

## Weather – *Winter Weather Terminology*

- **Winter Weather Advisory.** A mixture of precipitation is expected, such as snow, sleet, and freezing rain or drizzle.
- **Snow Alerts** are issued in the following categories:
  - Advisory.* Over 2 in (5 cm) but not expected to accumulate more than 6 in (15 cm).
  - Heavy Snow Warning.* 6 in (15 cm) or more in 12 hours or less; 8 in (20 cm) or more in 24 hours or less; light winds.
- **Winter Storm.** Alerts are issued in the following categories:
  - Watch.* Conditions are favorable for the development of hazardous weather elements, such as heavy snow and/or blizzard conditions or significant accumulations of freezing rain or sleet. Conditions may occur singly or in combination. Usually issued 24 to 48 hours in advance of an event.
  - Warning.* Heavy snow and some windiness are imminent or very likely, perhaps in combination with sleet and/or freezing rain/drizzle. Usually issued for up to a 12-hour duration, but can be extended to 24 hours.
  - Blizzard Warning.* Issued for winter storms with sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 mph (56 kph) or greater, and considerable falling and/or blowing snow, reducing visibility to less than 1/4-mi (.4 km). These conditions are expected to last at least three hours.
- **Ice Storm Warning.** Damaging accumulations expected during freezing rain conditions, making walking and driving extremely dangerous. Significant ice accumulations are usually 1/4-in (.64 cm) or greater.
- **Wind Chill.** Alerts are issued in the following categories:
  - Advisory.* Wind chills will be -35 °F (-37 °C) or colder for a sustained period of time. Winds are expected to be at least 10 mph (16 kph).
  - Warning.* Wind chills are expected to reach -50 °F (-46 °C) and wind speeds are 10 mph (16 kph) or greater. [Note: Some areas, due to the effects of humidity, give a warning when the wind chill is expected to reach -10 °F (-23 °C).]