



# Nebraska Winter Weather Awareness Day

Thursday, November 9, 2023



## Winter is Coming

It's that time of year again, and Winter is on the way. Now is the time to make sure you are prepared to keep your family safe. Whether it be blizzards, ice storms, or flooding, make sure you and your family are prepared for whatever Mother Nature throws our way.

What's Inside	
National Weather Service Offices	2
Winter Outlook 2023-2024	3
Winter Storm Severity Index	4
Winter Terminology/Safety	5-8

## Outlook for the Winter

With the ongoing drought across portions of Nebraska, we know many are hoping for more precipitation this winter. Check out the winter forecast from the Climate Prediction Center, forecasting what we might expect for the Winter season. This outlook is not a forecast for individual storms moving across the region, but rather a snapshot of the whole season.

## Have You Heard of the Winter Storm Severity Index?

In this section, we give a refresher on a relatively new product created by the NWS's Weather Prediction Center that describes the expected impacts to society caused by the upcoming winter storm.

## Winter Safety

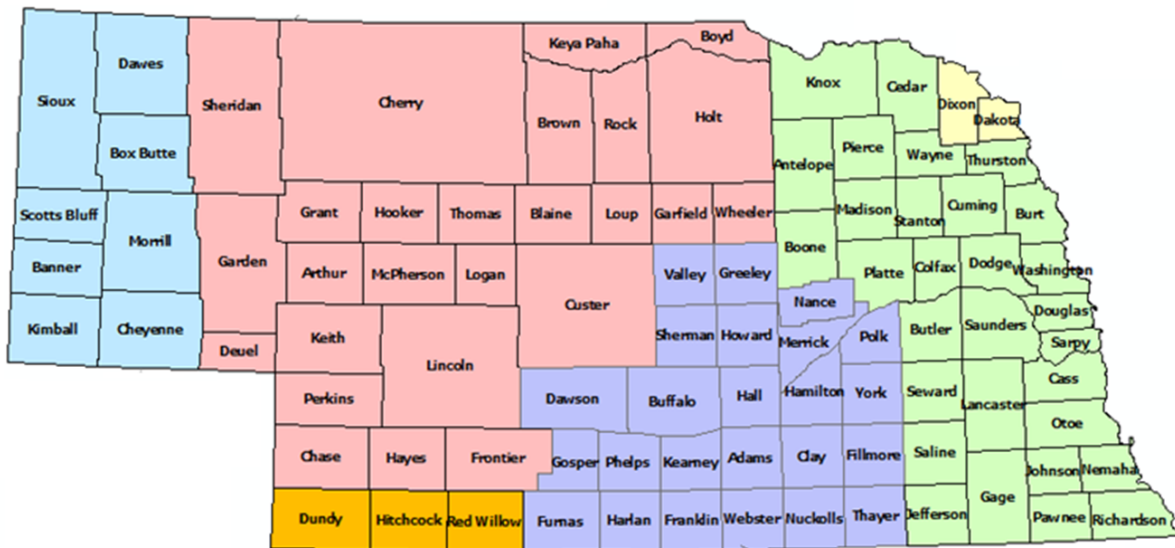
Make sure you and your family are prepared for winter weather before the storm. Refresh yourself on the "lingo" of winter storms, make sure you have your safety kits stocked at your home AND in your car. You don't want to be caught with empty shelves so start planning now to keep you and your family safe.



# National Weather Service Offices Serving Nebraska



Winter Weather Awareness Day - Thursday, November 9, 2023



## Cheyenne, WY (light blue)

1301 Airport Parkway  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
(307) 772-2468

[www.weather.gov/cheyenne](http://www.weather.gov/cheyenne)  
[@NWSCheyenne](https://twitter.com/NWSCheyenne)

## North Platte (pink)

5250 E. Lee Bird Drive  
North Platte, NE 69101  
(308) 532-4936

[www.weather.gov/northplatte](http://www.weather.gov/northplatte)  
[@NWSNorthPlatte](https://twitter.com/NWSNorthPlatte)

