

# **Significant Winter Storm & Bitter Cold Weather January 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Prepared 145 PM EST – Thursday January 2nd , 2014

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NOAA's National Weather Service

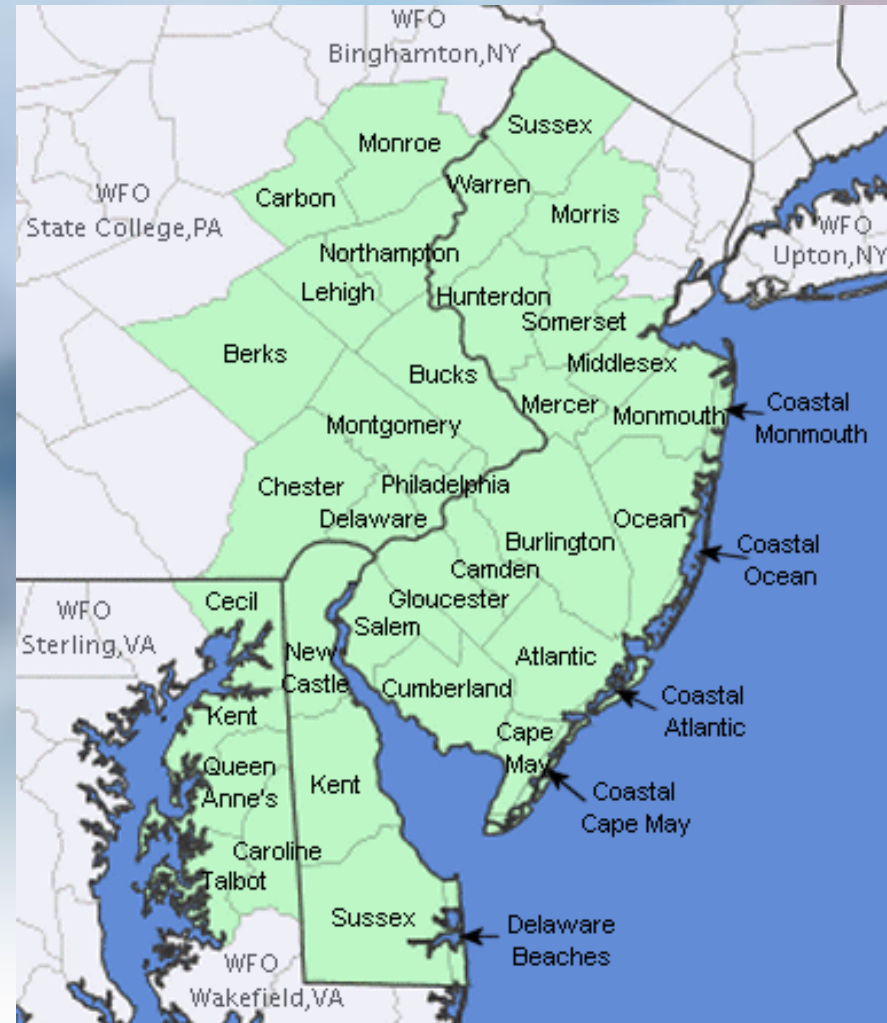
Philadelphia/Mt. Holly NJ Forecast office

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/>



# Purpose of Briefing

- Briefing #3 for event
- Promote situational awareness for emergency management community & partners
- Provide guidance for planning efforts
- Briefing applies to Mount Holly service area – shaded in green on map



