



January 22, 2026  
11:50 AM

# Winter Storm Briefing

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NWS Pittsburgh Weather Forecast Office

Information as of 12pm EDT, January 22nd, 2026



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## Briefing Overview:

- Discussion of the weekend's winter system
  - ◆ Points of High/Low Confidence
  - ◆ Highlighting 2 scenarios and assessing risks
- Address potential for prolonged cold air
- Provide thoughts on area river ice potential

## REMEMBER:

- Latest Briefing found at [weather.gov/pittsburgh](https://weather.gov/pittsburgh)
- Probabilistic snowfall information found at [weather.gov/pittsburgh/winter](https://weather.gov/pittsburgh/winter)
- Additional information throughout the event can be found on our social media feeds or our NWS/SLACK channel



## Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories

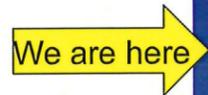




# Winter Safety Information

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## Winter Storm Planning Timeline



### A few days out

*If the forecast calls for winter weather, start preparing now.*

- Have emergency supplies for your home & car
- Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Replenish fuel for your car and heating sources

### The day before

*Forecast accuracy continues to improve, so keep checking the latest.*

- Adjust plans
- Have multiple ways to receive Warnings
- Bring pets indoors and ensure they have water

### During & After

*Remain vigilant and stay informed. Drive only if necessary.*

- Check on neighbors and family
- Properly ventilate emergency heat sources
- Keep generators at least 20 feet from your home
- Take it easy when shoveling

weather.gov



# Here's What We Know

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## Timing:

- Flurries may begin Saturday afternoon
- Heavier snow will begin **Saturday night** and spread northward
- Peak accumulation:
  - Near/South of I-70... **1am-1pm Sunday**
  - North of I-70... **4am - 7pm Sunday**
- Accumulating snowfall will slow **Sunday night**, likely ending around the **Monday morning commute**

**Approximate Precipitation Timing**  
Saturday Morning, Jan 24 - Tuesday Morning, Jan 27

	Sat 1/24			Sun 1/25			Mon 1/26				
	7am	1pm	7pm	1am	7am	1pm	7pm	1am	7am	1pm	7pm
Du Bois	0%	0%	10%	45%	80%	90%	90%	75%	50%	35%	25%
Morgantown	0%	4%	45%	85%	95%	98%	90%	75%	45%	35%	20%
New Philadelphia	0%	4%	35%	65%	85%	90%	80%	55%	30%	20%	10%
Pittsburgh	0%	4%	25%	65%	90%	96%	85%	70%	45%	30%	15%
Wheeling	0%	4%	35%	70%	90%	96%	85%	70%	40%	25%	10%
Zanesville	0%	5%	45%	70%	85%	90%	75%	45%	20%	10%	4%

Percent Chance (%)

