

Winter Storm, January 3, 2018

Decision Support Briefing #4
As of: January 3, 2018, 7 AM EST








What has Changed?

- ✓ Coastal Flood Advisory now in effect
- ✓ Winter Weather Advisory now in effect for Marlboro and Darlington Counties
- ✓ Ice amounts increased along the coast

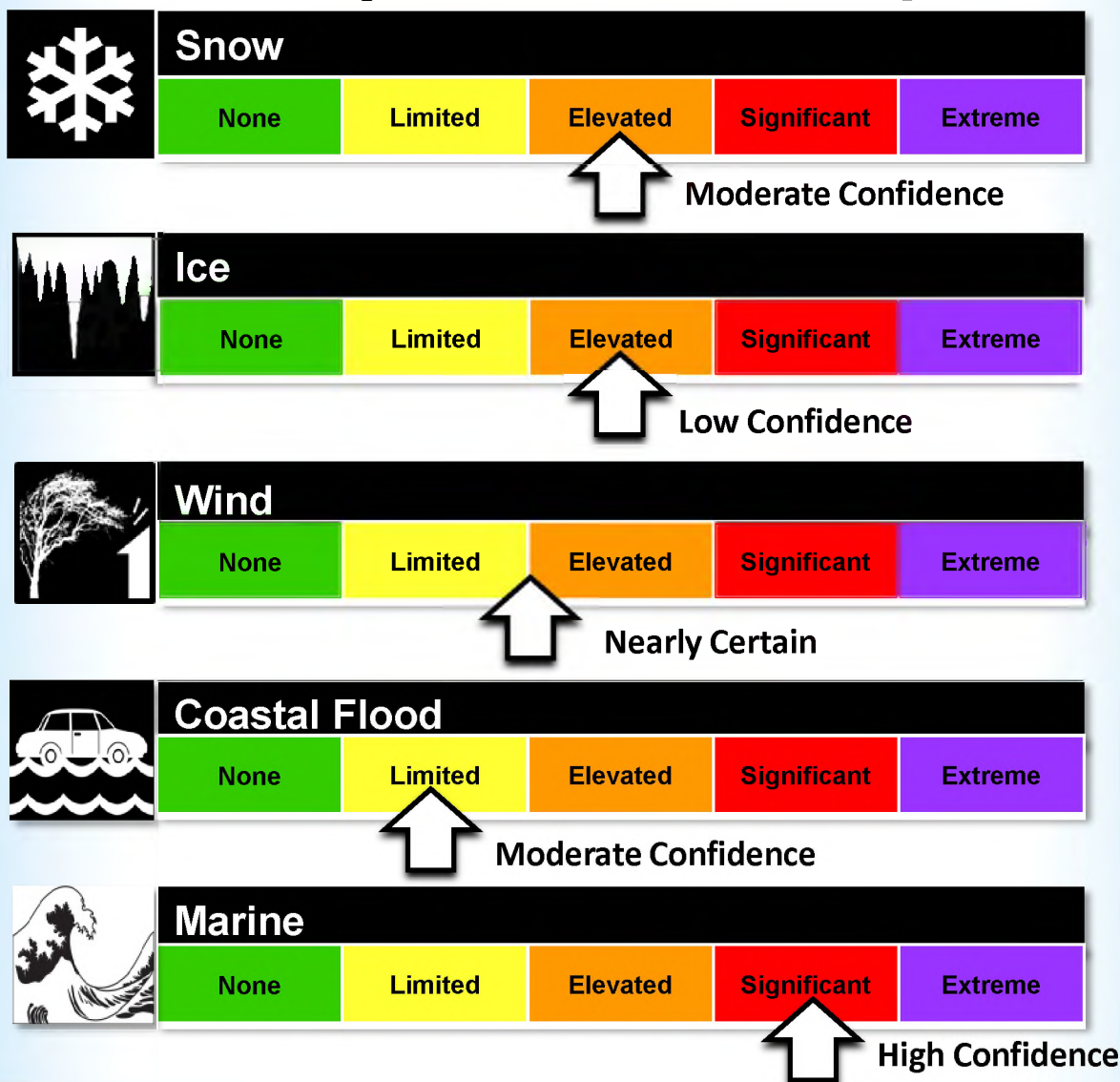


Created by:
Steven Pfaff, Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service Wilmington, NC

