

Winter Outlook 2016-17 & NWS Services

National Weather Service



Baltimore/Washington
Weather Forecast Office

Chris Strong

Warning Coordination Meteorologist



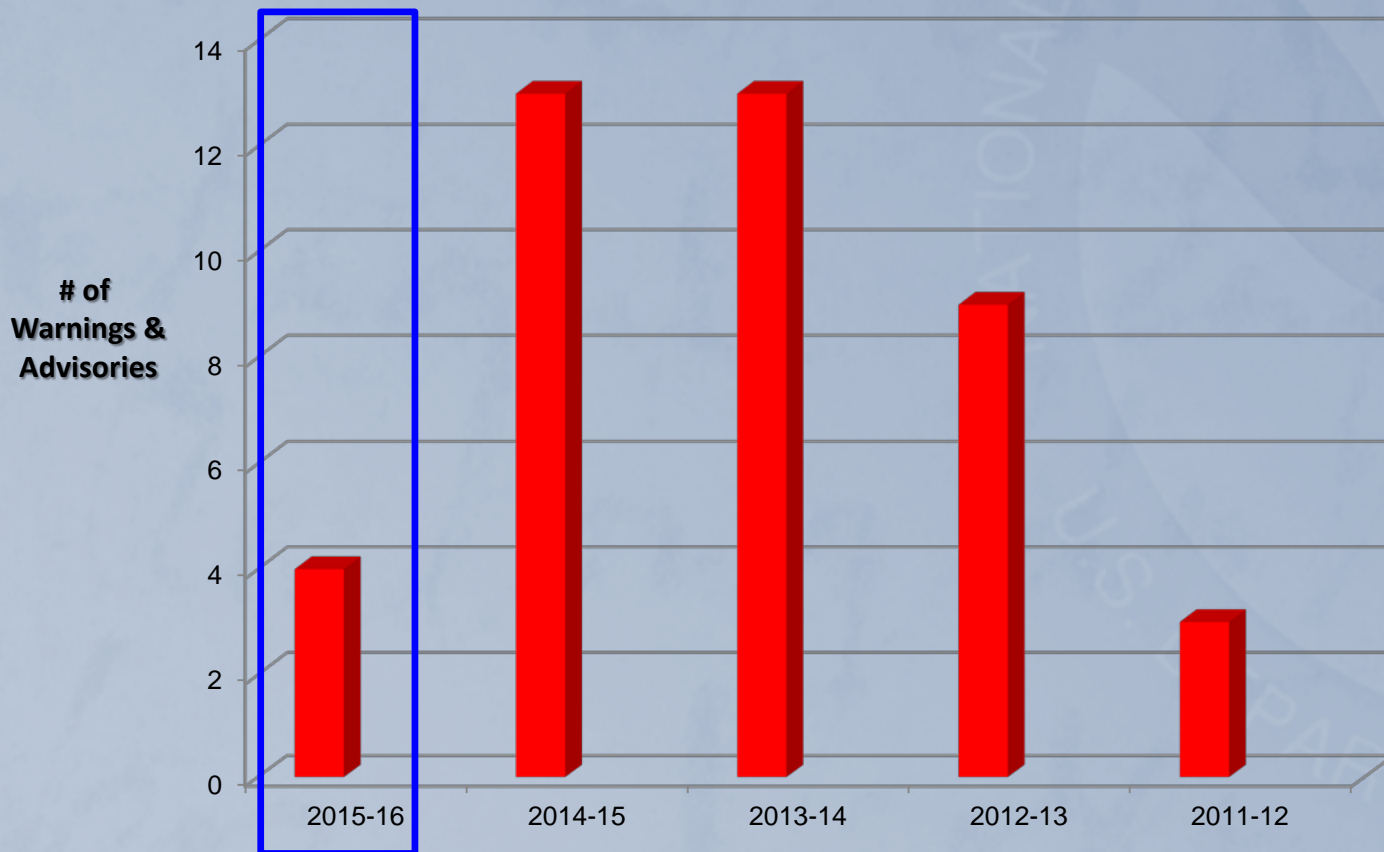
Outline

- **Last Winter**
- **What to expect this winter**
- **New service to attack Jan 20th**
- **NWS Resources to Cover You Days 0-7**



So..... What Happened Last Year?

