

Winter Weather Products and Winter Safety



Building a Weather-Ready Nation





So let's try to clarify some of the
NWS winter products...

Watches

Purpose: Winter weather watches provide 12 to 48 hour notice of a hazardous weather event which has the potential to threaten life or property.

Time Frame: They are normally issued for the 2nd and/or 3rd periods of the forecast. Fourth period watches are restricted to the most significant events.

Types of Watches

- Blizzard
- Lake Effect Snow
- Winter Storm



Winter weather safety factoid

Things to have in your auto emergency kit for winter:

- Shovel
- Flares and reflectors
- Jumper Cables
- Bag of kitty litter (for traction if stuck)
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Empty coffee can, candles, matches
- Blankets
- Extra clothing including mittens
- Non-perishable food (candy bars, power bars, etc.)

Warnings

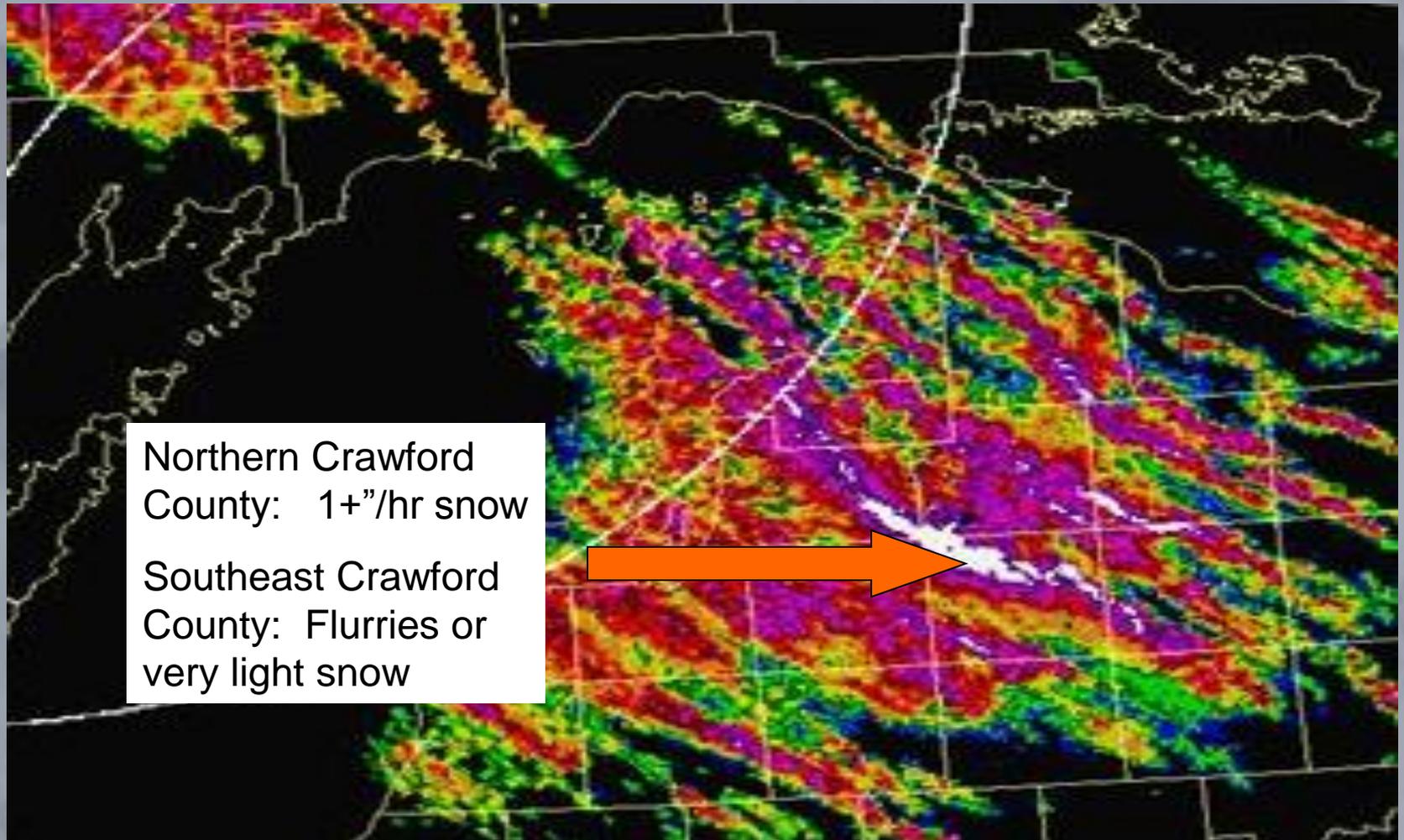
Purpose: Winter weather warnings are issued when hazardous winter weather is occurring, imminent or has a high probability of occurring.

Time Frame: They are normally issued for the 1st and 2nd periods. Occasionally, with high confidence for significant events, warnings will extend into the 3rd period.

Types of Warnings

- Blizzard
- Ice Storm
- Lake Effect Snow
- Wind Chill
- Winter Storm

This is why we separate Lake Effect Snow from System Snow headlines





Winter weather safety factoid

If ever stranded in your vehicle during a blizzard:

- **Stay in your car or truck.** Disorientation occurs quickly in wind-driven snow and cold.
- **Run the motor about ten minutes each hour for heat.** Open the window a little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked.
- **Make yourself visible to rescuers.** Turn on the dome light at night when the engine is running. Tie a colored cloth (preferably red) to your antenna or door. Raise your hood to indicate trouble after the snow stops falling.

Advisories

Purpose: Advisories provide people with advance notice of hazardous winter weather events which could lead to life-threatening situations if caution is not observed.

Time Frame: They are normally issued for the 1st and 2nd periods.

Types of Advisories

- Lake Effect Snow
- Wind Chill
- Freezing Rain
- Winter Weather

Special Weather Statements

- We occasionally will issue special weather statements to raise awareness on a particular hazard
 - Black ice
 - Snow intensity greater than 1 inch per hour
 - Combination of wind and snow occasionally reducing visibilities to less than 1 mile



Winter weather safety factoid

If you lose heat in your home during a winter storm:

- Seal off unused rooms by stuffing towels/blankets under the doors
- Cover windows with extra sheets and blankets
- Use only devices designed for indoor heating when using alternative heat sources
- Be very careful with kerosene heat sources due to the carbon monoxide threat (crack a window in house if needed)

Any Questions?????



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