# Changes from previous briefing

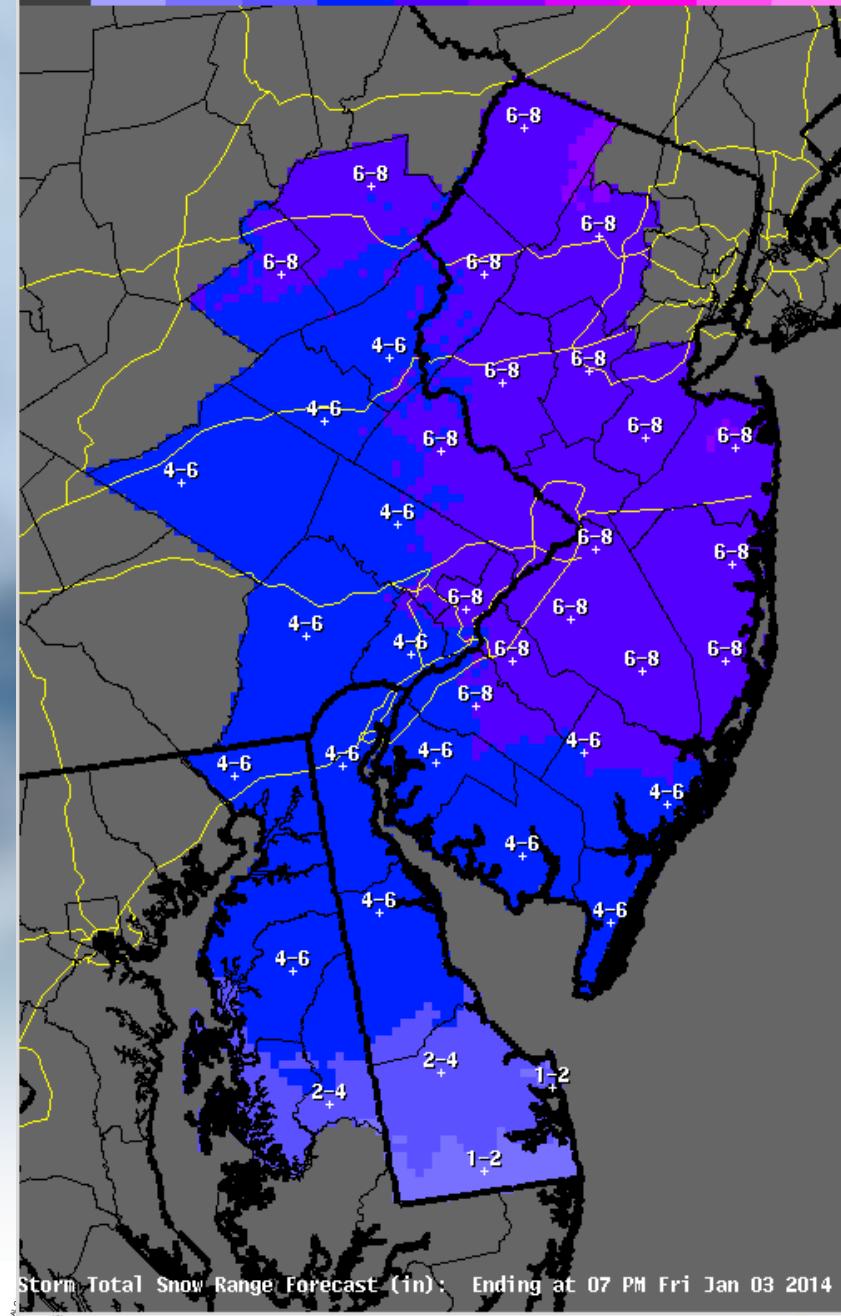
- Area of 6+ inches snowfall has expanded further south and east. Amounts to the west of Philadelphia have decreased a little.



# Executive Summary

- A coastal storm is expected to impact the region from Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> into Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bitter cold air will sweep into the region tonight and continue through Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, with near-record low temperatures expected Saturday morning, January 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The storm has the **potential to produce 6+ inches of snow mainly during tonight**, with those higher amounts most likely in the Poconos, suburbs north of Philadelphia & much of NJ. Strong northwest winds will develop tonight, continuing into Friday, resulting in considerable blowing snow. Travel will become very difficult tonight.
- Temperatures will drop rapidly tonight into Friday. **Subzero wind chills are likely late tonight into Friday across the area.** Low temperatures Saturday morning will be mainly in the single digits, with subzero temperatures in the Poconos & northern NJ.
- **Moderate coastal flooding** is possible with the Friday morning high tide along the Atlantic Coast, the Raritan Bay & Delaware Bay. The **highest risk of moderate coastal flooding is in the Raritan Bay, and the Atlantic Coasts of Monmouth & Ocean counties.** Very cold temperature will cause icing problems due to blowing spray along coastal sections. Roadways that flood due to the coastal flooding will ice over.
- This is the last briefing package for the event.
- Monitor our website for updated information - <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/>