- Only a few “events”, as compared to recent past but...



Data for Fairfax Co.



So..... What Happened Last Year?

...almost all of it fell during the blizzard.

IAD

- **34" fell** - average is 22"
 - #1) 29.3" Blizzard

DCA

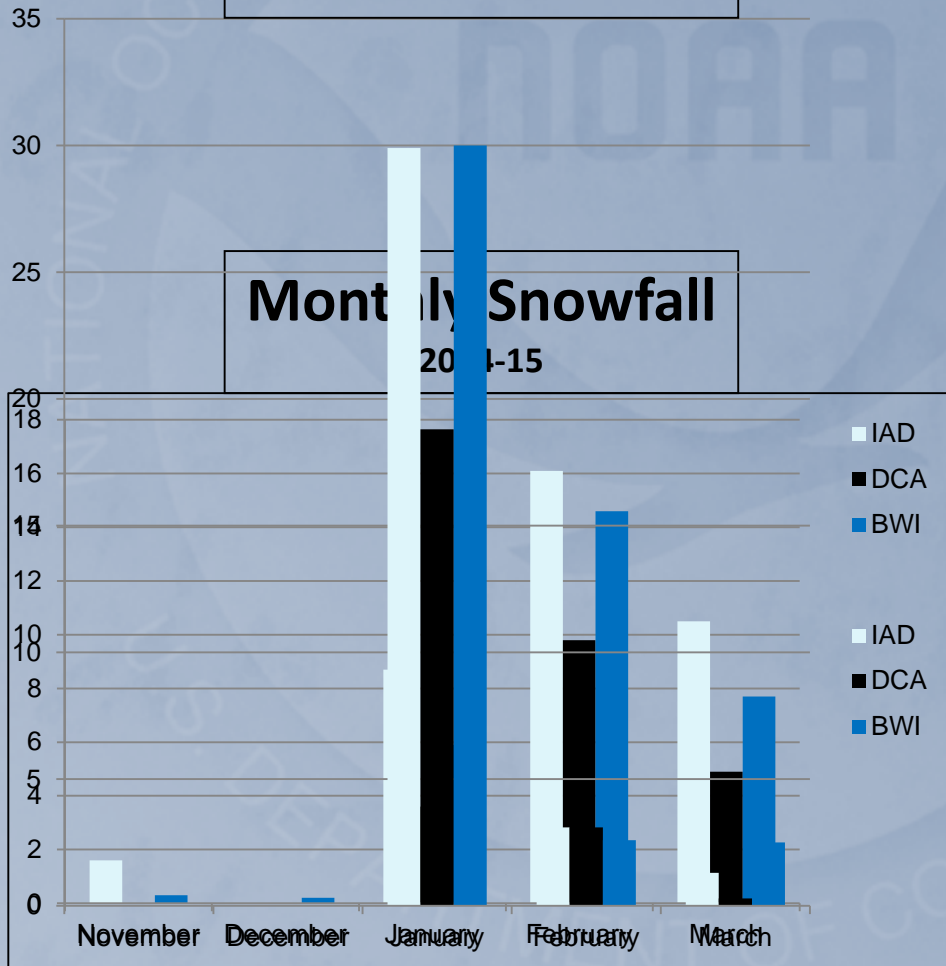
- **22" fell** - average is 15.4"
 - #1) 17.8" Blizzard

