: Expected
Status: Actual

Areas affected: Eastern Norfolk; Southern Worcester; Western Norfolk

Winter Storm Warning

Issued: February 13 at 3:28AM EST

Expiring: February 13 at 7:00PM EST

Urgency: Expected

Status: Actual

Areas affected:Eastern Plymouth; Northern Bristol; Southern Bristol; Southern Plymouth; Western Plymouth

Winter Storm Warning

Issued: February 13 at 3:28AM EST

Expiring: February 13 at 7:00PM EST

Urgency: Expected

Status: Actual

Areas affected:Barnstable; Dukes; Nantucket

Winter Weather Advisory

Issued: February 13 at 3:28AM EST

Expiring: February 13 at 7:00PM EST

Urgency: Expected

Status: Actual

Areas affected:Central Middlesex County; Eastern Essex; Eastern Hampden; Eastern Hampshire; Northern Worcester; Northwest Middlesex County; Western Essex; Western Hampden

Winter Weather Advisory

Issued: February 13 at 3:28AM EST

Expiring: February 13 at 7:00PM EST

Urgency: Expected

Status: Actual

Areas affected:Southeast Middlesex; Suffolk

Coastal Flood Warning

Issued: February 13 at 3:24AM EST

Expiring: February 13 at 5:00PM EST

Urgency: Expected

Status: Actual

Areas affected:Eastern Essex

Coastal Flood Warning

Issued: February 13 at 3:24AM EST

Expiring: February 13 at 5:00PM EST

Urgency: Expected

Status: Actual

Areas affected:Barnstable; Dukes; Eastern Norfolk; Eastern Plymouth; Nantucket; Suffolk

