



BARNSTABLE COUNTY

REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Situational Report #002

Date of Release: January 25, 2026

Time of release: 12:00 PM

Incident or Event Overview

Situation

A Winter Storm Warning is in effect for Cape Cod and the Islands as a significant winter storm actively impacts the region. Snowfall began around 0900 this morning and is intensifying through the afternoon and evening on Sunday, January 25. The heaviest snowfall is expected late Sunday into early Monday, followed by a period of mixed precipitation overnight before colder air returns and precipitation transitions back to snow Monday morning.

The Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee (BCREPC) convened at **10:00 AM on January 25, 2026**, for a regional coordination call to review updated National Weather Service forecasts, utility readiness, sheltering posture, healthcare preparedness, transportation coordination, and Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) activation.

Regional partners, utilities, healthcare providers, volunteer agencies, and state partners report readiness actions underway. **The Barnstable County Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) activates at 12:00 PM Sunday** and will remain operational through Monday to support Cape Cod-specific coordination and resource needs.

This report provides updated situational awareness based on the latest short-term weather guidance and partner updates.

Impacts/ Potential Impacts

Snowfall

Snowfall amounts across Cape Cod and the Islands will vary based on storm track, precipitation type, and banding, particularly near the rain/sleet mix line.

Current projections include:

- Near the bridges: 12–14 inches
- Upper and Mid-Cape: Around 12 inches
- Lower Cape: 8–10 inches

- Outer Cape: Totals may vary depending on mixing and banding
- Nantucket: Approximately 6–7 inches, with a greater potential for mixed precipitation

Timing and Travel Impacts

- Snowfall began earlier this morning will continue through Sunday night into Monday.
- Heaviest snowfall is expected Sunday afternoon through late evening, with dangerous travel conditions during this period.
- Snow may mix with sleet overnight before transitioning back to lighter snow Monday, with lingering bands potentially adding localized accumulations.
- Dangerous travel conditions are likely, particularly during periods of heavy snowfall and reduced visibility.

Wind and Power Impacts

- Wind gusts of approximately 35–45 mph are possible, particularly overnight.
- Snow and gusty winds may result in downed trees and scattered power outages, especially where snow becomes heavier and wetter.
- Brief periods of near-blizzard conditions are possible near the coast, with blowing snow reducing visibility.
- Minor drifting of snow may occur in open and coastal areas.

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.
- Cold-related injuries, including frostbite, are possible on exposed skin in as little as 30 minutes during periods of extreme cold.

Coastal Impacts

- Significant coastal flooding is not expected at this time, though marine conditions will remain hazardous.

Utilities, Health, and Transportation Readiness (Cape Cod & Islands)

Utility crews are staged and ready to respond as conditions allow. Eversource and National Grid will open their storm operations this afternoon (4:00 PM), with additional resources positioned in the region, including pre-staged assets on Nantucket. Residents are reminded: report outages directly to your utility (including single-home outages and if your neighbors are restored but you are not).

Cape Cod healthcare facilities report they are fully staffed and prepared, with emergency power systems ready and snow removal crews staged to maintain safe access. No off-site clinic closures have been reported at this time. The Salvation Army will be available to assist once travel conditions are safe.

Local DPWs, MassDOT, and public safety partners report full operational readiness, including coordination to keep emergency routes to Cape Cod Hospital accessible. Transit

and ferry operators are monitoring the storm; service updates will come directly from CCRTA, the Steamship Authority, and HY Line as conditions evolve.

Regional Shelter Update & Sheltering and Vulnerable Populations

Emergency Shelters (American Red Cross / Regional Sheltering Partners)

- Regional emergency shelters are on standby for potential activation Monday, if needed.
- Shelter partners are positioned for potential post-impact activation.
- AmeriCorps Cape Cod teams are staged and ready to support shelter operations if activated.
- The American Red Cross has implemented a ground stop effective 12:00 PM Sunday; shelter response will resume when conditions allow.

Homeless Services and Outreach

- Duffy Health Center's In From the Streets program has proactively housed approximately 60 individuals for the duration of the storm.

Elder Services

- Meals on Wheels service is canceled Monday due to weather conditions.
- Elder Services staff will conduct client wellness check-ins as conditions allow.

MEMA Operations

As of **10:00 AM Sunday**, the **Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)** is actively monitoring the winter storm and coordinating with state, regional, and local partners.

The **State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)** transitioned from monitoring to a **partial activation at 10:00 AM Sunday** and will remain partially activated through **10:00 PM Sunday**, with continued operations planned **Monday from 6:00 AM to 3:00 PM** to support statewide coordination.

Preparedness and Safety Information

- Avoid unnecessary travel during peak snowfall
- Allow plows and utility crews space to operate
- Prepare for colder temperatures following the storm
- Check on vulnerable neighbors and ensure pets are indoors

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 \(capecod.gov\)](http://www.capecod.gov/emergency-planning)

Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Facebook page [Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BarnstableCountyREPC)

Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Twitter [@bcrepc](https://twitter.com/bcrepc) / [Twitter](https://twitter.com/bcrepc)

Barnstable County Main Facebook [Barnstable County Government | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BarnstableCounty)

Barnstable County Main Twitter [@CapeCodGov](https://twitter.com/CapeCodGov) / [Twitter](https://twitter.com/CapeCodGov)

Barnstable County Main Website [Home - Barnstable County \(capecod.gov\)](http://www.capecod.gov)

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency www.mass.gov/mema

MEMA Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA>

MEMA Twitter [@MassEMA](https://twitter.com/MassEMA)

Mass211 www.mass211.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency www.fema.gov

National Weather Service Boston/ Norton, MA www.weather.gov/boston





Snow Onset Time

January 25, 2026

1:25 AM

Will be refined as we get closer to the storm



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

National Weather Service
Boston / Norton, MA



Timing of Heaviest Snowfall (1-2"/hr, possibly 3"/hr)

January 25, 2026

1:25 AM

Snowfall rates up to
2"/hr (and possibly
3"/hr) will likely occur
in a 3 hour window
within this time period



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

National Weather Service
Boston / Norton, MA



Snow Ending Time

January 25, 2026
1:25 AM

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



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Atmospheric Administration
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Boston / Norton, MA

Gale Warning

Sunday Evening through Monday Morning



- Massachusetts and Rhode Island Coastal Waters



SEAS

- Potential for up to 15 FT for east
- WIND
- Up to 40 kts outer waters



- Wind and wave conditions will be hazardous for small craft.
- Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid navigating in these conditions.



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE - BOSTON

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Updated: January 25, 2026

Strongest Gusts Occur: 7PM Sunday – 7AM Monday

