

BARNSTABLE COUNTY

REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Situational Report #001

Date of Release: January 23, 2026

Time of release: 4:30 PM

Incident or Event Overview

Situation

In advance of the storm, dangerously cold temperatures and wind chills are expected late Friday night into Saturday, with bitterly cold conditions persisting through the day Saturday. Cold weather advisories and warnings are in effect for portions of Massachusetts. Following the storm, colder air and gusty winds are expected to return early next week.

A significant winter storm is expected to impact Cape Cod and the Islands from Sunday afternoon through Monday, with the heaviest snowfall occurring overnight Sunday into early Monday. A **Winter Storm Warning** is in effect for the region. Snowfall totals and impacts will depend on the placement of the rain/sleet mix line and mesoscale banding, particularly over the Cape and Islands.

The Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee (BCREPC) convened on January 23, 2026, at 2:00 PM to review storm forecasts, preparedness actions, and interagency coordination. Regional partners, utilities, health systems, shelters, transportation agencies, and state partners report readiness actions underway.

The Barnstable County Multiple Agency Coordination Center (MACC) will activate Sunday at 12:00 PM and remain staffed through the event.

Impacts/ Potential Impacts

Snowfall

Snowfall amounts across Cape Cod and the Islands will vary based on storm track, precipitation type, and banding. Current projections include:

- Plymouth County (away from the Cape and Islands): 15–18 inches
- Near the bridges: 12–14 inches
- Upper and Mid-Cape: around 12 inches

- Lower Cape: 8–10 inches
- Nantucket: approximately 6–7 inches, with greater potential for mixed precipitation

Timing and Travel Impacts

- Snow is expected to begin reaching the ground after midday Sunday
- Heaviest snowfall is expected Sunday evening through early Monday, which may significantly impact overnight and Monday morning travel
- Lighter snow and lingering bands may continue into Monday daytime, potentially adding localized accumulations

Wind and Power Impacts

- Wind gusts of approximately 35–45 mph are possible
- Snow and wind may result in downed trees and scattered power outages, particularly during the overnight period

Cold Temperatures

- Following the storm, colder air will return, with temperatures dropping into the mid-teens by early Tuesday
- Snow cover may enhance cold conditions and prolong icy surfaces

Coastal Impacts

- Significant coastal flooding is not expected at this time

Updates from Agencies/Utilities

Eversource and Telecommunications Providers

Eversource and regional telecommunications providers, including Verizon, are actively preparing for the storm. Crews and resources are positioned, system checks have been completed, and providers are ready to respond to outages and service disruptions as conditions allow.

Sheltering and Vulnerable Populations

Regional emergency sheltering remains on standby and will be assessed post-impact based on conditions such as power outages and accessibility.

Duffy Health Center's *In From the Streets* program has activated in advance of the storm and has placed individuals in hotel accommodations across Cape Cod. Hotel capacity is currently full, and overflow sheltering is being coordinated in partnership with St. Joseph's House.

Health and Medical

Cape Cod healthcare providers are preparing for the storm, including finalizing staffing plans, ensuring access to facilities, and confirming readiness of emergency power systems. At this time, no offsite clinic closures have been announced.

Transportation and Logistics

MassDOT, local departments of public works, and regional transportation partners are coordinating to support emergency access and continuity of critical services. Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority is prepared to assist with transportation to shelters or warming centers as conditions allow. The Steamship Authority is closely monitoring weather conditions and ferry operations and coordinating to support essential island deliveries.

Regional Shelter Update

- Standby posture
- Post-impact sheltering to be assessed based on power outages and conditions

Weather Forecast Overview

Advisories, Watches, and Warnings

- **Winter Storm Warning** – In effect for Cape Cod and the Islands from Sunday through Monday
- **Cold Weather Advisory / Extreme Cold Warning** – In effect late Friday night through Saturday for portions of Massachusetts (*Cape Cod, Dukes, and Nantucket counties excluded*)
- Additional advisories or warnings may be issued as conditions evolve

MEMA Operations

The **Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)** is actively monitoring the approaching winter storm and coordinating with state, regional, and local partners.

The **State Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** is currently operating in a monitoring posture and will transition to a **partial activation on Sunday and Monday** to support statewide coordination. MEMA's **Eastern and Western Regional Emergency Operations Centers** will be staffed during this period to support situational awareness and assist communities as needed.

Local Emergency Management Coordinators will continue proactive outreach and monitoring as the storm progresses. MEMA has initiated statewide situational reporting and will provide additional updates as conditions evolve.

Preparedness and Safety Information

- Residents are encouraged to **limit travel** during periods of heavy snowfall, particularly Sunday night into Monday morning, and to allow snowplows and utility crews space to work.

