

Elected Officials Briefing

Winter Storm Harlow



February 11, 2025

Town of Warrenton, Virginia

Office of Emergency Management

Winter Storm Harlow

SPOT REPORT: # 4

DATE: 2/10/24

TIME: 1800

Elected Officials Briefing: Winter Storm Harlow - Warrenton, VA

Subject: Winter Storm Harlow Impact and Local Emergency Declaration

Situation:

Winter Storm Harlow is expected to significantly impact the Warrenton area today and continue through early Thursday morning. Current forecasts predict heavy, wet snow, sleet, and ice accumulations ranging from six to ten inches. This precipitation, combined with potential ice accumulation, poses a significant threat to travel, infrastructure, and public safety.

State Response:

Governor Youngkin has proactively declared a state of emergency, enabling the Commonwealth to pre-position resources strategically. Warrenton has been selected as the staging point for the Virginia Army National Guard Debris Clearance teams. Additionally, chainsaw teams from the Department of Forestry, based in Charlottesville, are pre-positioned in the region.

Local Response and Emergency Declaration:

The Warrenton Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has been in constant communication with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) regional office. To effectively access state resources and coordinate response efforts, a local declaration of emergency is required. The OEM has drafted a local declaration for the Town Manager's consideration.

Town of Warrenton, Virginia

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Winter Storm Harlow

Benefits of a Local Emergency Declaration:

A local declaration of emergency provides several critical benefits:

- **Access to State Resources:** It formally activates the Town's emergency plan and serves as the trigger for requesting assistance from the state, including the National Guard, Department of Forestry, and other available resources. Without a local declaration, accessing these resources can be significantly delayed or even denied.
- **Streamlined Coordination:** The declaration facilitates seamless coordination with VDEM and other state agencies. This ensures a unified and efficient response to the storm's impact.
- **Liability Protection:** In certain circumstances, a declaration can offer some liability protection for the Town and its personnel acting in good faith during the emergency response.
- **Cost Recovery:** A declaration is often a prerequisite for seeking reimbursement from the state and federal governments for eligible emergency response costs. This can be crucial for recovering expenses related to snow removal, debris clearance, and other emergency services.
- **Public Messaging:** A declaration sends a clear message to residents about the seriousness of the situation, encouraging preparedness and caution. It also allows the Town to disseminate critical information more effectively through various channels.
- **Implementation of Emergency Measures:** The declaration empowers the Town to implement necessary emergency measures, such as travel restrictions, curfews (if needed), and the activation of emergency shelters.

Next Steps:

The Town Council will need to consider approving the proposed local declaration of emergency. The OEM recommends swift action to ensure the Town can effectively respond to the impending storm and access necessary resources. Further communication and briefings will be provided as the storm progresses and impacts become clearer.

Town of Warrenton, Virginia

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Winter Storm Harlow

- EM / EOC – Monitoring / Pre-Alert Yellow
- EOC Activation – Virtual 2/11 @ 0700
- Posted Snow Emergency Routes – In-Effect Tuesday 12 AM
- Local Declaration Drafted – Pending Review - Town Administration
- Regular Town Council Work Session Tomorrow – Still Being Held
- Public Works Staffed on 24 HR rotation effective tomorrow at 0700.
- EM / DPW Strike Team Staffed 0800 Tomorrow through the duration of the event
- Warming Shelter – No Plans currently for activation unless the need arises.

Please note:

- This is a preliminary forecast and may change.
- Please monitor weather updates closely.
- Be prepared for potential travel delays and disruptions.

Timing:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tuesday - Tuesday night: Feb 11-12. ▪ Late Wednesday - early Thursday: Feb 12-13.
Impacts:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Winter Storm Warning is in effect for impactful snow and/or ice Tuesday through Tuesday night. 6 – 10+ inches of heavy wet snow, sleet and ice. ○ Significant travel impacts and closures are possible across the entire area. ▪ There is a winter storm threat late Wednesday through early Thursday for the potential of impactful snow and ice.
Forecast Confidence:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Confidence is high for snow/wintry mix Tuesday into Tuesday night. ▪ Confidence is medium for wintry precipitation occurring late Wednesday into Thursday, but low for snow/ice amounts.
Alert Level:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Activation
Next Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Report

Storm Total Ice Accumulation (in)

2"
1"
0.75"
0.5"
0.25"
0.1"
0.01"

Cumberland, Hagerstown, Westminster, Bel Air, Elton, Frederick, Baltimore, Winchester, Leesburg, Petersburg, Washington, Annapolis, Franklin, Luray, Warrenton, Lexington Park, Staunton, Orange, Fredericksburg, Charlottesville

68, 70, 81, 83, 95, 270, 97, 66, 81, 64, 95

0.25", <0.01", 0.1-0.25", 0.01-0.1", 0.1-0.25", 0.01-0.1", 0.01-0.1", 0.1-0.25", 0.01-0.1"

