National Weather Service

Decision Support Newsletter
Winter 2012-13

Springfield, Missouri

www.weather.gov/springfield

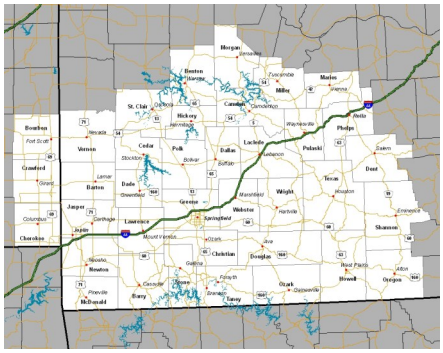
This publication has been designed to enhance readiness and decision response by the emergency management community. Winter storms can be dangerous across the Missouri Ozarks and southeast Kansas. Winter weather can change drastically, bringing bitter cold, heavy snow and devastating ice storms.



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NWS Springfield has forecast and warning responsibility for 34 counties in the Missouri Ozarks and 3 counties in southeast Kansas.



NWS Springfield strives to serve decision makers with accurate and timely weather information.

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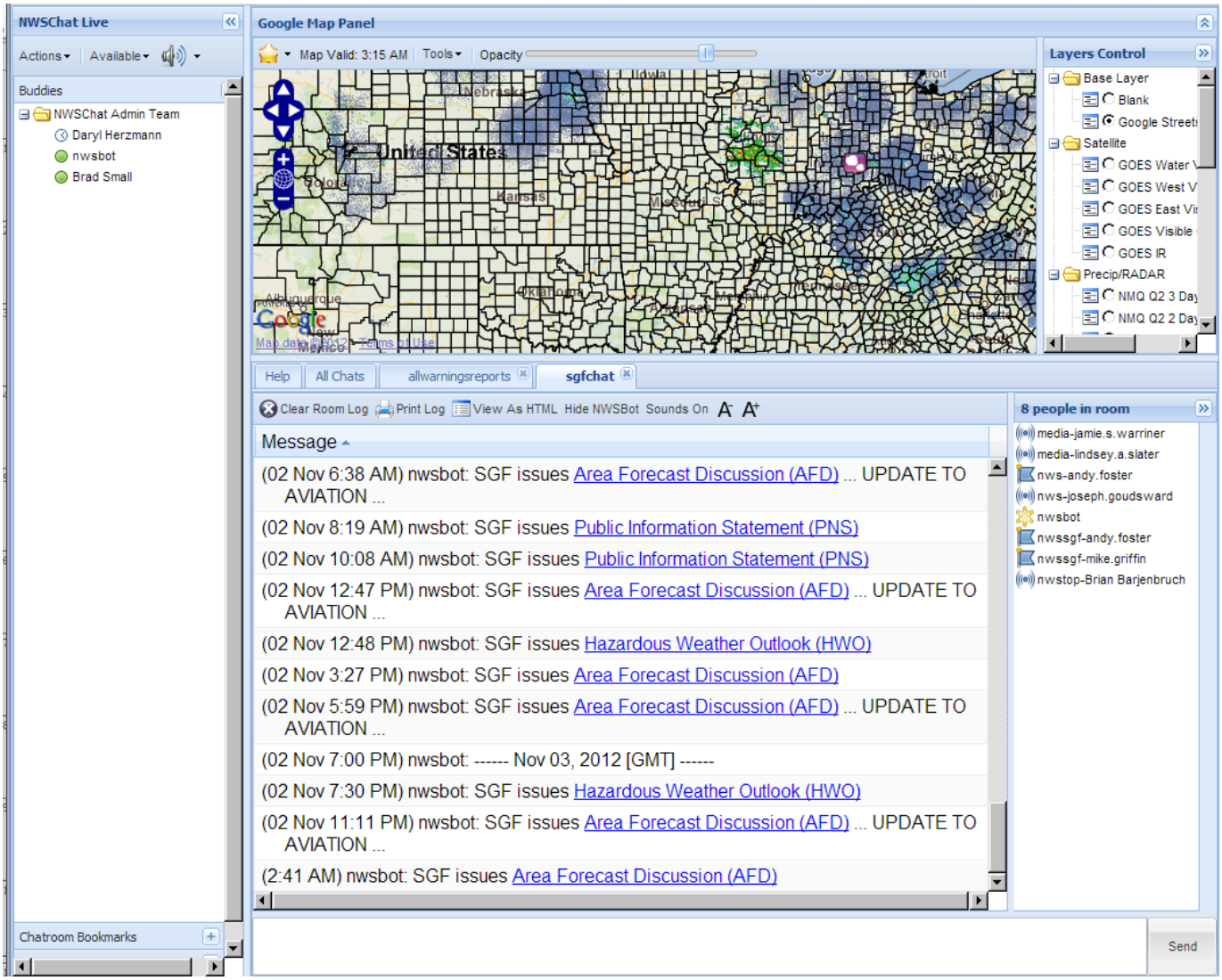
NWSChat—National Weather Service Chat