## Goodland, KS (orange)

920 Armory Road  
Goodland, KS 67735  
(785) 899-7119

[www.weather.gov/goodland](http://www.weather.gov/goodland)  
[@NWSGoodland](https://twitter.com/NWSGoodland)

## Hastings, NE (dark blue)

6365 N. Osborne Drive West  
Hastings, NE 68901  
(402) 462-4287

[www.weather.gov/hastings](http://www.weather.gov/hastings)  
[@NWSHastings](https://twitter.com/NWSHastings)

## Omaha/Valley, NE (green)

6707 N. 288th Street  
Valley, NE 68064  
(402) 359-5205

[www.weather.gov/omaha](http://www.weather.gov/omaha)  
[@NWSOmaha](https://twitter.com/NWSOmaha)

## Sioux Falls, SD (yellow)

26 Weather Lane  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
(605) 330-4247

[www.weather.gov/siouxfalls](http://www.weather.gov/siouxfalls)  
[@NWSSiouxFalls](https://twitter.com/NWSSiouxFalls)



# National Weather Service Winter Outlook 2023-2024

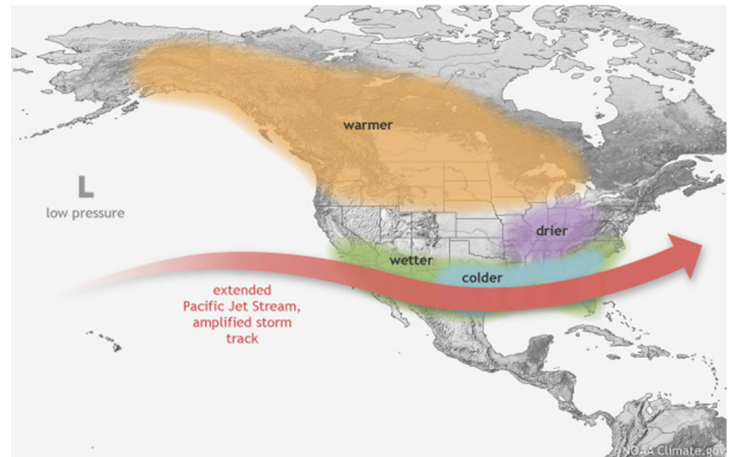
Winter Weather Awareness Day - Thursday, November 9, 2023



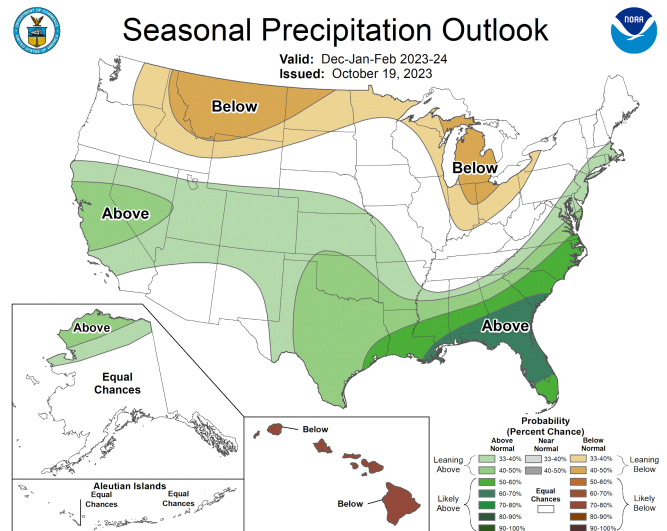
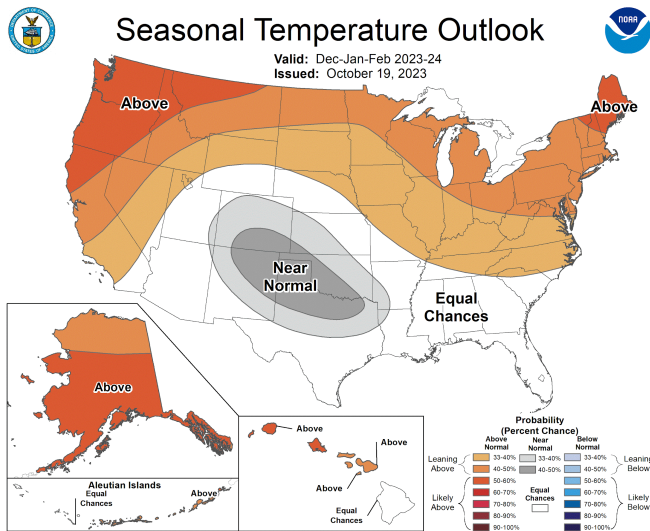
Winter weather conditions across the Contiguous United States can often be influenced by water temperatures in the equatorial Pacific. We throw around terms such as El Niño/La Niña, and these are reflections of what is going on in this distant region halfway around the world. Last winter we were under La Niña conditions, but this past summer we have seen a transition over to El Niño.