Delaware, Virginia, Chesapeake Bay, Potomac River

Envi, HERE, Garmin, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

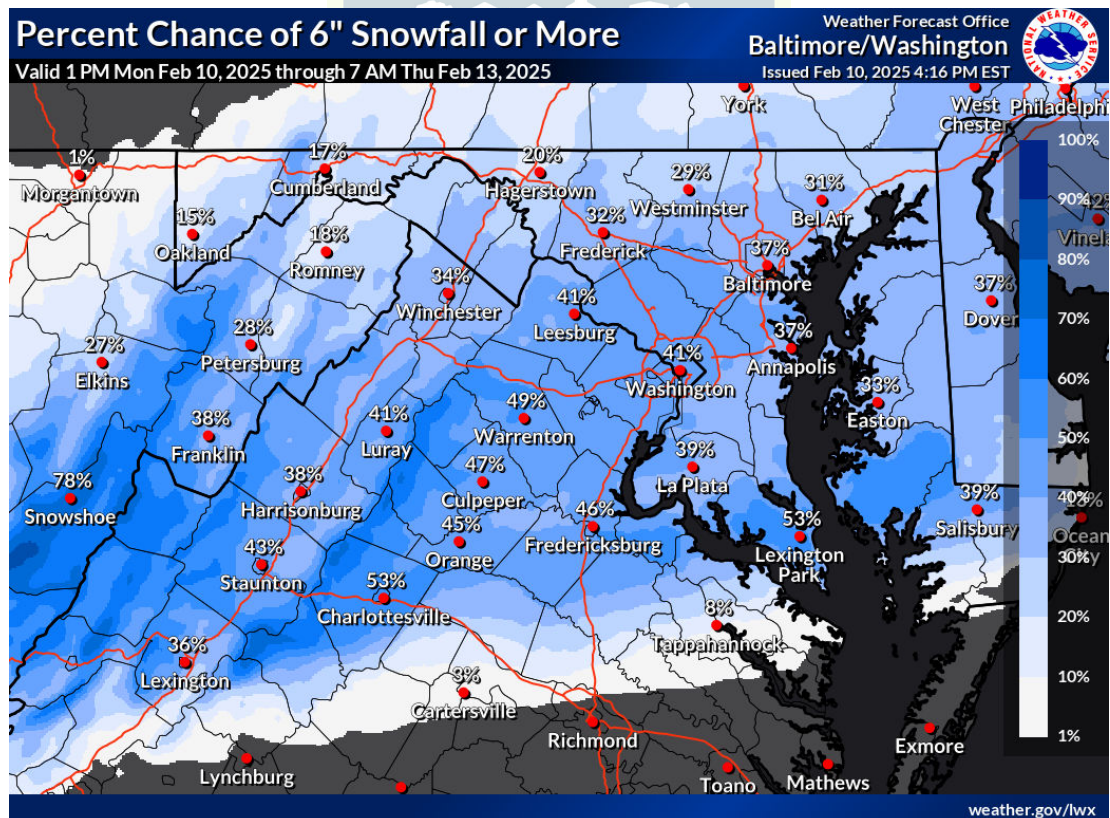
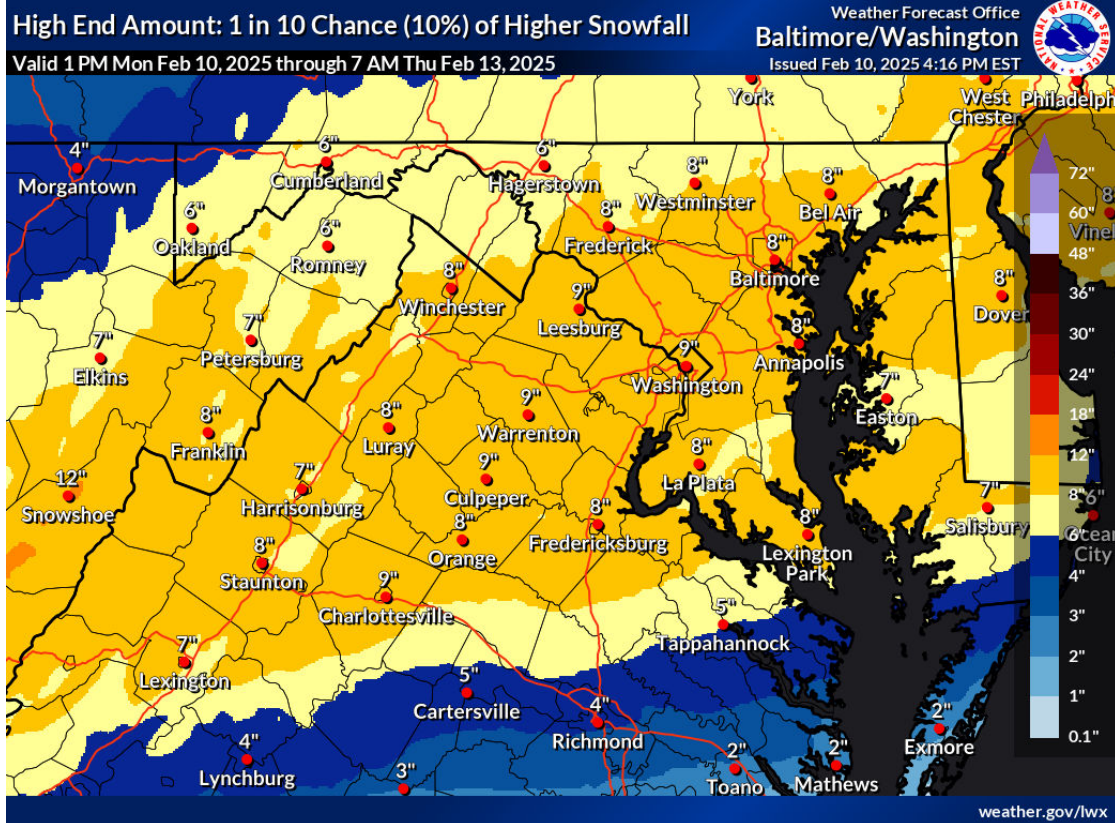
@NWS_BaltWash