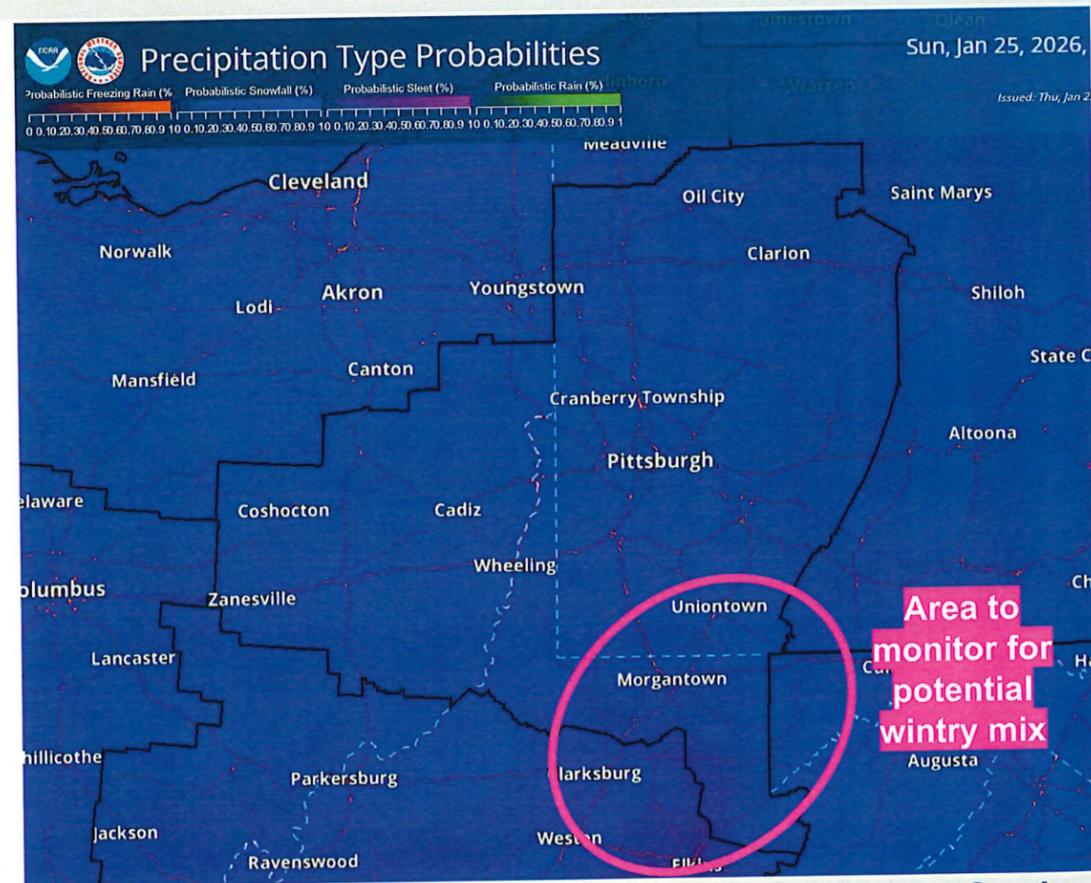


# Here's What We Know

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## Precipitation Type:

- Snow is *highly likely* to be the precipitation type throughout the event.
- One scenario (see scenario #2 later) could see warm air work northward
  - May lead to a wintry mix of either **rain, snow, sleet, or freezing rain.**
  - Probabilities suggest only a 10-20% chance of occurrence (subtle mixture of reddish-pink hues in image on right)
- Discussion of snow type (wet vs. snow) will be addressed in scenarios



