

Coastal Storm Wednesday November 26, 2014

Prepared 1030 AM EST – Tuesday, November 25, 2014

Gary Szatkowski

NOAA's National Weather Service

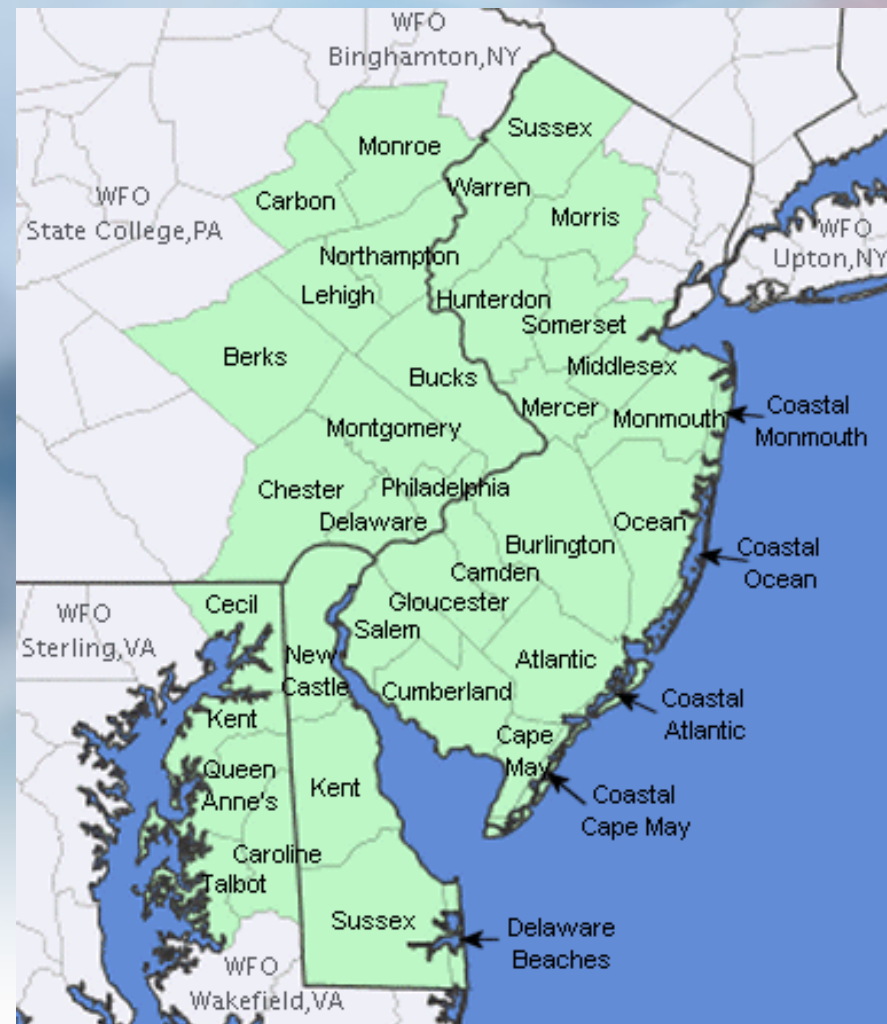
Philadelphia/Mount Holly NJ Forecast Office

www.weather.gov/phi/



Purpose of Briefing

- Briefing # 4
- To promote situational awareness for the emergency management community and for other partners.
- To provide guidance for planning efforts.
- The briefing applies to the WFO Mount Holly service area which is shaded in green on the map.



Executive Summary

New/updated information with this briefing package:

Portions of the Winter Storm Watch have been upgraded to a Warning over parts of eastern Pennsylvania and northern NJ. The Winter Storm Watch for Wednesday continues elsewhere over southeastern Pennsylvania and the northern half of New Jersey. Please see map on following slides.

Impacts: Wet, heavy snow in the north. Heavy rain in the south. Gusty winds everywhere. Land and air travel will be negatively impacted Wednesday and Wednesday night just before a major holiday. Power outages are likely with the combination of gusty winds and snow hanging on wires and tree limbs.

Storm timing has sped up. High impact weather will be moving into the region by daybreak Wednesday.

Details are as follows:

Low pressure is forecast to develop over the eastern Gulf of Mexico tonight. The low is expected to intensify as it tracks north northeastward along the East Coast. The center of the low is anticipated to pass just east of Delaware and New Jersey late Wednesday before reaching New England and its coastal waters late Wednesday night.

Precipitation is forecast to overspread our region from the south on Wednesday morning. Precipitation is expected to be rain during the daylight hours on Wednesday from the Interstate 95 corridor southeastward and mainly snow at locations well to the northwest. The rain-snow line is anticipated to move southeastward on Wednesday night with the rain changing to snow along the Interstate 95 corridor. The precipitation is forecast to end late Wednesday night.

Snowfall amounts of 2 to 5 inches are possible to the northwest of the Interstate 95 corridor from Wednesday into Wednesday night, with 5 to 10 inches expected further inland and over higher terrain (snow map attached).