Main Points

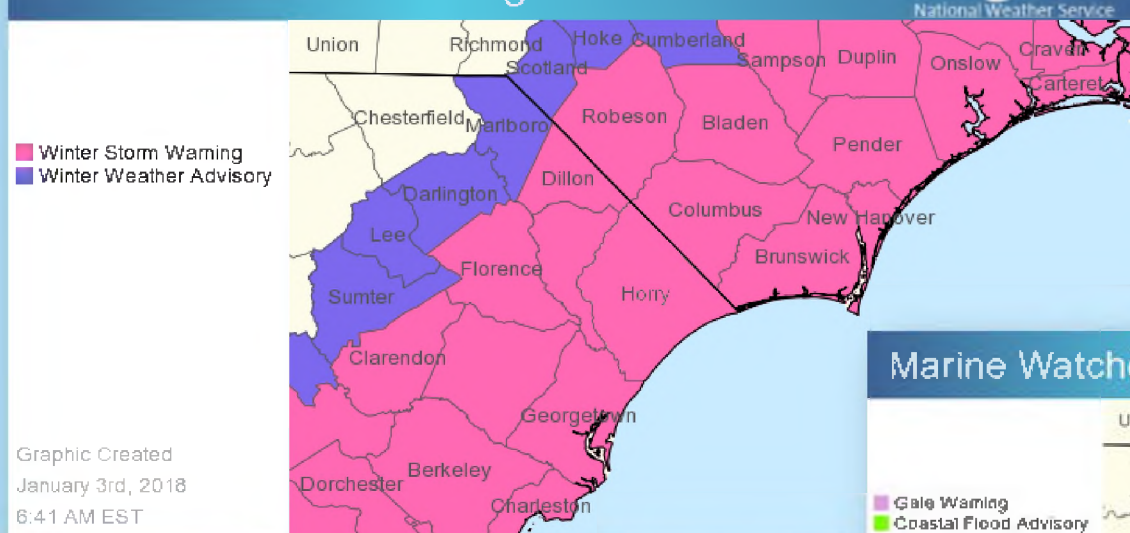
Hazard	Impacts	Location	Timing
Snow 	Accumulating snow and sleet will cause hazardous travel	I-95 corridor and locations east toward the coast	Beginning later this morning as a mix SC areas and this afternoon NC areas, then all snow this evening coastal areas.
Ice 	Light sleet and freezing rain expected	Coastal counties and eastern Columbus County	This morning for SC areas, and this afternoon for NC areas, then changing to snow
Wind 	15-20 mph with gusts to 30 mph may create power outages in those locations that see ice accumulations from freezing rain	highest winds coastal areas	Wind increasing today and tonight
Coastal Flood 	Minor coastal flooding possible	all beaches	with high tide today, and possibly high tide Thu morning for Cape Fear beaches
Marine 	Gale conditions	All Coastal and Offshore waters	This morning into Friday

Summary of Greatest Impacts



Watches/Warnings in Effect

Winter Watches Warnings and Advisories



- ✓ **Winter Storm Warning** through 6 AM Thu
- ✓ **Winter Weather Advisory** through 6 AM Thu

Marine Watches Warnings and Advisories



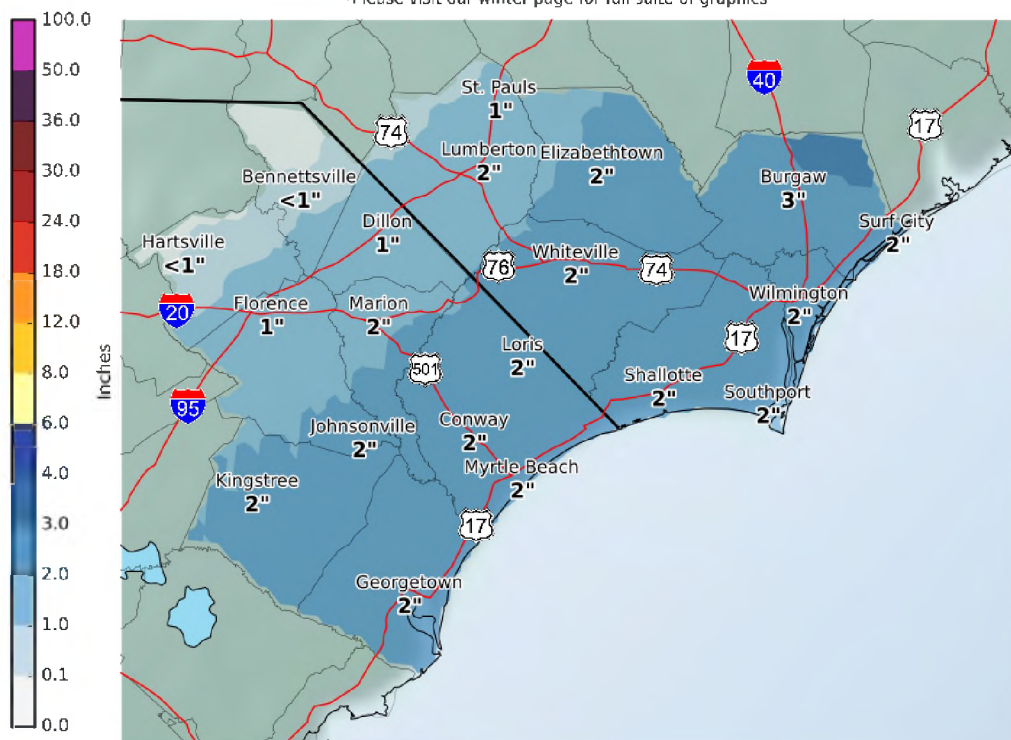
- ✓ **Coastal Flood Advisory** through 10 AM today
- ✓ **Gale Warning** through 9 AM Thursday (Storm Warning also in effect for the offshore waters beyond 20 nm (not shown))