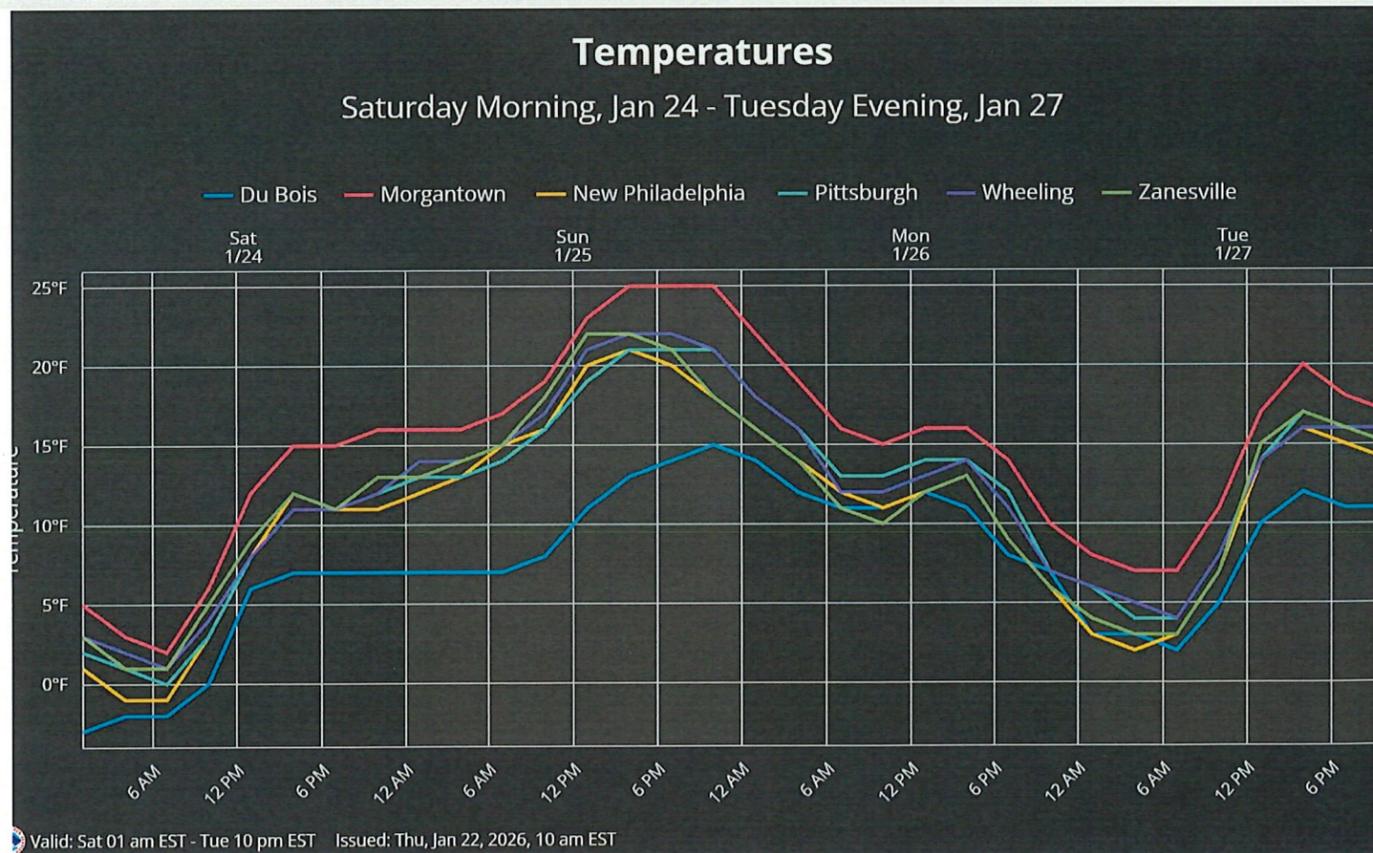


# Here's What We Know

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## Low Temperature:

- Area temperature will be **below freezing (32°F)** before AND after event
- Any warm up southeast of Pittsburgh from warm advection (scenario #2) will be short-lived
- See further temperature discussion later in briefing