BWI

- **35" fell** - average is 20.1"
 - #1) 29.2" Blizzard

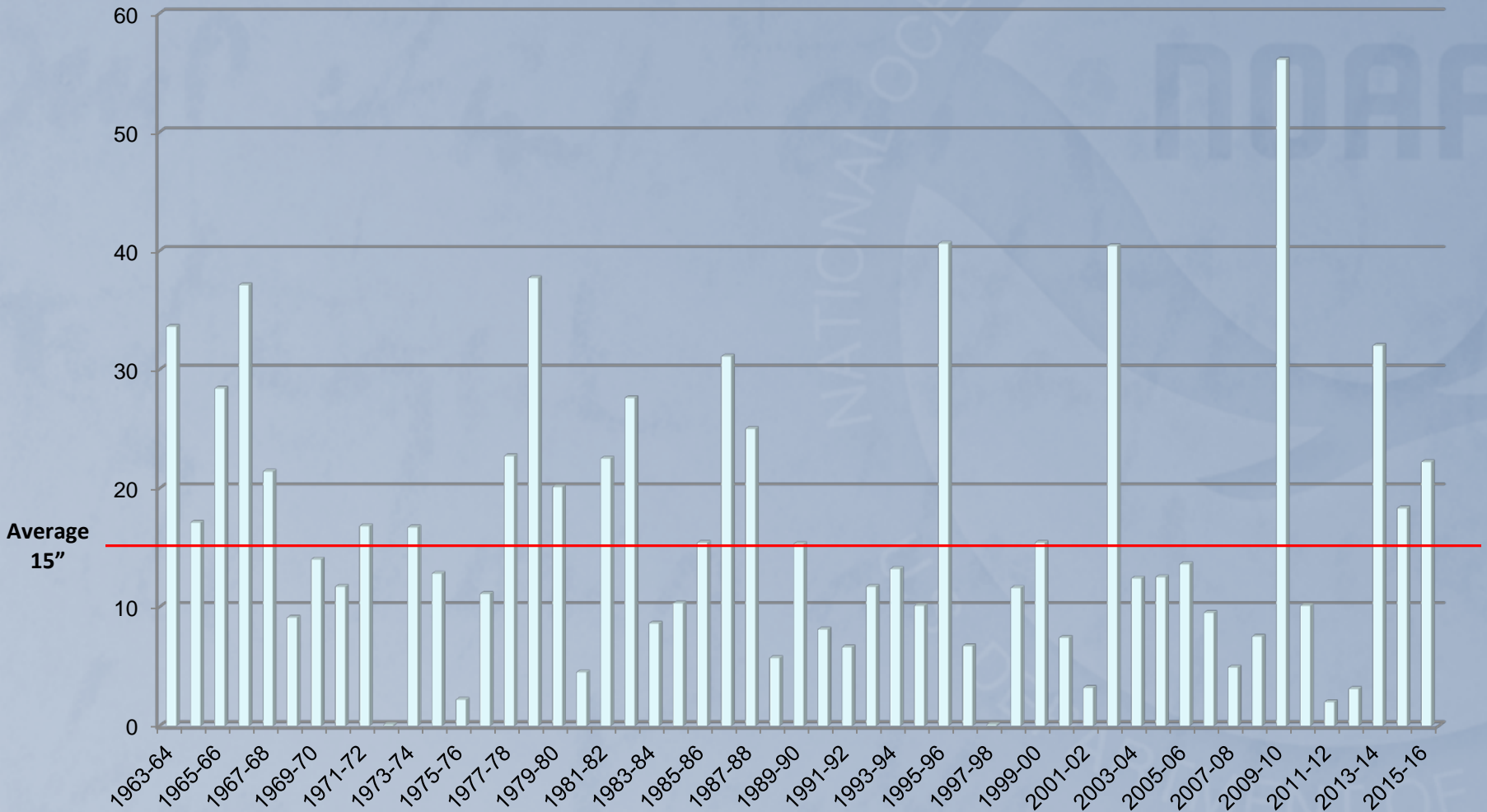
Monthly Snowfall

2015-16

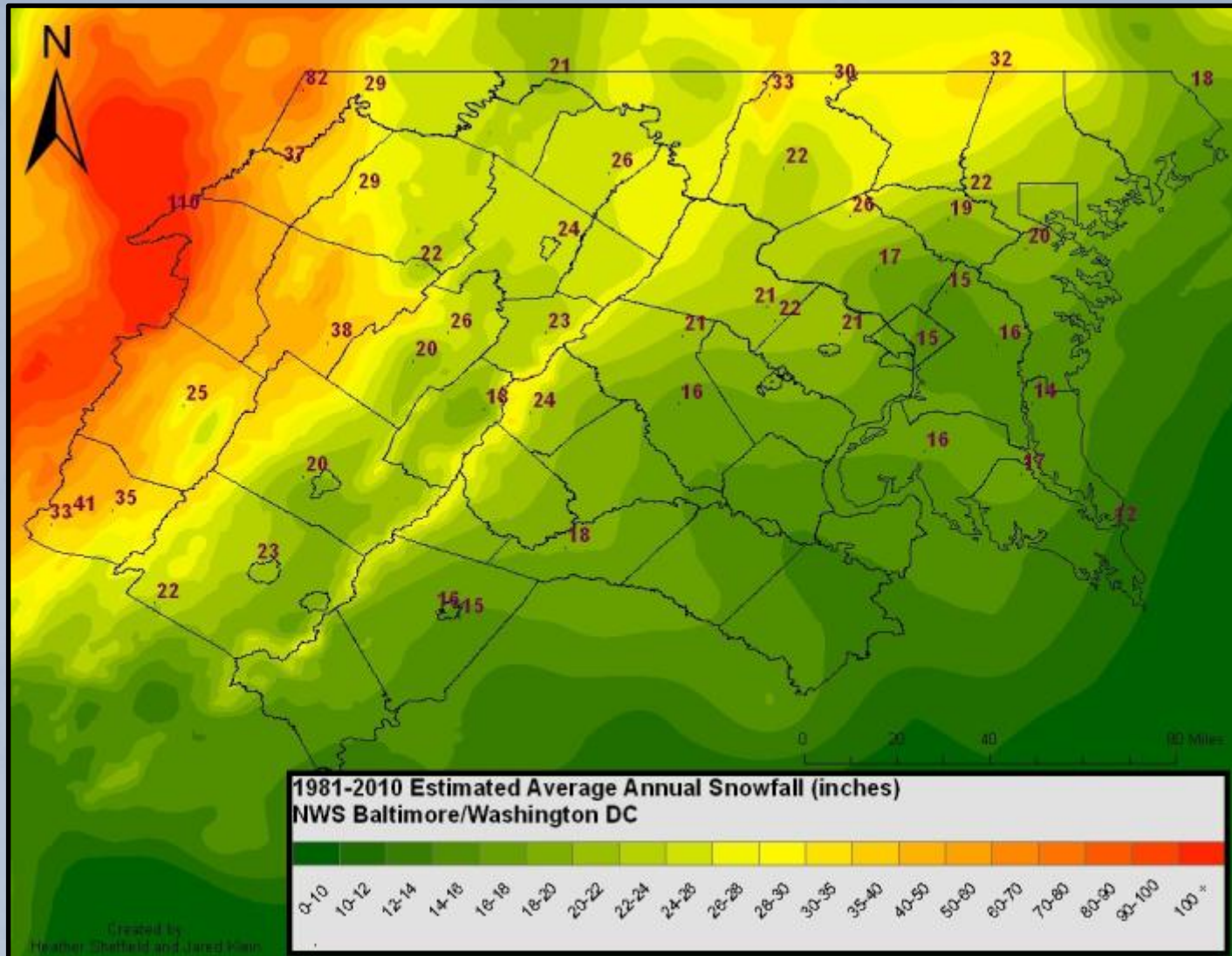


DCA Seasonal Snowfalls

