



## WINTER STORM UPDATE FROM DESPP/DEMHS THURSDAY FEB 24<sup>TH</sup> AT 8:00 AM

## IMPACTS EXPECTED ON FRIDAY

## SNOWFALL FORECAST & CHANGEOVER TIMES

**WINTER STORM WATCHES REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR NORTHERN CT...WINTER WEATHER ADVISORIES HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR SOUTHERN CT...MODERATE WINTER STORM EXPECTED ON FRIDAY...**

The NWS has issued Winter Storm Watches for Litchfield, Hartford, Tolland and Windham counties and Winter Weather Advisories for Fairfield, New Haven, Middlesex and New London counties. A large low pressure system is expected to start forming in West Virginia this evening and move northeast towards New York state. A weaker low pressure system is forecast to form off the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula at the same time and move towards Long Island. Neither of these low pressure systems is expected to be very strong, however they will both converge to bring a lot of precipitation into New England. Enough cold air is expected to be anchored over our area for the precipitation to start as a 6 – 9 hour period of moderate to heavy snow followed by a change to sleet and rain. The following forecast is based on a blend of the GFS, NAM and NWS forecasts:

**Tonight:** Snow is currently forecast to start in Connecticut around midnight and come down moderate to heavy (snowfall rates of 1" – 2" per hour) at times between midnight and 6:00 AM Friday morning. Roads are forecast to quickly become snow covered across the entire state with temperatures in the upper 20's.

**Friday Morning:** Moderate to heavy snow is forecast to be falling across most of the state at the start of the rush hour with a moderate to major impact on driving. The snow is expected to change to a mix of sleet and freezing rain along the southwest coast starting at 5:00 AM (see yellow dashed line on map). The mix line is forecast to move north and reach the Hartford area by 8:00 AM and the MA border by 10:00 AM. Temperatures are forecast to reach freezing in the Hartford area by noon.

**Friday Afternoon:** Light mixed sleet and freezing rain may change to plain rain in southern CT for a few hours. The precipitation is expected to taper off by mid-afternoon. The impact on the afternoon rush hour is not expected to be as significant. Roads by 3:00 PM are currently expected to be plowed with some slush on shoulders and ramps. Total snowfall at this time is expected to range from 2" – 4" in southern CT, 4" – 6" in central CT and 6" – 8" in Northern CT. There may be a little more snow in the NW hills.

DESPP/DEMHS will continue to closely monitor this winter storm. Another update will be sent out at 6:00 PM this evening.