Precipitation from this event, both rain and snow, will negatively impact the busy holiday travel period from Wednesday into Wednesday night. Because of the high volume of holiday traffic, travel plans completed before 7 AM Wednesday morning would avoid most of the trouble from this event, particularly north and west of the I-95 corridor. Expect airline delays.

Northerly winds are forecast to increase to 10 to 20 mph on Wednesday with gusts to 25 or 30 mph possible. The wind is expected to become northwest Wednesday night.

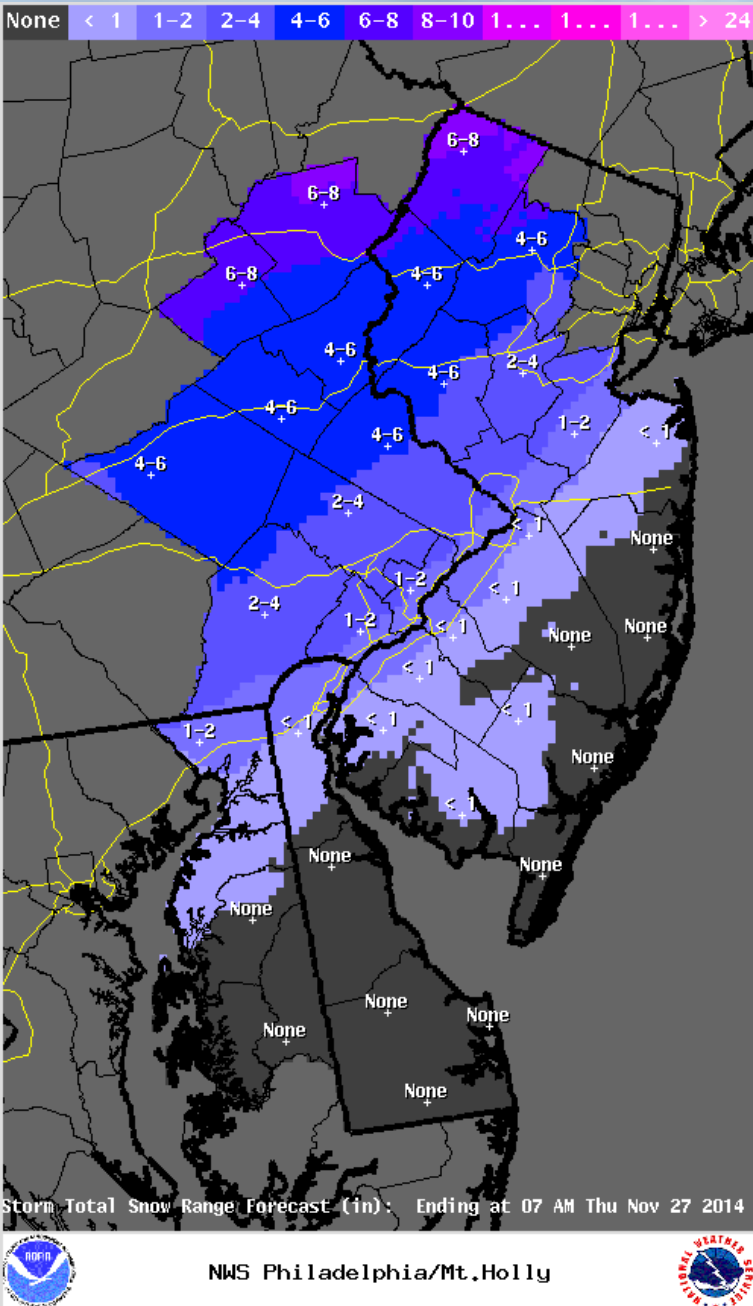
Gale force wind gusts are expected on the coastal waters of New Jersey and Delaware from Wednesday into Wednesday night.

Given the speed of this storm and timing of the lunar cycle, tidal flooding is NOT expected to be a major problem during this event, but spotty minor flooding is possible at the times of high tide on Wednesday.

Another briefing package for this event will be issued around 430 PM today (Tuesday). Please monitor our website at www.weather.gov/PHI for the latest updates and changes.



Projected snowfall amounts for the 24-hour period from 700 AM Wednesday 11/26 through 700 AM Thursday 11/27