Core partners can collaborate directly with NWS forecasters. NWSChat is an Instant Messaging program utilized by NWS operational personnel to share critical warning decision expertise and other types of significant weather information essential to the NWS's mission of saving lives and property. This information is exchanged in real-time with the media and emergency response community, who in turn play a key role in communicating the NWS's hazardous weather messages to the public.

Information & Instructions - https://nwschat.weather.gov/

Partner Account Request - https://nwschat.weather.gov/create.php

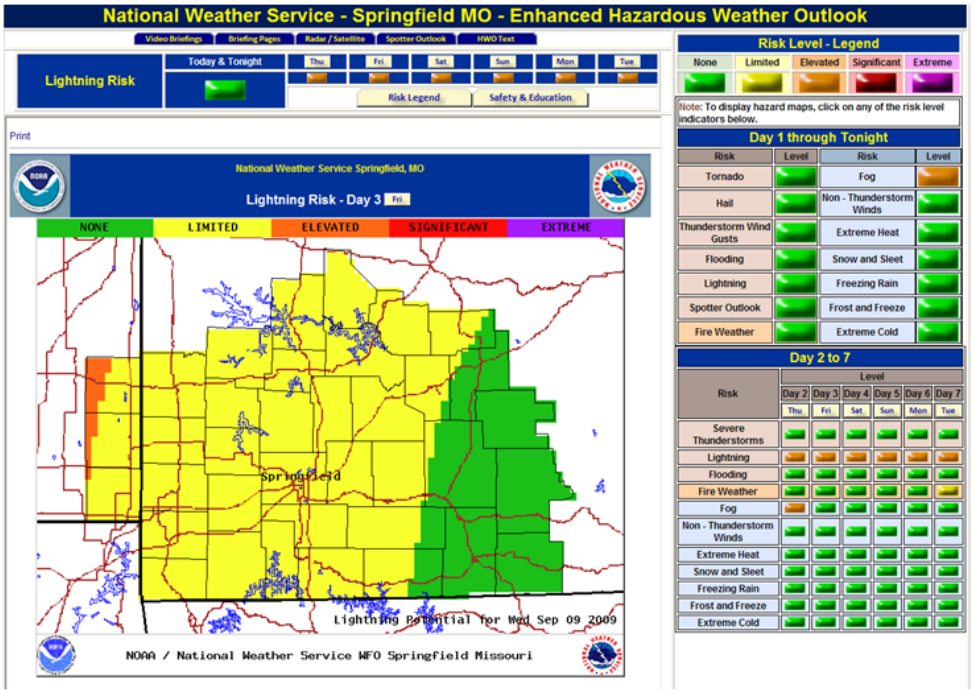
NWSChat Live Web Interface - https://nwschat.weather.gov/live/



Enhanced Hazardous Weather Outlook—Winter

The Enhanced Hazardous Weather Outlook (EHWO) can be used as a decision support tool prior to and during winter weather events to support preparedness and response efforts.

The EHWO provides a graphical depiction of weather hazards through day seven. The EHWO packages five -level, color coded alert buttons and text within a comprehensive web page suite.



http://www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf/?n=hwo

EHWO Snow & Sleet Risk Level Definitions

Risk Level	Definition
None	No snow or sleet.
Limited	Snow and/or sleet with less than 1 inch of accumulation expected.
Elevated	Snow and/or sleet with 1 to 5.9 inches of accumulation expected.
Significant	Snow and/or sleet with 6 to 11.9 inches of accumulation expected.
Extreme	Snow and/or sleet with greater than or equal to12 inches of accumulation expected.

EHWO Freezing Rain Risk Level Definitions

Risk Level	Definition
None	No freezing rain or drizzle.
Limited	Very light freezing rain or drizzle with no accumulation.
Elevated	Freezing rain or drizzle with accumulation less than 1/4 inch.
Significant	Freezing rain with accumulation of 1/4 inch to less than 1 inch.
Extreme	Freezing rain with accumulation of greater than or equal to 1 inch.

