

National Weather Service Advisories, Watches and Warnings for Southern New England

For regional weather events, the local National Weather Service (NWS) office in Taunton, Massachusetts provides regional weather forecasts and issue watches or warnings if conditions warrant. The NWS weather advisories for our region are listed below.

- **Winter Weather Advisory** – When any of the following is expected in the next 24 hours:
 - Winter weather event having more than one predominant hazard (ie., snow and ice, snow and sleet, or snow, ice & sleet) meeting or exceeding advisory criteria for at least one of the precipitation elements, but remaining below warning criteria.
 - 3-6 inches of snow/sleet in a 12-hour period
 - Sustained or frequent gusts of 25 to 34 mph accompanied by falling and blowing snow occasionally reducing visibility to < 1/4 mi for > 3 hours
 - Widespread or localized blowing snow reducing visibility to < 1/4 mi with winds < 35 mph
 - Black Ice - A Special Weather Statement will usually be issued when sufficient moisture is expected to cause a thin layer of ice on road surfaces, typically on cloudless nights (“black ice”). At forecaster discretion a formal Winter Weather Advisory may be issued instead.
- **Winter Storm Watch** – winter storm conditions possible in the area
- **Winter Storm Warning** - When any of the following is expected within the next 12 to 36 hours:
 - Winter weather event having more than one predominant hazard {ie. heavy snow and blowing snow (below blizzard conditions), snow and ice, snow and sleet, sleet and ice, or snow, sleet and ice} meeting or exceeding warning criteria for at least one of the precipitation elements.
 - 6 inches averaged over a forecast zone in a 12 hour period.
 - 8 inches averaged over a CT, MA, RI forecast zone in a 24 hour period.
- **Blizzard Warning** – Sustained winds or frequent gusts > 35 mph AND considerable falling and/or blowing snow frequently reducing visibility < 1/4 for > 3 hours Blizzard conditions need to be the predominant condition over a 3 hour period
- **Freezing Rain Advisory** – Any accretion of freezing rain or freezing drizzle on road surfaces
- **Ice Storm Warning** - 1/2 inch or greater accretion of freezing rain.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Watch** – Atmospheric conditions are such that severe thunderstorms are likely to develop in the watch area.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Warning** – Severe thunderstorm(s) been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Severe thunderstorms by definition have wind gusts ≥ 58 mph (50 kts) AND/OR hail ≥1" in diameter.
- **Tornado Watch** - Atmospheric conditions are such that tornados are possible in the watch area, generally an accompaniment to severe thunderstorms.
- **Tornado Warning** - Likelihood of a tornado within the given area based on radar or actual sighting; usually accompanied by conditions indicated above for "Severe Thunderstorm Warning".

- **Wind Advisory** - Sustained winds 31-39 mph (27-34 kts) for at least 1 hour; OR any gusts to 46-57 mph (40-49 kts).
- **High Wind Warning** - Sustained winds 40-73 mph (≥ 35 kts) for at least 1 hour; OR any gusts ≥ 58 mph (≥ 50 kts).
- **Tropical Storm Watch** – An announcement for specific coastal areas that tropical storm conditions are possible within 48 hours.
- **Tropical Storm Warning** - A warning that sustained winds within the range of 34 to 63 knots (39 to 74 mph) associated with a tropical storm are expected in a specified coastal area within 36 hours.
- **Hurricane Watch** – An announcement that [hurricane](#) conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are *possible* within the specified coastal area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.
- **Hurricane Warning** – A warning that sustained winds 64 knots (75 mph) or higher associated with a hurricane are expected in a specified coastal area within 36 hours.
- **Flood Advisory** - Expected inundation of some low lying and poor drainage areas, resulting in a nuisance to the public but not a threat to life and property.
- **Flood Warning** - Expected overflow or inundation by water which causes or will cause damage and/or a threat to life
- **Flash Flood Warning** - Rapid and extreme flow of high water into a normally dry area, or a rapid water level rise in a stream or creek above a predetermined flood level, beginning within a short timeframe from the onset of heavy rain. A dam failure, or water released from an ice jam is also considered.
- **Coastal Flood Advisory** – Minor coastal flooding expected within 12 hours. Examples include: splash over causing a few roads briefly impassable, standing water in parking lots, etc.
- **Coastal Flood Warning** – Coastal flooding expected within 12 hours; widespread serious coastal flooding which damages property AND/OR is a threat to life.
- **Heat Wave** – Not an actual advisory; Heat Wave locally is defined as 3 or more days consecutive days where temperatures reach or exceed 90 degrees F.
- **Heat Advisory** - Daytime heat indices of 100°F-104°F for 2 or more hours.
- **Excessive Heat Warning** - Daytime heat indices of $\geq 105^\circ\text{F}$ for 2 or more hours.