Weather Briefing

March 11 – 12, 2014

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National Weather Service

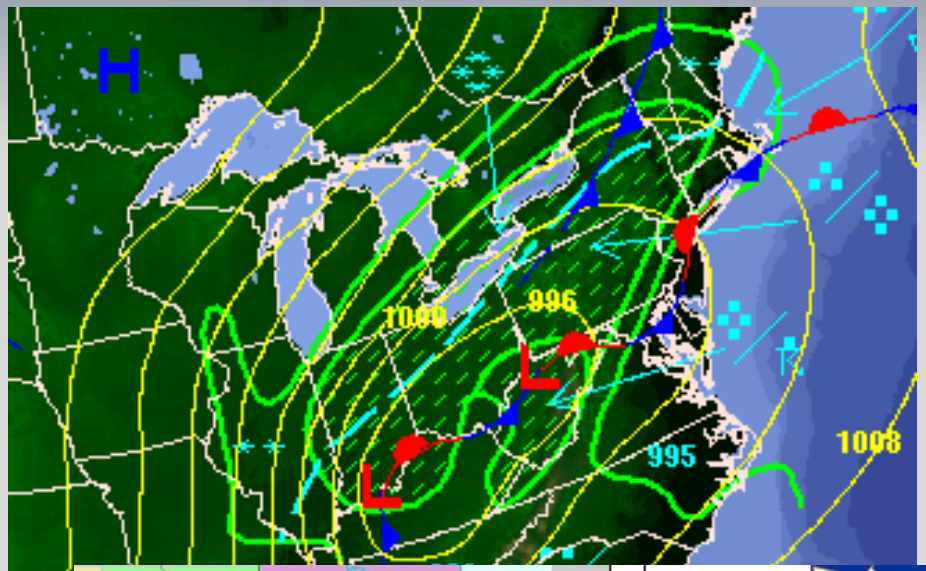
Detroit/Pontiac, MI

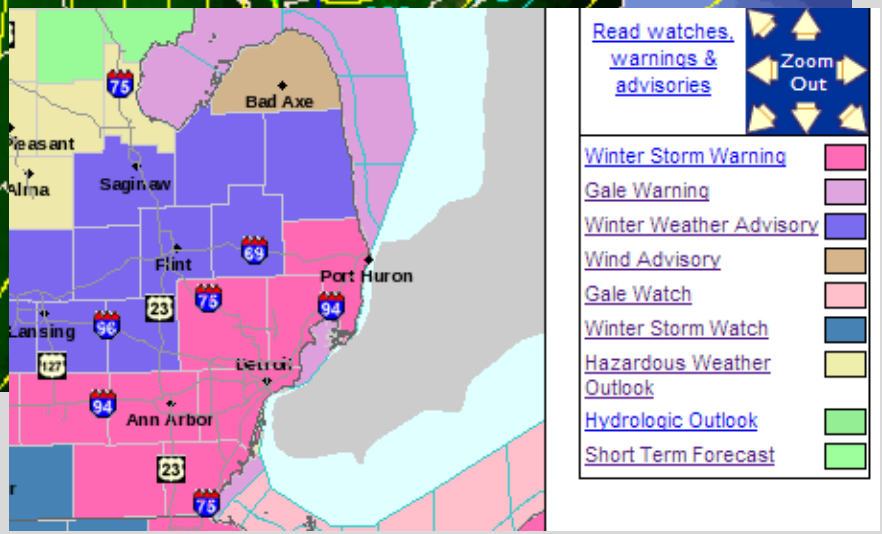
http://www.weather.gov/dtx

Email: w-dtx.webmaster@noaa.gov

Decision Support Briefing
Highlights

Forecast 7 am Wednesday





Event Summary

Winter Storm Warning
Winter Weather Advisory
Wind Advisory

Tonight and Wednesday

6–9” in Winter Storm Warning
2–5” in Winter Weather Advisory
Gusts to 40–50 mph in Wind Adv.