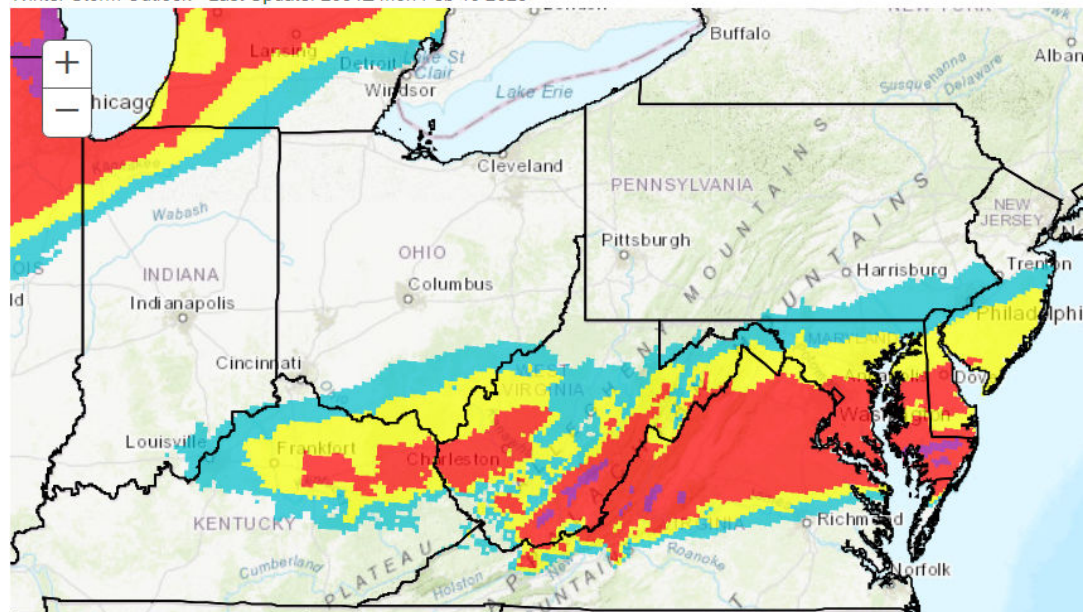
weather.gov/ww

Town of Warrenton, Virginia

Office of Emergency Management

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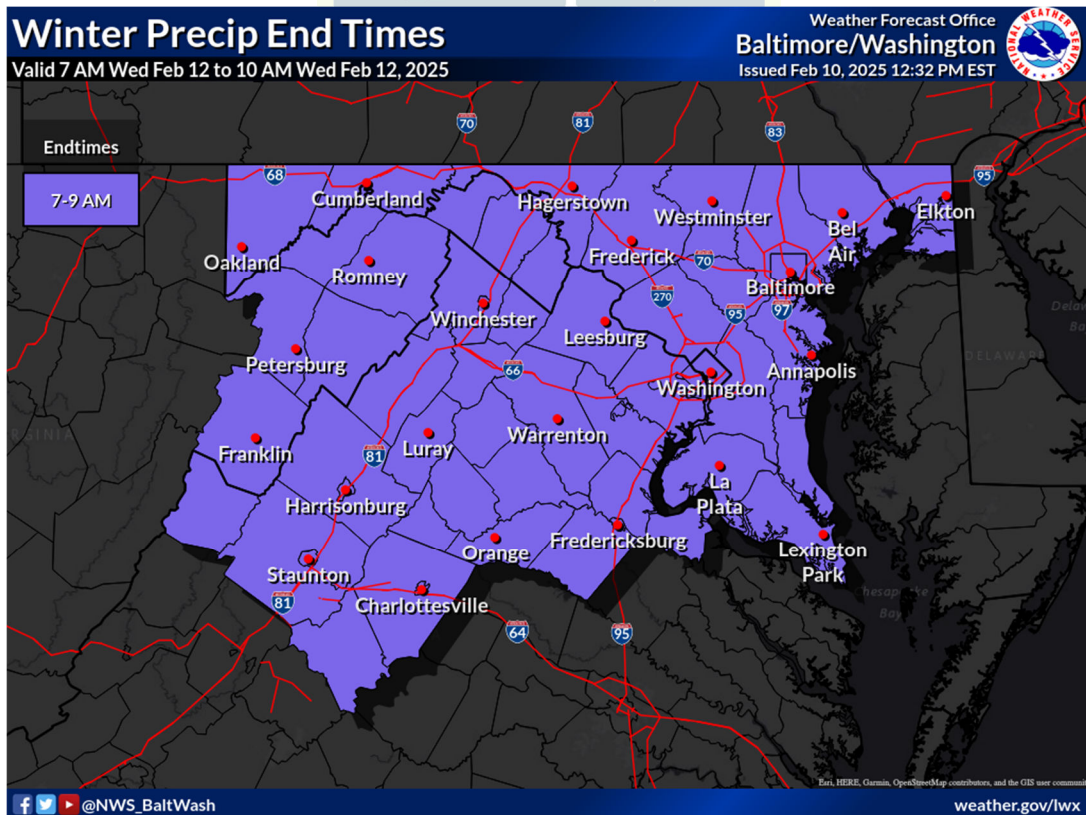
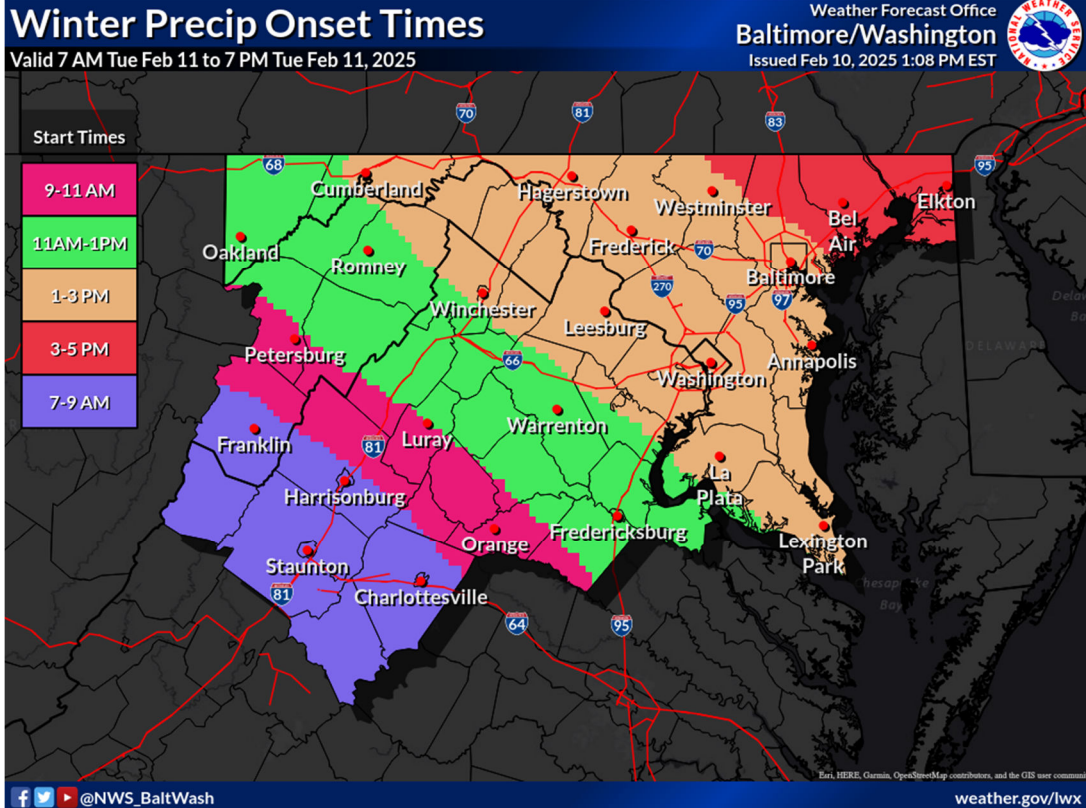




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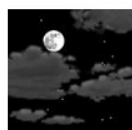
Hazardous Weather Conditions

- [Winter Storm Warning in effect from February 11, 11:00 AM EST until February 12, 07:00 AM EST](#)
- [Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)

Current conditions at

Warrenton-Fauquier Airport (KHWY)

Lat: 38.59°N Lon: 77.72°W Elev: 302ft.



