

...Winter Weather Preparedness Week Across New England And New York...  
...Today's Topic...Winter Weather Warnings And Terminology...

all of the New England states as well as the state of New York...  
in partnership with the national weather service offices in these  
respective states...have designated this week as Winter Weather  
Preparedness Week.

If you have not already done so...now is the time to get yourself  
and your property prepared for the winter season.

During the winter season your National Weather Service office at  
Burlington maintains a 24 hour weather watch. Various types of  
messages will be issued throughout the season informing you of  
impending hazardous winter weather and how to prepare for it.

It is important that you understand the terminology used so that  
you can quickly take appropriate action necessary to save lives  
and minimize damage to property.

A Hazardous Weather Outlook is generally issued up to 7 days in  
advance of an approaching winter storm...when forecasters believe  
there is a strong possibility of winter storm conditions.

A Winter Storm Watch means conditions are favorable for the  
development of hazardous winter weather. Weather conditions that  
would prompt the issuance of a watch include the possibility of  
a blizzard...snow accumulating 6 or more inches...damaging  
accumulations of ice such as the ice storm of January 1998...or  
a combination of these elements. Winter Storm Watches are typically  
issued 12 to 48 hours before the arrival of the winter storm.

when a Winter Storm Warning is issued...there is a high probability  
that hazardous winter weather such as snow...sleet...freezing  
rain or a combination of these elements is imminent or is already  
in progress. An Ice Storm Warning is issued for expected ice accumulation  
of an half inch or greater. These warnings are generally issued 12 to 24  
hours  
before the winter storm arrives.

A Blizzard Warning will be issued for only the most severe winter  
weather conditions. In a blizzard...heavy snow and winds of at  
least 35 miles an hour combine to create visibilities at or  
below one quarter of a mile in falling...blowing and drifting  
snow...persisting for at least 3 hours.

A Snow Squall Warning will be issued when quarter-mile or lower  
visibility is expected with brief heavy snow and gusty winds...producing  
hazardous conditions for motorists.

A Wind Chill Warning is issued when the combined effects of wind  
and cold produce wind chill temperatures of minus 30 degrees or  
colder. At such temperatures exposed flesh can experience  
frostbite in less than 10 minutes.

A High Wind Warning will be issued for the occurrence of persistent winds of 40 miles an hour or greater or frequent gusts in excess of 58 miles an hour.

A Winter Weather Advisory is issued for 4 or more inches of snow or for significant icing on exposed surfaces such as roads... sidewalks...power lines and trees to pose a hazard...but fall short of warning criteria. Specific winter type advisories such as a Lake Effect Snow Advisory or a Freezing Rain Advisory may be issued as well.

A Wind Chill Advisory is issued when the combined effects of wind and cold produce wind chill temperatures between 20 and 29 degrees below zero. at these temperatures exposed flesh can experience frostbite in less than 30 minutes.

A Wind Advisory will be issued for the occurrence of persistent winds between 31 and 39 miles an hour...or frequent gusts in excess of 45 miles an hour.

Winter can be a very dangerous time of year. The National Weather Service at Burlington will keep you up-to-date on fast changing weather conditions. So listen to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards often for the latest weather information. also...check the latest forecasts... warnings and more at [weather.gov](http://weather.gov)...then click on Vermont.