Winter Hazard Risk Assessment

Extreme	
High	✔
Moderate	
Low	

This Event is a Rare Weather Event

Large Disruption to Daily Life

Potentially Life Threatening

Recovery Time

Several Hours to a Day After the Weather Ends

Extreme:
- Historic Weather Hazard/Event
- Life Threatening
- Total disruption of daily life
- Recovery Time: days to one week

High:
- Rare Weather Hazard/Event
- Potentially Life Threatening
- Widespread disruption of daily life
- Recovery Time: hours to a day

Moderate:
- Occasional Weather Hazard/Event
- Rarely directly life threatening
- Some disruption of daily life
- Recovery Time: +/- 6 hrs of when weather ends

Potential Impacts

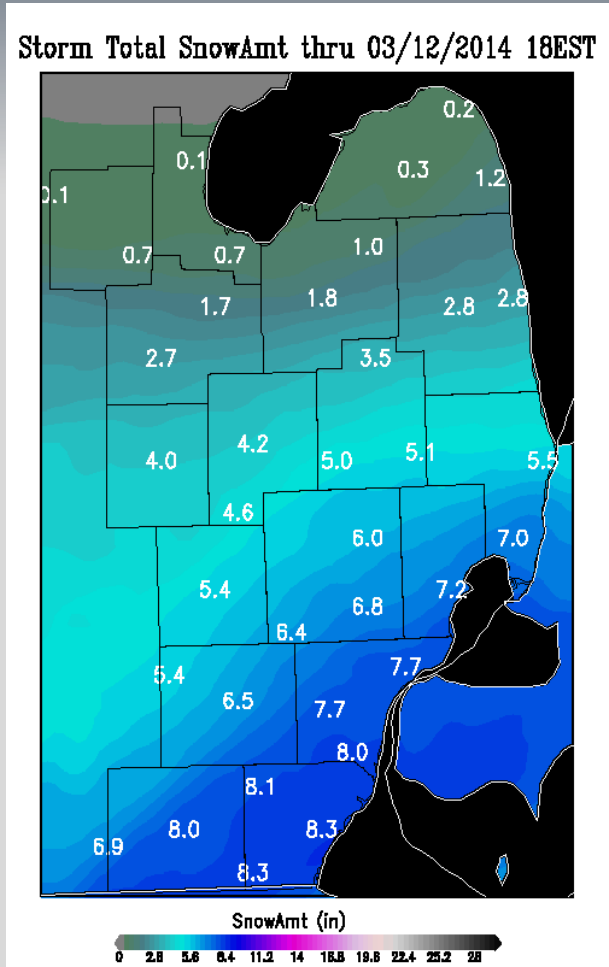
Road Conditions/Air Temperatures	• Snow covered and slippery roadways • Air temperatures in the low 30s at the beginning of snowfall, falling into the 20s during the heaviest snowfall • Low temps in the lower single digits Wednesday night
Additional Potential Impacts	• Large impacts for the AM commute • Low visibility in heavy snow and blowing snow • Northerly wind gusts to 30–40 mph Wednesday will create areas of blowing and drifting

Power Outage Potential	High	Medium ✓	Low
Blowing/Drifting Potential	High	Medium ✓	Low

Timing of Winter Weather

Beginning	• Rain mixing with and changing to snow from 10 pm to 2 am tonight
Heaviest	• Peak intensity Wednesday morning from 4 am to 11 am. 1” per hour rates possible in Warning area.
Ending	• Snow tapers off Wednesday afternoon

Storm Total Snowfall



Snow Total Through 7 PM Wednesday
(in inches)

Snow Accumulation

- **6–9 Inches Expected In Warning Area**
- **2–5 Inches Expected In Advisory Area**