Fair

30°F
-1°C

Humidity 65%
Wind Speed NE 5 mph
Barometer 30.43 in
Dewpoint 20°F (-7°C)
Visibility 10.00 mi
Wind Chill 25°F (-4°C)
Last update 11 Feb 6:35 am EST

More Information:

[Local Forecast Office](#)
[More Local Wx](#)
[3 Day History](#)
[Hourly Weather Forecast](#)

Extended Forecast for

Warrenton VA



[Click here for hazard details and duration](#)

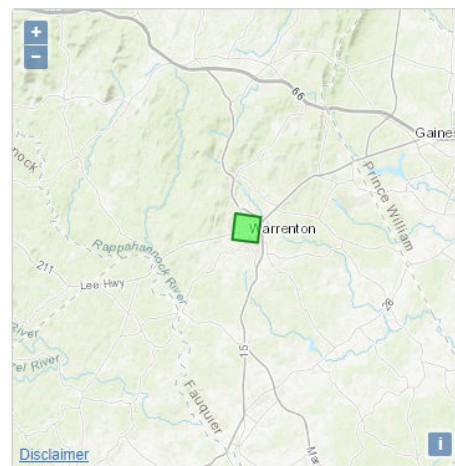
Winter Storm Warning		Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
Today	Tonight							
50% → 100%	100% 90%	70%	100%					30% → 80%
High: 34 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 34 °F	Low: 32 °F	High: 50 °F	Low: 26 °F	High: 40 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 44 °F
Chance Snow then Snow	Snow then Wintry Mix	Wintry Mix Likely	Rain	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Rain/Snow then Rain/Snow

Detailed Forecast

Today	Snow, mainly after 1pm. High near 34. Calm wind becoming south around 6 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.
Tonight	Snow before 4am, then a slight chance of snow and freezing rain. Low around 28. Light and variable wind. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Little or no ice accumulation expected. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.
Wednesday	Snow, freezing rain, and sleet likely before 1pm, then rain and sleet likely between 1pm and 4pm, then rain likely after 4pm. Cloudy, with a high near 34. East wind 3 to 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Little or no ice accumulation expected. New snow and sleet accumulation of less than a half inch possible.
Wednesday Night	Rain. Low around 32. Light and variable wind. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.
Thursday	Partly sunny, with a high near 50. South wind 6 to 9 mph becoming west in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.
Thursday Night	Partly cloudy, with a low around 26.
Friday	Sunny, with a high near 40.
Friday Night	Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25.
Saturday	A chance of rain and snow before 1pm, then rain. High near 44. Chance of precipitation is 80%.
Saturday Night	Rain. Low around 39. Chance of precipitation is 100%.
Sunday	Rain. High near 55. Chance of precipitation is 90%.
Sunday Night	Partly cloudy, with a low around 22.
Washington's Birthday	Mostly sunny, with a high near 36.

Topographic

[Click Map For Forecast](#)



[Disclaimer](#)

Forecast Area

ABOUT THIS FORECAST

Point Forecast: Warrenton VA
38.72°N 77.8°W (Elev. 600 ft)
Last Update: 8:30 am EST Feb 11, 2025

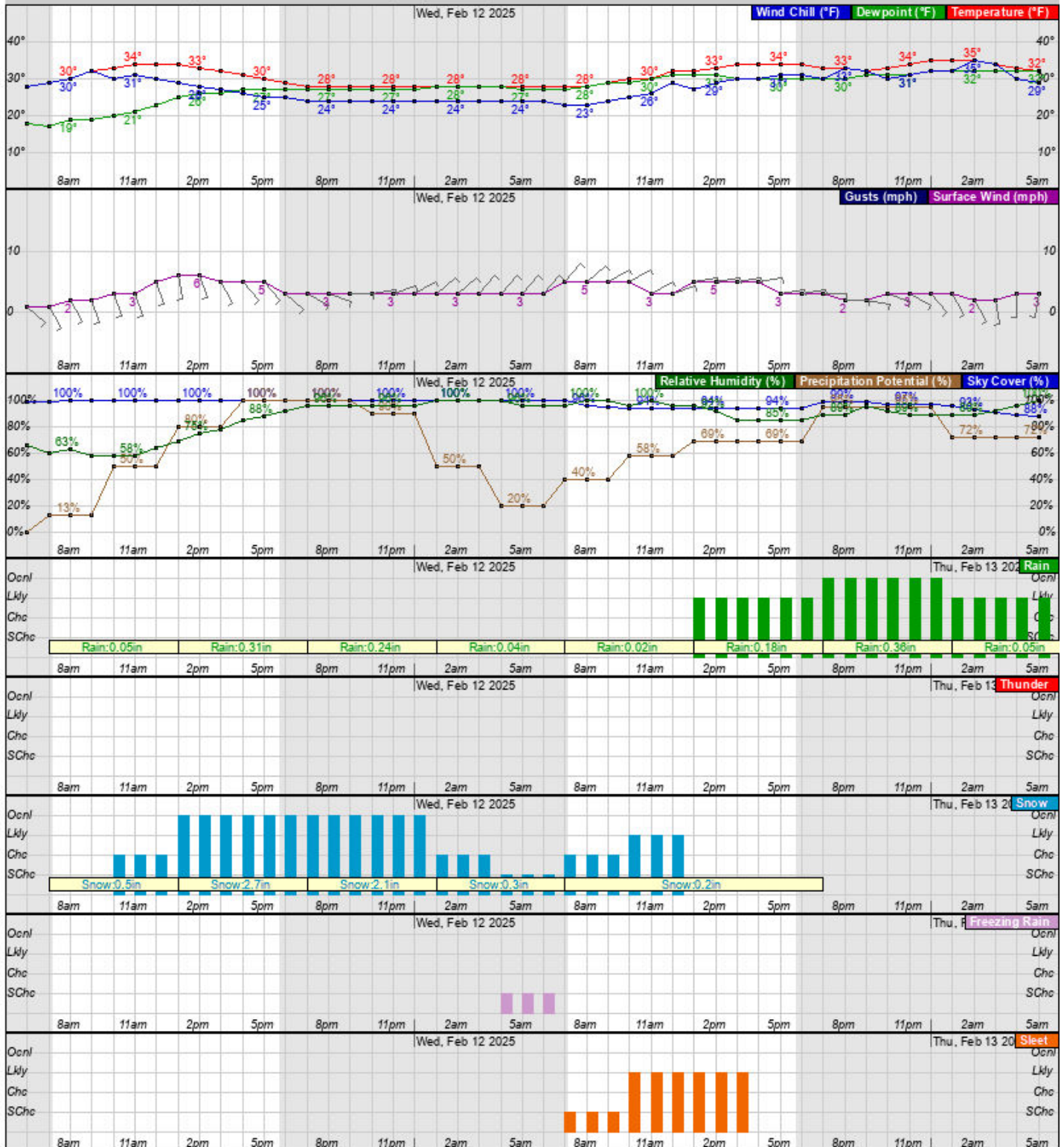
Town of Warrenton, Virginia
Office of Emergency Management
Winter Storm Harlow