Inches



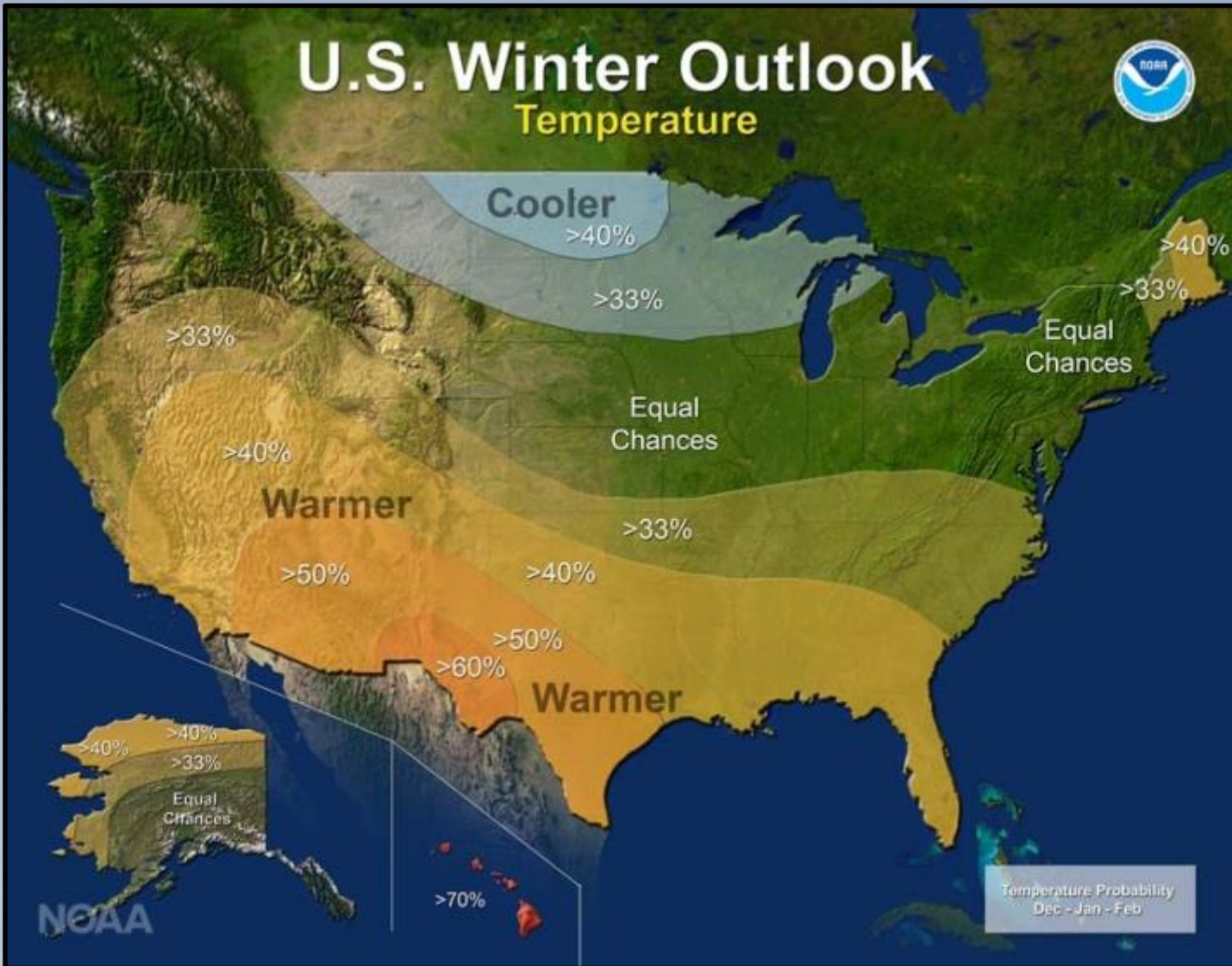
Average Snowfall



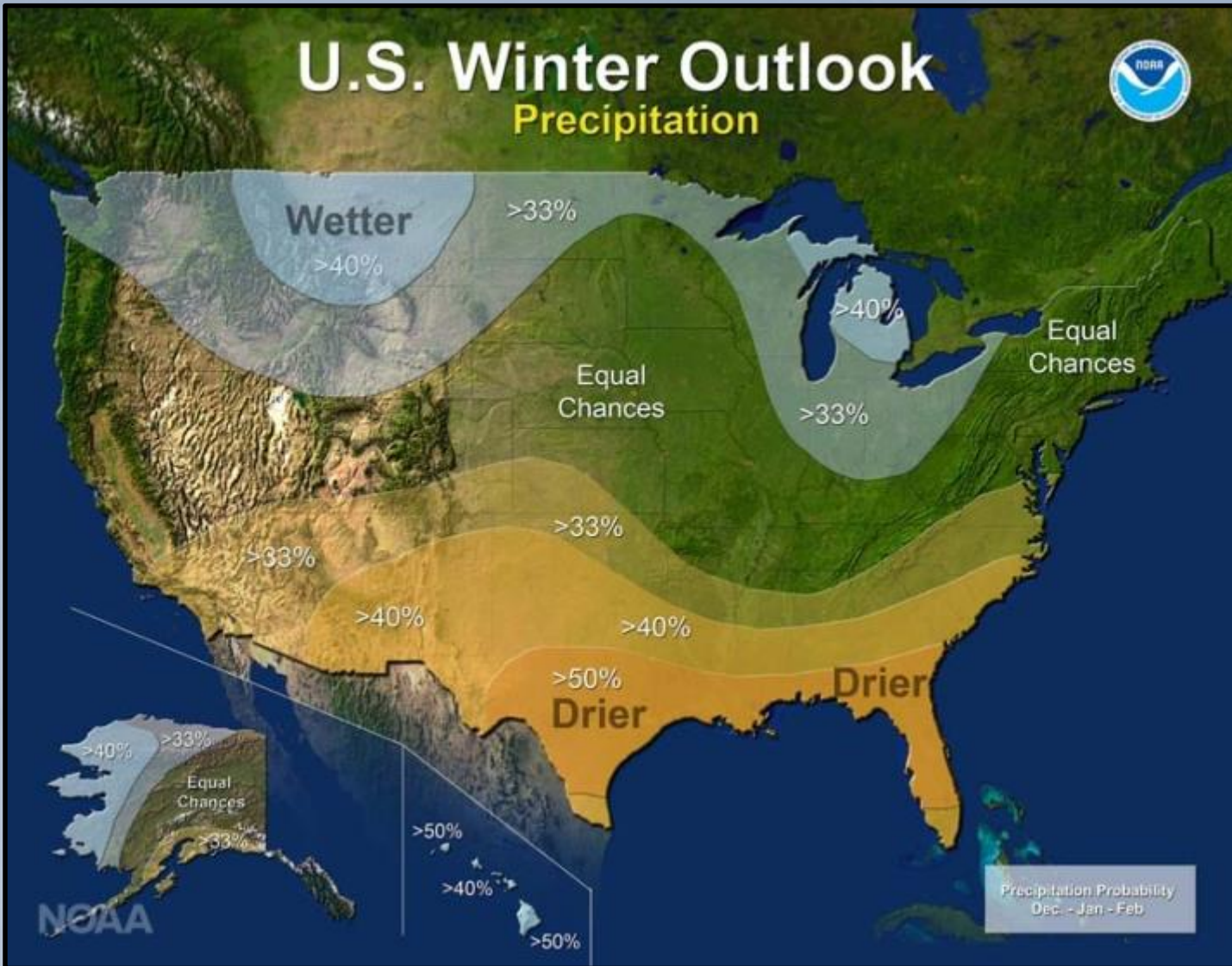
Looking Ahead...



Where is the deck stacked?



Where is the deck stacked?