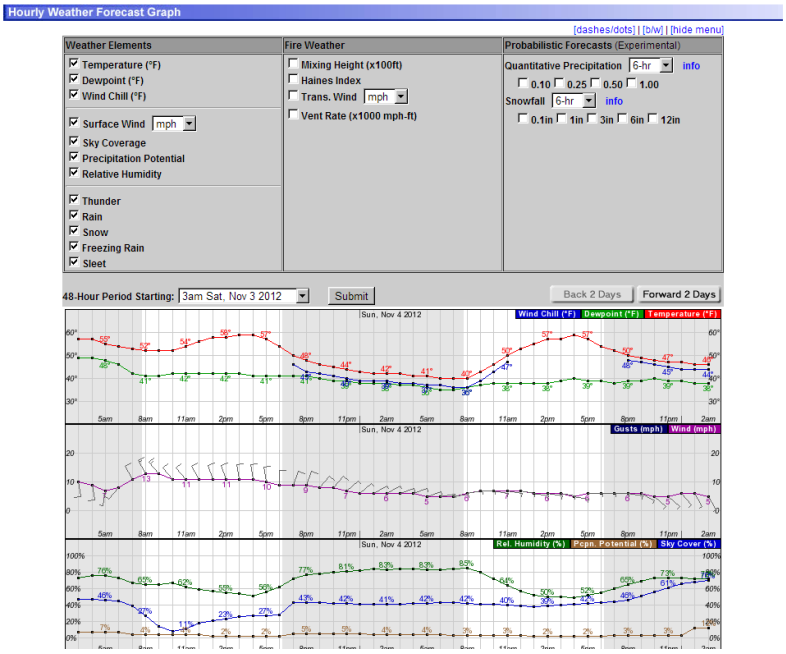
EHWO Extreme Cold Risk Level Definitions

Risk Level	Definition
None	Minimum apparent temperature greater than or equal to 10 degrees F.
Limited	Minimum apparent temperature -9 to 9 deg F.
Elevated	Minimum apparent temperature -10 to -24 deg. F
Significant	Minimum apparent temperature -25 to -34 deg. F.
Extreme	Minimum apparent temperature less than or equal to -35 degrees F

Detailed Forecast Services

Interactive Forecast Map

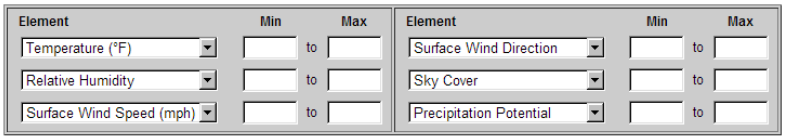
Hourly Weather Graphs and tables are available from the point and click map on the NWS Springfield home page or using the interactive forecast map. Simply select the forecast format you desire and select the location of choice. This can be useful in tracking critical temperature trends, precipitation type and timing, cloud cover, winds, etc.

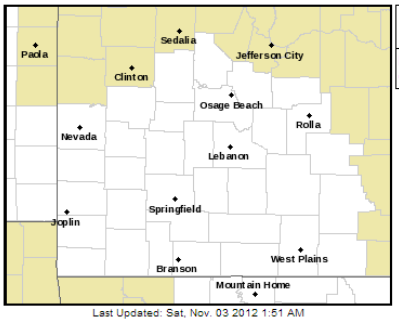


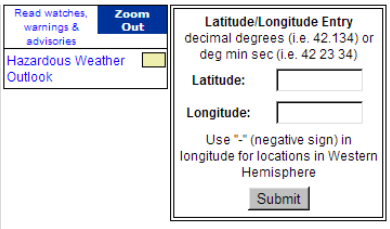
http://forecast.weather.gov/gridpoint.php?site=sgf

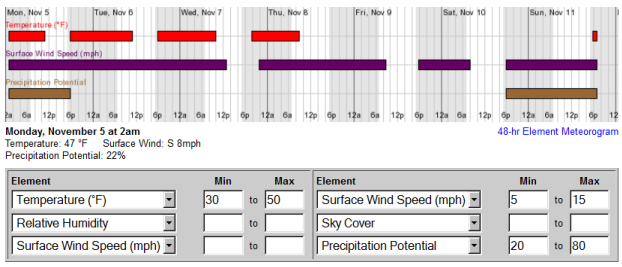
Weather Planner

This interactive forecast display is intended for general planning purposes. This application generates products from a digital forecast database. It is intended to allow a user to define and produce a forecast for general planning purposes. For instance, you can define what temperature, wind and wind chill values of interest may occur.