# Scenario #1: Heavy Snow Areawide

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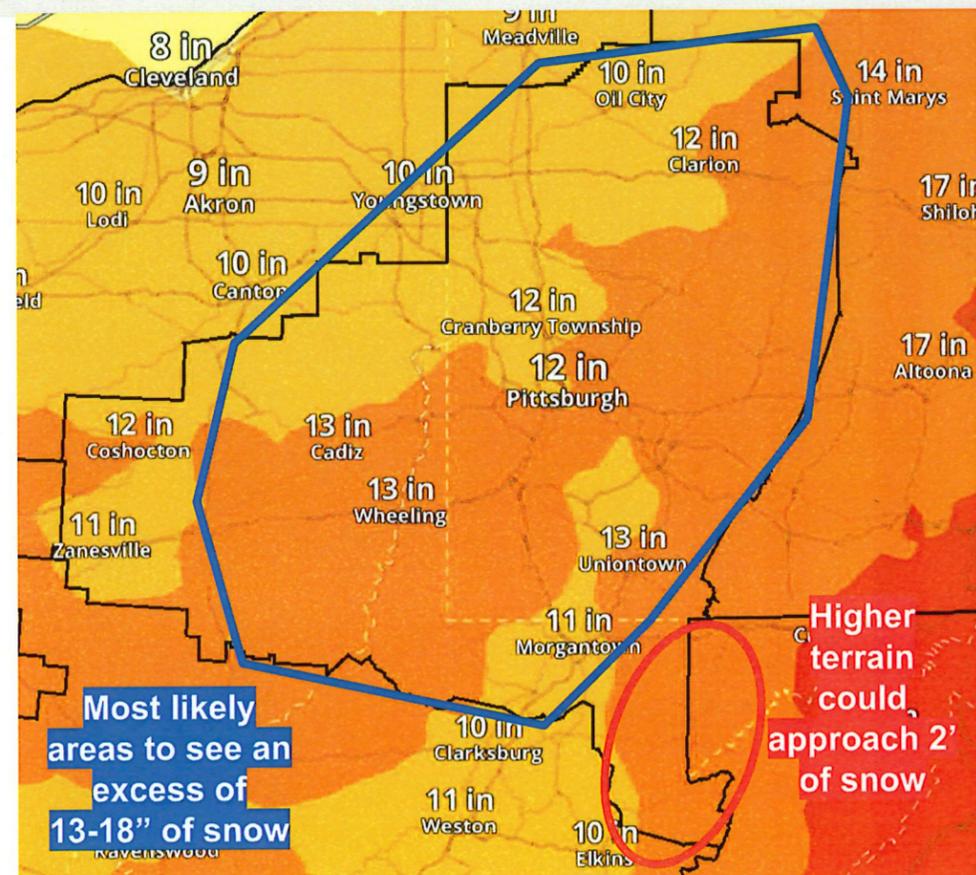
Most-likely scenario

## How Does This Happen:

- Cold air remains in place while surface low brings QPF shield northward

## Snowfall Details:

- Snow Type:
  - Mostly dry, with slightly wetter snow (closer to 10:1 snow to liquid ratios) possible south of I-70.
- Snow Amounts:
  - Widespread **8-12"** of snow
  - Smaller areas see **13-18"** that could approach **2'** in the WV ridges
- Snowfall Rates:
  - Less certain, but **0.5-1"/hr likely** with shorter bursts of **1" to 2"/hr possible**





# Scenario #2: Wet Snow Plus Ice

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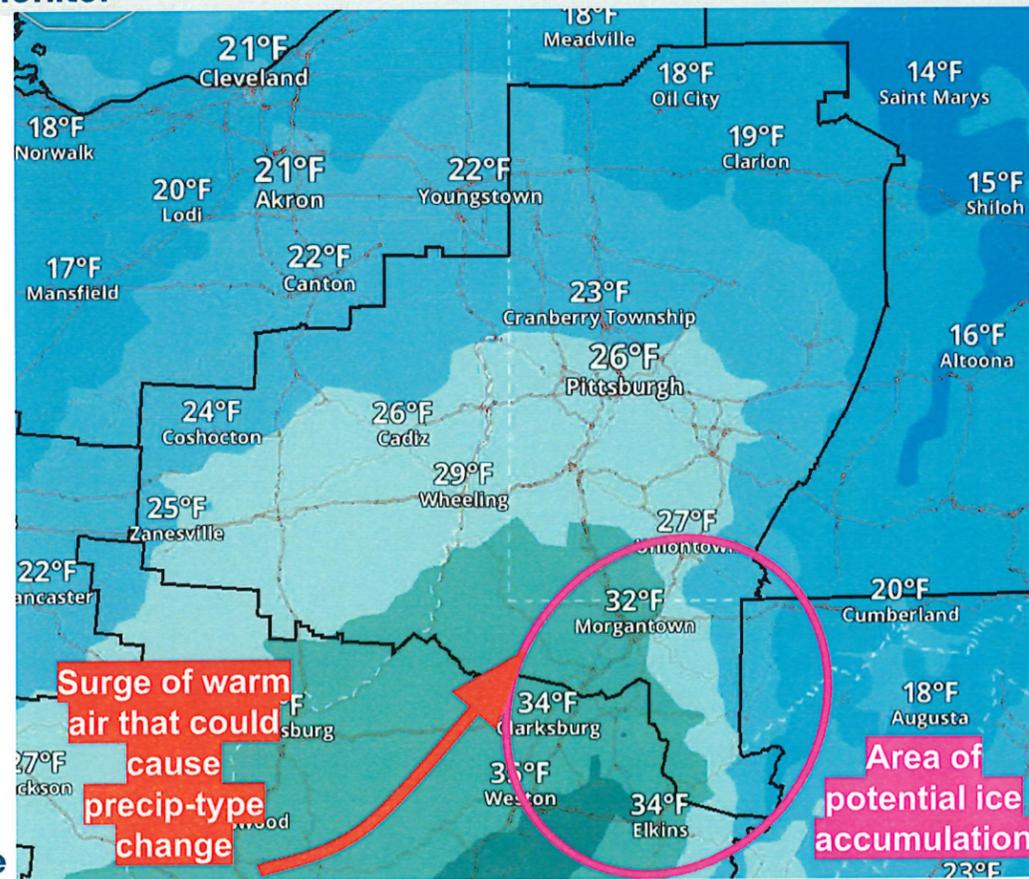
Low probability alternate scenario to monitor