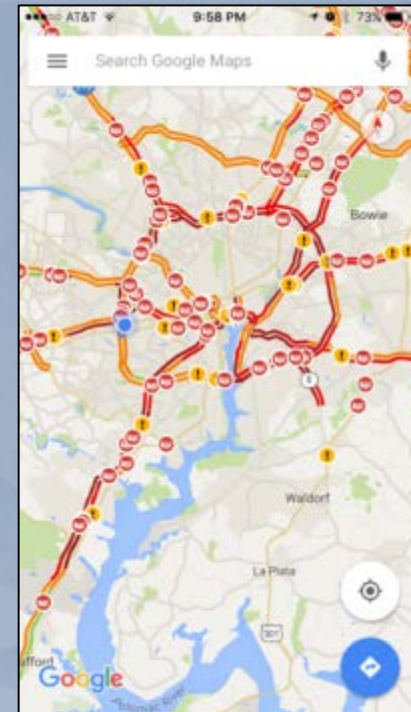
Winter Outlook ('16-'17)

- **El Niño/La Niña Cycle**
 - **Expected: Neutral - weakly **La Niña****
- **Mid-Atlantic Outlook:**
 - **No strong signal yet for temp/precip here at this point**
- **If road temperatures are 20s (or colder)...**
....be on **High Alert for any chance of snow!**
 - **Rush hour traffic + small snow + frozen roads ...**
... turns out badly.



