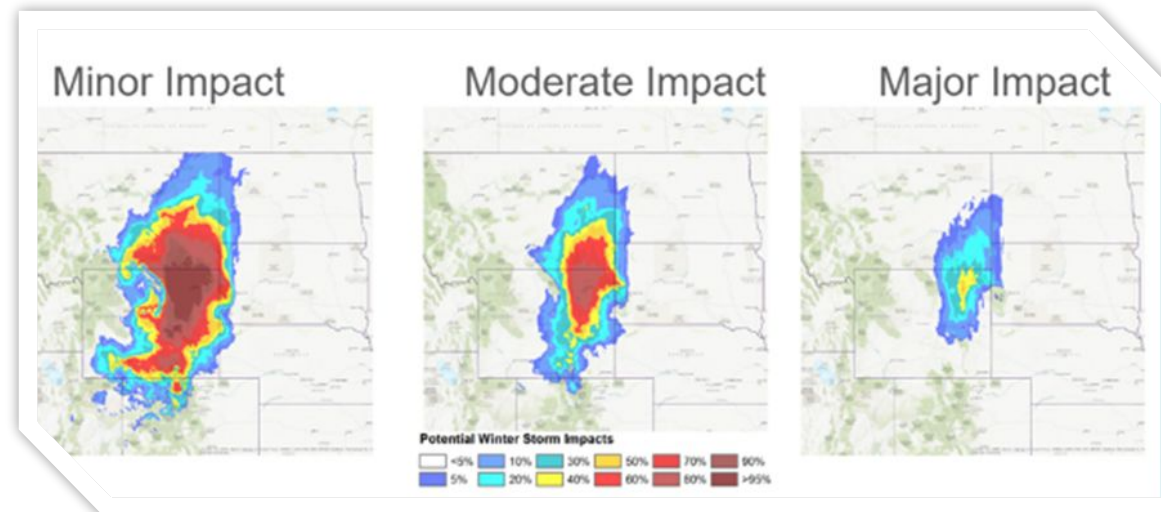


Potential Winter Storm Impacts	
	<p>Minor Impacts Expect a few inconveniences to daily life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter driving conditions. Use caution while driving.
	<p>Moderate Impacts Expect disruptions to daily life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazardous driving conditions. Use extra caution while driving. Closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.
	<p>Major Impacts Expect considerable disruptions to daily life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dangerous or impossible driving conditions. Avoid travel if possible. Widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.
	<p>Extreme Impacts Expect substantial disruptions to daily life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extremely dangerous or impossible driving conditions. Travel is not advised. Extensive and widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur. Life-saving actions may be needed.

PWSSI is a tool from the National Weather Service designed to help maintain situational awareness and to help communicate a general level of potential societal impacts and their spatial distribution for winter.

PWSSI provides a classification of the likelihood of potential societal impacts due to expected winter hazards and their distribution using the following terminology: “minor,” “moderate,” “major,” and “extreme” from 24 hours out to 7 days in 24 hour periods moving forward six hours at a time .



It’s designed to help answer the question how likely is an impact from a winter storm and how likely are the impacts going to minor, moderate, major or extreme.

- **PWSSI is:**
 - Numerical weather prediction ensemble driven tool designed to maintain situational awareness and to help communicate a general level of potential societal impacts and their spatial distribution for winter weather.
- **PWSSI is NOT:**
 - A specific forecast for specific impacts
 - Not meant to be the sole source of information about a winter storm
 - It should always be used in context with other NWS forecast and warning information
 - Does not account for conditions that have occurred prior to the creation time. It only uses forecast information
- **PWSSI Components:**
 - **Overall Impacts:** Meant to quickly convey where, and how intense, the greatest threat from the storm is
 - **Snow Amount Index:** Highlights areas in which impacts, could become overwhelmed due to the total amount of snow
 - **Snow Rate Index:** Highlights areas in which impacts, especially transportation, could become overwhelmed due to the rate snow is accumulating
 - **Snow Load Index:** Highlights areas where the weight of the snow could result in damage to trees and powerlines
 - **Ice Accumulation Index:** Accounts for the combined effects of ice accumulation and wind which can produce widespread tree damage, transportation shutdowns and utility problems
 - **Blowing Snow Index:** Highlights areas where blowing/drifting snow is expected to occur and result in transportation related problems

Urban Areas (defined from US Census Bureau)

- Used in the Ice Accumulation Index & Snow Amount Index
- Give 25% increase to impact

Land Use / Coverage - Updated 2023

- Used in the Blowing Snow Index & Ground Blizzard Index
- Decreases impacts for areas of reduced wind (such as forests and high density commercial/residential areas) compared to areas without reductions (such as cropland and grassland)

Forest Density - Updated 2023

- Used in the Snow Load Index & Ice Accumulation Index
- Coniferous, deciduous and combined maximum forecast density