# Snowfall forecast

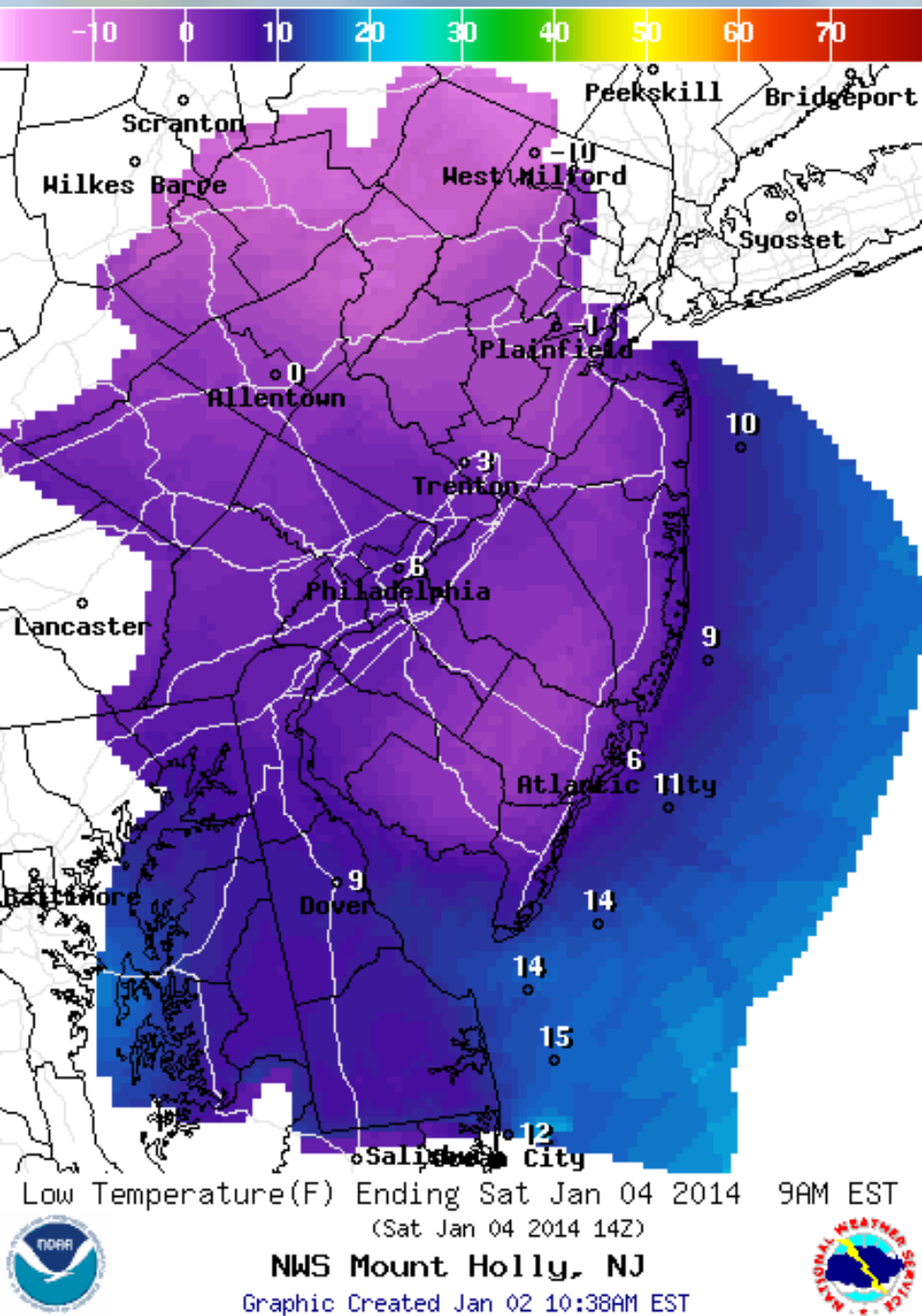
- Here's the snowfall forecast from NWS Mount Holly. Main snowfall threat timing is tonight.
- Heavier snowfall amounts as you go northeast.