Expected Snowfall

Expected Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast

Valid: 01/03/2018 07:00 AM - 01/04/2018 07:00 AM

*Please visit our winter page for full suite of graphics



National Weather Service
Wilmington North Carolina
01/03/2018 05:48 AM EST

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✓ Timing:

- Precipitation will likely overspread the area from south to north as a wintry mix (all snow farther inland) beginning later this morning for southern areas and this afternoon for the northern areas. Changeover to all snow expected at the coastal areas this evening.

✓ Impacts:

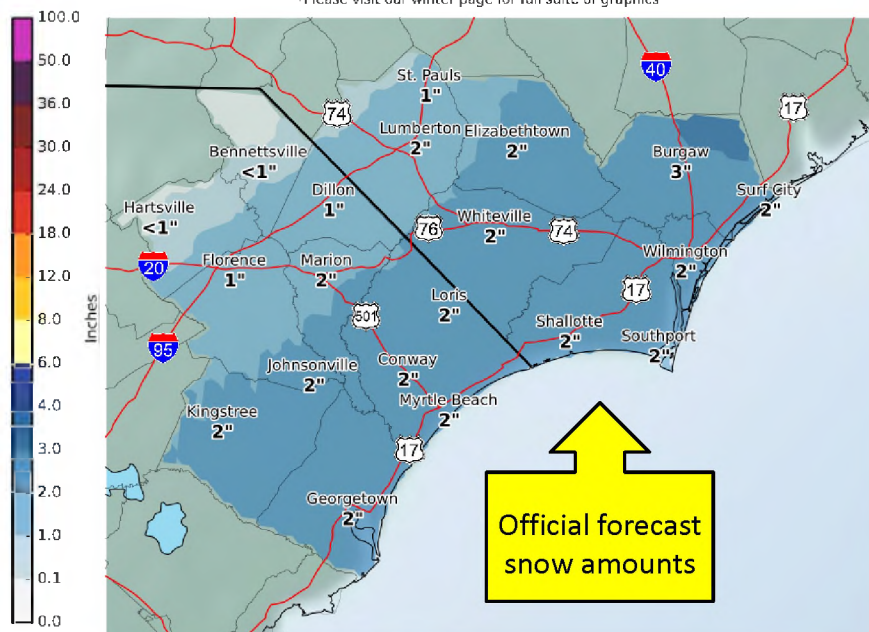
- 1 to 3" of snow and sleet accumulation is possible on all surfaces.
- Travel will become hazardous, especially during the afternoon and tonight

The Range of Possibilities

Expected Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast

Valid: 01/03/2018 07:00 AM - 01/04/2018 07:00 AM

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Official forecast
snow amounts



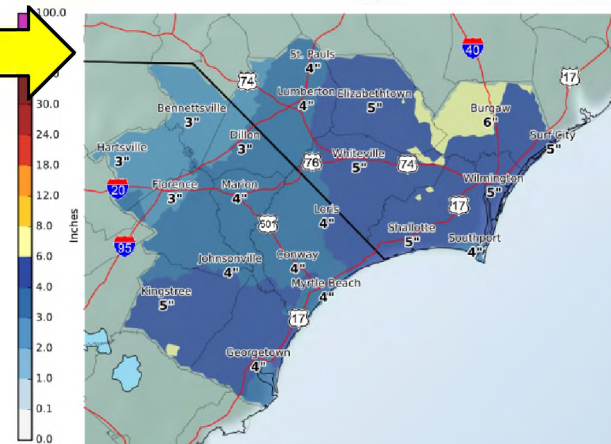
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Maximum
Potential
Accumulation