3 ingredients for Traffic Disaster

- **Pavement is sub-freezing**
 - Especially mid-20s or colder (unusual in D.C.)
- **Full rush-hour traffic**
- **Small accumulation of snow**
 - Dusting to 2"



Courtesy: Lori Montenegro

The Big Challenge

- **Pavement is sub-freezing**
 - Especially 20s (not usual in D.C.)
- **Full rush-hour traffic**
- **Small accumulation of snow**
 - Dusting to 2"

- **Accumulation in small storms is rarely certain**
- **Usually NWS will see the threat of accumulation, but unsure if it will occur.**
 - May get small snow
 - May get no snow

Knowing there's a threat can help your decisions





Winter Commuter Notice

w/ DOT Notification ~24hrs in Advance

...WINTER COMMUTER NOTICE FOR WASHINGTON METRO TUESDAY MORNING...

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.



*National Weather Service
Baltimore/Washington*



NWS Resources for you...

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

HOME FORECAST PAST WEATHER SAFETY INFORMATION EDUCATION NEWS SEARCH ABOUT

Local forecast by "City, St" or ZIP code
Enter location ...
[Location Help](#)

News Headlines
▪ [Want to be a weather spotter for us? Take a spotter class!](#)

NWS Forecast Office Baltimore/Washington
[Weather.gov](#) > Sterling, VA

Sterling, VA
Weather Forecast Office

[Current Hazards](#) [Current Conditions](#) [Radar](#) [Forecasts](#) [Rivers and Lakes](#) [Climate and Past Weather](#) [Local Programs](#)

Click on the map below to zoom in.

Watches/Warnings
Drought
Local Outlook
River Flooding
Space
Briefing Page
Thunderstorms
Winter
Hurricanes

[Watches](#)
[Warnings & Advisories](#)

- [Special Marine Warning](#)
- [Small Craft Advisory](#)
- [Special Weather Statement](#)
- [Marine Weather Statement](#)
- [Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)
- [Short Term Forecast](#)

Last Map Update: Fri, Sep. 4, 2015 at 1:56:21 pm EDT

www.weather.gov/washington/winter

0-3 Days Out



*National Weather Service
Baltimore/Washington*

Range of Possibilities

Minimum

Most Likely

Maximum

Expect at Least This Much

Valid: 09/28/2016 10:00 PM - 09/29/2016 11:00 PM



National Weather Service
Baltimore/Washington
09/28/2016 04:14 PM EDT
Follow Us: [f](#) [t](#)
www.weather.gov/bwx/winter

Most Likely Snowfall

Valid: 09/28/2016 08:00 AM - 09/29/2016 08:00 AM



National Weather Service
Baltimore/Washington
09/27/2016 03:15 PM EDT
Follow Us: [f](#) [t](#)
www.weather.gov/bwx/winter

Potential for This Much

Valid: 09/28/2016 09:00 AM - 09/29/2016 03:00 AM



National Weather Service
Baltimore/Washington
09/27/2016 03:18 PM EDT
Follow Us: [f](#) [t](#)
www.weather.gov/bwx/winter

Expect at least this much

Official NWS Forecast

Potential for this much

User FAQs

- **What About “-----” Model?**
 - **This Approach Uses 69 Models!**
 - **Includes European, Canadian, American** (global & local scale)
 - **Also NWS Forecaster Expertise**
 - **Terrain**
 - **Heavy Snow Band Potential**