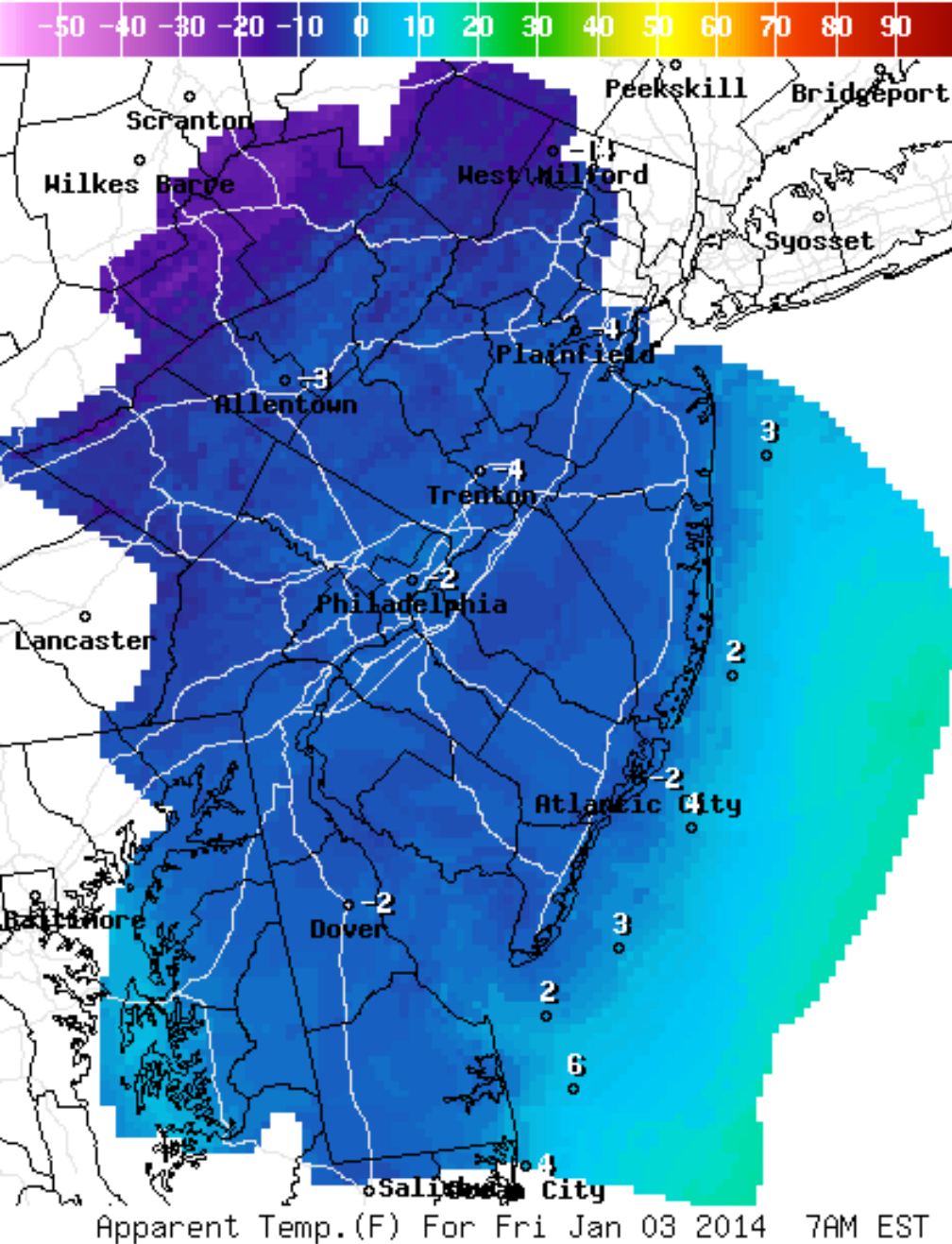
Storm Total Snow Range Forecast (in): Ending at 07 PM Fri Jan 03 2014