High End Amount - 1 in 10 Chance (10%) Of Higher Snowfall

Valid: 01/03/2018 07:00 AM - 01/04/2018 07:00 AM

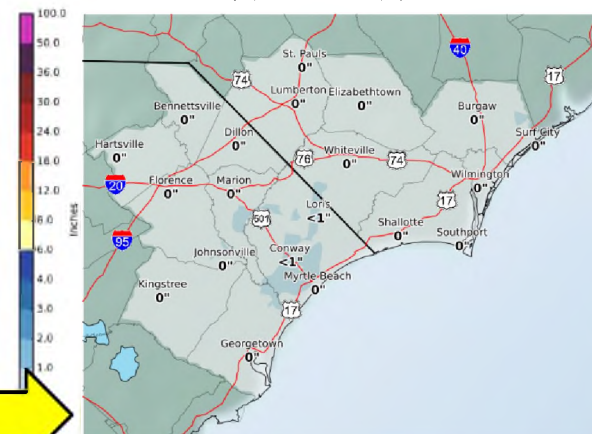


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Low End Amount - 9 in 10 Chance (90%) Of Higher Snowfall

Valid: 01/03/2018 07:00 AM - 01/04/2018 07:00 AM



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Expect at least
this much
snowfall

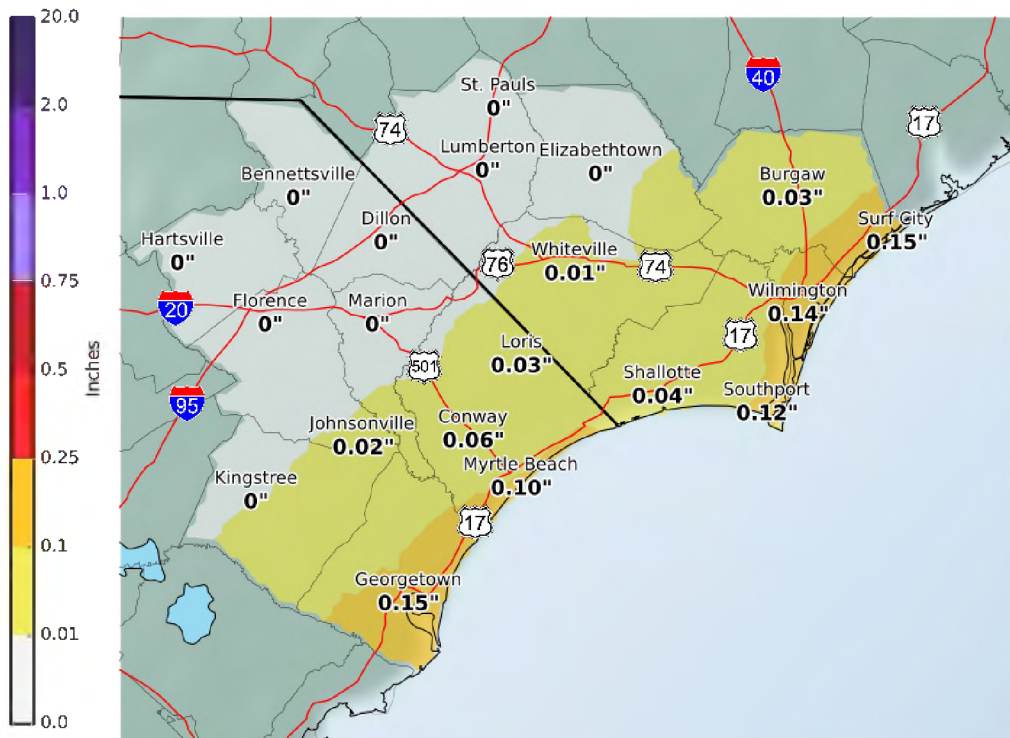
Moderate confidence exists with the expected snowfall amounts, however, models continue to show a lot of spread between the Expected and High End amounts given track and intensity differences exhibited by some of the models.