High Wind Warning

Issued: February 13 at 3:24AM EST

Expiring: February 13 at 9:00PM EST

Urgency: Expected

Status: Actual

Areas affected:Barnstable; Dukes; Nantucket

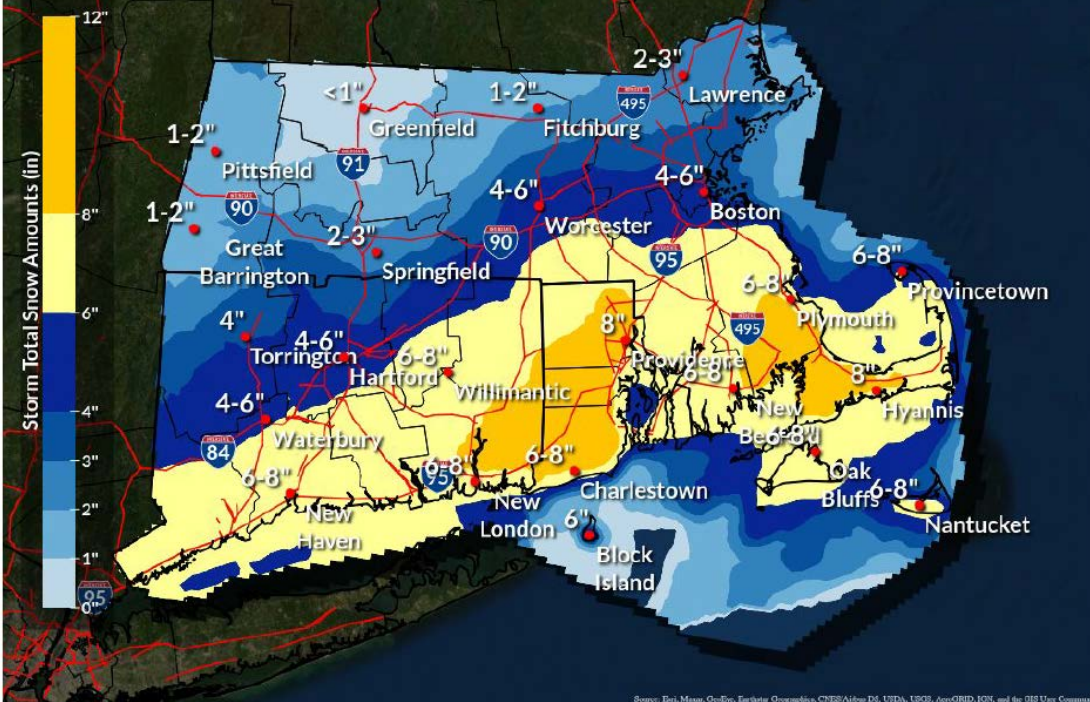
Weather Graphics

Expected Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast

Weather Forecast Office
Boston/Norton, MA
Issued Feb 13, 2024 3:58 AM EST



Valid 2 AM Tue Feb 13, 2024 through 8 PM Tue Feb 13, 2024 EST



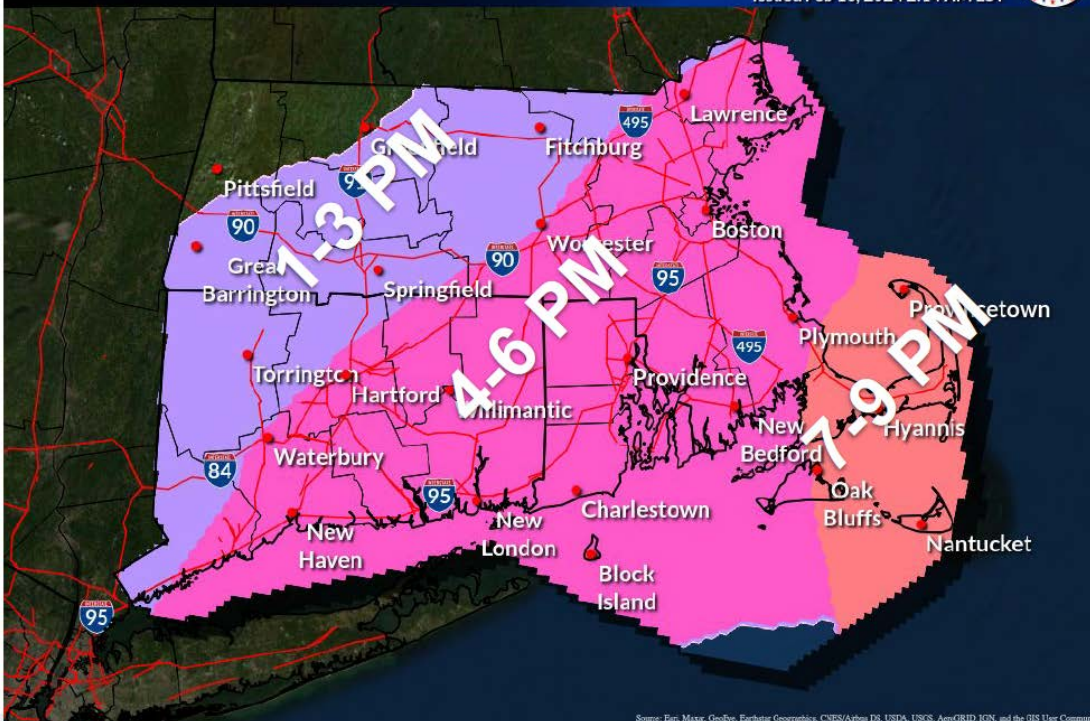
Source: Eri, Mass, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