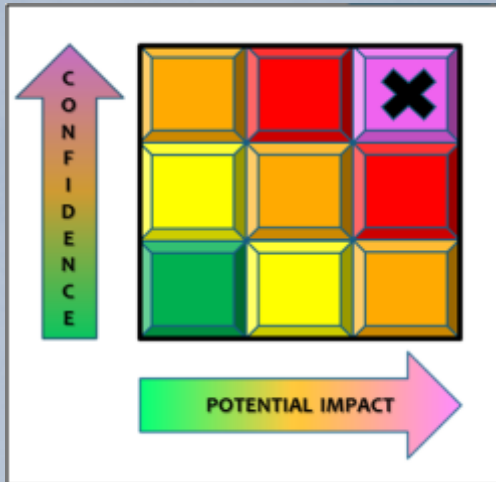
3-7 Days Out



*National Weather Service
Baltimore MD/Washington DC*

Experimental Winter Threat Outlook

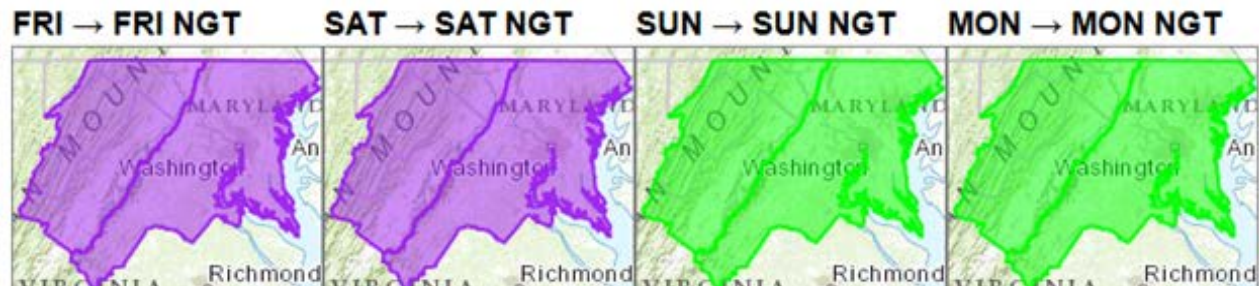
3-7 Days From Now



Example: 3-4 Days before Jan Blizzard

Click on maps to see daily Confidence vs. Potential Impact graphic. (Click [here](#) to hide.)

Last Updated: 01/19/2016 4:04 AM Eastern



High	High threat of high impact winter storm. Potential impacts include significant travel delays, closures, and threats to life and property. Plan ahead to minimize impact on you and your family.
Moderate	Moderate winter storm threat. Potential impacts include significant travel delays and closures. Plan ahead to minimize impact on you and your family.
Enhanced	Enhanced winter storm threat. Primary threat is disruption to travel.
Slight	Slight winter storm threat. If threat materializes, may cause travel disruptions.
None	No significant winter storm threat is currently expected. However, light wintry precipitation may still be possible.

iNWS Text Alerts

Watch/Warning/Advisory &
Special Weather Statement
(*Winter Commuter Notice*)

Register @ iNWS

AT&T 4G 9:48 AM

InteractiveNWS - Alert Information

inws.wrh.noaa.gov/weat/ Google

Home My Alerts FAQ About

Interactive NWS Alert Information

New Event for Fairfax County
Severe Thunderstorm Warning valid from Aug 5 5:31 PM to 6:15 PM EDT
Sent to SMS at Aug 5 5:27 PM EDT

Washington
Alexandria

NWS Alert User Alert Area

Radar Time: Aug 5 2012 5:30 PM EDT

WUOZ01 WARK 05051
ZUNLEW
UNCR03-153-00205-
/OJ000.#0007.0V.#.0004.L000000000.L000000000/

BULLETIN - SAS ACTIVATED REQUIRED:
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WASHINGTON DC
151 PM EDT AUG 5 2012

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN STEELING VIRGINIA HAS ISSUED A

- * SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING FOR...
SOUTHERN PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY IN SOUTHERN VIRGINIA...
SOUTHERN PATRICK COUNTY IN SOUTHERN VIRGINIA...
- * SMALL K12 IN MD
- * AT 530 PM EDT...A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM HAS DETECTED A HAZARD LEVEL OF
LARGE SIZE...ON NEAR WASHINGTON...AND WAS MOVING EAST AT 30 MPH. THIS
STORM IS CAPABLE OF PRODUCEING DAMAGING WINDS IN EXCESS OF 60 MPH.
- * LOCATIONS IMPACTED INCLUDE...
LARG RIDGE...
LORTON...
MOUNTAIN...
NEWINGTON...
NEWSCALES...
PORT BELVIDER...
FRANKFORD...
SPRINGFIELD...
THE 2301 AND 0495 OVERPASS...

Navigation icons: back, forward, share, book, tabs (5)



0-7 Days Out

NWS Has You Covered

- **0-3 Days**

- *Watches/Warnings/Advisories*
- *Range of Possibility accumulations*
- *Winter Commuter Notice* 
 - *Road temperatures: 20s or lower*
 - *During rush hour traffic*
 - *Small snow threat 30% of occurring*

- **3-7 Days**

- *Winter Storm Threat Outlook*

www.weather.gov/washington/winter





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Baltimore/Washington Forecast Office

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(703) 996-2223 (my office)



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Baltimore/Washington*