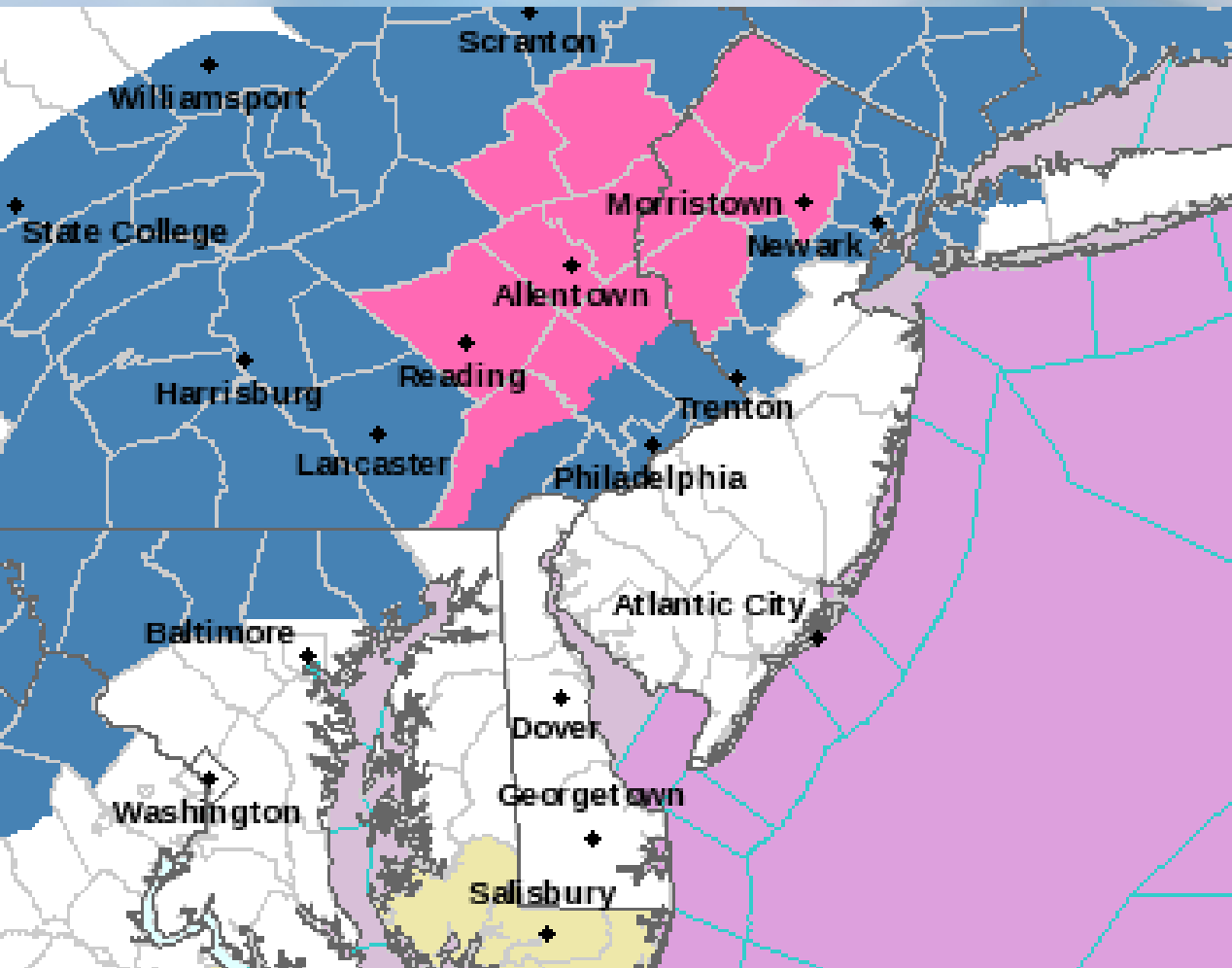
Snowfall amounts of 2 to 5 inches are possible to the northwest of the Interstate 95 corridor, with 5 to 10 inches expected further inland and over the higher terrain, particularly in the southern Poconos and northwest New Jersey.

Precipitation from this event will negatively impact the busy holiday travel period Wednesday into Wednesday night. Because of the high volume of holiday traffic, travel plans completed by 7 AM Wednesday morning would avoid most of the trouble from this event, particularly north and west of the I-95 corridor.

The combination of strong, gusty winds with snow clinging to wires and branches could compromise electric lines...especially in the Lehigh Valley, southern Poconos, and northern New Jersey.

Snowfall forecast amounts will be updated later this afternoon.

Watches & Warnings



- Pink shading over land is Winter Storm Warnings, where forecaster confidence has increased for a significant winter storm.
- Winter Storm Watches continue in blue shaded area with lower confidence.



Other items

- Spotty coastal flooding is possible Wednesday morning due to the impact of locally heavy rainfall occurring during the time of high tide. Expect wind gusts over 40 mph along the Atlantic Coast during the heavier precipitation.
- Storm timing has sped up. Its increasingly unlikely that you will be able to 'beat' the storm by traveling early on Wednesday. Plan accordingly.



Questions?

- For the latest information, visit our website at:
 - www.weather.gov/phi
- Our latest briefing package is available from our website at:
 - http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/briefing/packages/current_briefing.pdf
- If you wish to be notified when a briefing package is issued, you can follow us on social media where we post the notice.
- You can ‘friend’ us on Facebook at: US National Weather Service Philadelphia/Mount Holly
- You can follow us on Twitter @NWS_MountHolly
- Another briefing package is scheduled for around 330 PM on Tuesday, or sooner should there be significant changes.
- Please contact us if you have any questions.
- Gary.Szatkowski@noaa.gov
 - Office 609-261-6602 x222
- Joseph.Miketta@noaa.gov
 - Office 609-261-6602 x223