## How Does This Happen:

- Warm air surges northward into the Monongahela Valley, introducing a mix of **freezing rain and sleet** with snow **Sunday afternoon/evening**

## Snowfall Details:

- Precipitation Type:
  - Heavy, **wet** snow for most areas (10:1 snow to liquid ratio or less)
  - Starts as **snow**, then seeing mix of snow, freezing rain, and rain Sunday aft/eve
- Snow Amounts:
  - **6-10" of snow**, with highest amounts along the eastern ridgeline
- Freezing Rain Amounts:
  - Generally less than **0.10"** within highlighted area
- Snowfall Rates:
  - Less certain, but prolonged periods of **0.5"/hr** likely with shorter bursts of **1" to 1.5"/hr possible**



National Weather Service  
Pittsburgh, PA



# River Ice Growth Will Continue

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For Southwest Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, and Northern West Virginia

- Significant ice accrual is anticipated on all rivers and tributaries through the next week with cold temperatures persisting.
- Some Freeze-up Jams are possible
- Average temperature will range from 5-20 degrees through the next 10 days (or more), allowing for several inches of ice growth.
- This could rival the ice years of 2018 and 2015

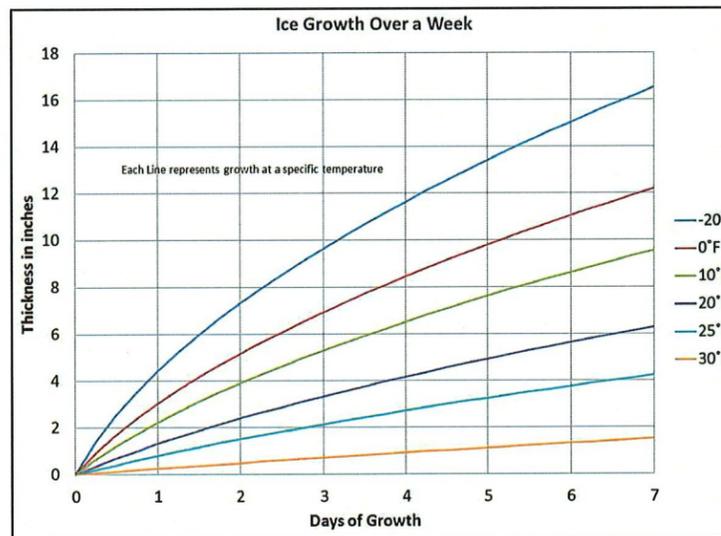


Image right shows average river ice growth over a week based on average temperature