- Use caution near trees and power lines
- Prepare for cold conditions following the storm
- Keep flashlights, food, water, and charged devices available

Community Information and Updates

- Individuals experiencing homelessness or in need of shelter are encouraged to seek assistance through **Duffy Health Center's In From the Streets program**, with overflow sheltering coordinated through community partners as needed.
- **Warming centers**, if opened by individual communities, will be shared through local municipal channels and statewide resources, including **Mass 211**.
- Residents should **prepare for extreme cold conditions**, including checking heating systems, charging essential devices, and ensuring adequate food, water, and medications.
- Updates on **transportation services and ferry operations** will be provided directly by service operators as weather conditions evolve.
- Power outage information and restoration updates will be shared by utility providers through their official channels.

Stay Informed

For additional information and updated forecasts, see www.weather.gov/boston (National Weather Service Norton) and www.weather.gov/albany (National Weather Service Albany)

Utilize MEMA's real-time **power outage viewer** to stay informed about current power outages in your community and region, and across the state, including information from utility companies about restoration times: <http://mema.mapsonline.net/public.html>

Online Resources/Links

Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning webpage [Emergency Planning Committee Archive - Barnstable County \(capecod.gov\)](#)

Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Facebook page [Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee | Facebook](#)

Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Twitter [Barnstable County REPC \(@bcrepc\) / Twitter](#)

Barnstable County Main Website [Home - Barnstable County \(capecod.gov\)](#)

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency [www.mass.gov/mema](#)

MEMA Facebook page [http://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA](#)

MEMA Twitter [@MassEMA](#)

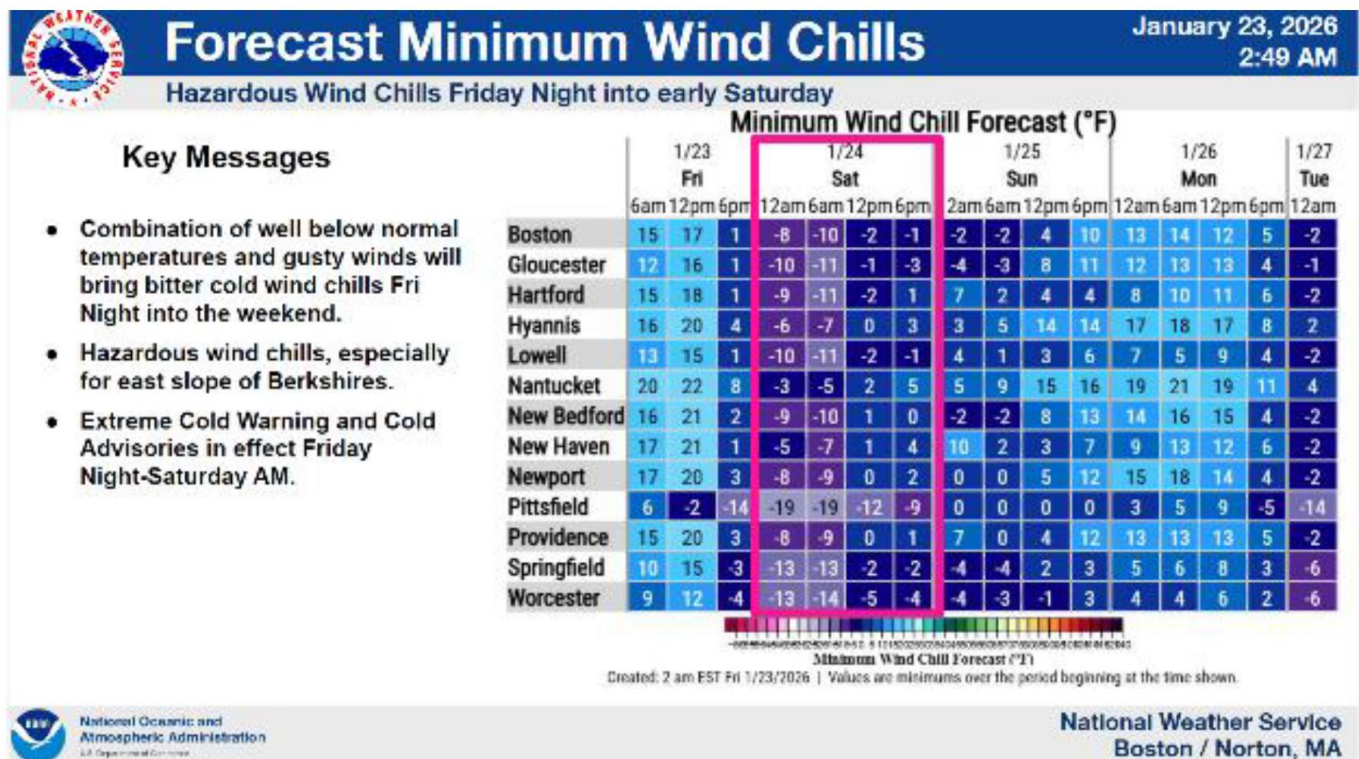
Mass211 [www.mass211.org](#)

Federal Emergency Management Agency [www.fema.gov](#)

National Weather Service Boston/ Norton, MA [www.weather.gov/boston](#)

National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center [www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov](#)

Weather Graphics





Most Likely Snowfall

January 23, 2026
2:49 AM

Timing Confidence

LOW MEDIUM HIGH

- Snow likely arrives Sun AM into early afternoon.
- Timing of heaviest snow: Sun evening-early Mon.
- Light to moderate snow likely lingers through much of Mon.