NWS Boston/Norton

weather.gov/box

End Timing

Weather Forecast Office
Boston/Norton, MA
Issued Feb 13, 2024 2:14 AM EST



Source: Eri, Mass, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

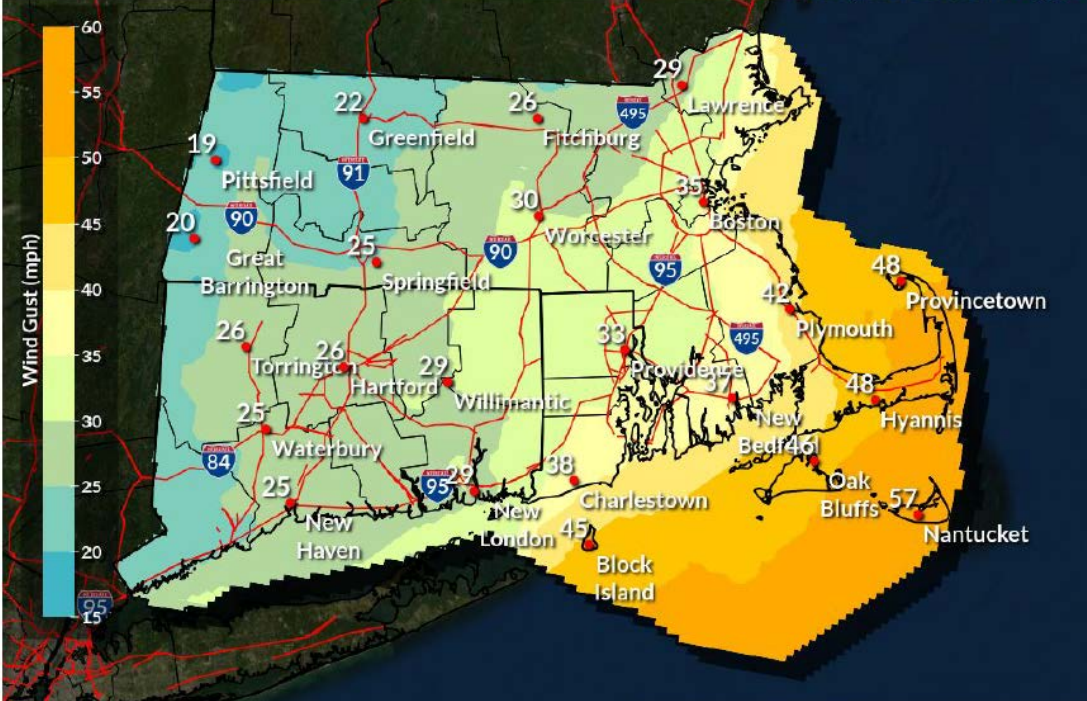
NWS Boston/Norton

weather.gov/box

Maximum Wind Gusts

Peak winds between 1 PM and 7 PM this afternoon.

Weather Forecast Office
Boston/Norton, MA
 Issued Feb 13, 2024 2:05 AM EST



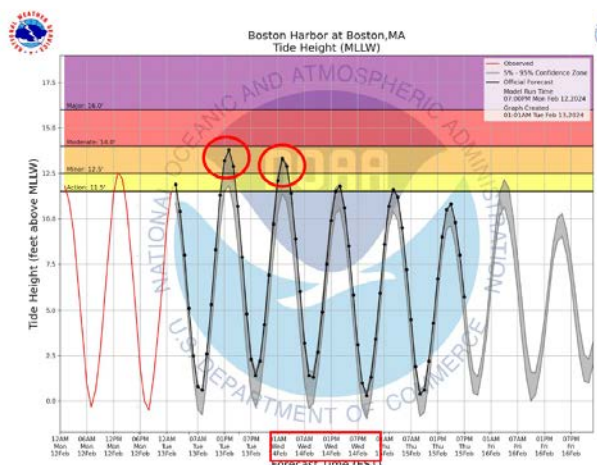
Source: Eri, Meteo, GeoBye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

NWS Boston/Norton

weather.gov/box

Coastal Flood Forecast

February 13, 2024 2:55 AM



Minor to moderate coastal flooding anticipated across the eastern Massachusetts coastline.

High tide of greatest concern is **this afternoon** high tide, but there could still be lingering issues for the Wednesday morning high tide.

- The eastern Massachusetts coast is particularly vulnerable given the coastal flooding impacts we've seen so far this winter.
- Storm surge of 2.5 to 3.5 feet anticipated.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
 Boston / Norton, MA

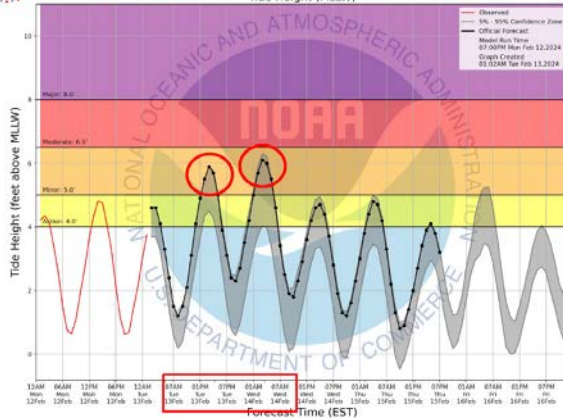


Coastal Flood Forecast

February 13, 2024
2:55 AM



Nantucket Harbor at Nantucket, MA
Tide Height (MLLW)



- Minor coastal flooding is likely on Nantucket this afternoon and Wednesday morning during high tide.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Boston / Norton, MA

Preparedness and Response Actions

Safety and Security

Massachusetts State Police (MSP):

- The State Police will continue to monitor the weather forecast and trends *making* adjustments as needed to ensure sufficient staffing levels exist to maintain proper *coverage* to check on disabled motorists, summons assistance, respond to traffic incidents, and report roadway conditions for treatment to MassDOT, DCR, and local DPWs.
- Motorists are encouraged, if they must travel in the *current* weather *conditions*, along their route of travel, reduced speeds, be mindful of plows and sanders, and “move over” to give response crews on the side of the road room to work.”

