

National Weather Service
Baltimore/Washington Weather Forecast Office
Sterling, Virginia

New Service: Beginning this winter season, the Baltimore/Washington Weather Forecast Office will provide a new service highlighting the potential for a high-impact, light-snowfall traffic event 12-36 hours in advance.

Service Criteria:

- 1) Very cold road temperatures: 20s (often the mid-20s) or colder
- 2) **Chance** of a small amount of snow or freezing rain
- 3) Taking place during rush hour

Important Note to Communicate: This service is a notice of the **potential** for a commuter's threat, and not a definitive forecast. These will typically be issued with a 30-50% chance of occurrence. That means a 50-70% chance of no impact.

Primary Users: Emergency managers, transportation planners, general public.

How Do I Receive the Service? Government planners can register for iNWS text alerts. Search "iNWS" to find the site, & click "Register" at the upper-right of the page. After registering, when setting up your preferences, ensure you check "Other" when you are selecting weather threats for which you want to be notified.

Sample Statement:

There is a threat to the Tuesday morning commute. A period of snow is POSSIBLE (a 30% chance) Tuesday morning across the Baltimore and Washington metro areas with up to an inch accumulation on area roads.

If this threat does materialize during Tuesday morning rush hour, many roads would quickly turn to ice. That would lead to very dangerous traveling conditions, multiple accidents, and extensive delays.

Commuters, be aware of the POSSIBILITY of significant travel disruptions during Tuesday morning's commute. Plan ahead by allowing for extra travel time, and consider using public transportation and telework options. Stay tuned for updates on this potential winter weather episode.