http://forecast.weather.gov/wxplanner.php?site=sgf

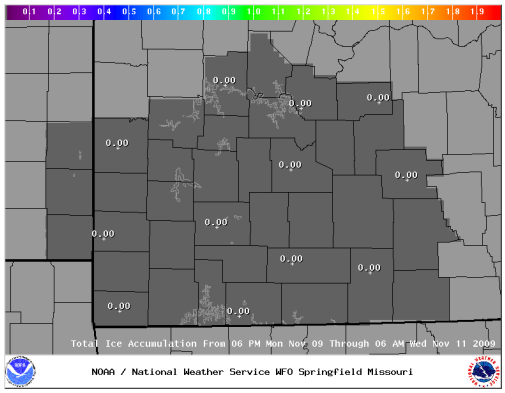
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Winter Decision Support Services

Snowfall and Ice Accumulation Forecast

Snowfall forecast graphic depicting forecast snowfall accumulations in six hour increments in addition to the storm total will be provided this winter. These graphics are derived directly from the Graphical Forecast Editor that forecasters utilize to create the forecast.

These graphics can be found on the Winter Weather Briefing web page.



Multi-Media Briefings



NWS Springfield produces Multi-Media Hazardous Weather Briefings. The video briefings available on the web provide a summarized briefing of anticipated hazardous weather including winter storms.

These briefings are not a substitute for other NWS products and warnings, but serve to compliment these services.

http://www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf/?n=webbriefing

Winter Weather Headlines

National Weather Service (NWS) Springfield issues a suite of forecast services including Winter Storm Watches, Warnings, and Advisories. Warnings and advisories are issued for expected or occurring winter weather conditions meeting a specific criteria.

Winter Storm Watches

Issued for the possibility of severe winter conditions meeting warning criteria between 18 and 48 hours.

- Heavy snow accumulations of ≥6”
- Sleet accumulations ≥ 1/2”
- Combination of significant snow (≥3”) & ice accumulations (≥1/8”)

Winter Storm Warnings

Issued when severe weather conditions are expected within 18 hours.

- Heavy snow accumulations of ≥6”
- Sleet accumulations ≥ 1/2”
- Combination of significant snow (≥3”) & ice accumulations ≥1/8”)

Ice Storm Warnings are issued for ice accumulations from freezing rain ≥1/4”.

Winter Weather Advisories

Issued for less significant accumulations of snow and ice to occur within 18 hours that can be hazardous if proper precautions are not taken.

- Snow accumulations ≤ 5”
- Combination of snow (≤ 3”and minor ice accumulations)

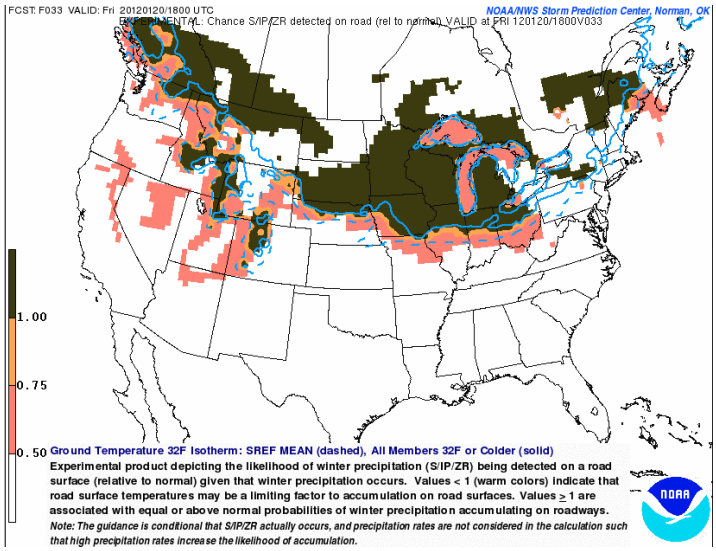
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Hydrometeorological Prediction Center - Winter Weather Services

The NWS Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (HPC) creates a number of national winter prediction services including snow and freezing rain probabilistic forecasts as well as potential impacts. While these are national in scope, these services provide trends and potential impacts for a given winter event..

http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/winter_wx.shtml

Forecast of Potential Impacts



This page displays automated SREF model derived probability graphics for winter weather event attributes considered significant to the public. They are designed to address the aspects of winter weather events beyond accumulation - specifically *duration, timing,* and *intensity*. Additional probability graphics provided are directed at assisting a NWS forecaster during the winter weather forecast process.