Type of Snow

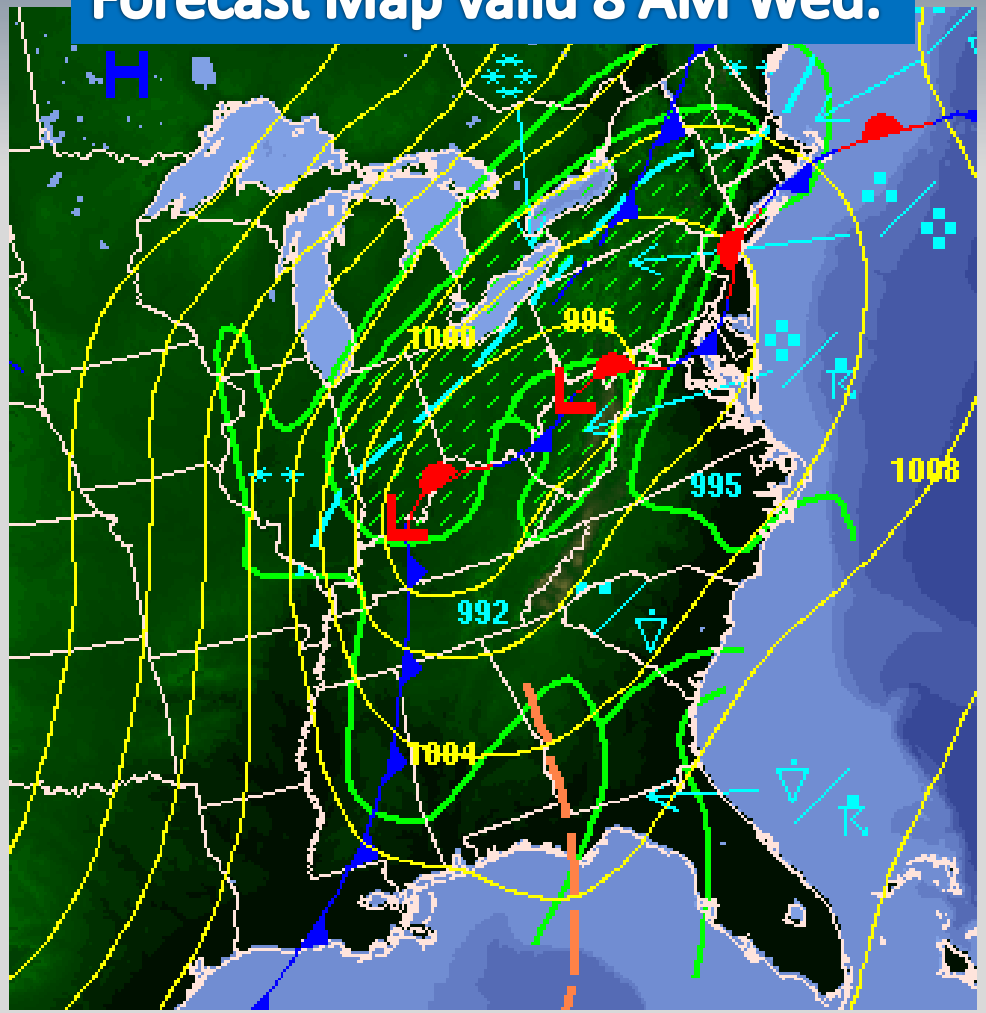
Heavier/denser than normal through the peak of the event. Trending toward average at the end.

Additional Hazards

- **Low Visibilities**
- **Wind gusts to 30–40 mph Wednesday (40–50 mph for Huron/Sanilac); blowing and drifting snow**
- **Cold temperatures after snow ends will hamper snow removal efforts**

Forecast Challenges

Forecast Map valid 8 AM Wed.



- There will be a sharp cutoff to snow amounts to the north and west. The precise low track will determine where heaviest snowfall occurs.

Decision Support Briefing
Summary

What	Where	Timing	Impacts
Winter Storm Warning 6–9 inches likely	**Lenawee, Monroe, Washtenaw, Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair Counties**	Rain/snow changing to all snow 12–2 am, ending Wednesday afternoon	Difficult travel due to snow covered roads Reduced visibilities Blowing and drifting
Winter Weather Advisory 2–5 inches likely	**Sanilac, Genesee, Lapeer, Livingston, Saginaw, Tuscola, Shiawassee Counties**	Rain/snow changing to all snow 10 pm–1 am, ending Wednesday afternoon	
Wind Advisory Northeast gusts to 40–50 mph	**Huron and Sanilac Counties**	8 am to 6 pm Wednesday	Minor tree damage and sporadic power outages

Additional Information

Local Hazards Page
http://www.weather.gov/detroit/svr.php

Great Lakes Marine Portal
http://www.weather.gov/greatlakes

Hourly Wind / Gust Probabilities
http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dtx/?n=pwind
http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dtx/?n=pgust

Hourly Snowfall Probabilities
http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dtx/?n=hourlysnowprobabilities

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