# Very cold temperatures

- Cold air will start pouring into the region tonight and continue through Friday.
- Near-record cold low temperatures are possible for Saturday morning.





# Dangerously cold wind chills

- Graphic shows wind chill values at 700 AM Friday, with subzero values over the region. Hypothermia will be a significant threat for anyone outdoors starting late tonight and continuing through Friday into Friday night.

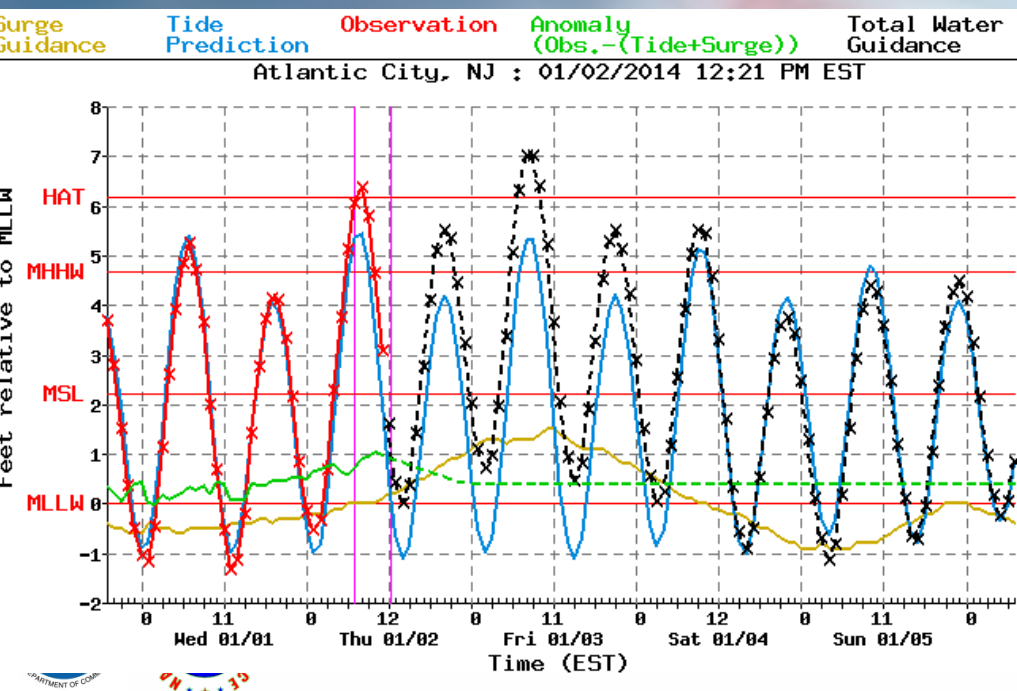
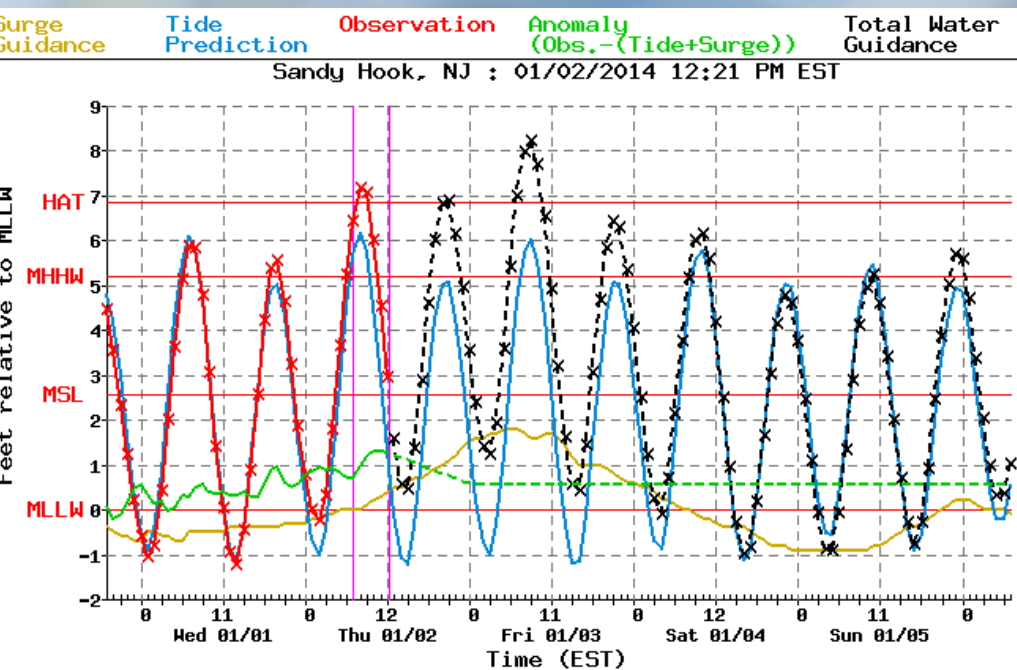
Apparent Temp. (F) For Fri Jan 03 2014 7AM EST

