



Active Weather into next week: Winter Weather followed by Flooding

Next Update by 4:00 PM Thursday, December 22th, 2022

KEY POINTS

- Very cold temperatures through Thursday. Record low temperatures are possible especially Wednesday night.
- Freezing Spray is possible across the north interior waters through Thursday
- High threat of freezing rain Thursday night and Friday as temperatures slowly warm and precipitation transitions from snow.
- Heavy rain is likely Friday through the weekend, potentially resulting in rapid snow melt as well as river and urban flooding.
- River flooding and possibly urban flooding will likely continue through next week.
- Coastal flooding and erosion will become likely as King Tides return amidst the persistently wet pattern, beginning this weekend

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS BRIEFING



- A slightly later start time for snow/freezing rain Thursday (onset primarily beginning in the evening along the coast)
- Slight increase in freezing rain probability Thursday night into Friday
- Decreased snowfall amounts Thursday night into Friday
- Higher confidence in a series of higher rain events beginning this weekend and continuing through next week

WEATHER RISK OUTLOOK





Risk levels incorporate potential impacts from weather hazards and likelihood of occurrence.

Thu 12/22	Fri 12/23	Sat 12/24	Sun 12/25	Mon 12/26	Tue 12/27	Wed 12/28
Very Cold Snow/freezing rain lowlands Mountain snow	Warming Rain/freezing rain Rivers Rising/Urban flooding	Rain Possible Rivers Flooding/Urban Flooding	River Flooding	River Flooding	River Flooding	Possible River Flooding
Risk Levels	Little to None	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme	

DETAILS

Mountains	
 Snow	Impacts: Snow-covered roads and travel delays possible across the Cascade passes this week, especially Thursday night into Friday. Expect difficult travel conditions at times. Snow levels rise above pass levels this weekend. From the NWAC: Avalanche danger rising into the weekend, it may become high at times.
 Freezing Rain / Ice	Impacts: Ice accumulation will result in difficult road travel conditions Friday and Saturday

Lowlands

	<p>Impacts: Very cold temperatures will impact vulnerable populations such as the homeless, pets, and those without adequate access to heating. People outside may suffer from frostbite and/or hypothermia. Exposed pipes may be damaged by freezing conditions</p> <p>Timing: Coldest temperatures will occur tonight through Thursday. Temperatures will remain cold into Friday</p> <p>Wind chill values in the single digits Wednesday night into Thursday morning (Wind chill values below 0 degrees in Western Whatcom County and the East Puget Sound Lowlands).</p>
	<p>Impacts: A rapid warm up, accompanied by rain falling on snow, may lead to enhanced runoff late in the week that could lead to potential urban and river flooding by the weekend.</p> <p>Timing: Transition to heavy rain expected on Friday, with rivers likely to remain below flood stage through at least Saturday night. Chances for river flooding will increase Sunday and beyond</p>
	<p>Impacts: Lowland snow accumulations likely on primary and secondary roadways resulting in travel delays. Road closures possible</p> <p>Timing: Another round of snow possible Thursday into Friday before transitioning to freezing rain and eventually rain.</p> <p>Overall lowland snowfall amounts have decreased late Thursday into Friday before transitioning to freezing rain and eventually rain. Locations in Western Whatcom County, Western Skagit County, and the San Juan Islands have the highest potential of accumulating snowfall.</p>
	<p>Impacts: Areas of significant ice accumulation may result in tree damage, power outages, and difficult air and road travel conditions. Widespread tree and powerline damage could result in power outages that could last several days.</p> <p>Icy roads possible tonight and Thursday as some area roadways remains snow-covered and temperatures remain below freezing.</p> <p>Timing: Areas of significant ice accumulation expected Thursday night through Friday</p> <p>See graphics for additional details.</p>

• Tonight through Thursday

- Colder temperatures: Overnight lows in the teens and 20s with high temperatures in the low to mid 20s.
 - The coldest temperatures will be Wednesday night.
 - Wind Chill values below 0 degrees tonight and Thursday morning across Western Whatcom County and the East Puget Sound Lowlands (see graphic)
- Freezing spray will be possible beginning on Wednesday night, especially across the north interior waters
 - Ice load may result in marine vessel structure damage and may make marine vessels heavy and unstable.
- Mostly dry conditions with occasional flurries possible

• Thursday Night & Friday

- Next weather system arrives Thursday evening with temperatures slowly moderating
 - Precipitation is expected to begin as snow before transitioning to sleet, then freezing rain, and eventually rain.
 - **Areas of Ice accumulation, potentially significant, likely and may bring widespread impacts (travel, power outages), especially from Grays Harbor County to King County (see graphics)**
 - Additional snowfall amounts generally 1 inch or less, except for Western Whatcom and Skagit Counties and the San Juan Islands where 1-3 inches are possible. (see graphics)

- Warmer temperatures on Friday with a transition to rain expected
 - Rapidly warming temperatures with moderate to heavy rainfall may lead to significant rain-on-snow impacts, including river flooding and urban flooding
- Heavy mountain snow, possibly transitioning to freezing rain Friday, expected in the mountains before snow levels rapidly rise into the weekend
- **Saturday**
 - Heavy rain likely, with rain on snow possibly leading to urban flooding. Areas rivers will begin to rise
- **Sunday and Next Week**
 - Heavy rain likely to continue at times, likely resulting in river flooding

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For the latest forecast updates, visit weather.gov/seattle.

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