

Winter Weather Criteria Quick Reference Table
(Reference Impact Based Warnings/Advisories note below table)

Type of Product	Location	12 Hour Criteria (high end of range)	24 Hour Criteria (high end of range)
WINTER STORM WATCH Issued for 2 nd , 3 rd , and occasionally 4 th period	Entire CWFA	Issued for criteria meeting Heavy Snow Warning/Winter Storm Warning/Blizzard Warning criteria	
LAKE EFFECT SNOW WATCH Issues for 1 st and 2 nd periods	<i>Valleys</i>	Issued for criteria meeting Lake Effect Snow Warning	
BLIZZARD WARNING	Entire CWFA	Conditions lasting 3 hours or more ...sustained winds or frequent gusts at or above 35 mph with considerable blowing or drifting of snow with visibilities < 1/4 mile	
HEAVY SNOW WARNING	Valleys/Uinta County, WY	6" or more	9" or more
"	Mountain Valleys to 7,000'	8" or more	12" or more
"	Mountains above 7,000'	12" or more	18" or more
WINTER STORM WARNING	Entire CWFA	Heavy snow warning criteria and/or wind, wind chill, or freezing precipitation	Heavy snow warning criteria and/or wind, wind chill, or freezing precipitation
LAKE EFFECT SNOW WARNING (Typically within 12 hours of event)	Valleys	6" or more	9" or more

ICE STORM WARNING	Entire CWFA	1/4" or more accumulation of glaze	
WIND CHILL WARNING	Entire CWFA	Wind chills of -30 or below and winds \geq 10 mph for 3 hours or more. See wind chill chart .	
SNOW ADVISORY	Valleys/Uinta County, WY	3 to 5"	4 to 8"
"	Mountain Valleys to 7,000'	4 to 7"	6 to 11"
"	Mountains above 7,000'	6 to 11"	7 to 17"
BLOWING/DRIFTING SNOW ADVISORY	Entire CWFA	Blowing/drifting snow causing reduced visibilities and/or significant travel problems	
LAKE EFFECT SNOW ADVISORY	Valleys	Same accumulation criteria as regular Snow Advisory...avoid issuing more than 12 hours in advance	
FREEZING RAIN/DRIZZLE ADVISORY	Entire CWFA	Light precipitation...with ice forming but not on all surfaces	
LAKE EFFECT SNOW WATCH	Valleys	Same accumulation criteria as Winter Storm Watch	

Impact Based Warnings/Advisories

Forecasters should utilize the expected impact of snow events to aid in determining whether an advisory or warning will be issued instead of just using fixed snowfall and wind criteria. Considerations among other things should include: time of onset (rush hour); day of onset (major holiday travel day); cold temperatures allowing snow to stick on road surfaces despite treatment; blowing and drifting snow; and impact on utilities/commerce.