



National Weather Service
Elko, Nevada
Winter Weather Information



The first line of defense against the harsh elements of winter weather is knowing the National Weather Service winter weather terminology and being prepared for mother nature's snow, ice, wind and cold. The simplest way to receive National Weather Service Watch, Warning or Advisory information is through the NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards is a round-the-clock source of weather reports and timely hazard information. The NOAA Weather Radio broadcast is known as the "voice" of NOAA's National Weather Service. NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards will allow you to receive weather information 24 hours a day. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr>



Winter Weather Criteria and Definitions for Northern and Central Nevada

Winter Storm Watch

Conditions are favorable for a winter storm event consisting of heavy snow, heavy sleet, heavy snow and blowing snow, ice storm or any combination of events to potentially meet/ exceed warning criteria in the next 12 to 48 hours.

Winter Storm Warning

Any single or combination of precipitation type(s) including heavy snow, sleet and wind meeting/exceeding criteria but remaining below blizzard criteria for next 12 to 48 hours.

Criteria for Heavy Snow or combination of Snow and Sleet:

Valleys - 6 inches or more in 12 hours or 8 inches or more in 24 hours.

Mountains - 8 inches or more in 12 hours or 12 inches or more in 24 hours.

Winter Weather Advisory

Snow, sleet, freezing rain or any combination meeting or exceeding criteria.

Snow and/or sleet: *Valleys* - 3 inches or more inches in 12 hours or 4 inches or more in 24 hours

Mountains - 5 inches or more in 12 hours or 7 inches or more 24 hours

Freezing Rain

In combination with either snow and/or sleet with accumulation of ice less than a 1/4 inch.

Blizzard Watch

Conditions are favorable for sustained wind of 35 mph or and/or visibility at or below 1/4 mile in snow or blowing snow for 3 hours or more during the next 12 to 48 hours.

Blizzard Warning

Sustained wind of 35 mph or more and/or visibility at or below 1/4 mile in snow and blowing snow for 3 hours or more can be during the next 12 to 48 hours.

Ice Storm Warning

Issued when 1/4 inch or more of ice is expected to accumulate during the next 12 to 48 hours.

Freezing Rain Advisory

Issued when less than a 1/4 inch of ice is expected to accumulate from freezing rain or freezing drizzle within the first 24 hours or 36 hours with high forecaster confidence.

High Wind Watch

Conditions are favorable sustained winds of 40 mph or more or gusts to 58 mph or more for 1 hour during the next 12 to 48 hours.

High Wind Warning

Conditions are expected or imminent for sustained winds of 40 mph or more or gusts to 58 mph or more for 1 hour during the next 12 to 48 hours.

Wind Advisory

Sustained winds of 30-39 mph for 1 hour or longer or gusts of 45 to 57 mph.

Freezing Fog Advisory

Very light ice accumulation from freezing fog (can be localized or widespread).

Additional Winter Weather Terminology

Snow Squalls:

Brief, intense snow showers accompanied by strong, gusty winds. Accumulations may be significant.

Snow Showers:

Snow falling at varying intensities for brief periods of time. Some accumulation is possible.



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Winter Weather Preparedness

Frostbite:

Damage to the skin and other tissues is caused by the extreme cold. Frostbite will likely occur on body parts farthest away from the heart.