Energy (power & fuel)

Department of Public Utilities (DPU)

**Current Power Outages: (1581)
customers without power as of
2/13/2024 11:56:08 AM**

EDC Plans and Preparations:

Eversource:

Electric:

- Declaring a Type 4 ERP event as of 10PM Monday, (02/12/24):
 - Restoration activities are typically accomplished within 24-48 hours; and
 - Typically, up to 5% (14,000 – 70,000) customer interruptions at peak.
- All (5) EOCs will open at 6AM, Tuesday (02/13/24):

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Springfield; ○ Southborough; ○ Boston; ○ New Bedford; and ○ Yarmouth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Securing additional contractor crews; ● Conducting Incident Management Team calls; and ● Performing outbound calls to life support customers (Monday). <p><u>Gas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monitoring for system impact; and ● Additional crews will be available. <p>National Grid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Declaring a Type 4 ERP event as of 10:00 PM, Monday (02/12/24): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Restoration activities are typically accomplished in less than 24 hours; and ○ Typically 0 to 3% customer interruptions (0 to 39,000 customers) at peak. ● Opening Storm room(s) at 10:00 PM, Monday (02/12/24): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brockton; ○ Malden; ○ North Andover; ○ Worcester, and ○ Hopedale. ● Securing additional, external crews; ● Outbound life support and critical facility calls conducted Sunday afternoon (02/11/24 at 3pm); and ● Pre-staging crews on Nantucket and in areas of greatest anticipated threat. <p>Until:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monitoring the weather forecast; ● No ERP event declaration; ● Plans to adjust resources accordingly; and ● Continuously conducting internal coordination calls.
<p>Public Works & Engineering</p>	<p>Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)</p> <p><u>Mobilization:</u> All DCR regions have a staffing and equipment plan for storm event. DCR Forestry has saw crews available during times of high wind and heavy snowfall to assist Operations staff with downed trees. Mechanics will be onsite at all staffed depots to address equipment issues.</p> <p><u>DCR Storm Center Activation Status:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The DCR Storm Center <i>is currently activated.</i> ● <i>Staff will continue to monitor snowy conditions and address any issues, as needed.</i> ● Staff in the Metro Boston area and SE MA reported at 12 AM to prepare plows and monitor slippery driving conditions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional staff will report in prior to heavy snowfall. • DCR Forestry <i>has</i> DCR saw crews available and ready in central, western, and SE MA to address downed trees on DCR property, as well as 2 contracted saw crews in the Metro Boston area <i>for the duration of the storm.</i> • <i>DCR Fire Control staff are standing by in the communities of Ipswich and Quincy with High Water Rescue Vehicles to assist with potential rescues due to the high tides.</i> • For Parking bans, DCR will follow any municipalities where DCR roads are located. • <i>As of 9:30 AM Tuesday, Medford has lifted their parking ban, and Boston plans to lift their ban at 4:00 PM.</i> • <i>The following Parking Bans are still in effect:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Lynn as of 12 AM</i> ○ <i>Waltham as of 11:30 PM</i> ○ <i>Watertown as of 1 AM</i> ○ <i>Somerville as of 7 PM</i> • <i>Staff along coastal areas are preparing for coastal flooding during the afternoon Tuesday high tide and will implement lane restrictions and road closures, as needed.</i> • DCR closed the Winthrop Parkway flood gate and road in Revere Monday night, with an expected reopening on Wednesday. • Public skating will be cancelled at Boston area rinks today until 3 PM., when they will open to permitted groups. • Kelly Rink in Jamaica Plain will be closed for the duration of the day today with an expected reopening on Wednesday • All DCR visitor centers across the state will be closed for the day today to encourage people to remain off the roads during the storm.
<p>Hazardous Materials and Environmental Protection</p>	<p>Coastal Zone Management (CZM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CZM <i>has activated the Coastal Storm Damage Assessment Team</i> to assess the impacts of the storm <i>in the east and northeast facing shorelines of the coast as soon as it is safe to do so after the high tide this afternoon.</i> • After the high tide tomorrow afternoon, the Storm Team will assess the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Salisbury to Plymouth ○ Sandwich to Brewster, ○ Provincetown to Chatham ○ Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket • If Storm Team members cannot access the shoreline during daylight hours today, assessments will be conducted on Wednesday morning.
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>MA Department of Transportation (MassDOT)</p> <p>Regional Transit Authority (RTA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA) will be following the “snow schedule” for Tuesday.

- *Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA) will not be operating any service today.*
- *Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) is operating and intends to run service as long as it is safe to do so.*
- *Vinyard Transit Authority (VTA) -currently all routes and vans running on time with no impact. Bus and van transportation will be modified/cancelled based on real time weather conditions.*
- *Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA) is operating on a normal schedule.*
- *Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) has made no modifications to service.*
- *Worcester RTA is operating on snow routes for Routes 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 14, 16, 19, 23, 24, and 31. Via-Microtransit (Westborough and Shrewsbury) and the Eldershopper bus are not operating today.*

Commuter Rail and Ferry:

No issues to report on Commuter Rail. Ferry service is running normal service with the exception of Hull, which is closed due to flooding concerns.