48-Hour Period Starting: 6am Tue, Feb 11 2025

Submit

Back 2 Days

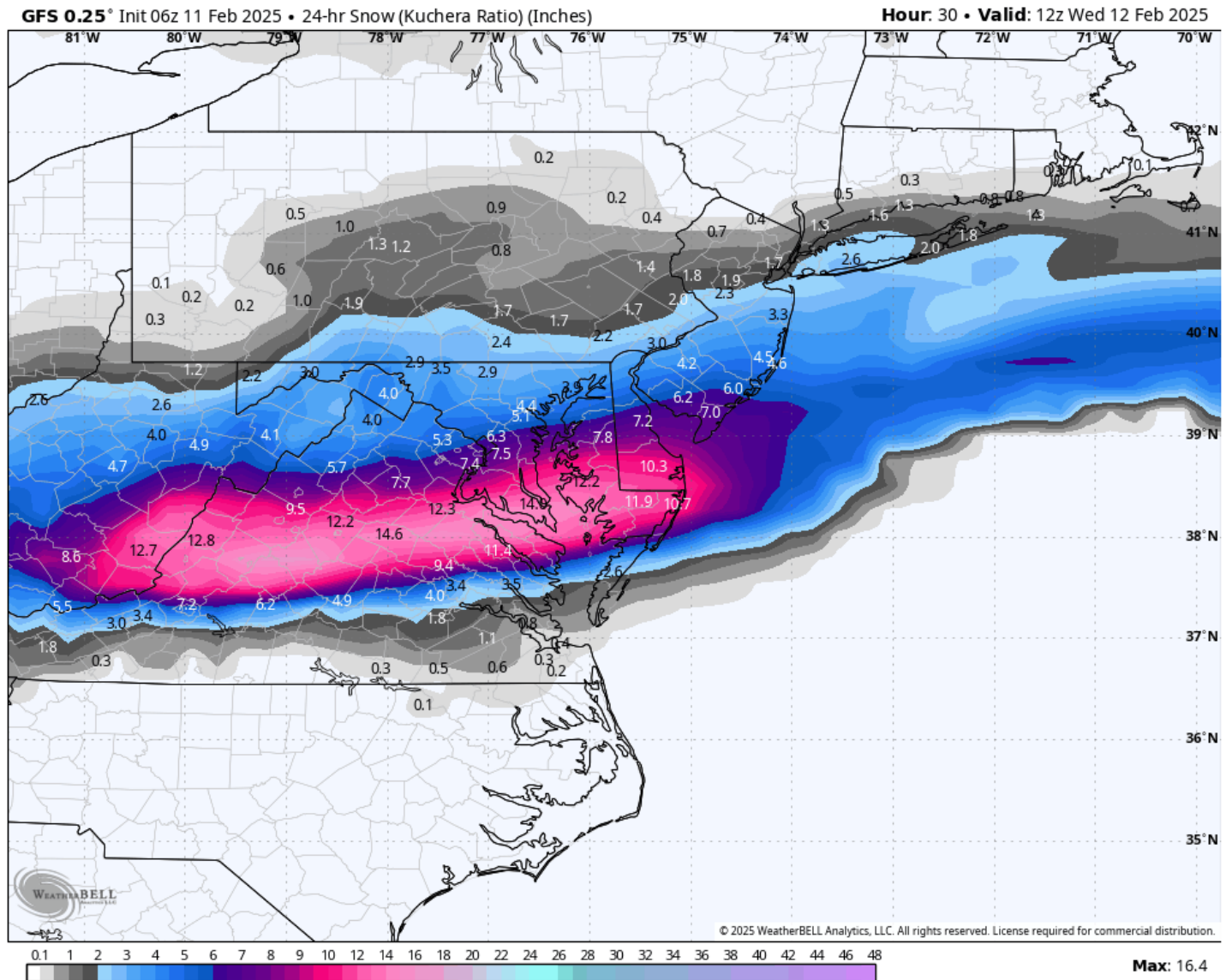
Forward 2 Days



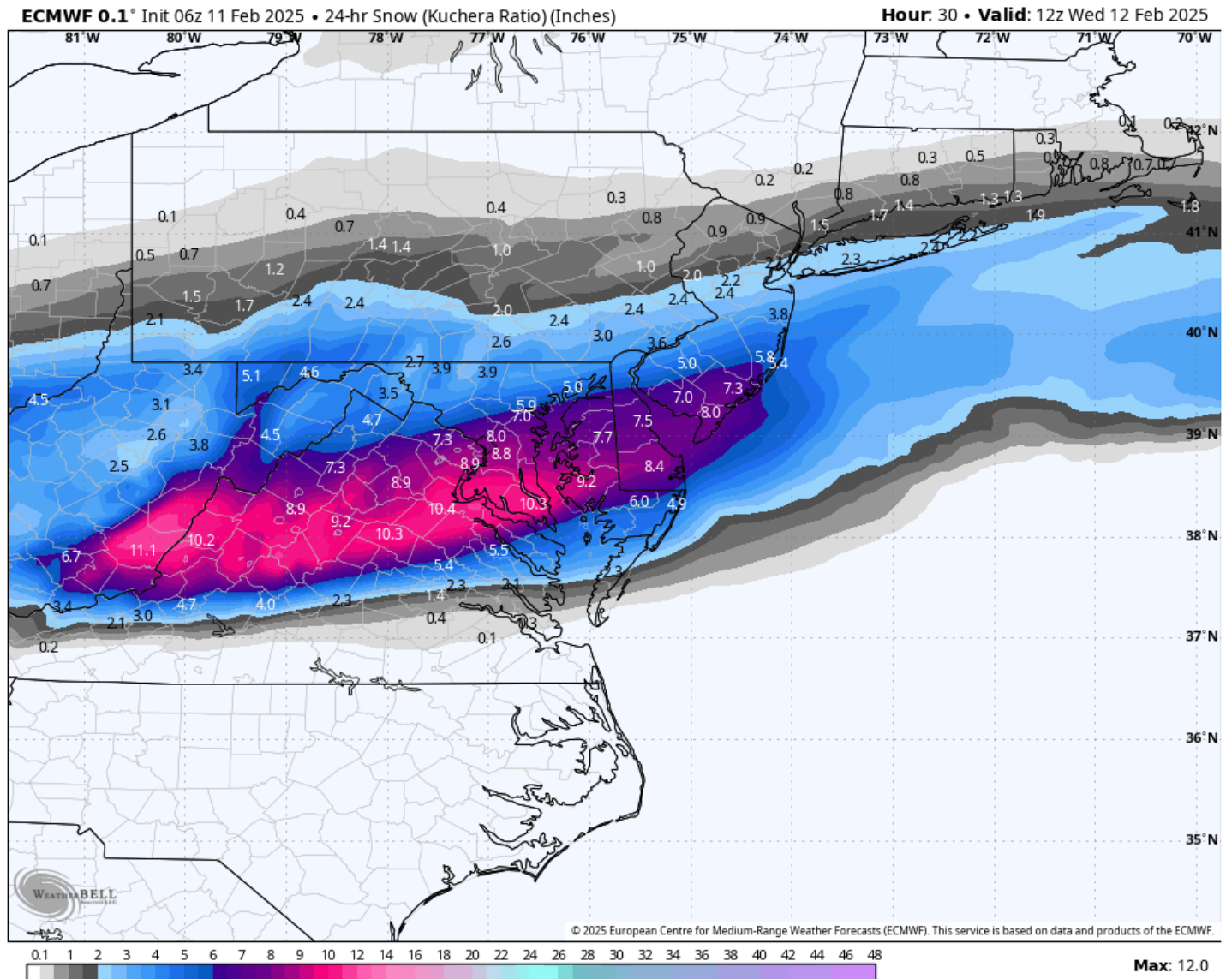
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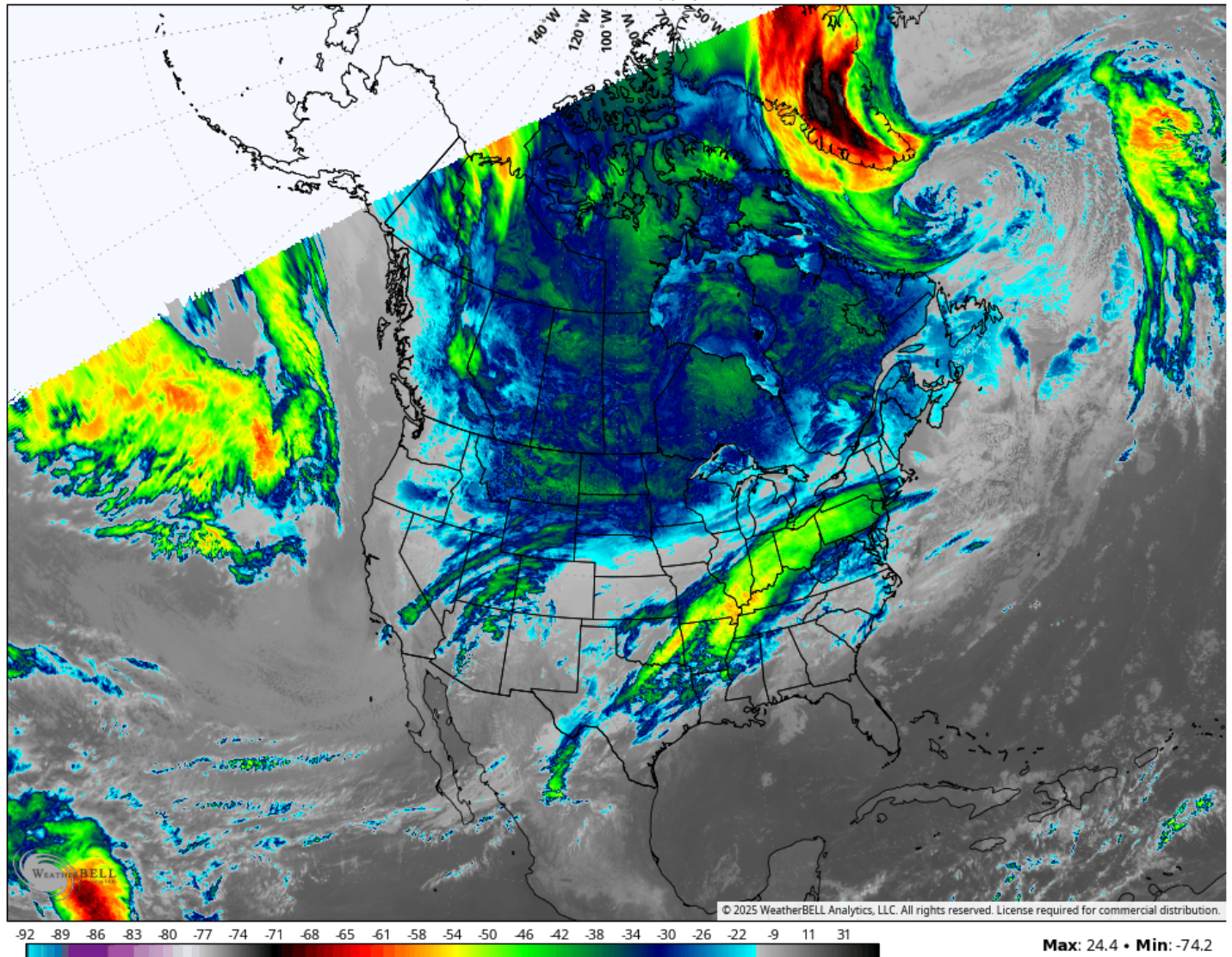
Town of Warrenton, Virginia Office of Emergency Management Winter Storm Harlow



Town of Warrenton, Virginia Office of Emergency Management Winter Storm Harlow

GOES – East [FULLDISK] 0.04° • GOES ABI Ch 13 (Infrared Clean Window) (°C)