What will this mean for this winter? The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is predicting a milder than normal winter across northern Nebraska through early winter (Dec, Jan, Feb). They also predict slightly above normal precipitation across southern Nebraska and equal chances across northern Nebraska.

WINTER EL NIÑO PATTERN



## Winter 2023-2024 (December, January, February)



So what does this mean? Does this mean less snow? A warmer than normal winter still means that we'll see cold snaps and snow. It's just at the end of the season, the average temperature may be slightly above normal.

The signals for precipitation and temperatures are not strong, but CPC is leaning toward a forecast wetter than last year, at least across Nebraska.



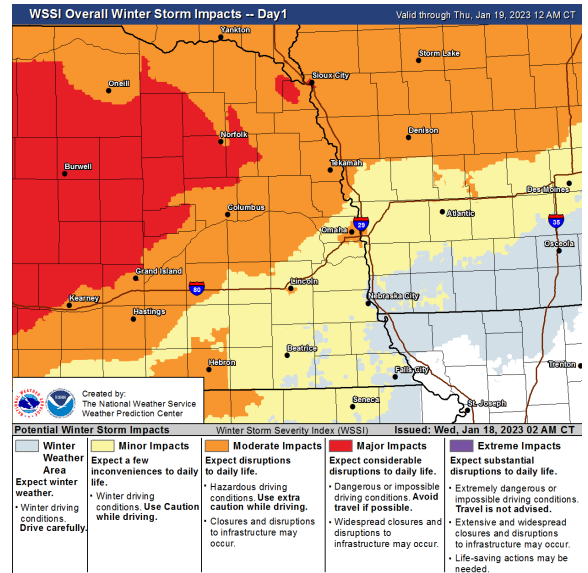
# National Weather Service Winter Storm Severity Index

Winter Weather Awareness Day - Thursday, November 9, 2023

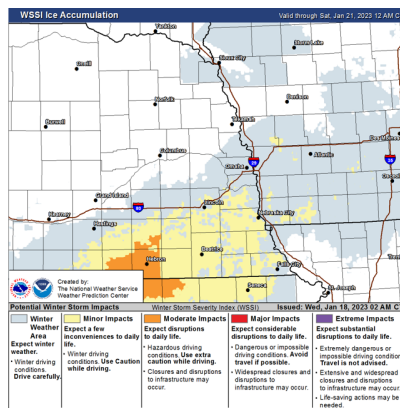
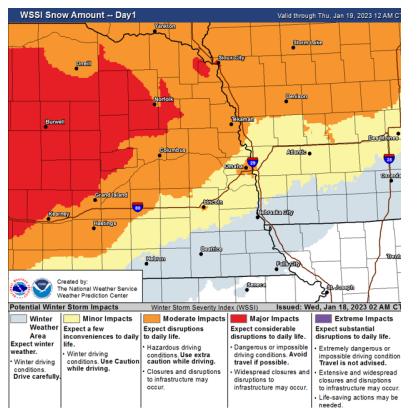


## Have You Heard of the Winter Storm Severity Index? (WSSI)

What is the Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI)? The WSSI is a product created by the NOAA/NWS's Weather Prediction Center that combines different winter weather elements from the NWS gridded forecast database to create a graphical depiction of expected overall impacts to society due to winter weather. This is broken down into four levels: "Minor", "Moderate", "Major", and "Extreme". The "Winter Weather Area" describes areas where winter weather is expected, but it is not expected to impact daily life (for example, a dusting of snow).