Snow Amounts Confidence

LOW MEDIUM HIGH

- Medium confidence (~70-80%) for a foot or more of snow.
- Lower confidence in amounts for south coast and Cape and Islands due to potential for mixed precipitation.

Travel Impacts Confidence

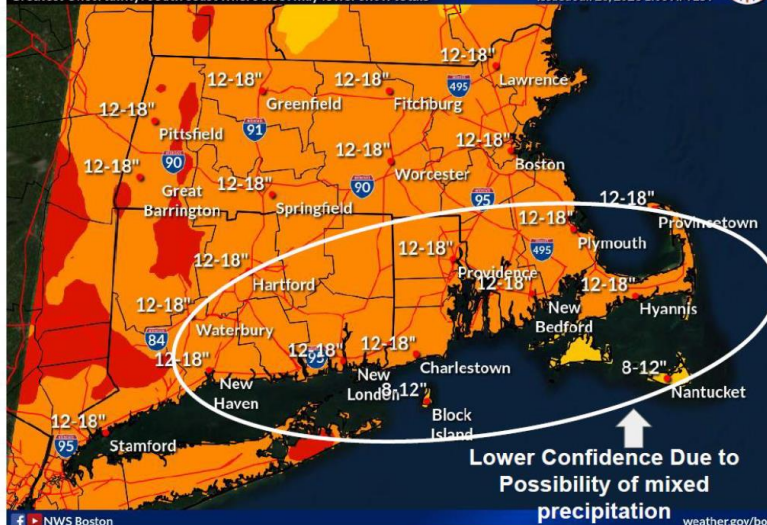
LOW MEDIUM HIGH

Travel will be difficult, especially Sunday night into Monday morning when snowfall accumulation rates will be highest.

Most Likely Snowfall Totals Sun-Mon PM

Greatest Uncertainty: South coast where sleet may lower snow totals

Weather Forecast Office
Boston, MA
Issued Jan 23, 2026 1:30 AM EST



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

National Weather Service
Boston / Norton, MA

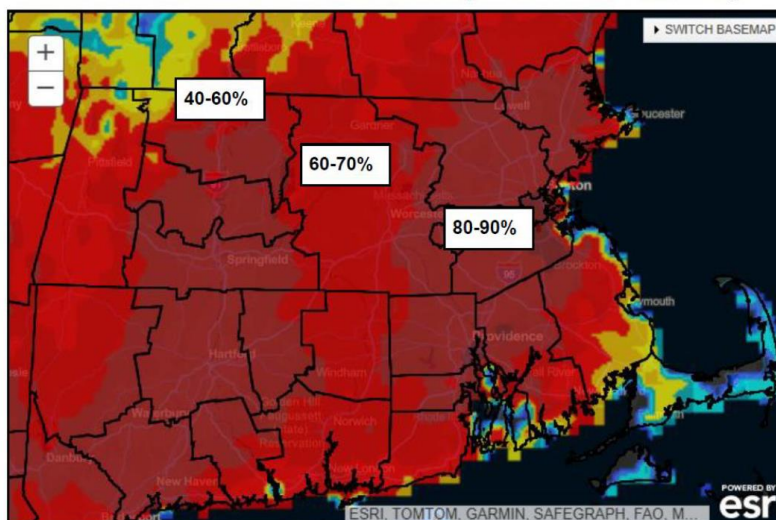


Probability of Major Winter Storm Impacts

January 23, 2026
2:49 AM

Potential Winter Storm Impacts
Winter Weather Area Expect Winter Weather. • Winter driving conditions. Drive carefully.
Minor Impacts Expect a few inconveniences to daily life. • Winter driving conditions. Use caution while driving.
Moderate Impacts Expect disruptions to daily life. • Hazardous driving conditions. Use extra caution while driving. • Closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.
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.
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.

24 HR Forecast Valid 1 PM Sunday - 1 PM EST Monday



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

Likelihood of Impact
< 5% 5% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% > 95%

National Weather Service
Boston / Norton, MA



Snow Onset Time

January 23, 2026
2:49 AM

Will Be Refined as we get closer to the storm



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Snow Ending Time

January 23, 2026
2:49 AM

Snow becomes much lighter as it tapers off through the day on Monday



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