(Fri Jan 03 2014 12Z)

NWS Mount Holly, NJ

Graphic Created Jan 02 10:39AM EST





# Coastal flooding

- Moderate coastal flooding is possible with the Friday morning high tide, along the Atlantic Coast, as well as the Raritan Bay & the Delaware Bay. Minor coastal flooding is very likely. **Areas most likely to see moderate coastal flooding are the Raritan Bay & the Atlantic coasts of Monmouth & Ocean counties.**



# Combined impacts

- Please keep in mind ‘combined impacts’.
- Roadways where temperatures are above freezing will rapidly freeze over this evening as temperatures plummet.
- Even snowfall amounts of only a couple inches can cause travel problems when winds are gusting over 30 mph tonight & Friday, producing significant visibility restrictions in blowing snow. Snow will blow back onto roadways which have been plowed.
- Areas which flood from coastal flooding on Friday will ice over as the tide recedes with air temperatures in the teens & lower 20s.
- There will be a significant icing problem in coastal locations from blowing spray late tonight into Friday. There is the potential for significant ice accumulations.
- Roadway chemicals lose effectiveness as temperature get colder. Many locations will be in the teens on Friday as the snow ends.
- Water pipes may freeze & burst with the very cold temperatures expected at sunrise Saturday.



# Timing impacts

- The heaviest snowfall is most likely to occur between sunset today & sunrise Friday. There may be a several hour period where snowfall rates exceed an inch an hour. At the same time, winds will be increasing with gusts over 30 mph. **Near blizzard-conditions are likely.** Wind chills will be falling into the single digit as this is occurring.



# Questions?

- For the latest information, visit our website at:
  - <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi>
- Our latest briefing package is available from our website at:
- [http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/briefing/packages/current\\_briefing.pdf](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/briefing/packages/current_briefing.pdf)
- If you wish to be notified when a briefing package is issued, you can follow us on social media where we post the notice.
- You can ‘friend’ us on Facebook at: US National Weather Service Philadelphia/Mount Holly
- You can follow us on Twitter @NWS\_MountHolly
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