The WSSI can be further broken down into sub-components describing the impacts expected and their severity. These are: "Snow Amount", "Snow Load", "Ice Accumulation", "Flash Freeze", "Blowing Snow", and "Ground Blizzard". These should add up to equal the "Overall Impact".



You can find the current Winter Storm Severity Index through the next three days at:  
<https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/wssi/wssi.php>



# Winter Weather Terminology

Winter Weather Awareness Day - Thursday, November 9, 2023



A **watch** means conditions are favorable or the ingredients are present that are required for an event to occur



A **warning** means that conditions for a specific event are imminent or already occurring



*Here are some National Weather Service products you may see this Winter:*

**Winter Storm Watch:** Issued when there is a possibility of significant amounts of snow or ice accumulations within the next 24 to 36 hours of the onset of a winter storm system.

**Winter Storm Warning:** A Winter Storm Warning is issued when a storm is producing or expected to produce heavy snow or significant ice accumulations.

**Blizzard Warning:** A winter storm with sustained winds or frequent wind gusts to 35 mph or greater, continued blowing or falling snow that reduces visibility to  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile or less for at least three hours.

**Snow Squall Warning:** A snow squall warning is issued when an intense period of moderate to heavy snowfall and gusty winds impact an area for a short duration, usually under three hours. Snow squalls can cause significant reductions to visibility and can be described as a “mini blizzard”.

**Winter Weather Advisory:** A product issued to account for a system producing snow, sleet, freezing rain, freezing fog, etc. that does not meet Winter Storm Warning criteria. Local criteria for the issuance of an advisory varies by region.

**Ice Storm Warning:** This product is issued when ice accumulations from freezing rain are expected to cause damage or significant impacts. Many areas consider  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of ice accumulation or greater to be a threshold for issuing a warning.

**Wind Chill Advisory:** Issued when the forecasted wind chill may become life threatening due to exposure over a period of time.

**Wind Chill Warning:** Issued when the wind chill is forecasted to become life threatening.



# Winter Weather Dangers

Winter Weather Awareness Day - Thursday, November 9, 2023

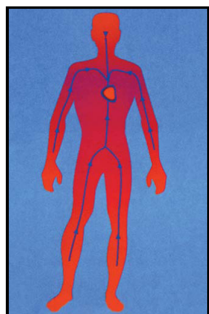


## Frostbite

- Damage to body tissue caused by extreme cold.
- Can cause a loss of feeling and a pale appearance in the extremities. Your body cuts circulation to the extremities to protect the vital organs.
- Can occur in a matter of minutes

## Hypothermia

- It is a potentially dangerous drop in body temperature (below 96°), caused by a prolonged exposure to the cold.
- It can cause long lasting health issues, or could even result in death!
- Age (children and elderly), certain illnesses or even certain medications can make one more at risk



## If You Need To Provide First Aid

- Get indoors as quickly as possible. Seek medical attention!
- Warm the person slowly, starting with the body core. Warming extremities first drives cold blood toward the heart and can lead to heart failure!
- Get the person into dry clothes and in extra layers. Remove any tight items.
- Drink warm liquids. Do not give alcohol, drugs, coffee or anything hot.

## Are You Prepared For The Cold?

- Before heading out the door, make sure you check the forecast so you'll know what to expect.
- Adjust your schedule (if possible) to avoid the coldest part of the day.
- Dress for the cold! Layer your clothes and protect your head and extremities.
- Make sure your pets and livestock have enough food and water!
- Is your home and vehicle prepared?