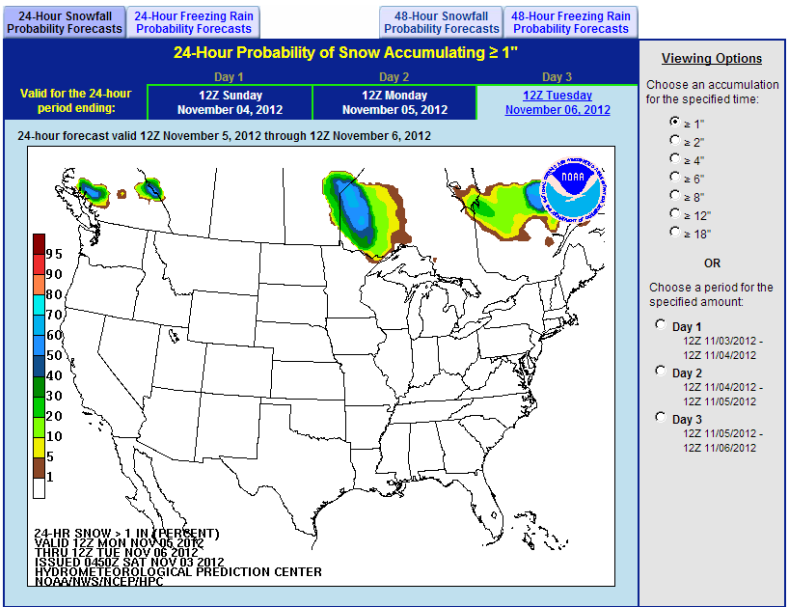
Please note the following: The image content is derived strictly from SREF model output and is to be used as guidance only. *There is no forecaster intervention to the probabilities displayed.*

http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/impactgraphics/

Snow & Ice Probabilities

The experimental Probabilistic Winter Precipitation Forecasts (PWPF) are based on the deterministic Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (HPC) Winter Weather Desk (WWD) accumulation forecasts, but are generated automatically using an ensemble of model forecasts along with the WWD forecasts.

These probabilistic winter precipitation forecasts are provided as guidance forecasts for use by the RFCs and WFOs. They are also available to the emergency management community, media, and general public.



http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/pwpf/wwd_accum_probs.php?

Winter Weather Outlook 2012-13



The Climate Prediction Center is indicating a slightly above normal probability of experiencing above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation from December through February. For more details go to the link below.

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20121018_winteroutlook.html



iNWS—Interactive NWS

National Weather Service Mobile Decision Support Services (MDSS)

iNWS MOBILE ALERTING

Receive customized text message and e-mail alerts for National Weather Service products that you care about.



http://inws.wrh.noaa.gov/

InteractiveNWS (iNWS) is the home of new mobile and desktop innovations of the National Weather Service. This application suite allows NWS partners to receive National Weather Service products in new and innovative ways, such as text messaging and mobile-enabled webpages. iNWS strives to fulfill our mission of protecting life and property by using new technology to reach out to our customers.

NWS Now on Twitter!

National Weather Service Forecast Offices, including the office in Springfield, now have individual office Twitter Accounts! These accounts will be used to post general weather information, call attention to note-worthy weather events .

Please note, as with our involvement on Facebook, Twitter is an experimental communications tool. Therefore, it is not designed for the dissemination of critical weather information, such as forecasts or warning information; NOAA Weather Radio, local media, and weather.gov/sgf should be your primary sources to get information during severe weather events.

However, friends of the NWS are encouraged to follow us and pass on any reports of severe weather, be sure to use the following hash tags: #MOWX, #KSWX, and #WXreport or tag us using @NWSSpringfield.

To visit the NWS Springfield Twitter page, visit the following webpage:

https://twitter.com/nwsspringfield

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The mission of the National Weather Service :

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy.

NWS data and products form a national information database and infrastructure which can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community.



National Weather Service
Springfield, MO Weather Forecast Office
Springfield-Branson Regional Airport
5805 West Highway EE
Springfield, MO 65802-8430

http://www.weather.gov/springfield

Decision Support Services Seminar

NWS Springfield held a Decision Support Services seminar with core partner representatives and local staff. A panel discussion was conducted with representatives from the Missouri Department of Transportation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Greene County Emergency Management, Springfield City Utilities and a local school district administrator. This forum provided an opportunity for the staff at NWS Springfield to hear directly from our core partners about the importance of forecasts and services provided, as well as explore additional paths for DSS. From hourly forecast graphs to conference calls our core partners explained how they use NWS forecasts and services in their decision making process during routine and high impact operations.