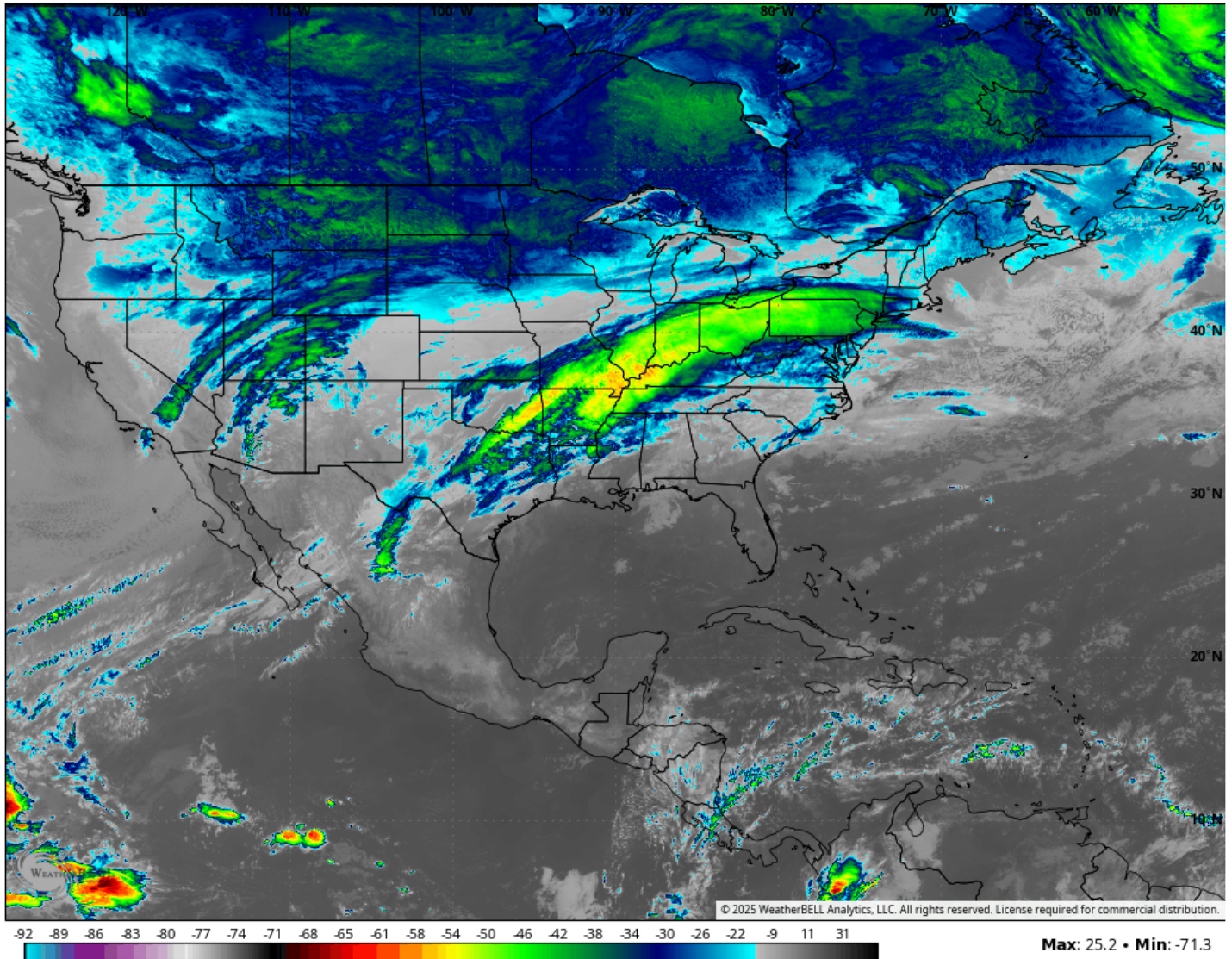
Valid: 1159z Tue 11 Feb 2025



Town of Warrenton, Virginia Office of Emergency Management Winter Storm Harlow

GOES – East [FULLDISK] 0.04° • GOES ABI Ch 13 (Infrared Clean Window) (°C)

Valid: 1159z Tue 11 Feb 2025



Town of Warrenton, Virginia

Office of Emergency Management

Winter Storm Harlow

Winter Storm Warning

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE

National Weather Service Baltimore MD/Washington DC
429 AM EST Tue Feb 11 2025

VAZ027-029-030-040-051-501-502-WVZ055-502-112000-
/O.CON.KLWX.WS.W.0006.250211T1600Z-250212T1200Z/
Shenandoah-Page-Warren-Rappahannock-Culpeper-Northern Fauquier-
Southern Fauquier-Hardy-Eastern Grant-
429 AM EST Tue Feb 11 2025

...WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT FROM 11 AM THIS MORNING TO
7 AM EST WEDNESDAY...

- * WHAT...Heavy mixed precipitation expected. Total snow accumulations between 3 and 6 inches and ice accumulations around a light glaze.
- * WHERE...Portions of northern and northwest Virginia and eastern West Virginia.
- * WHEN...From 11 AM this morning to 7 AM EST Wednesday.
- * IMPACTS...Travel could be very difficult. The hazardous conditions could impact the Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning commutes. Roads, and especially bridges and overpasses, will likely become slick and hazardous.
- * ADDITIONAL DETAILS...Snow will overspread the area late this morning into this afternoon, with the steadiest snow expected late this afternoon and evening. Snowfall rates of up to 1 inch per hour and visibility below one half mile are possible this afternoon and evening. A light wintry mix may continue into Wednesday.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

If you must travel, keep an extra flashlight, food, and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency. The latest road conditions for the state you are calling from can be obtained by calling 5 1 1.

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Town of Warrenton, Virginia

Office of Emergency Management

Winter Storm Harlow



TOWN OF WARRENTON

Office of Emergency Management

18 Court Street
Warrenton, Virginia 20186
<http://www.warrentonva.gov>
TELEPHONE (540) 680-9538
FAX (540) 349-2414

Snow Emergency Route Activation Order

Issued: Monday, February 10th, at 8:00 AM

Effective: Tuesday, February 11th, To Begin at 12:00 PM

The National Weather Service has issued a winter weather outlook regarding the accumulating snow potential across the area from Tuesday, February 11th through Wednesday, February 12th. The forecasted impact on the area is projected to be 5+ inches of heavy snow.

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 10, Article VI of the Town of Warrenton Code of Ordinances (specifically Sections 10-62 through 10-64), the Snow Emergency Routes are hereby declared to be activated on February 11th, at 12:00 PM. This order shall remain in effect for a duration of 48 Hours or until revoked. This order activates all designated Snow Emergency Routes within the Town of Warrenton.

Parking Restrictions

- Parking is strictly prohibited on all designated Snow Emergency Routes.
- Vehicles parked on Snow Emergency Routes during this Snow Emergency may be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.

Designated Snow Emergency Routes

Alexandria Pike	East Shirley Ave.	Main Street
Blackwell Road	Falmouth Street	Waterloo Street
Broadview Avenue	Frost Avenue	West Shirley Ave.
Culpeper Street	Lee Highway	Winchester Street

Please comply with these parking restrictions to allow for efficient snow removal operations and ensure the safety of all residents.

For updates on the Snow Event, please visit the Town of Warrenton website at <https://www.warrentonva.gov> or contact the Emergency Management hotline at (540) 215-0054

Frank Cassidy
Town Manager

Town of Warrenton, Virginia

Office of Emergency Management

Winter Storm Harlow

For Immediate Release: February 10, 2025

Contacts: Office of the Governor: Christian Martinez, Christian.Martinez@governor.virginia.gov



Governor Glenn Youngkin Declares a State of Emergency and Urges Virginians to Prepare in Advance of the Winter Weather

RICHMOND, VA - Governor Glenn Youngkin today declared a state of emergency in advance of the impending winter weather. He is urging all Virginians to take preparatory actions and heed the warnings from their local and state officials.

"With another round of winter weather across the state this week forecasted to bring heavy snow and ice, I am declaring a state of emergency so we can move resources around the state," **said Governor Glenn Youngkin.** "I urge all Virginians to monitor your local forecast and to prepare for possible impacts to roadways and infrastructure beginning overnight Monday throughout Tuesday."

The National Weather Service forecasts are predicting areas of accumulating snow, freezing rain, ice, and excessive rainfall that could cause flooding, power outages, and hazardous travel conditions. To coordinate the state's response activities, the Virginia Emergency Support Team will be activated.