## Regional Temperature Forecast

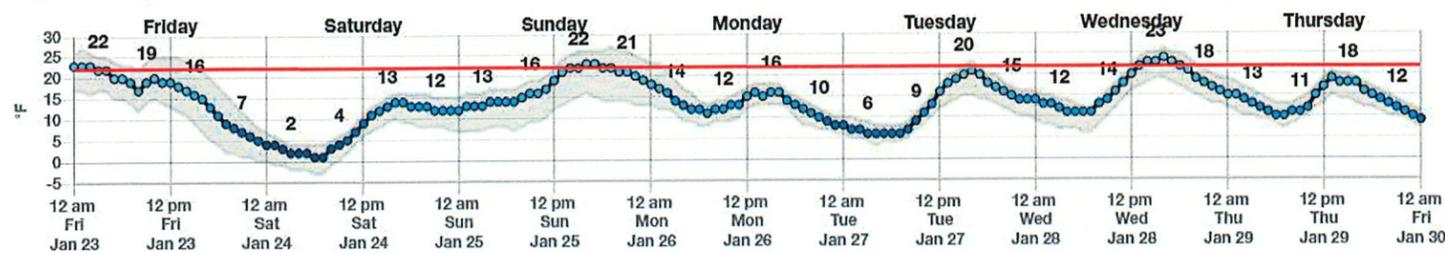


Image left shows average temperature for the region (upper Ohio Valley) through Thursday. Red line is 22 degrees (average temperature needed for ice growth)



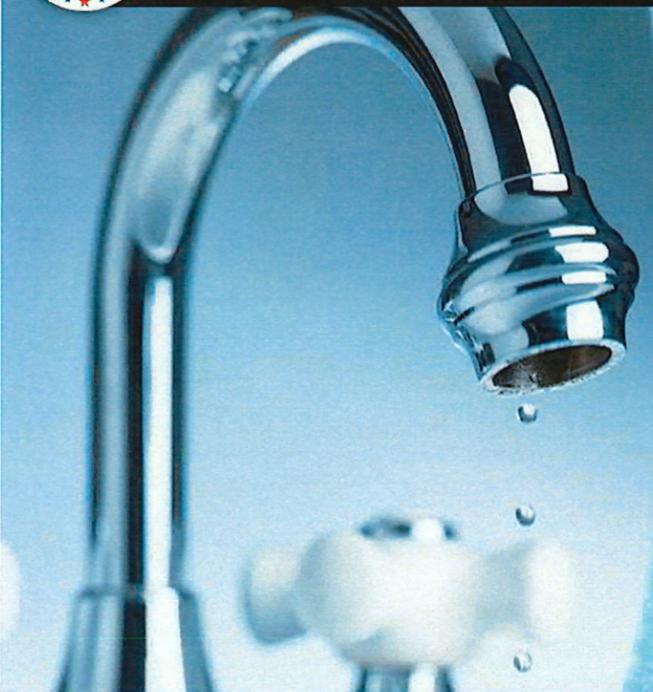
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## Cold Weather Tips for the Home

Winter Safety Awareness



- ✓ In bitter cold, allow faucets to drip slowly to keep pipes from freezing
- ✓ Open kitchen/bathroom sink cabinets to allow warmer air to circulate around plumbing
- ✓ Know where and how to shut off main water supply in case of ruptured pipe
- ✓ Never use stove, oven, grill, etc. to heat your home
- ✓ Place space heaters on level, hard surfaces at least 3 feet from anything flammable; *never* leave unattended
- ✓ Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home and quickly move to fresh air if alarm sounds

[weather.gov/pbz](https://weather.gov/pbz)

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National Oceanic and  
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# Contact and Next Briefing Information

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For Southwest Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, and Northern West Virginia

## QUESTIONS?



### Next Briefing

- Method: Email
- Timing: By 6am Friday, January 23, 2026



### Disclaimer

- Information contained in this briefing is time-sensitive and forecasts could change with time
- Do Not Use After: 6 AM Friday, January 23, 2026



National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce



### Contact Information

#### Web

- [weather.gov/pittsburgh](https://weather.gov/pittsburgh)

#### Phone

- (412) 262-1882

#### Email

- [nws.er.pbz.ops@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.er.pbz.ops@noaa.gov)

#### Facebook

- [facebook.com/NWSPittsburgh](https://facebook.com/NWSPittsburgh)

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