Learn more at: [www.weather.gov/safety/winter](http://www.weather.gov/safety/winter)



# Be Ready for Winter Weather

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***Be Prepared Before the Storm Strikes!***

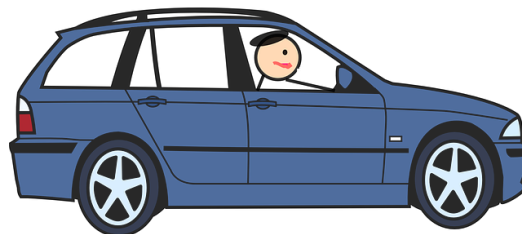
## ***Home Kit:***

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio/portable radio
- Extra food and water
- Extra medicine and baby items.
- First-aid supplies.
- Emergency heat source: fireplace, wood stove, space heater.
  - ✦ Use properly to prevent a fire and remember to ventilate properly.
- Fire extinguisher and smoke alarm.
  - ✦ Test smoke alarms once a month to ensure they work properly.



## ***Car Kit:***

- Mobile phone & charger
- Flashlight & extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Shovel
- Tow rope
- Jumper cables
- Ice scraper & snow brush
- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Boots, mittens, warm clothes
- Tire chains/snow chains
- Flares
- Full tank of gas
- Bag of sand/cat litter
- water/high-energy snacks



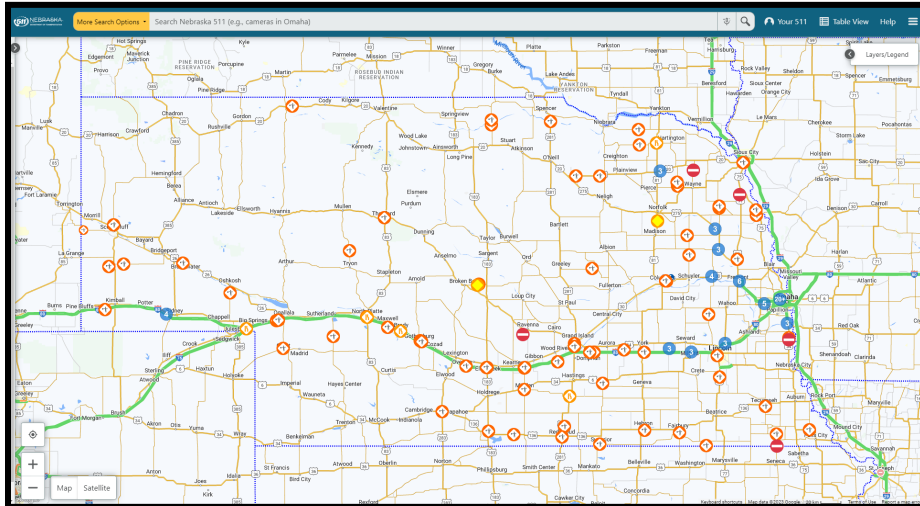


# Road Condition Information

Winter Weather Awareness Day - Thursday, November 9, 2023



Before you travel, check out the latest road conditions:



**511.nebraska.gov**

Nebraska: **When in-state, call 511.**  
When out of state call: **1-800-906-9069**



APP:  
[Apple](#)  
[Android](#)

If you are located inside the states listed below, you can dial 511 for road information.

**South Dakota:** [www.sd511.org](http://www.sd511.org)  
Out of state: 1-866-MY-SD511 (1-866-697-3511)

**Wyoming:** [map.wyoroad.info/](http://map.wyoroad.info/)  
Out of state: 1-888-WYO-ROAD (1-888-996-7623)

**Colorado:** [www.cotrip.org/home.htm](http://www.cotrip.org/home.htm)  
Out of state: 1-303-639-1111

**Kansas:** [www.kandrive.org/](http://www.kandrive.org/)  
Out of state: 1-866-511-KDOT (1-866-511-5368)

**Missouri:** [traveler.modot.org/map/](http://traveler.modot.org/map/)  
Out of state: 1-888-ASK-MDOT (1-888-275-6636)

**Iowa:** [www.511ia.org/](http://www.511ia.org/)  
Out of State: 1-800-288-1047