MassDOT Aeronautics Division:

Preparation and snow removal is in progress. Airports are updating conditions with the FAA- Noticed to Air Mission (NOTAM) system.

Steam Ship Authority:

- *Hyannis-Nantucket route – M/V Eagle 630 trip to Hyannis expected to run as scheduled, all other trips expected to be cancelled. Trips are expected to run as scheduled on Wednesday.*
- *Woods Hole-Vinyard Haven route – service will be on a trip-by-trip basis depending on sea conditions. Trips are expected to run as scheduled on Wednesday.*

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority:

Shuttle busses will replace trolley service between Mattapan and Ashmont due to the winter storm.

Highway:

- *All Districts have activated their Storm Desks and are involved in Snow & Ice Operations.*
- *Pavement temperatures that are below freezing can be found in Districts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Pavement temperatures are just above freezing in District 6.*
- *Restrictions:*
 - *I-90 EB/WB from NY Border to Logan Airport: Ban on empty Tracker Trailer (TT) units, tandems, and special permits.*
 - *I-90 EB/WB from MM 76.5 (Monson) to MM 59.0 (Warren): Speed limit reduced to 40 MPH.*

MEMA Region Updates	
MEMA East	<p><i>The MEMA East Regional Emergency Operations Center activated today at 7 AM and will stay activated this afternoon until the storm impacts lessen.</i></p> <p><i>Local Coordinators are actively monitoring the situation and making proactive outreach to communities as the storm progresses through the Commonwealth. Local Coordinators can be reached directly regarding any operational needs.</i></p> <p><i>The following local EOCs are activated:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Amesbury</i> • <i>Boston</i> • <i>Sandwich</i> • <i>Nahant</i> • <i>Barnstable County MACC</i> • <i>Fairhaven – partially activated</i> <p><i>A Parking Ban has been issued for the following communities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>New Bedford</i> • <i>Brockton</i> <p><i>The following Resource Requests continue to be supported:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Quincy – high water vehicle (1) – deployed (supported by DCR)</i> • <i>Ipswich – high water vehicle (1) – deployed (supported by DCR)</i> • <i>Newbury – high water vehicle (1) - deployed (supported by Beverly EMA)</i>
MEMA West	<p><i>The MEMA West Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) will not be activated today (due to lowered snow totals for the West Region). Local Coordinators can be reached directly regarding any operational needs.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>MEMA West Regional staff are working a regular workday.</i> • <i>No current call-arounds are being done at this time.</i>

MEMA Operations
<p>The State Emergency Operations Center is operating at Level I (Steady State/Monitoring).</p> <p>The “2024 February Incidents” Incident in WebEOC will be monitored for this event.</p> <p>MEMA will continue to monitor the situation and will disseminate additional Situational Awareness Statements (SAS) as needed.</p>

Safety Tips for Specific Threats and Hazards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nor'easter & Coastal Storm Safety Tips https://www.mass.gov/info-details/noreaster-coastal-storm-safety-tips • Extreme Cold Safety Tips https://www.mass.gov/info-details/extreme-cold-safety-tips • Winter Storm Safety Tips https://www.mass.gov/info-details/winter-storm-safety-tips • Winter Weather Driving https://www.mass.gov/winter-weather-driving • Winter Pet Safety Tips https://www.mass.gov/service-details/winter-pet-safety-tips • Power Outage Safety Tips https://www.mass.gov/info-details/power-outage-safety-tips • Flood Safety Tips https://www.mass.gov/info-details/flood-safety-tips

Stay Informed

For additional information and updated forecasts, see <https://www.weather.gov/box/> (NWS Boston/Norton), and <https://www.weather.gov/aly/> (NWS Albany).

Use MEMA's real-time power outage map to stay informed about current power outages in your community/county, and across the state, including information from utility providers
<http://mema.mapsonline.net/public.html>

Online Resources

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency www.mass.gov/mema
MEMA's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA>
MEMA Twitter <https://twitter.com/MassEMA>
Federal Emergency Management Agency <https://www.fema.gov/>
National Weather Service Boston/Norton <https://www.weather.gov/box/>
National Weather Service Albany NY <https://www.weather.gov/aly/>
NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center <https://www.spc.noaa.gov/>
Northeast River Forecast Center <https://www.weather.gov/nerfc/>
National Hurricane Center <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
Mass 211 <https://mass211.org/>

Report developed by: Fernando Calderon, All-Hazards Planner

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