If having to travel during the storm, drivers are reminded to do the following:

- **Use headlights.** Increasing your visibility helps you to avoid slick and dangerous spots on the road, as well as helps other drivers see you better.
- **Slow your speed.** Though state police works closely with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to identify problem areas on Virginia's highways during a winter storm, drivers still must drive for conditions. Slowing your speed gives you more time to safely react and avoid a crash. Drive your vehicle based on your ability to properly maintain control of your vehicle.
- **Don't tailgate.** You need increased stopping distance on slick road surfaces. Give yourself more space between vehicles traveling ahead of you to avoid rear end collisions.
- **Buckle Up.** Most crashes that occur during winter weather are caused by vehicles sliding into guardrails, off the road or other vehicles. Wearing your seat belt protects you from being thrown around the inside of your vehicle and suffering serious injury in a crash.
- **Check Your Vehicle.** Make sure your vehicle is in good working order for the conditions. Fill up the tank in advance. Check windshield wipers, windshield wiper fluid, tire tread, battery life, etc.
- **Don't leave home** without a window scraper, blanket, bottled water, snack, cell phone charger and flashlight.

Town of Warrenton, Virginia

Office of Emergency Management

Winter Storm Harlow



Frank Cassidy
TOWN MANAGER
T (540) 347-1101
fcassidy@warrentonva.gov

TOWN COUNCIL
H.E. Carter Nevill, Mayor
Paul W. Mooney
David A. McGuire
Roy Francis
William T. Semple II
Larry Kovalich
Mishela O'Halloran
Eric F. Gagnon

DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR THE TOWN OF WARRENTON, VA

WHEREAS, on February 10th, 2025, Governor Glenn Youngkin declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia based on National Weather Service forecasts indicating a severe winter weather threat with snow accumulations of 6 – 10 inches along with sleet, ice, freezing rain, and temperatures below freezing for several days that could cause transportation difficulties and power outages; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued a Winter Weather Warning beginning 11:00 AM Tuesday, February 11, 2025, for the Town of Warrenton, forecasting 6 – 10 inches of heavy snowfall, sleet, and ice accumulation; and

WHEREAS, I, Frank Cassidy, as Town Manager for the Town of Warrenton, find that the imminent threat of severe winter weather and the potential for loss or interruption of vital Town services, public safety, water, sewer, and transportation, posed by this severe snow storm, constitutes a situation of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant coordinated local government action to prevent or alleviate any potential damage, loss, hardship, or suffering; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 20 of the Town of Warrenton Code of Ordinances addresses emergency management and disaster preparedness, specifically including Sec. 20-5 regarding the declaration of emergencies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED on this 11th day of February 2025, effective 11:00 AM that an emergency does now exist throughout the Town of Warrenton, Virginia, and acting as Director of Emergency Management, I, Frank Cassidy exercise the authority given to me under Code of Virginia § 44-146.21, and the Town of Warrenton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 20, Section 5 to declare a local state of emergency that shall remain in effect until rescinded by a subsequent order; and

BE IT YET FURTHER PROCLAIMED that I shall present a resolution ratifying said declaration of local emergency at the next regular meeting of the Town of Warrenton Town Council on February 11th, 2025, pursuant to Code of Virginia § 44-146.21, and the Town of Warrenton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 20, Section 5.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Warrenton to be affixed this 11th day of February 2025.

Frank Cassidy
Town Manager

Date

Town of Warrenton, Virginia Office of Emergency Management Winter Storm Harlow

VDOT News Release



NEWS RELEASE

VDOT.Virginia.gov

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
CONTACT: Lou Hatter
540-717-2890 (cell)
Lou.Hatter@VDOT.Virginia.gov

Feb. 10, 2025
CULP 2025-022

Sharon Ketcham
540-829-7370 (office), 540-717-8376 (cell)
Sharon.Ketcham@VDOT.Virginia.gov

WINTER STORM BRINGING SNOW AND ICE TO CENTRAL VIRGINIA *Plan travel around the storm and stay off the roads during and after the snowfall*

CULPEPER — Snow and ice are forecast to move into the Culpeper District beginning Tuesday morning and stretching into Wednesday afternoon. The National Weather Service issued a [Winter Storm Warning](#) today for much of the Piedmont region through Wednesday afternoon.

The storm is expected to bring 7 to 9 inches of snow, sleet, and freezing rain to the region making for hazardous driving conditions. VDOT crews are brining Interstate 64 and Interstate 66 today and are staging crews across the area to work around the clock in 12-hour shifts. Drivers should be cautious around heavy equipment pretreating the roadways and allow plenty of room for them to work.

Make your final preparations today and plan travel around the storm. Once the snow starts falling, stay off the road to allow our crews to push snow and treat roadways as needed to make them passable.

Safety and Travel Resources

When winter weather arrives, residents and motorists should plan travel ahead of time, check road conditions, [prepare an emergency car kit](#), follow forecasts and announcements and limit travel based on conditions.

Prior to travel, motorists should visit 511.vdot.virginia.gov, call 511 or check the 511 Virginia

Town of Warrenton, Virginia

Office of Emergency Management

Winter Storm Harlow

Dominion Power Update

Good evening:

As we look to the next few days, we've been advised by our weather team that snow will advance over our Virginia service territory between 9:00am and 2:00pm Tuesday, with most areas seeing snow by afternoon. As is consistent with our planning, we've increased our outage threat level to significant for portions of Dominion Energy's service territory that may lead to a multi-day winter storm restoration event.

One of our greatest concerns is heavy wet snow that could occur tomorrow afternoon and into evening while surface temperatures remain 33-35°. With little wind expected 3+ inches of this snow could bring areas of significant service interruptions. The outage window looks most likely after 4:00pm Tuesday afternoon and lasting through the night.

We have spent the last several days stockpiling equipment and supplies and mobilizing our crews in preparation for the storm. We're deploying hundreds of crews and bucket trucks to field offices throughout the day, and we're prepared to bring on additional crews as needed. We will work as safely and quickly as possible to restore our customers' power.

The Dominion Energy app is the easiest way to report outages and track restoration. If you lose power, there are three easy ways to report your outage and track your restoration time: 1) Dominion Energy mobile apps, [iPhone](#) and [Google](#); 2) [Dominion Energy website](#); or 3) Call 866-DOM-HELP (866-366-4357).

As always, we are reminding our customers to stay away from downed poles and power lines. If you see a downed pole or wire, please report it by calling 866-DOM-HELP and stay at least 30 feet away. The line could be energized and dangerous.

[Prepare food, water and emergency supplies.](#) Before any storm, it's always good to have bottled water and non-perishable food on hand, as well as emergency supplies such as flashlights, batteries, first aid kits and medications. Fully charge your phone, computer and other electronic devices before the storm arrives. Consider purchasing portable batteries to extend the life of your devices.

If you need anything during this event, please do not hesitate to let me know. Please stay safe.

Jeanne

Jeanne Underwood, LPW '18
External Affairs Representative – Piedmont, Virginia Region
571-926-4050 (mobile)