See more: <http://www.weather.gov/ilm/winter>

Expected Ice Accumulation

Expected Ice Accumulation- Official NWS Forecast

Valid: 01/03/2018 07:00 AM - 01/04/2018 07:00 AM



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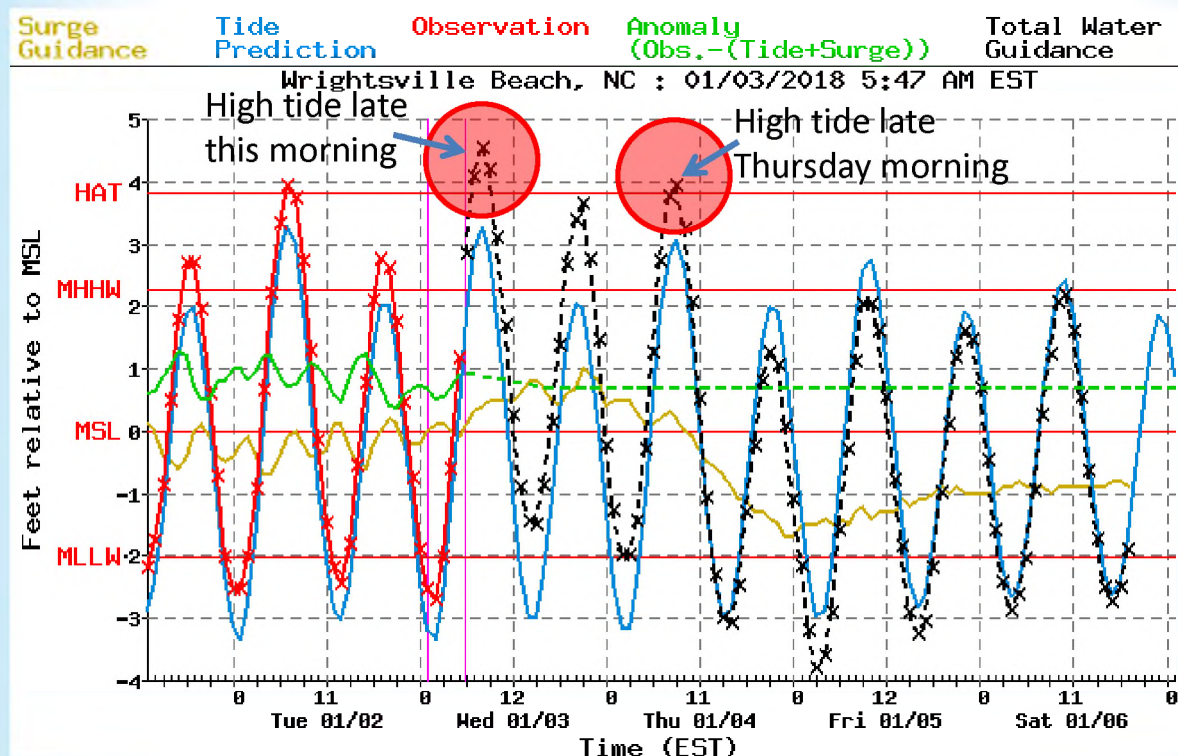
✓ Timing:

- A wintry mix, and a round of freezing rain along coastal areas will begin across southern areas later this morning and this afternoon for northern areas

✓ Impacts:

- Up to 0.10" to 0.15" of icing from freezing rain is expected along coastal areas
- Travel will become very hazardous, and power outages are possible as well

Coastal Flood



- ✓ **Impacts and Timing:** Water up into the dunes and other prone coastal flood locations. Some erosion is possible with each high tide through Thu morning. Poor navigation due to low water possible from blow-out conditions each low tide Thu afternoon and Fri.



Key Points

- ✓ Antecedent ground temperatures are very cold and any precipitation that occurs will create hazardous driving conditions.
- ✓ Wintry precipitation is expected to develop later this morning across northeast SC and this afternoon for southeast NC. Precipitation will persist through tonight coming to an end late.
- ✓ Accumulating snow of 1-3" is possible on all surfaces with some sleet. In addition, ice accumulations of 0.10" to 0.15", primarily along the coastal areas, are expected.
- ✓ Uncertainty remains in the specific snow amounts. Any subtle changes in dominant precipitation type will create changes to accumulations, both in amounts and location.

Contact and Next Briefing Information



Next Briefing

***When:** None planned at this time, will provide quick updates as needed*

Briefing Webpage:

<http://weather.gov/ilm/briefing>



Web:

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Disclaimer: The information contained within this briefing is time-sensitive, do not use after 4 PM Wednesday January 3, 2018