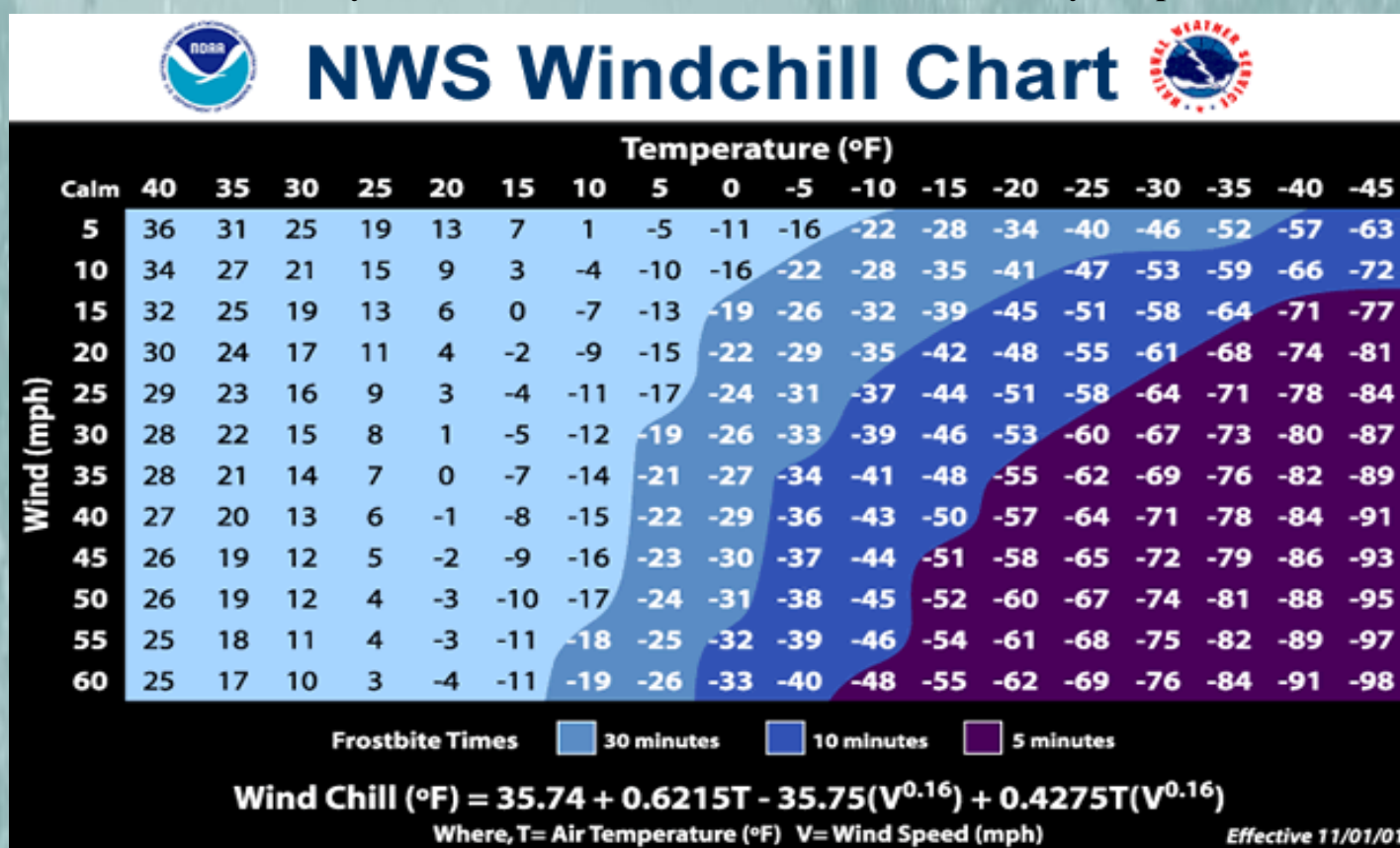


Hypothermia:

This is a condition when the body temperature falls to below 95 degrees F. It can kill. For individuals who survive hypothermia, there will likely be last problems to the kidney, liver and pancreas. The warning signs of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion. Seek medical attention immediately if body temperature is below 95 degree F.

Wind Chill:

Is how the combination of wind and cold feel on exposed skin. With an increase in wind, the body's heat is taken away at an accelerated rate, which lowers the body temperature.



Be prepared for the season. While venturing outdoors, dress in lightweight and loose fitting layers of clothing. In addition to wearing a hat, use a scarf to cover your mouth to protect your lungs from the extreme cold. Tightly fitted mittens provide more protection from the cold than gloves. For additional information on winter weather safety tips, click on:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/resources/winterstorm.pdf> or contact your local National Weather Service Office.

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