

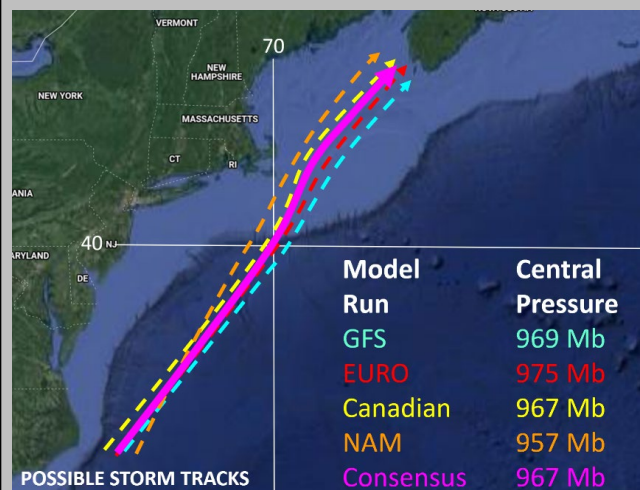
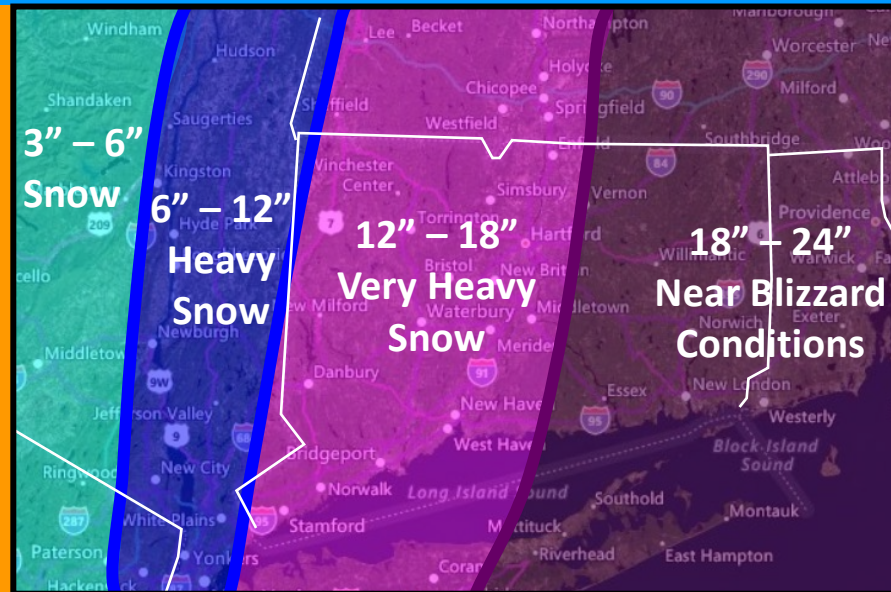
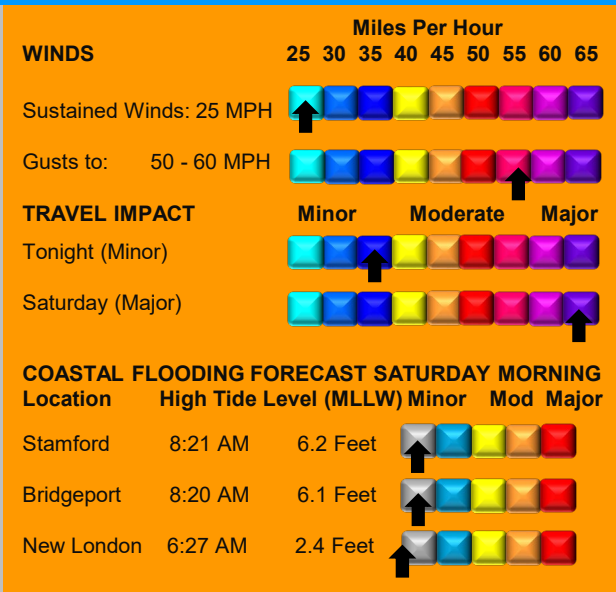


MAJOR WINTER STORM UPDATE FROM DESPP/DEMHS FRIDAY JAN 28 AT 9:00 AM IMPACTS EXPECTED ON SATURDAY SNOWFALL FORECAST (STILL SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

MAJOR WINTER STORM EXPECTED TO IMPACT OUR AREA ON SATURDAY...WINTER STORM WARNINGS ISSUED FOR THE ENTIRE STATE...NEAR BLIZZARD CONDITIONS POSSIBLE...TOWNS ARE ENCOURED TO REVIEW YOUR LOCAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS...

The latest runs of the GFS, EURO, Canadian and NAM (see tracks below) computer models have tracked a little farther west and are a little stronger. A low pressure system is forecast to form off the coast of the Carolinas this evening. This low is forecast to very rapidly intensify as the storm moves to the north northeast. At this time the consensus (aka Average) track of all 4 models brings the center of this major winter storm approximately 50 miles southeast of Cape Cod at approximately 6:00 PM Saturday evening.

If the storm follows this track, we can expect a powerful Nor'Easter (with possible blizzard conditions in eastern CT) starting before daybreak on Saturday and continuing until Saturday evening. Northeast winds could gust to 50 - 60 MPH at times along the coast with temperatures in the upper teens and low 20's. The impact on travel is expected to be major with near white conditions at times and deeply snow-covered roads. A minor to moderate number of power outages are possible. Almost all air travel in the Northeast is expected to be cancelled. Total snowfall is currently forecast to range from 12" - 18" in Western CT, up to 18" - 24" in Eastern CT (especially near the RI border). Forecast confidence is good however some additional changes in the track and intensity of this storm are possible in the next 12 hours.



Snowfall amounts are very dependent on the exact track. Shown to the left are 4 major computer model tracks and a consensus track (magenta line). **Any slight change in the track of this very powerful storm will have a significant impact on snowfall amounts here in Connecticut.**

DESPP/DEMHS will continue to closely monitor the latest forecasts. The next update will be sent out at 4:00 PM.

