FOR WRECKIT EXERCISE USE ONLY!!!

WreckIt Exercise
Monday 10/5/2015 Briefing

Winter Storm – This Evening through Tuesday Morning

Applies to NWS Buffalo
Area of Responsibility Only

National Weather Service - Buffalo NY – www.weather.gov/buf

http://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Buffalo.gov on FACEBOOK

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Synopsis

- Low pressure over the Ohio is forecast to track across northern Pennsylvania this evening and tonight
- Precipitation is forecast to begin late this afternoon and spread east during the evening hours
  - The warm front (which is the dividing line between rain and freezing rain) is forecast to remain near the New York / Pennsylvania border
- As the system moves to the East coast on Wednesday cold temperatures will be accompanied by increasing winds

Current Surface Map

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Forecast – Today / Tonight

- ICE STORM WARNING in Effect

- Precipitation
  - Western Southern Tier and Niagara Frontier: begins late this afternoon
  - Finger Lakes: begins this evening

  - Predominant type of precipitation is expected to be freezing rain
  - Ice accumulations of one to two inches of ice are possible
    - Ice of more than an inch will bring down trees and power lines
    - Travel will become hazardous, if not impossible

- Temperatures
  - Temperatures remaining nearly steady
    - In the upper 20s across the southern tier
    - Mid to upper 20s elsewhere
    - Temperatures slightly warmer along the Lake Ontario shore

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Forecast Ice Accumulations
This Evening through Tuesday Morning

- These are the current ice accumulation forecasts
  - Any shift in the track could result in significant changes to these amounts
- Icing will begin:
- Across the western southern tier between 4 and 6 PM
- Across the Niagara Frontier between 5 and 7 PM
- Should reach the Lake Ontario shore by 8 PM

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Forecast – Tuesday/Tuesday Night/ Wednesday

- Low pressure continues to strengthen as it moves to the east coast
- Freezing rain changes to a brief period of snow before ending from west to east early Tuesday
- Little additional ice accumulation but one to two inches of snow are possible
  - Snowfall amounts may be higher along the Lake Ontario shore

Tuesday Night
Forecast Surface Map

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Forecast – Tuesday/Tuesday Night/ Wednesday

- Temperatures:
  - Start out the day on Tuesday in the upper 20s and fall throughout the day
  - Tuesday Night: lows reaching to near 20
  - Wednesday: temperatures nearly steady within a few degrees of 20

- Winds:
  - Northeast winds shift to north and begin to increase to 15 to 25 mph with gusts of 35 to 45 mph possible
  - Gusts of this magnitude could bring down additional trees and power lines
  - Wind chills lowering to the bitterly cold range

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Forecast Outlook – Thursday / Friday

- As the low moves off the coast, weak high pressure builds over western New York
- A southerly flow develops Wednesday Night
  - Temperatures will begin to rise overnight and be above freezing Thursday through Friday

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Forecast Uncertainty

- Ice and snow amounts are based on the current forecast track of the low pressure center
- A more northerly track:
  - Would place New York in the region of warmer air
    - Less ice would accumulate; more precipitation would fall as rain
- A more southerly track:
  - Would place New York in the region of in the region of colder air
    - Less ice would accumulate however snowfall amounts could be significantly higher

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- Visit our website for the latest updates and forecasts
- Another conference call will be held tomorrow morning